

## Romano-British Cemetery II

### *Gazetteer of graves*

#### **Cremation 790 (1086N/537E) Adult**

Notebook 164.56, 209.61, 209.92, 211.1

*Grave pit:* Circular, 0.53m in diameter, 0.15m deep.

*Pit fill:* dark, charcoally fill inc large oak charcoal fragments intermixed with cremated bone; iron fragments found in the top 10cms — possibly fragments from a nailed casket.

*Grave furniture:* As noted above, iron fragments suggesting nailed oak casket burial seen. No stain noted.

*Grave goods:*

790.1 Melted fragments of copper alloy sheet (Lab No 727031). Tentatively identified as a latchlifter. Dated in notebooks to IA/1st century AD, but no justification given for this.

*Bone:* Large fragments of bone including skull fragments. No further data.

#### **Cremation 791 (1084N/502E) Adult Male and Adult Female**

Notebook 164.60-61

*Grave pit:* Circular, with steep sides and flat base; measuring 0.91 x 0.80m and 0.48m deep. Vessel 791.1 found inverted, with its rim on the base of the pit, and was used as the cinerary urn. 791.2 contained a dark fill, but no visible finds.

*Pit fill:* Clean, soft sand and 'few pebbles'; no cremated bone in fill; oak charcoal.

*Grave goods:*

791.1 Oval bodied, narrow-necked jar with stabbed decoration on shoulder. Base and lower side walls ploughed off (Ht 280mm; Rim 102mm; Max diameter 230mm).

791.2 Small, globular flagon with a plain everted rim. Crude tooled burnished lattice on the body exterior. Local (Ht 134mm; Rim 46mm; Max diameter 95mm; Base 46mm). Placed upright next to 791.1.

*Bone:* Large number of bones in 791.1, 'some quite large'. Soil sample from both pots retained.

#### **Cremation 792 (1075N/563E) Adult**

Notebook 164.63

*Grave pit:* Circular, with sloping sides and rounded base, 0.61m in diameter, 0.23m deep.

*Pit fill:* Two distinct fills: a lower with cremated bone and oak charcoal and 'bronze fragments throughout fill' (including a brooch or buckle); an upper 'sandy fill with some bones and charcoal'.

*Grave goods:* Four items of badly burnt metalwork were recovered from this cremation (lab nos. 727032A-D).

792.1 Burnt and partially distorted open copper alloy ring. C-shaped, the ends of the ring are broken., revealing a rounded cross-section. The exterior surface is decorated with three parallel ridges. Internal diameter 18-20mm, weight 13g. A possible finger-ring, an almost identical example was found during excavation of the forum-basilica site at Silchester and identified as a harness-ring (Boon in Fulford & Timby 2000: 345 & fig. 159 - 40). Similar sized rings have also been recovered from Camerton (Jackson 1990).

792.2 Collection of very fragmentary burnt copper alloy sheet, thin-walled vessel or appliqué decoration (weight 66g). The fragments varying from melted rounded blobs to surviving distorted lumps. The largest piece is extremely distorted and folded or crumpled (heat distortion?), weighs 15g, length 53.5mm and is less the 1mm thick.

792.3 Heavily burnt, partially melted and twisted and distorted C-shaped copper alloy bar. Probably with an original D-shaped cross-section with a central mid-rib and channels, this item may be a heavy buckle or harness fitting. There has been considerable mineral loss and the surface is heavily pitted. Internal diameter 22mm, weight 15g. Plain buckles and harness fittings are very common finds on Romano-British sites spanning the Roman period, and earlier.

792.4 Three iron fragments. The larger fragment is the head and part of the shank (diam. 4mm) of a needle, measuring 42mm in length, total weight 1g. The head (22mm x 7mm) is flattened, tapers to a point and is pierced. The lumen measures *c.* 6mm. This type and size of needle is typical of those used for leather-working (ref). The two smaller fragments refit, with a total length of 26mm, weight 1g, and taper to a thin

point. These three fragments are probably from the same object as each are similarly degraded and corroded; possibly made of copper alloy.

*Bone:* Scattered throughout grave pit. 'Some bones quite large'. 2450g of bone recovered. These apparently represent 'at least four individuals, of which one is male' [sic] [don't know where this quote has come from – SJL].

### **Cremation 830 (1088N/530E)**

Notebook 209.61

*Grave pit:* Circular in plan, 0.30m in diameter and 0.10m deep.

*Pit fill:* No data. Oak charcoal recorded found. Perhaps from fill.

*Grave goods:*

830.1 Unspecified copper alloy fragment.

*Bone:* Recorded as found. No further data.

*Remarks:* Also listed as Anglo-Saxon.

