

APPENDIX 1 - HUMAN REMAINS

1.1 Assessment of the Cremated Human Remains

by Angela Boyle

Introduction

- 1.1.1 Two small deposits of middle-late Bronze Age cremated remains were recovered during the watching brief at East of Newlands, and a further small deposit, dated to the early Roman period, from the watching brief at Westwell Leacon and Leda Cottages. The study of the material was aimed at determining the number, age and sex of the burials and details of burial practices.

Methodology

- 1.1.2 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 (where determined). 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

- 1.1.3 The cremated remains are quantified and summarised in Table 35 (East of Newlands) and Table 36 (Westwell Leacon and Leda Cottages) below.

Provenance

- 1.1.4 The two deposits from the East of Newlands watching brief came from two pits (3 and 7) dated to the middle-late Bronze Age. Both were associated with pottery although they were so disturbed that it is unclear whether the cremations were actually placed within them or they were accompanying grave goods.
- 1.1.5 The deposit from the Westwell Leacon and Leda Cottages watching brief came from one of the pits (5) in a loose cluster which was dated to the early Roman period.

Conservation

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

Comparative Material

- 1.1.7 The middle-late Bronze Age cremations from East of Newlands are so disturbed that little could be learnt from comparisons. Cremations of similar date were found at Tutt Hill. Only a very small sample of cremated remains was recovered at Westwell Leacon and Leda Cottages and comparisons will be equally difficult. There is, however, a wealth of burial evidence of comparable date from along the CTRL at Pepper Hill, Boys Hall Balancing Pond Chapel Mill and other sites.

Potential for Further Work

- 1.1.8 The potential of this assemblage is limited by its small size as a group and by the size of the deposits. An average adult cremation can weigh between 1000-2400 g if complete (McKinley 1997, 68; observations at modern crematoria). Clearly, then

they are only token deposits most of the deposits do not represent the entire remains of any one individual. No further analysis is recommended.

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 35: Summary of cremated remains from the East of Newlands WBSDI

Context	Context type	Period	Weight (g)	Identifiable fragments	Colour	Minimum number of individuals
2	Fill of pit 3	M-LBA	84	Skull vault, rib and long bone shaft	White	? 1 adult
6	Fill of pit 7	M-LBA	34	Skull vault, rib	White	? 1 adult

Table 36: Summary of cremated remains from the Westwell Leacon and Leda Cottages WBG

Context	Context type	Period	Weight (g)	Identifiable fragments	Colour	Minimum number of individuals
4	Fill of pit 5	ER	> 1	Long bone shaft	white	

