

## APPENDIX 1 - WORKED BONE

### 1.1 Worked Bone

*by H.E.M. Cool*

#### *Introduction*

1.1.1 The assemblage comprised 13 fragments almost certainly from a single item found in a cremation. The fragments were recovered by hand excavation.

1.1.2 The Fieldwork Event Aims that the material can be expected to contribute to are as follows:

- Fieldwork Event Aim 3: To recover artefact assemblages (especially pottery) to elucidate the sequence of site development; provide information on trade and exchange within the local, regional and international economy, and the status and economy of the settlement.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 4: To determine the origins and decline of urban functions within the settlement.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 7: To establish the chronology of the cemetery.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 8: To establish the spatial development of the cemetery as far as possible within the area of investigation.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 9: To establish if spatial variations exist within the cemetery in relation to burial practice.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 11: To establish the nature and distribution of structural features located within the cemetery.
- Fieldwork Event Aim 12: To identify ancillary features associated with a specific burial practice.

#### *Methodology*

1.1.3 All of the fragments were inspected. A basic archive catalogue following the guidelines set out by the Roman Finds Group and Finds Research Group (RFG & FRG 1993) was compiled. This records context, small find number, material, number of fragments, simple name and brief description of the fragments.

1.1.4 Information about the nature of the context was available and has been taken into consideration.

#### *Quantification*

1.1.5 The bone appears to represent a single fragment of inlay, details of which are given in Table 7.1.

#### *Provenance*

1.1.6 The fragments came from a single cremation burial and were clearly placed on the pyre because they are burnt.

1.1.7 The scarcity of worked bone from the site presumably reflects the poor preservation of bone in general although cremated bone survived well. It may be assumed therefore that unburnt bone will not have survived but that worked bone items placed on the pyre should have, unless they were not collected for burial.

### *Conservation*

- 1.1.8 The fragments are currently obscured by soil. They will need to be cleaned. Special care should be taken when cleaning to see if the fragments were originally stained or coloured in any way.
- 1.1.9 It is not normal practice to discard Roman worked bone objects.

### *Comparative material*

- 1.1.10 The largest collection of bone inlays associated with cremation burial come from the Roman cemetery at Brougham Cumbria. These are currently unpublished but the report is available to the author as *comparanda*.

### *Potential for further work*

- 1.1.11 The potential of the worked bone consisting as it does of a single item is limited. It cannot contribute to establishing the chronology of the cemetery because it is not independently dateable. It does, however, cast a little light on the funerary ritual as it was clearly placed on the pyre and then collected for burial. These inlays might be associated with boxes, but another possibility is that they were used to decorate the bier on which the body was laid.
- 1.1.12 In order to refine the identification of the piece it will need to be conserved and cleaned. A brief catalogue entry and discussion can then be written to form part of the overall entry for the objects from this grave. It should be illustrated with a line drawing.

### *Bibliography*

RFG & FRG 1993 Roman Find Group and Finds Research Group AD 700-1700, 1993. The guidelines for the preparation of site archives and assessments for all finds other than fired clay vessels.

*Table 6.1: Worked bone from ARC NBR98*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Special number</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Simple name</b>	<b>Description</b>
10597	930	Bone	8	RO	Inlay?	Bar with cross-hatched incising; burnt
10597	931	Bone	5	RO	Inlay ?	Bar with cross-hatched incising; burnt