### **Grave 872 (1065N/532E)**

Notebook 209.47

*Grave pit:* Straight-sided, with rounded ends, near-vertical sides and flat base, oriented NE-SW. 2.59 x 0.97 x 0.46m deep.

*Pit fill:* No data.

*Grave furniture:* Very poor stain of nailed coffin (wood unidentified) with 25 nails recovered. Dimensions 1.83 x c. 0.61 x c. 0.28m deep.

*Grave goods:*

872.1 Small neckless globular bowl-jar with a hollowed rim. Probably local product. C 3rd-4th century AD. Placed by the left foot inside the coffin.

*Bone:* Clear body stain indicates supine extended burial with head to NE (not to SW, as indicated on Site Atlas) facing up, with head and shoulders over to the right side of the coffin, and left arm over body. Size indicates an adult.

### **Cremation 885 (1068N/504E) Adult**

Notebook 209.53, 209.58-9, 209.62-3

*Grave pit:* Sub-square pit with sloping sides and sloping base, measuring 1.40 x 1.22m and 0.30m deep.

*Pit fill:* Medium brown loam, with few pebbles and patches of clayey loam.

*Finds in fill:* Glass, flint, possible imitation T. nigra; iron nails may suggest the former presence of a casket or box.

*Grave goods:* Two accompanying pottery vessels.

885.1 Grey ware poppyhead beaker; rim and shoulder do not join base; base very much abraded (AD150-155).

885.2 Grey ware dish. Suggestion that this may have been placed upside down over 885.1, thus acting as a lid.

885.3 Rivetted iron plate fragments, lying over ?lid.

*Bone:* Possible burnt bone and teeth fragments found.

### **Cremation 887 (1002N/427E) Adult Female**

Notebook 195.78

*Grave pit:* Circular pit, 0.48m in diameter and 0.22m deep, with near-vertical sides and flat base.

*Pit fill:* Oak charcoal

*Grave goods:* None

*Bone:* Cremated bone found.

**Grave 888 (1090N/493E)**

Notebook 209.34

*Grave pit:* Rectangular grave with rounded corners measuring 1.07 x 0.46m; depth unknown, oriented NE-SW. Cuts fill of inner DDE ditch.

*Pit fill:* Dark fill; no other data.

*Grave furniture:* Staining indicates unnailed wooden coffin measuring 1.02 x 0.38m (depth unknown).

*Grave goods:* None.

*Bone:* None. Size of grave suggests a child.

**Cremation 889 (1040N/484E) Adult Male**

Notebook 209.18, 72; 220.121

*Grave pit:* Circular pit measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.15m deep, with sloping sides and flat base.

*Pit fill:* No data. The flagon lay on its side over and within a layer of cremated bone.

*Grave goods:*

889.1 Ring-necked flagon in VRW fabric (Ht. 161mm; Max diam. 121mm; Neck diam. 36mm). The handle is missing. Probably Hadrianic-Antonine. Mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

*Bone:* 1150g recovered. Longest fragment is 63mm. Identified as male, *maturus*.

**Cremation 890 (1037N/481E) Adult**

Notebook 209.72; 220.121-122

*Grave pit:* Small pit cut into loose gravel, damaged by ploughing. No grave goods.

*Pit fill:* Grey-brown [earth] fill.

*Finds in fill:* 1 possible iron nail.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Bone:* 890 g of bone recovered. Some fragments 'quite large' (max length given as 23mm). Identified as *maturus*.

**Cremation 891 (1032N/478E) Adult Male**

Notebook 209.85, 220.121-122

*Grave pit:* Not well defined. Roughly circular, 0.53m in diameter and at least 0.15m deep, cutting an IA pit (1030x478).

*Pit fill:* No data. Main cremation vessel and two accessory vessels all placed upright in pit.

*Grave goods:*

891.1 Lower part of an oval, grey-ware jar, used as the cinerary urn.

891.2 Carinated bowl, probably 2nd century.

891.3 Small globular, narrow-necked jar, with a plain cordon near the neck.

*Bone:* 700g recovered, with cremated bone noted as inside all three pots. Max length of fragments, 49mm. Identified as male, *maturus*.

**Cremation 892 (1033N/485E) Adult Male Cremation 892a Adult Female**

Notebook 220.121-122

*Grave pit:* Oval, nearly circular pit with unclear outline 0.91m in diameter, and 0.38m deep.

*Pit fill:* Not stated. Cremation urn 892.1 placed upright in base of pit, with beaker 892.4 within it, lying on side, along with unburnt bronze tube 892.5.

