APPENDIX 1 - HUMAN REMAINS

1.1 Human Remains

by Angela Boyle

Introduction

1.1.1 A small quantity of cremated and unburnt disarticulated human bone was recovered during watching brief fieldwork at Bower Road. The unburnt disarticulated material was hand excavated. 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.

1.1.2 The recovery and assessment of human remains was undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The material was collected to address research aims relating to ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape, particularly late Iron Age/Roman burial practice.

Methodology

1.1.3 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.

1.1.4 Unburnt disarticulated material was examined to determine preservation, completeness, age and sex where possible, as well as potential for further analysis.

Quantification

1.1.5 Cremations and unburnt disarticulated material are summarised in Tables 5.1 and 5.2.

Cremations

1.1.6 A total of six deposits of cremated bone were identified on site as potentially human. The identification of three of these was confirmed during assessment (122, 162, 243). One deposit (367) was mixed human and animal bone. Nothing from deposit 462 was identifiable, while deposit 515 consisted entirely of animal bone.

Unburnt disarticulated bone

1.1.7 A single mandible was identified as that of an adult male aged 25-35 years. Hypoplastic lines were present on the left and right mandibular canines. These are the result of a disturbance caused by infection or malnutrition during the formation of dental enamel in childhood. The dental inventory appears in Table 5.3.

Provenance

1.1.8 The material derived from a variety of contexts which are summarised in Tables 5.1 and 5.2. Cremation deposit 122 (cut number 107) was located towards the west edge of the site and had been deposited in a large jar datable to the period *c* AD 170-300 together with two ancillary vessels, both Upchurch beakers of unusual form (see Appendix 1.1, above). Two fragments of human bone were recovered from late Roman pit 242; an unburnt disarticulated mandible from lower fill 250 and a small

deposit of unidentifiable bone from upper fill 243. This pit also contained probable special deposits of animal bone, pottery and glass and may represent a terminal deposit. Further very small fragments of unidentifiable cremated bone were recovered from a middle fill of waterhole 372, and from ditch groups 169 (context 367) and ditch group 171 (context 462).

Conservation

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

Comparative material

1.1.10 Comparative material includes the small assemblage of similar date which was recovered from Westhawk Farm and from a number of sites also examined along the line of the CTRL. These include Waterloo Connection and Boys Hall Balancing Pond.

Potential for further work

1.1.11 The following section discusses potential for further work in the light of the Landscape Zone Priorities and Fieldwork Event Aims.

Cremations

1.1.12 All the deposits, with the exception of 122 are very small and have no potential for further osteological analysis. An average adult cremation can weigh between 1000-2400 g if complete (McKinley 1997, 68; observations at modern crematoria). Clearly, then none of these deposits represent the entire remains of any one individual.

1.1.13 Detailed examination of the more substantial deposit of cremated bone (122) will allow for further refinement of age and sex, and also the possible identification of pathological conditions.

1.1.14 Both animal and human bone were identified in deposit 367 and it is recommended that the animal bone be identified to species if possible. The identification of animal bone within human cremations has implications for the study of burial practice of the period. Sheep/goat was present within a proportion of the Iron Age cremation burials at Westhampnett (McKinley et al 1997, 73) and has also been identified within cremation deposits from Westhawk Farm, Ashford, Kent as well as a number of cremations at the CTRL site at Waterloo Connection.

Multiple burial

1.1.15 A single example of a multiple burial has been tentatively identified during the assessment phase. Deposit 122 was identified as an adult male; however, at least one fragment is the bone of a subadult.

Unburnt disarticulated bone

1.1.16 The mandible was in reasonable condition. However, given that only one bone was present a decision was made to carry out full recording at the assessment stage. Therefore no further osteological work is recommended.

Ritual practices

1.1.17 The presence of human bone in pits, ditches and the waterhole may have significance for the understanding of ritual practices during the Roman period. Although no

further osteological work is required for this material, it should be taken into consideration in general analysis of the site and should be reported to support any conclusions drawn. Reporting can be based on the present assessment with the exception of cremation 122, where further information may be derived from additional osteological analysis.

Bibliography

McKinley, J, 1997 The cremated human bone from burial and cremation-related contexts, in *Archaeological excavations on the route of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex, 1992. Volume 2: the cemeteries* (A P Fitzpatrick), Wessex Archaeology Report No **12**, 55-73

Table 5.1: Summary of cremation deposits

Context	Context type	Period	Weight	Identifiable fragments	Age	Sex	Comments
122	fill of vessel 273	AD 200-270	554 g plus unsorted residue	skull vault, long bone shaft	adult	male	subadult fragment also present
162	fill of waterhole 372	AD 100-270	>1 g	long bone shaft fragment	?	?	no further work
243	upper fill of pit 242	4th century	> 1 g	nothing identifiable	?	?	no further work
367	upper fill of ditch 368	AD 100-150	3 g	skull vault	?	?	at least one unburnt animal rib fragment
462	fill of ditch 461	AD 200-270	> 1 g	nothing identifiable	?	?	nothing identifiable
515	fill of ditch 507	?	4 g				all animal bone

Table 5.2 Summary of unburnt disarticulated human bone

Context	Context type	Period	Preservation	Completeness	Age	Sex	Comments
250	lower fill of pit 242	4th century	Medium	100%	25-35 years	male	Hypoplastic lines on both canines

Table 5.3: Summary of dentition

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8 7 6 / 4 3 / /	1 / 3 4 5 6 7 8

\- tooth and socket absent
/ post-mortem loss