

The isolated Roman burials, and small groups of burials.

Apart from the four cemeteries described above, there were a large number of apparently isolated burials or small clusters of burials. These occurred in groups of two or three, and sometimes more. The most favoured position for the digging of these burials was in ditches, usually at corners of fields and enclosures, and there seems to be the possibility that they were sited in some way as the guardians of boundaries.

Cremation 80. (170N/246E)

Notebook 18.1

Grave pit: Roughly circular, with sloping sides and flat base, measuring. 0.61 x 0.51m and 0.15m deep.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave goods:

80.1 Grey ware pot used as cinerary urn. Badly broken.

80.2 Sherds of a red (beaker?) base. These appear from the sketch plan to have been inside 80.1.

Bone: Cremated bone found, but few details. Some within the broken grey ware pot. There also appears to have been a spread out to the side of the pit.

Cremation 81. (173N/243E)

Notebook 18.1

Grave pit: Roughly circular. 0.28-0.30m (L) x 0.20-0.25m (W) x 0.04-0.05m (D).

Pit fill: No data.

Grave goods:

81.1 Base of a pot or dish, which had been used as a cinerary urn.

Bone: Cremated bone found inside 81.1.

Cremation 82. (35N/314E)

Notebook 14.1

Grave pit: Shallow (truncated), sub-rounded.

Pit fill: Lower fill very dark (charcoal, and some bone), upper fill of pot very sandy.

Grave furniture: None, but five nails from pit and pot probably from burnt bier.

Grave goods:

82.1 Large jar. Lower part, with grass impressions on surface. Used as the cremation urn, with other vessels placed inside.

82.2 Buff ware beaker or flagon.

82.3 Grey ware pie dish.

82.4 Complete drag 33 (diameter 130mm). Rheinzabern, late second-mid third century. The foot is worn.

Bone: Found in 82.1, not very thoroughly cremated.

Remarks: One of a group of three burials at the SW corner of 'RB II' enclosure.

Cremation 83. (36N/312E)

Notebook 14.1

Grave pit: Sub-rounded.

Pit fill: Lower fill, blackish (charcoal?). Some bone noted.

Grave furniture: Two square-sectioned iron nails, in pit and grave fill, and unidentified 'Iron' from fill.

Grave goods:

83.1 Largely complete drag 31 Platter. Stamped Saturninus of Lezoux (c. AD160-200).

83.2 Large high-shouldered jar. Top knocked off. Used as cremation urn, with other vessels placed inside.

83.3 Ring-necked flagon. Probably Hadrianic-early Antonine.

Bone: No data. Position (whether in pot or on floor of grave not stated).

Remarks: One of a group of three burials at the SW corner of 'RB II' enclosure.

Cremation 84. (38N/310E)

Notebook 14.1

Grave pit: Sub-rounded.

Pit fill: 'Sandy'.

Grave furniture: 1 iron ring, and 1 nail head were found in a pot (((which of the 2 pots?))).

Finds in ?fill: ?fired clay, and '2 iron objects' [CHECK WHAT THESE WERE]

Grave goods:

84.1 Large grey ware jar, used as cinerary urn, lower walls only (no rim or base).

84.2 Small narrow-necked grey ware flask, placed inside cremation urn. White slip above the neck and shoulder; burnished band above the base. Max diam. 87mm.

Bone: Little data, just 'virtually no bone'.

Remarks: WTJ Jones observes 'some of these pots were not complete when they were placed in the burial', and argues that the larger urns may have been adapted to allow insertion of the smaller vessels.

NB The grave plans do not seem to show the largest vessels, possibly indicating that these cremation urns were inserted into the ground, with the cremation pit not recognised. Chronological note: these three burials belong to the Flavian-Hadrianic period. Were they placed beneath the bank, in the old ground surface, or what? Do they therefore provide us with a terminus ante quem or a tpq for the ditch here?

Cremation 85. (1092N/-77E)

No data in notebooks, microfiche or folders.

Cremation 86. (72N/173E)

Notebook 18.8

Grave pit: Sub-rounded. Maximum depth only c.18-20cm deep below the scraped surface.

Pit fill: No data.

Finds in fill: Residual pottery including a rounded red sherd.

Grave goods:

86.1 Grey ware pot used as cinerary urn. Supported by pebbles within the pit.

Bone: Cremated bone appears to have spread out from the cinerary urn. Many of the bones were quite large and 'good'.

Grave 89. (142N/256E)

Notebook 29.23

Grave pit: Elongated oval grave, measuring 1.54 x 0.84m (depth uncertain). The grave was found in the southwest corner of the RB I enclosure, cut into the primary fill.

Pit fill: A greyish slightly sandy fill.

Finds in fill: Iron Age type pottery.

Grave goods: No data.

Body: Flexed and on its left side, with hands on the knees. The bone that survived was very soft, and the feet and lower leg survived only as soil stains.

Remarks: Considered to be an 'Iron Age type' flexed burial. After being exposed by dragline clearing, and initial excavation, it was left for some months before being completed.

Cremation 112. (828N/-172E) Adult (*Maturus*) Female

Notebook 29.30

Grave pit: No data.