*Grave furniture:* Three iron nails found in the grave fill, probably from a casket. Urned cremation, with three accompanying pottery vessels and probably a glass vessel also. Two further burnt nails, from the fill inside the cremation urn.

*Grave goods:*

892.1 Grey high shouldered jar, (rim ploughed off), used as a cremation urn.

892.2. Complete Terra sigillata dish, Dr 38/Ludowici Si (diameter 130mm), unstamped. Rheinzabern, late second – mid third century, inscribed cross on base. The bowl is worn, by use before burial. Found next to the cremation urn.

892.3 Single handled, ring-necked flagon. Perhaps of local origin. 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Found next to the cremation urn.

892.4 Plain rimmed bag-shaped beaker decorated with floriate scenes *en barbotine*. Probably of Nene Valley origin. Date *c.* AD 190-240 (for the form, *cf.* Howe *et al.* 1981, fig 5.44-5). Found inside the cremation urn

892. 5 (Not illustrated). Copper alloy ‘tube’, consisting of three parts: the two ends being of the same diameter, and fitting over the middle section. L. 111mm; Max Diam. 14mm. Possibly a portable probe case. Found inside the cremation urn.

892.6 Part of the base and side of a clear glass vessel (Base diam. 40mm).

*Bone:* 1150g recovered. Max length of fragments, 74mm.

### **Cremation 893. (1035N/490E) Adult Male**

Notebook 220.121-122

*Grave pit:* Circular, outline indistinct.

*Pit fill:* Not stated. Cuts pit 1036 x 503.

*Grave furniture:* Urned cremation. Cinerary urn contained one further pottery vessel alongside cremated bone.

*Grave goods:*

893.1 Large necked jar in grey ware, with a squared-off rim. Neck ploughed away. Used as cremation urn (Ht. 216mm).

893.2 Small everted rimmed jar, Chelmsford type 69. Decorated with burnished lattice. Antonine or later.

*Bone:* Cremated bone recovered.

### **Cremation 894 (1037N/503E) Adult Female**

Notebook 209.83-84, 91

*Grave pit:* Roughly circular, measuring 0.61 x 0.58m, with a rounded profile at least 0.25m deep; disturbed by ploughing. Cuts pit 1036x503. Bones in cremation vessel, which lay at a slight angle some distance above the base of the pit.

*Pit fill:* Charcoally margins, main fill sandy gravel, less pebbly than 1036 x 503 pit.

*Finds in fill:* Amphora sherds, fire-cracked flints and body sherds, thought to be residual and from back filling of pit into which Cremation 894 is cut.

*Grave goods:*

894.1 Wheel thrown grey ware pedestal urn with foot ring; badly made and not well-fired. Top ploughed off. ?1st-2nd centuries AD.

*Bone:* 27g, max length, 12mm. Identified as *maturus*.

### **Grave 895 (1040N/487E) Child**

Notebook 209.19, 52

*Grave pit:* Straight sided, with rounded ends and undulating base, 1.37m long by 0.58m wide, 0.41m deep, oriented NE-SW.

*Pit fill:* Light brown pebbly loam with patches of sandier material.

*Finds in fill:* Fired clay and reddened flints in top 0.15m; sherds of ?residual flint-gritted pottery.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:*

895.1 Six fragments of a narrow oval penannular bracelet with rectangular cross-section with an internal diameter measuring approximately 50-5mm. Thickness 1.5mm, width 4mm with a total weight of 3g. The metal fragments are burnt, pitted and degraded with evident metal loss. Found at slight angle near location of right wrist.

895.2 Bronze bracelet [no lab number; not found, not illus.] at right shoulder.

*Body:* Child's grave, with extended supine body preserved as a good silhouette, head to east, facing up.

**Grave 896 (1050N/495E) 896b Child (*Infans I*)**

Notebook 209.65-66

*Grave pit:* Rectangular, with rounded corners. 2.87 x 1.08m, oriented WSW-ENE; depth uncertain. Cut into an earlier pit.

*Pit fill:* light/medium brown loam with patches of gravel.

*Finds in fill:* Amphora sherds, grey ware and other sherds plus glass fragment – accidental inclusions, from pit (possibly a disturbed cremation 1052x497) into which grave cuts. Charcoal, fired clay flecks, and a fragment of iron sheeting/plate of uncertain function.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None (all finds residual).

*Body:* Identified as *infans I*, but minimal bone preserved, and size of stain suggests adult. Body stain noticed, supine and extended in the right half of the grave, with head to west, facing up.

**Grave 897 (1090N/507E) Adult**

Notebook 209.89, 93; 221.50

*Grave pit:* Rectangular grave with rounded corners, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 2.43 by 1.35m, and 0.81m deep. Cut into silted up ditch that forms the N boundary of cemetery. Oriented NW-SE.

