

APPENDIX 1 - HUMAN REMAINS

1.1 Assessment of Human Remains

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Introduction

- 1.1.1 During strip, map and sample works at Chapel Mill, cremation contexts were subject to 100% recovery as whole-earth samples, and were subsequently wet-sieved. Material from the >2 mm fraction were retained *en masse*. Unburnt human bones were also retrieved during the fieldwork.
- 1.1.2 The study of the material was aimed at determining the number, age and sex of the burials in order to address the Fieldwork Event Aims and Landscape Zone Priorities for the site, which are set out in section 2 of the main report, above. The material was considered to have the potential to illuminate the nature of activity at the site during the late Iron Age, and to provide evidence for change or continuity in burial practices between the late Iron Age and the Roman period.

Methodology

- 1.1.3 Cremated material was quantified by weight and scanned in order to determine age, sex, and potential for further analysis. Given the small size of the assemblage a decision was made to scan all of it. Each deposit was recorded on a pro forma record sheet which includes context, context type, period, weight, identifiable fragments, colour and minimum number of individuals. All fragments of unburnt bone were also examined to determine preservation, completeness and age. The > 2 mm fraction was scanned with a view to determining whether or not it should be sorted for small fragments of human bone.

Quantification

Cremations

- 1.1.4 Cremated remains were recovered from five contexts in two cremation pits. The remains from the two contexts in cremation pit 205 weighed in total 206 g, and those from the three contexts in cremation pit 213, weighed 337 g (Table 8). Burnt animal bone was also found in the deposits in pit 205. No estimates of age or sex could be made.

Disarticulated unburnt bone

- 1.1.5 A small quantity of unburnt bone was recovered from the fill 249 of a tree-throw hole. The identifiable bone comprised four fragments of adult femur shaft, three of which were conjoining. In addition, there were three conjoining fragments of upper limb shaft, also adult. Two recent breaks were visible but the majority were very abraded and clearly occurred in antiquity.

Provenance

- 1.1.6 Pottery dating from the late Iron Age to *c* AD 70 was found in both the primary and upper fills of cremation pit 205. The upper fill also contained fragments of metalwork (burnt and possibly unburnt). Tree-throw hole 249 was cut by ditch 225-235 which also contained late Iron Age pottery. Although it contained no pottery, cremation 213 was located a few metres from 205 and is probably also late Iron Age in date.

Conservation

- 1.1.7 The material does not require any conservation for the purposes of long-term storage.

Comparative material

- 1.1.8 Small cemeteries associated with rural settlements of this period are not well known in the south-east of England (Drewett, Rudling and Gardiner 1988, 233) and for this reason, although the location of the associated settlement is unknown, the small group excavated at this site is a significant addition to our understanding of the burial rites of the late Iron Age-early Roman period. Their significance will be more apparent when they are compared with larger groups of burials of similar date from along the CTRL and elsewhere. Comparable deposits were found at other CTRL sites including Boys Hall Balancing Pond and Snarkhurst Wood.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.9 The potential of this assemblage is limited by its small size as a group and by the poor preservation of the cremations. An average adult cremation can weigh between 1000-2400 g if complete (McKinley 1997, 68; observations at modern crematoria). Clearly, then the deposits from Chapel Mill do not represent the entire remains of any one individual. Burnt animal bone (sheep sized rib shaft) has been identified in the deposit from pit 205. The fact that it too is burnt clearly indicates that it was present on the pyre. Therefore it would be useful to examine the bone in detail to determine the quantity of animal bone present and to identify it 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).

Bibliography

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McKinley, J, Smith, P and Fitzpatrick, A P, 1997 Animal bone from burial and other 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, 73-77

Table 8: Summary of cremated human remains

Context	Context type	Period	Weight	Identifiable fragments	Colour	Minimum number of individuals
203	Upper fill of pit 205	LIA	199 g	Rib, proximal phalange of hand, carpal fragments, ?femur shaft, pre-molar root, canine/incisor fragment, one fragment of sheep-sized rib	White and grey	?
204	Lower fill of pit 205	LIA	7 g	Distal fragment of metacarpal, long bone shaft	White and grey	?
210	Upper fill of pit 213	LIA	2 g	Nothing identifiable	White and grey	?
211	Middle fill of pit 213	LIA	73 g	Skull vault, long bone shaft, fibula shaft	White and grey	?
212	Lower fill of pit 213	LIA	262 g	Skull vault, petrous bone, rib shaft	White and grey	?