Pit fill: Very concentrated charcoal fill with calcined bones. The edges of the pit were burnt.

Finds in fill: Sherds of 'reddish pot'.

Grave goods:

112.1 Wheel made Belgic/Romano-British transition highly burnished jar, altered by exposure to heat – used as cinerary urn and had cremated bones and ashes placed inside when still hot? Height 13cm, rim 17cm (30%), neck 15.6cm, maximum width 19.9cm and base 7.8cm.

Bone: Calcined bones in pot.

Remarks: This cremation was excavated in haste, in advance of quarrying.

Cremation 132. (469N/179E) Adult

Notebook 28.122-123; 33.13; 37.61, 78; 40.35; 57.80

Grave pit: Sub-circular, with sloping edges and flat base, measuring 0.43 x 0.43m and 0.15m deep.

Pit fill: Some small pebbles used as packing around the cremation urn, on the west side where the pit was slightly wider. The lower fill within the cremation urn contained cremated bones; the upper fill produced the colour coat beaker, and was sandy brown loam with a few fragments of charcoal.

Finds in fill: Some black burnished sherds. Also, some 'greeny' vitreous slag was found in the fill of the pot, but appears to be residual.

Grave goods:

132.1 Grey ware pot used as cinerary urn. Broken with the top half missing possibly in antiquity, remaining diameter is c.24cm, and the height is c.14-15cm. Decorated with a wavy burnished? line and rougher lines separated by a plain zone with double burnishing. Also had white slip. Height 17cm, width 25.5cm, base 11.3cm.

132.2 Colour-coated, well made, red pedestal beaker with green-grey metallic slip. Height 12.6cm, rim 5.1cm (5%), base 2.9cm. Has bands of rouletted decoration. Found inside 132.1.

Bone: Within the lower fill of the grey ware pot; some suggestion of deliberate arrangement of bones.

Remarks: MUJ has noted that the slag and residual BB sherds could have entered the pit during its excavation for taking the cremation. This cremation is located in a corner where the RBI enclosure ditch and another ditch meet. Chronological estimate is the mid-late 2nd century AD.

Cremation 133. (1328N/-61) Adult

Notebook 40.21, 82

Grave pit: Size and shape unclear due to disturbance and truncation. Seen only in section in cliff edge near Anglo-Saxon graves.

Pit fill: Dark charcoally loam.

Finds in fill: Pot sherds and bone.

Grave goods: No data.

Bone: No data.

Remarks: The pot sherds appeared to be outside the bone and charcoal pit, which was taken to suggest a drinking pot beside an unlined cremation.

Cremation 135. (332N/386N)

Notebook 49.7, 8, 9

Grave pit: Circular pit with sloping sides and rounded base, measuring 0.60 x 0.60m wide, and 0.29m deep.

Pit fill: Dark loam immediately surrounding the cremation urn (135.1), with a lower fill of moist gravely loam.

Grave furniture: None.

Grave goods:

135.1 Large grey ware storage jar, used as cremation urn. Damaged by ploughing, but the rim found inside the pot.

135.2 Large fragment of a grey ware pie dish, probably used as an accessory vessel.

135.3 Bronze spiral finger-ring (unburnt), probably disturbed from high up in the fill of the cremation urn (Lab No 781; AE203).

135.4 Bronze disc brooch, in poor condition, probably disturbed from high up in the fill of the cremation urn. Possibly burnt in the fire (Lab No 782; AE204 – not seen by Colin yet).

Body: No data.

Grave 258. (1200N/-8E)

Grave pit: 1.52 (1.07) x 0.71 (0.56) x 0.69m; oriented NE (42°); cut by posthole.

Pit fill: Dark brown loam with pebbles

Grave furniture: Dug-out coffin with rounded ends. No length (no information) x c 0.63 x 0.38m (min). At 0-0.38m found only at sides and foot end.

Grave goods:

258.1 Iron fragment, broken curved section. One broken edge, but it is difficult to establish whether the other edges are intact or not (GE). Possible bell fr? (LW). Textile (EC): replaced, area c 30 x 30mm, Z,Z, basket weave, 9 pairs/10 pairs of threads: 'a basket-weave type textile of specifically Roman type'. (AML 715014; Xrad A9055) (BM 1970,0406.155) At side of grave in middle, at 0-0.60m.
Body: Stain only; on right side in flexed position.

Cremation 587. (1338N/193E) Adult

Notebook 133.51

Grave pit: Cremation discovered during sectioning of 'Belgic' ditch; in section pit was steep-sided with stepped base, up to 0.46m deep. Appeared to lie at base of late loam in ditch.

Pit fill: Charcoal rich fill with cremated bone, an RB bodysherd and up to eight hobnails.

Grave furniture: None.

Grave goods: Hobnails possibly form part of the grave assemblage.

Body: Cremated bone mainly in upper fill (there was some doubt as to whether this was a rubbish deposit, rather than a cremation, but identification of the bone as adult human indicates that this is a burial).

Cremation 781. (1136N/106E) Adult

Notebook 189.48

Grave pit: Rough sub-oval hollow, up to 1.62 x 0.85m wide and 0.15m deep.