*Pit fill:* Fairly dark silty loam, with gravelly patches, and some very gravelly light coloured fill.

*Finds in fill:* Sherds from various IA and RB vessels. All appear abraded – accidental inclusions.

*Grave furniture:* Forty-one nails found in the grave fill clearly outline a nailed oak coffin measuring 1.83 x 0.59 x 0.40m. Stains indicated on sketch plan in relation to nails, but not made clear if coffin or body stains.

*Grave goods:*

897.1 Narrow necked jar in fine grey ware. Rim ploughed off. Inside coffin by right foot. Partly stained red (?heat??).

897.2 Single hobnail from high up in coffin fill; probably intrusive.

*Body:* Poor silhouette of head only, which was to NW.

**Grave 898 (1080N/508E) Child**

*Grave pit:* Rectangular grave, with rounded corners, vertical/sloping sides and flat base, measuring 0.84 x 0.58m and 0.25m deep, oriented NW-SE.

*Pit fill:* No data.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:*

898.1 Almost complete Terra sigillata dish, Walters 79 (diameter 190mm), stamped by Vagiros/Vagirus of Lezoux (see below, section IV.18, for the stamp, No 62). *c* AD 150-180. Stamp VAGIRV, Die 7a 79; 31. A stamp noted several times on form 80. Placed right way up over the chest.

*Body:* Poor silhouette with only head stain clear, but identified as a very small child's grave, with head to NW facing up.

**Grave 899 (1025N/495E) Child (*Infans I*) [COME BACK TO THIS ONE]**

Notebook 109.78, 151.29, 33-34, 36-38, 47-56, 58

*Grave pit:* Large rectangular pit with slightly bowed sides, measuring 2.13 x 1.22m and 1.02m deep, oriented NNW-SSE. The regular and crisply defined corners with associated nails suggest the grave-pit noted was actually the vault, and that the grave pit was itself not observed.

*Pit fill:* Gravelly with occasional clayey lumps, but more loamy inside the distinct line of nails representing one of the coffin's long sides.

*Grave furniture:* As noted above, the 'pit' is so regular and sharply defined that it probably constituted the vault; a suggestion strengthened by the fact that traces of wood staining were noticed at one end, and that in three of the pit corners there were nails, possibly *in situ*. Centrally placed inside the pit or vault was a nailed coffin, measuring 1.38 x 0.79m and 0.46m deep. No hinges or lock mechanism was found, but at least 104 nails were found.

*Grave goods:* The burial contained 11 pottery vessels and other material. Vessels 1-2 had probably been stood on the lid of the coffin, while the remainder of the vessels had been placed in the narrow slot between the coffin and the edge of the vault. Four of the vessels (Nos 00-00) appear to have been 'killed' by a blow or blows to the rim, which detached sherds. None of the broken-off bits were found (see the discussion of the funerary ritual below, p 000).

899.1 Almost complete Drag 18/31 (diameter 190mm), stamped by Decmus, probably of the Argonne. Decmus iii/iv 2a DIICCMVSF. This stamp has been found at Lavoye and Decmus almost certainly worked there, but die 2a was probably also used at Haute-Yutz and another of his stamps occurs at Sinzig. The use of this particular die on forms 79 and 80 suggests a date in the second half of the second century.

899.2 Almost complete Drag 31 (diameter 190mm), stamped by Vagiros/Vagirus of Lezoux. Stamp VAGIRV Die 7a 79; 31. A stamp noted several times on form 80. He also made form 27. *c* AD 150-180. Slightly burnt, with a worn foot.

899.3 Almost complete Walters 79 (diameter 180mm), stamped by Aestivus of Lezoux. Stamp AESTIVIM Die 3c 79. Aestivus' stamps are recorded at Pudding Pan Rock and Hadrian's Wall Period Ib. His forms include 31R, 79, Tg and occasionally 27. *c* AD 155-185.

899.4 Almost complete Ludowici Tg (diameter 250mm), stamped by Tituro of Lezoux. Stamp TITVRONIS Die 5b Tg; Tx; 79 etc. A late Antonine potter making forms 31R, 79, 79R, 80, Tg and Tx. There is no independent site dating for this die, though others have been noted from Hadrian's Wall and the Wroxeter gutter. *c* AD 160-190. Worn in use. Found upside down.

899.5 Complete Drag . 33 (diameter 130mm), stamped by Mainina of Trier. Stamp MAININAF Die 1a 33. There is no site dating evidence for this stamp, but its use on forms 18/31, 27 and 31 suggests that it was current in the Hadrianic-Antonine period. The lip and foot are worn.

