

## RB Cemetery III

### Introduction

#### **Cremation 1008. (1430.5N/586.5E)**

Notebook 259.159

*Grave pit:* No data: damaged by ploughing.

*Pit fill:* Only 5cm deep; charcoal and pieces of bone surrounded by red burned pebbles.

*Grave goods:* Only the base of the presumed cremation urn survived: red/brown surfaces and light grey core.

*Bone:* Noted as found.

#### **Cremation 1014. (1433N/574E) Adult Female**

Notebook 269.43

*Grave pit:* No data: damaged by ploughing.

*Pit fill:* No data.

*Grave goods:* Three pottery vessels found, a – presumably cinerary – urn with ‘2 small pots inside’.

1014.1 Large closed form, probably a jar, no details preserved.

1014.2 Squat piriform-shaped ‘poppyhead’ beaker, probably of North Kentish origin, ?Hadrianic – early Antonine.

1014.3 Small, oval-bodied jar with a simple everted rim, plain save for two grooves on the shoulder. Probably 2nd century AD.

*Bone:* Found in both pit and pot.

#### **Grave 1016. (1450N/620E)**

Notebook 260.35, 83; 150B.109

*Grave pit:* Irregular oval, with vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.52m x 0.71m x 0.48m deep, oriented NNE-SSW, cut by large pit that contained many flint-gritted sherds (probably MIA, but could also be Saxon).

*Pit fill:* Light brown sand and yellow sand with some pebbles, both round and irregular scattered randomly throughout the fill.

*Finds in fill:* Several slightly abraded flint gritted sherds (Iron Age).

*Grave furniture:* No data.

*Grave goods:*

1016.1 Flint scraper.

*Body:* Body silhouette only, showing flexed burial lying on its right side, head to north, facing right.

*Remarks:* Records vague and brief but suggest a prehistoric (i.e. BA) burial with a flint scraper, therefore probably not Romano-British.

#### **Grave 1017. (1426N/609E)**

Notebook 260.28-30

*Grave pit:* Rectangular grave with rounded corners, near-vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.68m x 0.76m x 0.76m deep, oriented NNE-SSW.

*Pit fill:* Clean gravel and some small lenses of solid grey-brown silt. Occasional flint-gritted sherds and flints in fill.

*Grave furniture:* Rectangular black layer on whole floor of grave suggested that body may have been placed on a ‘mattress’ or unnailed wooden bier.

*Grave goods:*

1017.1 Flint scraper (possibly residual).

*Body:* Clear silhouette, indicating a crouched burial on the right side, with head to the north, facing right.

*Remarks:* Records better, but reveal a crouched inhumation that, like 1016, contained a flint scraper. This is perhaps also prehistoric.

#### **Grave 1018. (1410N/604E)**

Notebook 259.130, 132-134; 260.31

*Grave pit:* Elongated oval grave with vertical sides and rounded base, measuring 1.68 x 0.61m wide and 0.76m deep, oriented SSW-NNE.

*Pit fill:* Orange sandy gravel, and medium brown sandy loam with few pebbles and sand lenses.

*Grave furniture:* Possible coffin stain, but no associated nails.

*Grave goods:* None, although a linear stain under the body may suggest a decayed ?wooden artefact.

*Body:* Body stain shows head and femora clearly and also suggests right arm. Body clearly tightly flexed and on its right side, with head to south, facing right.

**Grave 1019. (1408N/593E)**

Notebook 269.4

*Grave pit:* Rectangular with rounded corners, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.52 x 0.86m wide and 0.46m deep, oriented NNE-SSW. Cuts a large shallow pit 1410x591 (undated).

*Pit fill:* Very sandy gravel with few pebbles.

*Finds in fill:* Flints, flint-gritted pottery scraps and an orange-red wheel thrown sherd, all thought to be residual.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Very clear body stain showing supine extended burial with arms bent (possibly crossed on chest), and head to north, facing up.

**Grave 1020. (1438N/602E)**

Notebook 269.8-9, 150B.113

*Grave pit:* Very long and narrow rectangular grave, with rounded corners, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 2.08 x 0.66m wide and 0.54m deep, oriented SSW-NNE.

*Pit fill:* Dark, compact fill (?topsoil), with small flecks of fired clay, overlying orange gravel with patches of topsoil.

*Finds in fill:* Rim of a flint-gritted vessel with oblique fingernail decoration from top of grave fill.