Pit fill: Scattered burnt bone and charcoal in a concentration sitting within an area of dark loam measuring 0.93 x 0.63m wide. .

Finds in fill: 10-12 iron nails and fragments, and sherds of rouletted colour coat ware.

Grave goods: No data.

Bone: No data.

Cremation 955. (1008N/698E) Adult

Notebook 233.110

Grave pit: No clear pit. Cremation was spotted within a ditch fill.

Pit fill: No data.

Grave goods:

955.1 Graffito pot, apparently used as cinerary urn.

Bone: Found scattered around pot in ditch fill, possibly not human.

Remarks: Some debate as to whether this was ever a cremation. The pot could be domestic and the bone animal, if it does not represent a heavily disturbed cremation cut into an earlier ditch (1009x699). The pottery sherds were distributed along a c.1.52m stretch of ditch.

Cremation 1001. (1497N/845E)

Notebook 255.72-73

Grave pit: Roughly oval in shape, with an irregular profile, measuring 0.88 x 0.62m wide and 0.20m deep.

Pit fill: Mixed, light brown-greyish, sandy loam, with occasional patches of charcoal.

Finds in fill: Pottery – sherds of ?grass-tempered pottery; small glass fragment, greenish metal with bubbles, with an opaque whitish surface.

Grave furniture: Fragments of 35 nails were found in the grave fill. These probably derive from a badly disturbed casket burial.

Bone: There was a distinct concentration of bone and charcoal at one side of the grave pit (see plan), but no further details are known.

Cremation 1002. (1482N/847E)

Notebook 255.74-75

Grave pit: Sub-rectangular, with a slight extension to one side, measuring 1.19 x 0.82m wide and 0.21m deep. Badly disturbed by animal burrowing.

Pit fill: Light-medium brown loam with charcoally patch in the centre.

Finds in fill: Abraded sherds (number unspecified) of flint-gritted pottery (probably prehistoric), also pieces of ?cinder (bone?), a piece of copper alloy, and a fragment of a ?bead noted.

Grave furniture: 38 nails of varying sizes recovered from the fill. These, like Cremation 1001, probably represent pieces of a casket, again, badly disturbed by animals.

Grave goods: No data.

Bone: No data.

Cremation 1009. (1503N/783E)

Notebook 254.72, 102

Grave pit: Irregular oval, measuring 0.31 x 0.31m wide, partially disturbed by animals.

Pit fill: Mottled, charcoal-flecked and hard-packed with lenses of orange gravel, and dark stains.

Finds in fill: None recorded.

Grave furniture: Twelve nails; three complete, nine fragments with heads, presumably from a casket.

Grave goods: No data.

Bone: 'Scraps' recorded, but no details given.

Cremation 1015. (1509N/376E) a) Adult Male, b) Child (1-7)

Notebook 150B.108

Grave pit: No data

Pit fill: Large amount of cremated bone, charcoal (poplar, sloe and oak) and possible hair in cinders.

Grave furniture: None

Grave goods: None

Body: No data, but two individuals apparently represented.

Cremation 1028. (1655N/758E)

Notebook 269.25; 268.112-113

Grave pit: Straight-sided oval c.1.07m x c.0.69 x <0.13m deep. Cut into southern ditch of the North Enclosure.

Pit fill: Black brown ?old topsoil fill, with five accessory vessels surrounding a cremation deposit probably once contained within a bag.

Finds in fill: No data.

Grave goods:

1028.1 Grey ware jar with the rim missing. Decorated with ?rustication and lattice pattern. Base 6cm.

1028.2 Black soft grey ware platter c.13 diameter. Copy of terra sigillata, with turned base.

1028.3 Shattered dark grey ?bowl with close rouletting. The rim appears to be missing.

1028.4 Grey fine ware beaker with neck cordon and decoration of barbotine dots and lines of stabbing/rouletting.

1028.5 Brown soft grey ware platter with black core c.13cm diameter. Copy of terra sigillata, with turned base.

1028.6 Piece of very thin bronze plate mounted on wood. Plate fragmented when lifted. Lying flat on top of ?wood.

1028.7 Bronze rivet c.1.3cm long.

1028.8 Bronze ring attached to iron shank.

Bone: The concentration of cremated bone within the pit appears to have been fairly round, suggesting that it was buried inside some kind of bag.

Remarks: This cremation is intrusive in a ditch. It was discovered during the excavation of a baulk nicknamed 'Jim's big surprise'.

Cremation 1040. (1509N/376E) Adult

Notebook 269.43

Grave pit: Near-circular pit with steep sides and flat base, measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.08m deep.

Pit fill: Brown humic fill with charcoal, burnt bone and pebbles; reddening around perimeter.

Grave goods: None.

Bone: Cremated bone unurned in fill.

Cremation 1072. (796N/826E)

Notebook 363.13a

Grave pit: Sub-rectangular hollow with a circular concentration of charcoal and bone to one end.

Pit fill: Light brown loam with cremated bones and charcoal overlying reddened/burnt sand.

Finds in fill: Fire-reddened flints and 2 black burnished sherds?.

Grave goods: No data.

Bone: No data.