899.6 Almost complete Drag. 33 (diameter 90mm), stamped by Remicus. Stamp REMICF Die 1b 33. The distribution of Remicus' stamps suggests that he worked at La Madeleine, though none have actually been found there. The number of examples in Britain is high, all in the eastern part of England. It occurs in Period II at Zwammerdam. *c* AD 130-160. Worn lip and foot.

899.7 Complete Drag. 33 (diameter 130mm), unstamped but finished with a crude swirl in the centre of the floor. Rheinzabern, late second-mid third century. The foot is worn, and there is a graffito XXII, scratched on the exterior wall. It is presumed to be a numeral. The rim is also notched 4 times.

899.8

899.9

899.10

899.11

*Body:* Allegedly 'just traces' found, identified as an *infans* I. Body stain seen, plus some teeth in the fill adhering to one of the pots. [This seems unlikely, in view of the soil stain, and the size of the coffin above, which is probably of an adult. Check further]

#### **Grave 900 (1091N/529E) Child**

Notebook 223.10, 72, 74

*Grave pit:* Sub-rectangular, with rounded corners, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 0.76 x 0.46m and 0.35m deep, oriented NE-SW.

*Pit fill:* Gravel and medium-dark pebbly loam. Contained streaks of sand.

*Finds in fill:* ?Prehistoric, hand-made, flint-gritted sherd. Shell gritted sherds and a flint flake, possibly all residual IA.

*Grave furniture:* None.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Body:* Bone recorded found, but no details available. Part of silhouette visible, indicating a child's grave, with head to north, facing up.

#### **Grave 901 (1033N/497E) Child**

*Grave pit:* Sub-rectangular, with rounded ends, steeply sloping sides and flat base, measuring 1.32 x 0.61m by 0.38m deep, oriented NW-SE.

*Pit fill:* No data available; two Iron Age sherds and three small Romano-British sherds are residual.

*Grave furniture:* Three large nails found. They appear to be from a nailed coffin, but no soil stain recorded.

*Grave goods:*



901.1 Small beaker with three pushed-out bosses on the body. The vessel might have been once classed as Romano-Saxon ware. It is a grey ware fabric. It is omitted from Roberts' (1982) *Corpus*. Probably post c AD 350 here. Found by the foot.

901.2 Thin, fragmentary copper alloy wire bracelet found on/in? stain. No further details.

*Body*: Silhouette indicates a supine child burial with head to west.

### **Cremation 902 (1030N/490E) Adult Male**

*Grave pit*: Sub-triangular, with rounded corners, sloping sides and rounded base, measuring 0.76 x 0.71m and 0.33m deep.

*Pit fill*: Residual IA sherds.

*Grave furniture*: Six nails found in the grave fill, at the corners of the soil-stain of a small, square box (see fig 00), measuring 0.31m square and 0.28m deep; the uppermost nail shown in the section drawing may not be *in situ*. Cremation placed in vessel 902.1; accompanying vessels were also inside the box.


*Grave goods*:

902.1 Plain-rimmed 'bag-shaped' beaker in Nene Valley colour coat, decorated with three zones of rouletting. Late 2nd to mid-3rd century AD. (*cf.* Howe et al. 1981, fig 3.34 and p16). This vessel was used as the cinerary urn.

902.2 Plain-rimmed bag-shaped beaker with a hunt scene in 'en barbotine' decoration. Early to mid-3rd century AD. (*Cf.* Howe et al. 1981, fig 3.26 and p16).

902.3 'London ware' bowl, imitating Samian f. 30, decorated with compass-scribed arcs and vertical combing. Probably of N Kent origin. Trajanic-Hadrianic. Residual in a burial of this date. London ware is dated to the early and middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, but this pot may be mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

902.4 High-shouldered jar with an everted rim and burnished lattice decoration, probably mid-late Antonine.

902.5 Complete Terra sigilata Ludowici Tx (diameter 100mm), stamped by Cunopectus of Colchester. Stamp . Slightly shallower than the Gaulish prototype. c. AD 160-200.

