

## APPENDIX 1 HUMAN REMAINS

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### *Introduction*

- 1.1.1 In excavation cremation contexts were subject to 100% recovery as whole-earth samples and subsequently wet sieved. Material from the >2 mm fraction were retained en masse. Some of the material was only identified and recovered during environmental processing of bulk soil samples.
- 1.1.2 The fieldwork priorities, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in accordance with the CTRL Research Strategy, were to address specifically the following issues:
- the ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape, with emphasis on burial practices in the Roman and post-Roman periods
- 1.1.3 The Fieldwork Event Aims to which the assemblage can be expected to contribute are as follows:
- the recovery of a detailed site plan
  - the definition of the nature of the possible enclosure ditches identified by evaluation ARC BBW 98
  - correlation of the results of the fieldwork with those from South of Beechbrook Wood strip, map and sample excavation ARC BWD98 and previous evaluation data
  - the recovery of additional dating evidence for secure phasing of all recorded activities
- 1.1.4 The WSI stated that a modification or supplementation of these primary aims would be necessitated by the discovery of unanticipated significant archaeology. The cremated human bone assemblage can be categorised as an unexpected discovery.

### *Methodology*

- 1.1.5 All cremated material was quantified by weight and scanned in order to determine age, sex, and potential for further analysis. Each deposit was recorded on a pro forma record sheet which includes context, context type, period, weight, identifiable fragments, age, sex, and minimum number of individuals. The >2 mm fraction was scanned with a view to determining whether or not it should be sorted for small fragments of human bone (for example tooth roots and/or portions of tooth crowns). Relevant comments such as the presence of charcoal or animal bone were also included. The information was compiled as an Access database in accordance with the CTRL dataset structure.

### *Quantification*

- 1.1.6 Cremation deposits are summarised in Table 6.1.
- 1.1.7 Cremated bone was recovered from 46 contexts. Many of the contexts contained very small quantities of cremated human bone; from Area C half of the contexts (12 out of 24), and from Area A just over one third (9 out of 22) contexts produced deposits weighing 1 g or less. Apart from recognising these fragments as burnt bone, probably human, little or no further information can be obtained.
- 1.1.8 Where larger quantities of bone have been recovered some age estimation is possible, from sizeable pieces of incompletely burnt bone, but in no case could the sex of the individual be determined. Most of these samples consisted of large numbers (1000+) of tiny fragments.

- 1.1.9 Features 173 and 175 from ARC BWD98 were interpreted in the field as possible cremations, however, subsequent processing did not yield any cremated human bone from within these vessels.

*Burnt and unburnt animal bone*

- 1.1.10 Burnt animal bone was associated with a small number of deposits. Sheep and pig was present in 561, sheep in 2342, with unidentifiable animal bone fragments in 2213. The fact that this material has been burnt suggests the possibility of deliberate inclusion on the pyre.

*Provenance*

Target Area C

- 1.1.11 Whereas in Target Area A the majority of all human cremated remains were recovered from the area of the Middle/Late Iron Age enclosure 3072, the contexts yielding such remains were more varied in date and type in Target Area C.

Phase 3: Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (Beaker period) 2600-1800 BC

- 1.1.12 A small quantity of cremated human long bone shaft was recovered from fills (1376 and 1377) of Beaker period pit [1374] within group 3022.

Phase 4: Middle Bronze Age-Late Bronze Age (1500-700 BC) and Late Bronze Age (1100-700 BC)

- 1.1.13 Small quantities of cremated human bone were recovered from ring ditches 1007 (contexts 938, 947, 956) and 851 (contexts 865 and 908). Ring ditch 851 was cut by ring ditch 1007. There were no identifiable fragments. The remains were recovered from single context samples distributed along the circumference of the ditch. This is in contrast to ring ditch 2150 where the remains were recovered from consecutive fills in section cuts. The quantity of material recovered may well be an under-representation given the partial nature of the excavation of these features.

- 1.1.14 In the case of the Bronze Age ring ditches, whilst tempting to count all remains occurring in one feature as one incident, their spatial separation, both horizontally and vertically, makes this ambiguous. As noted in 3.2.14., some differences in deposition exist between earlier ring ditch 851 and later 1007, whereby human remains are exclusively found in the top fills of 851, whilst also occurring in lower and single surviving fills in 1007, leading to the conclusion that those in 1007 were potentially redeposited during the demolition/erosion of barrow 851. Given the partial excavation of both features, it can only be stated that at least one individual is present here also.

- 1.1.15 Another adult is identified from fill (1604) in cremation [1603] overlying Late Mesolithic pit feature group 3013. Due to their clear provenance from the later feature, intrusive fragments of burnt bone from pit fill (1674) were included in this assessment. [1603] is one of a probable Bronze Age date and possibly associated with a field system of that date, group 3018. Further cremated remains were recovered from fills (1289) and (1293) in the cuts allocated to group 3020, cremation burials also in association with possible field system 3018. Context (901) from undated cremation [901] shows similar associations.