*Grave furniture:* Slight traces of soil stain in the vicinity of the head, suggesting inhumation in a coffin (no nails observed). Also in the vicinity of the head a dark silty area, interpreted as turves, may have served as a pillow (0.36m x 0.23m x 0.15m thick).

*Grave goods:* None noted, save for a stain c 1'6" long, above the body, the decayed remains of a bone? object.

*Body:* Silhouette only, extended, supine inhumation with crossed legs, with head to the south, facing up.

**Grave 1021. (1440N/596E)**

Notebook 269.12-13

*Grave pit:* Rectangular with rounded corners, steep sides and flat base, measuring 1.83 x 1.04m wide and 0.70m deep, oriented SSW-NNE. Very wide for a grave. Grave revealed by Hymac scraping.

*Pit fill:* Very dark brown sandy loam (topsoil?) with charcoal flakes and patches of a more humic fill within the coffin stain.

*Finds in fill:* Residual finds of c. 10 early Iron Age B ring base vesicular sherds, and flint flakes.

*Grave furniture:* Coffin stain of a nailed oak coffin (1.52m x 0.52m x 0.36m deep) with 11 nails.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Clear body stain with slightly irregular outline. Flexed on the right side, with head to the south-west, facing right.

**Grave 1022. (1470N/609E)**

Notebook 260.14, 36; 269.16, 150b.115

*Grave pit:* Oblong, and initially excavated as a pit until true shape became clear; sloping sides rounding to flat base. 1.07 x 0.61m wide and 0.30m deep, oriented SSW-NNE; thought to be a child's grave.

*Pit fill:* Lenticular fill with humic fill right against clean sandy side.

*Finds in fill:* Residual IA and RB pottery scraps.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Very scanty silhouette of head and spine. Flexed on its left side with head to north-east, facing left.

**Grave 1023. (1423N/593E)**

Notebook 269.15; 150B.116

*Grave pit:* Rectangular, with rounded corners, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.83 x 0.91m wide and 0.39m deep, oriented SSW-NNE.

*Pit fill:* Blotchy and sandy, with a floor of very loose gravel. A narrow area of dark sandy loam along the centre of the grave possibly represents the remains of the coffin lid.

*Finds in fill:* Residual flint flakes and scraps of flint-gritted pottery.

*Grave furniture:* Clear rectangular coffin stain (1.52m x 0.61m x 0.30m deep) and 26 nails; wood unidentified.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Some teeth and part of the occiput bone survived. Rest of body just a silhouette. Extended supine inhumation, with the head to south (facing up) right up against the end of the grave.

**Grave 1024. (1439N/623E)**

Notebook 261.81-82; 269.17; 150B.17

*Grave pit:* Rectangular with rounded corners, steep sides and flat base, measuring 2.07 x 0.91m wide and 0.31m deep, oriented SW-NE; cut by a flat bottomed pit 1441x621.

*Pit fill:* Dark fill within pit but outside coffin; some animal disturbance; many flint-gritted sherds, probably deriving from intercutting pit, or an earlier feature.

*Grave furniture:* Rectangular coffin stain (1.73m x 0.48m x 0.27m) with 22 nails (wood unidentified). Extensive black stain of coffin over floor of grave.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Body stain showing extended supine burial, crossed legs, with head to the south-west, facing right; some teeth survived.

**Grave 1025. (1419N/609E)**

Notebook 269.19

*Grave pit:* Rectangular, with rounded corners, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.52 x 0.61m wide and 0.38m deep, oriented SW-NE.

*Pit fill:* No data.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Clear silhouette. Head had some soft bone preserved. Burial is supine with head to the south-west looking left, and with legs flexed to the left side.

**Grave 1026. (1428N/618E)**

Notebook 269.21

*Grave pit:* Rectangular with rounded corners, steep sides and flat base, measuring 1.83 x 0.61m wide and 0.46m deep, oriented SSW-NNE.

*Pit fill:* Sandy fill along one edge of pit, with a loam fill inside the pit, very humic throughout.

*Finds in fill:* A residual wheel thrown pot rim, fresh and abraded flint-gritted sherds, a further possible wheel thrown sherd, a fragment of slag and some flint flakes, including a possible core and handaxe fragments.

*Grave furniture:* No coffin stain noted but two nails found.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Parts of a body stain preserved, with some teeth, indicating a burial flexed on the right side, with head to the south-west facing right.