902. 6 A well-preserved eagle headed finial (length 82mm, weight 86g). The head emerges from a calyx of three feathers. The head is decorated with moulded and finely incised layered head and neck feathers, eyes, heavy brows and distinct cheeks. The hooked open beak holds a small object. The finial has a hollow oblate rounded socket, wider at its base (35mm x 29mm), tapering towards the head (28mm). The lower and upper parts of the socket are decorated with three bands. The socket possesses two opposing perforations, slightly forward of the transverse axis. Both perforations are damaged, with that on the right sided forming a rectangular lumen; the left-sided perforation is distorted outwards with a slight 'tear' at the bottom. Otherwise, the socket is undecorated, although there are four raised dimples, arranged in a lozenge (these may be remnants of the casting process as one has clearly been reduced in height). The base of the socket is broken at the front where an upward pointing 'hook' and representing, a swan or similar, would have been located. Out-turning of the socket along the break suggests this was broken off with some considerable force. The external and internal surfaces of the socket bore both the imprint and the semi-replaced mineral traces of a textile. The finial was submitted to Dr E Crowfoot for examination. She reported the fibre to be perhaps flax, Z/Z spun, tabby weave, with a count of 14/14.

Eagle headed finials are relatively common finds in Mainland Europe concentrated along the Rhine/Danube frontiers (von Mercklin 1933; Alföldi 1935; Toynbee & Wilkins 1982: 249), those these objects are known from only a small number of sites in Britain. These sites include: Colchester, Kettering, Cirencester, Silchester, Water Newton, Leicester, Wroxeter and Ixworth (cited in *ibid.*). Webster remarks of these objects that 'their striking uniformity strongly suggests a military origin and probably a 1<sup>st</sup> century date' (1960: 74; no. 37.) The example from Little Cressinghama, (Norfolk) is dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, although these objects have been found in 4<sup>th</sup> century contexts in eastern central Europe (Painter 1971: 324, Plate LXVIII). Further examples are also known from villa and military sites, such as Walesby, Lincolnshire (Ambrose 1978), High Rochester (Toynbee & Wilkins 1982) and Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire (C. Going pers. comm). A very similar, almost identical eagle head finial, dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, is reported in the Portable Antiquities annual report (2006: 48) from West Ilsley (Berks.), with a further three examples, two from Suffolk (PAS ref: SF-97C2C8; SF-9CC792) and one from Sussex

(SUSS-18A703), also recorded by the scheme. An unusual find in a cremation burial, this is perhaps an heirloom.

902.7 A kidney-shaped scrap of leather 25mm long, indicates that organic objects were also present in the burial. Visible on part of it was a patch of replaced textile. The area had been impregnated with copper salts, which may also account for the survival of the leather. No report on the textile fragment is available. (AML 731447).

*Bone*: 680 g recovered. Max length of fragments, 58mm. Identified as male, *maturus*.

### **Cremation 903 (1043N/507E) Adult**

Notebook 164.123

*Grave pit*: Rectangular, with regular sides and sharp corners 1.07m by 0.92m and 0.33m deep. Soil stains clearly show three, and probably all four sides were lined with wood; see below.

*Pit fill*: Residual IA sherds.

*Grave furniture*:

Wooden cist

As noted above, there are suggestions that the grave was lined with wood, for against three of its sides a soil stain, probably decayed wood, was found. There was an almost complete lack of associated nails (in contrast with the casket within the chamber), which suggests the wooden frame was jointed or pegged and inserted into the grave-pit in prefabricated form, although soil stains with pairs of associated nails may indicate the use of corner posts. This measured 1.01 x 0.76m and 0.30m deep.

Casket

Within the 'grave' a cluster of thirty-one nails and further wood stains indicated a small nailed casket (0.33 x 0.23m, depth uncertain) and two associated binding straps and an L-shaped tumbler lock lift key. This was placed within the cist, towards the centre. There were eight accompanying vessels outside of the casket, but it is uncertain where the cremated remains were placed; quite possibly these were inside the casket itself (but only a token amount was present – see below).

*Grave goods*:

903.1-3 Bead-rimmed dishes, burnished overall externally, with basal chamfer. Late Antonine or slightly later.

903.4 'Poppyhead beaker' in ?N Kent grey ware. Hadrianic-?early Antonine.

903.5 High shouldered jar with an everted rim, decorated externally with an overall lattice. Mid-late Antonine?

903.6 Almost complete Drag 18/31 (diameter 180mm), stamped by Glasabinia who may have worked at La Madeleine (IV.18, stamp No 30). *c* AD 135-155.

903.7 Almost complete Ludowici Tx (diameter 100mm), stamped by Tituro of Lezoux (IV.18, stamp No 59). *c* AD 160-190. A hole which pierces the side wall probably began as a blister during firing.

903.8 Almost complete dish or lid (diameter 160mm), a shallow copy of a Drag 38 with a crudely-shaped flange and a tiny footring. Relatively coarse pinkish-brown fabric with a thick orange wash on the surface. Perhaps local, and third century in date.

903.9 At least thirteen hobnails with mineral-preserved leather, placed inside the casket.

*Bone*: 15 g only recorded as recovered. Max length, 31mm. Identified as *maturus*.

