Channel Tunnel Rail Link

London and Continental Railways

Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture

The Human remains from Eyhorne Street, Hollingbourne, Kent

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CTRL Specialist Report Series

2006

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1 INTRODUCTION

Cremated human bone from two late Neolithic/early Bronze Age contexts (22 and 61) was received for analysis. The deposits of burnt bone represent redeposited material from two pit fills.

2 METHODS

The general methodology followed that set-out in 'Specialist Study Package 6' of the *CTRL Section 1 Project Design* (RLE 2003). The cremated bone was analysed according with the standard procedures used for the examination of cremated bone set out in McKinley 1994a, 5-6.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Disturbance and condition

Both pits were truncated but it is unlikely that any bone had been removed from the features since none of the bone was present on the surface. The small bone fragments consists of mainly spongy bone and some long bone fragments, demonstrating favourable conditions for good bone preservation.

3.2 Demographic data

The very small total weight of 3g of bone (context 22 1g; context 61 2g) renders demographic comment inappropriate. The two features containing the bone were situated close together in the southern part of the site and the deposits represents scatters of redeposited material which may have derived from the same cremation in the form of bone disturbed from an incompletely cleared pyre site, redepsoited pyre debris or burial.

3.3 Pyre technology and cremation ritual

The cremated bone was white in colour which is indicative of full oxidation (Holden *et al* 1995a and b; McKinley 2000, 40). The majority of the bone from both deposits were recovered from the 2 mm sieve fraction and the maximum surviving bone fragment was very small at *c*. 13 mm. A number of factors may affect the level of fragmentation to cremated bone (McKinley 1994b), in this instance the redeposited nature of the material may be the main factor for the small fragment size.

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