

Iron Age Burials

Grave 12. (277N/-13E) Adult (*Senilis I*)

Notebook 2.53

Grave pit: Regular oval c.50"x33", and possibly quite shallow. Not clear as cut into very sandy natural.

Pit fill: Very sandy, with pieces of daub in the fill.

Grave furniture: ?None.

Grave goods: No data.

Body: Flexed, and laid on its right side. Skull and leg bones well preserved. Fragments of the cranium (((‘and teeth’ has been crossed out here))) survived, among which scraps of temporal, mandible and – best preserved – maxilla were identified. Fragmentary teeth survived. The first molar has attrition down below the enamel and also a large caries cavity adjacent to the premolar. Wear stage 5+. *Maturus*, an old adult.

Remarks: Flexed position suggests this burial may be prehistoric, rather than Romano-British. See 22.

Grave 16. (280N/-15E) Adult (*Adultus*) Female/Grave 16a Child (*Infans*)

Notebook 6.61, 67; 2.53

Grave pit: Squarish, with rounded corners. It was obviously small, as NB 6 notes ‘after 73 and 76 this does not seem too small for a grave’. Size is given as c.63"xc.36" in NB 2. Cut into darker fill of B enclosure ditch.

Pit fill: Clean sandy lens.

Finds in fill: ‘Residual pottery’ and daub.

Grave furniture: No data.

Bone: No data, save ‘three pieces of skull’. Also ‘8’ teeth noted.

Grave 54. (285N/-18E) Child (*Infans*)

Notebook 2.53; 6.67; 7.74

Grave pit: Roughly oval, 53"xc.27". Cut into darker fill of B enclosure ditch.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave furniture: None

Grave goods: None

Body: Flexed (handwritten sheet labelled ‘Pre’). Head at same end as in Grave 16, suggesting contemporaneity.

Bone: Only a piece of mastoid at side survives. Head and body silhouettes of gingery sand with dark edges visible.

Remarks: Many MNO₂ speckles on grave bottom. Grave may be residual and mostly from topsoil.

Grave 78. (248N/-24E) Child (*Infans*)

Notebook 6.7

Grave pit: Unclear, seen only as a poor soil mark with teeth.

Pit fill: Very dark loam?

Grave furniture: None

Grave goods: None

Body: Head stain and teeth. No silhouette. What little of the skull remained suggested that the body lay on its right-hand side.

Remarks: From dark fill overlying(?) grave came a Romano-British base and tile fragment, suggesting to the excavator a Romano-British date, ‘i.e. poorer members of this group continuing older tradition of crouched (burial) w. grave goods??’.

Grave 79. (253N/-14E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 65.6

Grave pit: No data, save that it was cut into an Iron Age ditch. 5'6" (1.68m) long x 2'10" (0.87m) wide x >3' (0.91m) deep.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods: None (handwritten sheet labelled 'Pre')

Body: Flexed and on right-hand side with head at East end of grave.

Bone: Skull and leg bones, very soft. Also a body stain.

Remarks: 1 Iron Age sherd found, but noted as 'not in fill'. No other indication of location given.

Cremation 87. (1053N/-69E) Adult (*Maturus*) Male

Notebook 24.107-110

Grave pit: Roughly circular.

Pit fill: No data, though section shows at least 2 fills around urn.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods:

87.1 Cremation urn (approx. 0.27cm diameter) decorated with concentric circles and incised lines design (1stC BC?).

87.2 Sherds of a second pot underneath urn, possibly to balance the urn.

87.3 Possible nail (part iron, part iron stain) found within cremation urn, with head located just under the rim.

Grave 94. (1103N/-84E)

Notebook 29.9-10

Grave pit: Squared oval in plan. Cut into clean gravel fill of ditch.

Pit fill: Brown to black-brown.

Grave furniture: Black-brown coffin stain surrounding grave.

Grave goods:

94.1 2 sherds of red pottery with black cores found within grave fill.

Bone: No bone found, only a light ginger (iron rich?) stain of head silhouette and loose blotchy gravel where the body may have lain.