### **Cremation 904 (1083N/519E) Adult**

Notebook 223.72, 74

*Grave pit*: No data. Earlier than ditch. Damaged by ploughing.

*Pit fill*: Contained streaks of sand and runnels of loam that suggest animal disturbance. Residual IA sherds.

*Grave furniture*: No data.

*Grave goods*: No data.

*Bone*: Some burnt bone mentioned.



### **Cremation 905 (1065N/517E)**

*Grave pit:* Sub-circular, measuring 0.94 x 0.91m and 0.36m deep.

*Pit fill:* Some residual RB sherds.

*Grave furniture:* Soil stain and seven nails of a small, square nailed casket, measuring 0.51 x 0.51m and 0.30m deep, together with three fragments of binding strap. One accompanying vessel was placed inside the casket, but it was uncertain whether the cremation had been placed inside this or not.

*Grave goods:*

905.1 Small, carinated beaker in a fine grey-ware. ?Hadrianic-early Antonine (Ht 73mm, Rim Diam 53mm; Base Diam 31mm). Placed against the side of the casket.. AD140-50.

905.2 Copper-alloy ?*tintinabulum*. Somewhat corroded. Decayed wood adhering in parts (?decayed remnants of case). For the presence of a cymbal in a burial at Kelvedon, Essex, see K Rodwell 1988, fig 59 and p 73. [AM Lab 731445]

*Body:* Cremation. No data preserved.

### **Cremation 908 (1066N/576E)**

Notebook 221.175

*Grave pit:* No data.

*Pit fill:* No data.

*Grave furniture:* No data.

*Grave goods:*

908.1 Part of shaft and eye of an iron needle, found in a bone (?needle case?). New break but point not found.

*Bone:* Burnt bone found, but no further data.

*Remarks:* Also down as prehistoric.

### **Grave 909 (1041N/493E)**

*Grave pit:* Oval, with slightly squared-off ends, vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.22 x 0.89m and 0.53m deep.

*Pit fill:* No data.

*Grave furniture:* Rectangular soil-stain and 24 nails show the interment was placed within a wooden box, which measured 0.71 x 0.30m and 0.23m deep. It appeared to have been nailed together. There was no trace of a hinge- or lock-mechanism.

*Grave goods:* None.

*Bone:* No silhouette or remaining bones, but length of grave (if not a cremation) suggests a child.

### **Grave 910 (1025N/514E)**

Notebook 151.39-41

*Grave pit:* Large, sub-rectangular feature with rounded ends. 2.64m x 2.37m x 0.81m, oriented ENE-WSW.

*Pit fill:* Rather compact pebbly loam within gravelly fill.

*Finds in fill:* None save iron strap and rivet (possibly a disturbed coffin fitting) and eight small sherds of Romano-British and Iron Age pottery.

*Grave furniture:* Eight nails and clear stain of a coffin (1.83m x 0.61m, depth uncertain) and an accessory box. A copper-alloy handle (with the form of two opposing dolphins) was found 'in the fill of the grave' on top of the right hip of the body. This object, together with the two annular studs found at the foot end of the grave may derive from a small casket with bronze footstands placed at the end of the coffin, the handle having been disturbed.

*Grave goods:* None observed (but see above, under 'grave furniture').

*Body:* Slight soil silhouette only, indicating an extended supine inhumation with arms to sides and head to ENE, facing left.

### **Cremation 911 (1045N/499E)**

Notebook 151.23, 25-28, 43-44

*Grave pit:* Squarish, with a flat bottom and rounded corners, measuring 0.97 x 0.84m and 0.15m deep.

*Pit fill:* Extremely varied fill comprising the shot in remains of a fire (with poplar, oak and hazel charcoal represented). The pit was crammed with charcoal, with some timbers 23cm long.

*Finds in fill:* Large and small fragments of wood, including pieces 10-15cm long, bits of fired clay, presumably shaped objects. These were split and impossible to recover. Also in the fill were date stones, hazel nut shell fragments, and carbonised pine kernels, together with fragments of eight plain-rimmed platters, three tazzae, eleven similar mica-dusted lamps, and the remnants of five bag-shaped beakers, probably continental imports. Also found were the ?heat affected remains of nine Sestertii including issues of Marcus Aurelius, and including one with a terminus post quem of 175 AD. There were also fragments of bone. The tazzas may have been placed in the fire last, as they lay towards the top of the deposit.

*Grave furniture:* No data.

*Grave goods:* No data.

*Bone:* Very few cremated bones.