Phases 6 and 7: Middle Iron Age (400-100 BC) to 'Belgic' Late Iron Age (c AD 70)

- 1.1.16 Other small unidentifiable pieces were recovered from a variety of contexts: pit/cremation [237] in Middle/Late Bronze Age activity group 1952 (context (238)), fill (277) in enclosure ditch 1022 in Late Iron Age industrial plot 1972 and from fill (525) in one of its internal pits, [504], fill (1479) in ditch 1020 around Late Iron Age industrial plot 3006 and from internal posthole fill [1502] (fill (1501)).

Phase 8: Early Romano-British Period (c. AD 70-200+)

- 1.1.17 All three fills of Romano-British cremation [1344] (contexts (1345), (1346), (1347)) contained human adult bone with a total weight of 338 g, possibly from one individual. In nature and date, this cremation is related to pit/cremation group 3008, which yielded fragments of three ribs and a long bone, seemingly from a child's cremation, in fills (729) and (735).
- 1.1.18 Assessment of the number of individuals present in Target Area C depends on highly interpretative spatial association at this stage. In two cases, [1344] and [1603], this is fairly secure, indicating the presence of one adult individual in each feature. Due to their spatial proximity, the child remains from pit group 3008 may derive from one individual.
- 1.1.19 A maximum of 12 individuals including 2 adults and at least 1 child may be present in Target Area C.

Target Area A

Phase 4: Middle Bronze Age-Late Bronze Age (1500-700 BC) and Late Bronze Age (1100-700 BC)

- 1.1.20 One small piece of burnt bone, possibly human, was recovered from pit fill (455) in relation to possible structure 3037 in Middle/Late Bronze Age activity area 2442.

Phases 6 and 7: Middle Iron Age (400-100 BC) to 'Belgic' Late Iron Age (c AD 70)

- 1.1.21 Late Iron Age cremation group 2441, associated with enclosure 3072 produced a total of 619 g of human cremated bone. The area was heavily plough-truncated and contexts were grouped according to likely spatial association. Three recognisable sub-adults or adults were represented (contexts (2030) (2036) 435g, (2040) (2042) 59g, and (2044) 73g) and one probable child (contexts (2047) (2050) 52g).
- 1.1.22 Four section cuts across the south-eastern extent of inner ditch, sub-group 2150, in enclosure 3072 produced human cremated remains: 112g of unidentifiable small fragments from cuts [2182] (contexts (2184) (2185)) and [2006] (contexts (2205), (2222), (2228)), adult fragments from [2212] of key section 2013, contexts (2209),(2210), (2213), (2345), (2346) and pot fill (2438)) and a probable adult from [2246] (contexts (2240), (2241), (2242)).

*Conservation*

- 1.1.23 The material does not require any conservation for the purposes of long-term storage. Under the terms of the CTRL Act 1996, however, all human remains are to be reburied.

*Comparative material*

- 1.1.24 Three different types of deposit can be identified:
- apparent token deposits in pits and postholes associated with industrial or domestic activity
  - in enclosure and ring ditches
  - as conventional cremation burials, both single and in groups
- 1.1.25 The Bronze Age deposits both in relation to possible field system 3018 and the ring ditches have useful parallels in the nearby CTRL site at Tutt Hill, but also on a regional and national level.
- 1.1.26 The human remains from Middle/Late Iron Age enclosure ditch 2150 occur alongside a significant part of a new ceramic fabric series identified for the region, and seem to form part of structured ritual deposits. The investigation of these deposits should add

significantly to the understanding of Iron Age burial practices in the region, and on a national level.

- 1.1.27 Late Iron Age/Early Roman cremation deposits in small groups such as group 2441 have been found elsewhere along the CTRL (eg. Boys Hall Balancing Pond, Chapel Mill), and the examples from Beechbrook Wood add to the picture of this tradition of burials. At Beechbrook Wood, the group is part of a useful chronological sequence, with the (associated) human remains from ditch 2150 predating group 2441, and those from the Late Iron Age/Early Roman contexts in Area C of a slightly later date, providing useful insights into the changing nature of human burial from the Middle Iron Age through to the Early Roman period.
- 1.1.28 In itself, the Roman cremation [1344] is not remarkable, but is interesting in its apparent relationship with pit group 3022 and industrial enclosure 1972. Although cremated human remains were encountered in the vicinity of Late Iron Age/Early Roman metalworking at the CTRL site at Snarkhurst Wood, their association is not proven. Comparanda for the association between metalworking evidence and the deposition of human remains (also evident in Middle Bronze Age activity area 1952 at ARC BBW00) may therefore have to be sought further afield.

*Potential for further work*

- 1.1.29 The quantities of human bone recovered are too small to warrant further analysis. In no case the entire remains of one individual appear to have survived: an average adult cremation can weight between 1000-2400 g if complete (McKinley 1997: 68). All samples from Beechbrook Wood fall well below this average.
- 1.1.30 A programme of radiocarbon dating of the human cremated material may further our understanding of the site, and in particular the chronology of the new ceramic fabric series.
- 1.1.31 The mixed deposits of burnt human and animal bone should be analysed in detail in conjunction with the animal bone specialist in order to ascertain their precise nature.