**Grave 1027. (1459N/650E)**

Notebook 261.127, 142

*Grave pit:* Oval, with sloping sides and flat base, measuring 1.14 x 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep, oriented SSW-NNE. Located in the bottom of the double ditch outer extension, but apparently quite late in the ditch fill, so of secure RB date.

*Pit fill:* Dark loam.

*Finds in fill:* Flints and two scraps of residual flint-gritted pottery.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Body silhouette, showing burial flexed on the right side, with head apparently bent forward in order to fit into grave, head to south-west facing right.

**Grave 1029. (1470N/595E)**

Notebook 269.29; 150B/5.122

*Grave pit:* Roughly rectangular with rounded corners, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.68 x 1.14m wide and 0.51m deep, oriented NNE-SSW.

*Pit fill:* Patches of light brown silt and orange sandy gravel.

*Finds in fill:* Residual finds of fired clay (possibly an Iron Age loom weight), six flint flakes, vesicular sherds, wheel thrown sherds and abraded flint-gritted sherds.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Body silhouette showing flexed burial lying on its right side, with both hands in front of the face, and head to north facing right. Some teeth and possible pelvic bone also survived.

**Grave 1030. (1468N/603E)**

Notebook 269.31; 150B.123

*Grave pit:* Elongated oval grave, with steep sides and uneven base, measuring 1.06 x 0.58m wide and 0.36m deep, oriented SSW-NNE.

*Pit fill:* Patches of light brown silt and orange gravel, well mixed together making the fill generally quite dark.

*Finds in fill:* two residual flint flakes and some flint-gritted pottery sherds.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* No silhouette visible.

*Remarks:* Despite no signs of a body, grave furniture or grave goods, this was thought to be a grave on the basis that it is close to and parallel with Grave 1029 and a similar shape to Grave 1022.

**Cremation 1031. (1463N/559E) Adult Male**

Notebook 269.32-33

*Grave pit:* Very irregular oval, with sloping sides to a pointed base, 1.37 x 0.76 wide and 0.25m deep. Some animal disturbance in the base.

*Pit fill:* Dark and charcoally fill with some large pieces of charcoal (including ash, oak and sloe) and small fragments of human bone, with blotchy patches of clean gravel, within a light brown pebbly loam containing shallow patches of dark charcoally fill and burnt bone. Reddened gravel around the edges and along the base of the pit may suggest burning. The two vessels were placed upright next to each other close to the centre of the pit.

*Finds in fill:* Residual flint-gritted and other pot sherds. Also two iron ?nail shanks lying flat in the fill.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* Two pots (1031.1-2) both containing a dark charcoally fill, and both with burnt bone below them. The larger vessel 1031.1 was the main cremation urn, with human bone found right the way through the fill, along with a small piece of fused glass and some ?horn.

1031.1 Large grey ware jar with pinkish core and interior. Worn possible turned base. Missing rim (Ht. 245mm; Base diam 94mm).

1032. 2 Small grey ware poppyhead beaker with neck cordon and turned base; burnished, with panels of barbotine dot decoration (Hi 89mm; Max girth 94mm).

*Bone:* Only small fragments of burnt human bone, found both within 1031.1 and underneath both vessels.

**Cremation 1032. (1475N/549E) Adult Male**

*Grave pit:* Irregular oval pit with near-vertical sides and rounded base, measuring 0.56 x 0.46m wide and 0.33m deep. Pit was just large enough to take the main cremation urn 1032.1, which itself contained the accessory vessel 1032.2.

*Pit fill:* Light brown and very gravelly.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:*

1032.1 Large grey ware jar, with fingernail decoration below neck and burnishing on sides below shoulder (Ht. 295mm; Rim diam 225mm).

1032.2 Smaller cream ware pot with lighter cream wash (Ht 85mm; Rim diam 57mm; Max girth 86mm; Base diam 37mm).

*Bone:* Cremated bone found inside cremation urn 1032.1.

**Cremation 1033. (1475N/560E) a) Adult, b) Child (*Infans I*)**

Notebook 269.27

*Grave pit:* Roughly rectangular with rounded corners, sloping sides and rounded base, measuring 0.80 x 0.62m wide and 0.18m deep.

*Pit fill:* Reddened edges, with an interior concentration of cremated bone overlying burnt gravel.

*Finds in fill:* Residual flint.

*Grave furniture:* Two iron nails at the surface of the concentration of bone.

*Grave goods:*

1033.1 1 sherd of Samian ware, Dr. 27.