*Remarks:* The small amount of burnt bone found has led to the description of this feature as ritual. The fill was truncated, and assuming that some finds were therefore lost, it has been postulated that this pit represents the remains of a rite involving 10 participants who each tossed in a set comprising a cup, plate, lamp, and coin into a blazing pit.

Finds:

The coins (by P E Curnow)

The coins include:

1. Sestertius. Vespasian. Bad.  
(Mucking 96; Lab 731264).
2. Sestertius, ?1st or early 2nd century.  
(Mucking 94; Lab 731262).
3. Sestertius. ?2nd century. Not good.  
(Mucking 95; Lab 731263).
4. Sestertius. Antoninus Pius? 138-161. Fragment. Not good.  
(Mucking 93; Lab 731261).
5. Sestertius. Antoninus Pius 138-161. Not good.  
(Mucking 92; Lab 731260).
6. Sestertius. Antoninus Pius 138-161. Mid 2nd century. Fair.  
(Mucking 99; Lab 731267).
7. Sestertius. Antoninus Pius 138-161. Fair. The pottery  
(Mucking 100; Lab 731268)
8. Sestertius. Faustina II, ?161-180. Good head to right.  
(Mucking 97; Lab 731266).
9. Sestertius. Unidentified. Very badly burnt. Fragment.  
(Mucking 96; Lab 731265).

(Coins 6-7 were found on the bottom of the pit and so must have been along the first thrown into it.)

II. The lamps (by D Bailey)

The feature contained six complete lamps, and three near-complete lamps. There were also some fragments and it is possible to suggest that there were 11 lamps in all (it is probable that ploughing had removed much of the fill of this feature). All the lamps are degenerate versions of Loeschke type IXb Firmalampen, each with a substantial pierced handle and a stud on each shoulder. All the filling holes were cut out with a knife, rather than pierced with a tubular tool, as it normal; the wick holes are distinctly flared. The lamps stood on a multiple base ring, depressed within. The ware was originally buff, and

generously mica-dusted, but may have been reduced to a grey colour, and one lamp (Nr 1) has reddened.

There is little doubt that lamps 1, 3-4, 7-8 and 11 came from the same mould; or from moulds in the same series. These all have a distinctive, asymmetric rear and the two shoulder studs are asymmetric in the same way on each lamp. Lamp 10 might belong to the series. Lamps 2 and 6 are less certainly from the series but could conceivably be so, while lamp 5 is too fragmentary for conclusions to be drawn. It seems likely that the lamps were all acquired as a group for whatever purpose involved them in eventually being committed to the pit.

Although the lamp shape is common in the second century in Britain, except for one other lamp, I have been unable to trace close parallels for this particular group (which must be of British manufacture: importation from the continent can, I think, be discounted). There is nothing like them in the collections of the Museum of London or in the collection of material held by the Department of Urban Archaeology in London. Nor are the Firmalampen in Colchester Museum near to these Mucking lamps. Firmalampen from British sources in the British Museum are not close to these but for the exception alluded to above. This is Reg Nr 1886.6-26.1 (Bailey 1988, Q 1610), found with cremation burials in 1837 at Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, in Hertfordshire. The Boxmoor lamp is close in shape and details of production, but not in fabric and surface treatment, to the Mucking lamps, and is rather larger in size, and indeed, the Mucking evidence, slightly muddled, has been used to date the lamp in the Catalogue. The distance between Hemel Hempstead and Mucking is not inconsiderable and any direct relationship between the lamps is uncertain.

[Report received on January 10th, 1989]

Bibliography:

Bailey, D M, 1988. Catalogue of Lamps in the British Museum, iii, Roman Provincial Lamps, London, 1988.

Loeschke, S, 1919. Firmalampen Aus Vindonissa, Zurich.

III. The organic remains (by Graham Morgan)

1. Charcoal
2. Dates
3. *Pinea pinea* fragments
4. Hazelnuts

IV. A discussion of the ritual significance of the find (by M Green)

The deposit contained a remarkable collection of ceramics, and, indeed, organic material, which had survived by being burned within the pit itself. There seems little doubt that the deposit is associated with one of the rituals connected with the commemoration of the

dead (for example, the Floralia, or the Parentalia), often marked by the consumption near the grave of the dead person of a ritual meal, and the deposition of the food and drink afterwards in a pit. The closest parallel to this feature is one from Baldock in Hertfordshire (Stead and Rigby 1986, fig 00 and p 00-00), which contained no fewer than thirty-one lamps, like the Mucking examples (see below), all apparently from a single place of manufacture and presumably assembled for the specific purpose of ritual use. (((handwritten at the side of the above paragraph: \*a similar deposit is known at York. (I am indebted to Jason Monaghan? for this information.) )))