*Bibliography*

McKinley, J 1997. The cremated human bone from burial and cremation-related contexts. Archaeological Excavations on the Route of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex, 1992. Volume 2: the Cemeteries (A. P. Fitzpatrick). *Wessex Archaeology Report* **12**: 55-73

Table 6.1 Quantification of cremated human bone by context from ARC BBW00

Context	Context type	Period	Weight	Identifiable fragments	Colour	MNI	Comments
<i>Area C</i>							
238	Cremation	MBA/LBA	1g	Small long bone shaft	White		
277	Material dump? Where	LIA/ERB	11g	Small long bone shaft	White		100+ tiny pieces
455	Pit 456 /3037/2442 ?where	MBA/LBA	<1g	None	White		1 tiny piece
525	Charcoal filled pit 504 ?where	LIA/ERB	<1g	None	White		2 tiny pieces
561	Cremation pit ?near LBA cremation. 550/551	?	76g	Animal bone	White		500+ tiny pieces, 24 >10mm including sheep bone. Trace of charcoal.
729	Ditch 3017 terminus	ERB	2g	3 rib pieces	White	? Child	
735	Pit 737, group 3008	ERB	3g	Small long bone	White		
865	Upper fill of ring ditch 851	MBA/LBA	<1g	None	White		2 tiny pieces
901	Potless cremation. 902	?	3g	None	White		15 tiny pieces
908	?	?	<1g	None	White		2 pieces
938	Upper fill of ring ditch 1007	(MBA)/LBA	<1g	None	White		1 tiny piece
947	Secondary fill of ring ditch 1007	(MBA)/LBA	<1g	None	White		3 tiny pieces
956	Single fill of ring ditch 1007	(MBA)/LBA	<1g	None	White		3 tiny pieces; ? 938, 947 & 956 all from 1 cremation
1289	Small group of cremations 3020	?	52g	Long bone shaft	Blackened/white		1000+ tiny pieces
1293	Group 3020	?	<1g	None	White		? Part of 1289
1345	Basal fill of cremation 1344	RB	196g	LB shaft, cranial vault, vertebra	White	Adult	Also 1000+ tiny pieces. Some charcoal.
1346	Middle fill of cremation 1344	RB	138g	Long bone shaft, pelvis, thoracic vertebra	White	Adult	Also 1000+ tiny pieces. Trace of charcoal.
1347	Top fill of cremation 1344	RB	4g	Long bone shaft, vertebral facet	White	Adult	1345-1347 probably 1 cremation
1376	Pit 1374, domestic pits 3022.	LNE/EBA	1g	None	White		Trace of charcoal
1377	Pit 1377	LNE/EBA	4g	Long bone shaft	Whitish-yellow		? 1 cremation with 1376
1479	Industrial enclosure 1020	LIA/ERB	<1g	None	White		9 tiny pieces
1501	Posthole 1502	LIA/ERB	<1g	None	White		
1604	Single cremation over L Mesolithic. pit 1623	?BA	105g	Fibula, other LB, skull, molar tooth?3rd	Whitish-brown	One Adult	5-10% charcoal, also 1000+ pieces
1674	From L Mesolithic. Pit 1623	?BA	9g	Cranial vault, LB thick cortex	White	Adult	

<i>Area A</i>		<i>Area A</i>					
2030	Cluster outside enclosure 2151	LIA/ERB	393g	Skull, 2 teeth, LB: radius/ulna/fibula/?femur/tibia	White	Sub-adult or adult	1000++ tiny fragments. Trace of charcoal.
2036	As 2030	LIA/ERB	42g	Cranial vault and LB shaft	White	Adult	1 cremation c. 2030
2040	As 2030	LIA/ERB	18g	Skull, vertebrae. neural arch, LB	Grey-brown	Adult	
2042	As 2030	LIA/ERB	41g	Long bone, thick cortex.	White	Adult	1 cremation c.2040
2044	As 2030	LIA/ERB	73g	Femur head, acetabulum, vertebral neural arch, rib, long bone	White	Adult	
2047	As 2030	LIA/ERB	<1g	None	White		
2048	As 2030	LIA/ERB	51g	long bone, thin cortex, skull, incisor root	White	? Child	200+ tiny pieces
2050	As 2030	LIA/ERB	<1g	None	White		
2184	From enclosure ditch 2150	(MIA)/LIA	<1g	None	White		
2185	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	<1g	None	White		
2205	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	<1g	None	White		
2209	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	<1g	None	White		
2210	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	5g	1pce LB	Brown		Trace of charcoal
2213	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	73g	LB shaft, thick cortex, vertebral body	Brown	Adult	
2222	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	1g	Rib	White		
2228	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	<1g	None	White		
2240	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	<1g	None	White		
2241	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	6g	LB shaft	White	? Adult	
2342	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	11g	LB, also animal.	Brown and white		Sheep metapodial.
2345	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	7g	LB shaft	White		
2346	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	5g	LB shaft	Black and white		Trace of charcoal. ? 1 cremation c. 2342,2345,2346
2438	As 2184	(MIA)/LIA	4g	LB shaft, mandible, molar tooth roots	Grey	Adult	