*Bone:* Bundle of fairly large burnt bones placed at one end of the pit. Possibly laid on something, as a very clearly defined line between bottom of bone and burnt gravel)

*Remarks:* There is a possibility that the remains of a pyre were swept into the pit and the bones subsequently placed on top. Unlikely to represent burning *in situ* due to position of bundle of bones, which appeared to have been deliberately placed.

**Cremation 1034. (1454N/543E) a) Adult Male, b) Adult Male**

Notebook 269.36

*Grave pit:* Roughly circular with sloping sides and rounded base, measuring 0.61m diameter and c.0.16m deep.

*Pit fill:* Very dark brown and some oak charcoal and large quantity of bone; vessel placed upright in centre of pit.

*Finds in fill:* one abraded flint-gritted sherd.

*Grave furniture:* three iron nails in fill outside the vessel may represent the remains of a box or similar.

*Grave goods:*

1034.1 Truncated grey ware vessel (Max girth 238mm; Base diam. 106mm), containing charcoal, human bone and possible fused glass.

*Bone:* Cremated human bone fragments, apparently representing two adult male individuals.

**Cremation 1035. (1470N/542E) a) Adult Male, b) Adult Male**

Notebook 269.34

*Grave pit:* Roughly circular with vertical sides and stepped base, measuring 0.36m diameter and 0.18+m deep.

*Pit fill:* Black charcoally fill containing many pieces of bone (some large), and medium brown loam also containing pieces of bone. Cremation urn placed upright into the loamy part of the fill.

*Finds in fill:* Residual flint.

*Grave furniture:* None noted, but seven iron nails found (including one inside vessel).

*Grave goods:*

1035.1 Grey ware vessel with many loose sherds (e.g. rim); incised lattice decoration over most of the pot, ending in a clear band at the shoulder and at the base; some burnishing on foot and shoulder (Max girth 192mm; Base diam 88mm). Contained human bone (some pieces quite large), mainly in the lower half of the vessel, and one iron nail.

*Bone:* Cremated bone inside and outside pot, apparently representing two adult male individuals.

**Cremation 1036. (1480N/552E) Adult**

Notebook 269.37

*Grave pit:* Squarish with rounded corners, steep sides and rounded base, measuring 0.48 x 0.48m wide and 0.27+m deep. Damaged by ploughing.

*Pit fill:* Pebbly brown fill with blotches of black charcoally soil (charcoal comprising oak and poplar) containing some bone, overlying a black charcoally fill with little charcoal but large quantities of bone.

*Finds in fill:* Two iron nails and flint flake.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Bone:* No data save for some being within fill.

**Cremation 1037. (1417N/499E) Adult Male**

Notebook 269.39

*Grave pit:* Roughly circular with rounded profile, measuring 0.31m diameter and 0.15+m deep. Damaged by ploughing.

*Pit fill:* Dark brown loam with patches of black charcoally fill and many pebbles, overlying a black charcoally fill with much bone and few pebbles.

*Finds in fill:* Bronze pin fragment.

*Grave furniture:* No data.

*Grave goods:* No data.

*Bone:* Quantity of bone lying against the clean side of the pit, possibly as a lining of bone.

**Cremation 1038. (1405N/505E) Adult Male**

Notebook 259.41; 261.151

*Grave pit:* Shape unclear since set into quarry face, but steep sides and flat base, measuring 0.30m x 0.30m x 0.26+m deep.

*Pit fill:* Light brown sandy fill with much cremated bone (quite large pieces).

*Finds in fill:* Iron stain, but no object recovered. Sherds of sand tempered wheel thrown pottery, out of their original position.

*Grave furniture:* No data.

*Grave goods:*

1038.1 Grey ware pot, sandy fabric. Burnished.

*Bone:* Many fragments throughout the fill.

*Remarks:* This cremation was discovered in the quarry face during clearing for the excavation of Cremation 1039. See NB 261.76

**Cremation 1039. (1470N/503E) Adult Male**

Notebook 269.42; 261.152

*Grave pit:* Small and oval, with rounded profile, measuring c. 0.30m in diameter and 0.18m deep, located partly within a natural hollow. Near to Cremation 1038, inside RBIII cemetery enclosure.

*Pit fill:* Light brown/yellow sandy loam fill with much cremated bone but no charcoal or reddening of pit sides.

*Grave furniture:* No data.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Bone:* The pit was packed full of cremated bone.