Remarks: In ditch (handwritten sheet labelled 'Pre')

Cremation 95. (1067N/-56E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 24.109; 30.169-170

Grave pit: Regular 'saucer shaped' pit 4" deep.

Pit fill: Moderately charcoally.

Finds in fill: Shattered calcined flints.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods:

95.1 Possible iron stud

95.2 Iron wire brooch with 4-coil spring and internal chord. Possible boss at shoulder of round-sectioned bow – impossible to be certain due to corrosion. Part of catchplate remains, probably open, but break precludes certainty. Other iron corrosion and burnt bone in box. Tip of pin survives, corroded to another piece of metal. L >58mm (incomplete). Dating: La Tène (D1b) – D2a on Continent; probably early to mid 1st century BC in Britain (AML 127).

Bone: Fragments 1"-4" found, often at the edge of the pit. Some skull and long-bone fragments were identifiable. The bones were not thought to have been ritually crushed.

Remarks: No signs of *in situ* burning. Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Cremation 96. (1091N/-60E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 24.106

Grave pit: Squarish, with rounded corners.

Pit fill: Pebbly light brown fill with charcoal and possibly burnt pebbles (concentrated in a layer at base of pit).

Grave goods: None.

Bone: Mainly an indeterminate mass, however some larger fragments of skull and long-bones present. Deteriorated nature of bone make recovery of these larger fragments impossible.

Remarks: Cremated bones appear to have been laid on top of the layer of reddened pebbles. Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Cremation 98. (1050N/-70E) Adult (*Maturus*) Male

Notebook 30.172-173

Grave pit: Roughly circular. c.24" diameter and 16" deep.

Pit fill:

Grave goods:

989.1 Cremation urn with smooth black surface, shiny in places. The fabric is 'purplish-brown', soft and very poorly fired. The pot rim is 5" in diameter, and the belly 10" at its maximum diameter.

Bone: Large amount of calcined bone excavated, with some of it in larger fragments.

Remarks: Other pot sherds found are either part of the same damaged cremation urn, or another pot of same type. Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Cremation 103. (1052N/-119E) Adult (*Maturus*) Male

Grave pit: Irregular circle.

Pit fill: Dark greyish loam with reddish-brown staining at edges in some places. Bottom of pit lined with a ring of reddened sand and pebbles.

Grave goods:

103.1 Head of hinged copper alloy brooch with start of pin. Flat bow with longitudinal ribs; now broken. Burnt. Strip/Aucissa/Hod Hill type. Dating: first 2/3 of 1st century AD? AE 91 (AML 398).

Bone: Only fragments too small to identify, bar one small skull fragment.

Cremation 104. (1032N/-113) Adult (*Maturus*) Female

Notebook 30.180

Grave pit: Oval.

Pit fill: Yellowish light brown loam with a few pebbles.

Finds in fill: 2 calcined flints.

Grave goods:

104.1 Greyish-black pot with smooth surface (RB? From handwritten 'Pre' sheet). Rim and neck removed by quarrying machinery.

Bone: Large number of mainly long bone fragments found *in situ* outside the pot, situated around the underside of the pot belly, with some under its base.

Remarks: Hardly any charcoal or signs of burning, therefore cremated bones appear to have been separated from the rest of the burnt pyre material. Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Grave 105. (1040N/-136E)

Notebook 24.129

Grave pit: Truncated by quarry edge.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods: None.

Body: Visible only as soil marks, ginger-brown silt staining for the head, left arm and outline of body. A blob of greyish brown greasy loam was situated in the area of the feet.

Remarks: Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Grave 106. (1035N/-140E)

Notebook 29.31

Grave pit: Rough oval, truncated at head end of grave by quarry edge.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods:

106.1 Flint pebble

106.2 Sherd of decorated possible Saxon pottery

Body: Very good silhouette. Flexed, lying North-South.

Remarks: Is good silhouette due to grave being cut into very hard pan gravel, or because the grave is later than the Early Iron Age burials? Is this grave the same date as Grave 105, which is close by, parallel with it, and has a similarly oriented extended body? Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Grave 109. (1060N/-80E)

Notebook 24.129

Grave pit: In enclosure ditch west.

Pit fill: Coffin stain was bounded above and below by a layer of hard reddish brown sand, apparently natural.

Grave furniture: Coffin stain.

Grave goods: None.

Body: An incomplete, dark brown body stain.

Remarks: Thought to possibly be a child's grave. Appears to have been excavated by workmen. Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Grave 110. (1056N/-80E)

Notebook 24.129

Grave pit: In enclosure ditch west.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave furniture: None.

Grave goods: None.

Body: Body stain on side of ditch near to bottom, on the same side as Grave 109. Possibly of a flexed child burial, but the stain was partly destroyed during clearing of the ditch fill.

Remarks: Appears to have been excavated by workmen. Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Grave 111. (1068N/-117E)

Notebook 30.184-185

Grave pit: Roughly rectangular with rounded corners.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods: None.

Body: Depressions in hard pan suggest the body was flexed. Only a poor head stain (within a hollow in the hard pan) and 14 teeth (from both upper and lower jaw) survived.

Remarks: Head hollow also seen in Burials 100 and 107, and is thought to be deliberate. Also down as Anglo-Saxon.

Grave 138. (762N/138E) a) Adult (*Maturus*), b) Child (*Infans*)

Notebook 41.106-107; 50.49

Grave pit: Roughly oval.

Pit fill: Gravelly medium loam except for area of dark clayey loam.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods: None (handwritten sheet labelled 'Pre')

Body: Silhouette. Bone powder from skull and legs and some teeth.

Remarks: Also down as undated.

Grave 141. (297N/438E)

Notebook 66.16-17

Grave pit: Elongated oval.

Pit fill: Very light brown sandy pebbly fill.

Finds in fill: Fragments of hand turned, sand and grit tempered, cindered and grey Iron Age pottery. Also some slag.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods:

141.1 Iron ring c.3" in diameter.

141.2 Iron Age pottery sherd fragments (red with white grit).

Body: No data.

Remarks: Stratigraphic relationship to Grubenhau 55? Also down as undated.

Cremation 157. (1236N/-38E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 54.101; 77.50; 84.last page

Grave pit: Oval. Cut into earlier feature (post hole?).

Pit fill: Dark brown sand, and fine charcoally grey loam.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods:

157.1 (Belgic?) black, partly burnished pot, badly broken in antiquity but with base still *in situ*.

Bone: Cremated bones in quite good condition, some 3"-4" long.

Remarks: Found during rough clearing.

Cremation 277. (1232N/-29E) Adult (*Maturus*) Female

Notebook 83.81

Grave pit: Oval.

Pit fill: Light brown stony loam with charcoal and cremated bone fragments.

Finds in fill: Some burnt flint.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods: None.

Bone: Cremated bone scattered throughout pit, suggesting later disturbance.

Remarks: Other notes state that this cremation was within a Saxon grave area and is possibly Belgic.

Cremation 593. (1314N/-3E)

Grave pit: Sub-circular pit with rounded profile, cut by charcoal pit.

Pit fill: Brown soil with fire-reddened sides and calcined bone.

Finds in fill: Calcined bone and bronze fragments.

Grave goods: Burnt bronze bow brooch (Lab No. 727017).

Bone: No data.

Cremation 636. (1526N/155E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 122.49

Grave pit: Irregular trapezoid, due to truncation by scraper track. 26" diameter x 10" deep (excluding obvious burrows).

Pit fill: Dark brown pebbly loam with burnt bone and charcoal.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods:

636.1 Bow and part of spring of copper alloy Colchester brooch. Curving bow of rounded profile. Very short wings. Probably 6-coil spring with external chord and hook. Burnt? L 39mm. Dating: earlier 1st century AD. AE 256 (AML 715317).

636.2 Red and black flint gritted sherd (Iron Age?).

636.3 Burnt flints.

Bone: Burnt bone fragments of maximum size 1.5".

Cremation 646. (1550N/182E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 134.49

Grave pit: Oval. 3'x1'6", and c.6" deep.

Pit fill: Dark brown compact loam with few pebbles, much charcoal and cremated bone.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods: No data.

Bone: Cremated bone fragments present. These are concentrated within the cremation pit, but also some spread to surrounding natural yellow loam, possibly by bioturbation.

Remarks: This cremation is heavily disturbed by animals.

Cremation 647 (1387N/164E)

Notebook 134.50

Grave pit: Sub-circular pit with steep sides and flat base, measuring 0.68 x 0.65m wide and 0.24m deep.

Pit fill: Sandy gravel containing large amounts of cremated human bone, with a reddish clay layer at the base; large burnt flints, slag fragments and fragments of undecorated grass-tempered pot in fill. This could indicate an Anglo-Saxon date, but its isolated location suggests otherwise.

Grave furniture: None.

Grave goods: Probably none, but notebooks records the impression of a ?brooch in a cinder.

Bone: No data, but an unusual amount of cremated bone recorded, some of which was burnt black rather than white, particularly around the edges of the cremation pit.

Cremation 651. (1520N/225E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 138.77-78

Grave pit: Squarish with rounded corners.

Pit fill: Very dark charcoally fill with burnt bone and pebbles. Edge of pit fire-reddened.

Grave furniture: No data.

Grave goods:

651.1 Bow of Simple Gaulish/continental Colchester type copper alloy brooch. Flat, tapering bow is only very slightly curved in profile. Catchplate pierced. L 90mm from drawing. Two coils of the spring/start of chord are all that we got to see. Stead and Rigby (1989) Type B (Lab. No. 715308). Dating: Augustan on the Continent; the King Harry Lane seriation implies they were still placed in British burials towards the mid 1st century AD. AE 271 (AML 715308).

Bone: No data.

Remarks: Unusual square shape and large size led excavator to think this might have been the actual burning place for the body. Much animal disturbance by rabbits.

Cremation 678. (1635N/315E) Adult (*Maturus*)

Notebook 167.64-65

Grave pit: No data. Found during excavation of ditch corner. c.15"x6".
Pit fill: Only bone and charcoal.
Grave furniture: No data.
Grave goods: No data.
Bone: No data.

Grave 779. (1302N/244E)

Notebook 178.77; 180.21
Grave pit: Roughly oval. Located in the bottom of a Belgic ditch.
Pit fill: Dark brown loam with flecks of fired clay and pockets of pea-grit.
Grave furniture: No data.
Grave goods: None.
Body: Only body stains. Head is clear, but stains may also represent the backbone, pelvis, feet and part of a leg. Body appears to be in a crouched position.

Grave 780. (1294N/254E)

Notebook 178.57, 79
Grave pit: Rectangle with rounded ends. Located within Belgic ditch.
Pit fill: (Proposed extension of grave found when baulk removed) dark brown humus and charcoal.
Grave furniture: No data.
Grave goods: None.
Body: No trace of a body.

Grave 782. (1315N/217E)

Notebook 192.22-25
Grave pit: Elongated oval. Overlain and truncated by modern ditch.
Pit fill: Light/medium brown/grey sandy loam with random pebbles, and dark/medium charcoal fill with random pebbles.
Grave furniture: No data.
Grave goods:
782.1 Small short-necked flask.
782.2 Large storage jar rim overlaid with charcoal.
782.3 Sherds of a small cordoned bowl.
Body: No data.

Cremation 868. (1216N/488E) Adult (*Maturus*) Male

Notebook 217.15-22
Grave pit: Circular and in the middle of a large pit.
Pit fill: Charcoal loam with cremated bones and few pebbles.
Grave furniture: No data.
Grave goods: No data.
Bone: Bone fragments included pieces of skull and upper part of 'caverna oculi'.
Remarks: Charcoal has been identified as oak.

Cremation 1092