CHAPTER 4

INVENTORY OF THE DEPOSITS

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter all of the evidence relating to what are considered to be formal burials, deposits of pyre debris and other formal deposits is presented. The format is as follows.

The first line provides the new reference number of the deposit (see p. 14), the year and original number of the deposit and the phase. The second line indicates the relevant figure numbers.

Following this the context is described with plans and sectional drawings provided where these exist and have been found to be informative. When the records are limited this is noted. A summary of the cremated human and animal bone and charcoal is then given.

The catalogue entries for all the other material associated with the deposit follow with those items that are illustrated indicated by an asterisk after their individual number. Where vessels retain their original site numbering (BC/AA, BC/AB etc) this is given, but few small finds were numbered originally (see p. 12). An attempt has been made to characterise the sort of activity that generated them, and so they have been catalogued under three headings. Pyre goods are thought to have been material placed on the pyre and burnt with it. Grave goods are those items that were put entire into the grave either as containers for the cremated bones or as some form of offering or gift. A category of finds of uncertain status has also been created.

For some items such as the worked bone and glass vessels and beads, it is very easy to see if the item has been on the pyre for the evidence of burning is clearly visible. The same is true of some of the non-ferrous metalwork, though not all of the fragments show incontrovertible evidence of burning. The extreme fragmentation of much of the apparently unburnt copper-alloy sheet etc, however, does suggest it may have come from a similar source to the burnt material and so these items too have been catalogued as pyre goods. Certain items of iron also appeared to have been burnt. These could be distinguished either by their uncorroded condition (see for example FIG. 4.83, 3) compared with the majority of the ironwork recovered, or by their appearance in radiographic image (Biek 1963, 133–4, pl. 24). It was also noted that in the original records of urned burials reference was frequently made to iron nails coming from the cremated bone. During the work on the human bone in 2000 considerable numbers of nail and hobnail fragments were also recovered from it. It seems very likely, therefore, that these fragments too originated from pyre debris. Iron nails and hobnails have therefore been catalogued here as pyre debris unless there is clear evidence (see **227**) that they were serving a structural role in the deposit.

As discussed on p. 358 deciding which items of pottery had been burnt was surprisingly difficult. The burnt samian was obvious but the practice of placing pottery vessels close to the pyre prior to placing the cremated bone in them led to them being heat affected. Where there is evidence that these pots were used as urns or complete accessory vessels, they have been catalogued as grave goods. Where the burnt pottery only appears to exist as fragments, it has been catalogued under the heading of pyre goods.

For many deposits material that cannot obviously be attributed either to the pyre or to being a formal grave good is also recorded from the deposit. This often consists of pottery sherds. Some are specifically noted as having been 'unstratified in the fill', but others share the same finds codes as vessels that were recognised as urns or accessory vessels. Many vessels that obviously went into the grave whole were excavated in a fragmentary state, and the realisation that some of these sherds came from other vessels only became apparent in the post-excavation process. The normal explanation for fragmentary finds from the fills of graves is that either they stem from other graves which have been disturbed, or the material is residual from earlier activity on the site. At Brougham neither explanation is satisfactory. None of the deposits related to the cremation cemetery cut each other and there is no earlier activity to provide a source of residual material. It is likely, therefore, that these finds are the remains of funerary related activity and so they have been catalogued with each deposit under the heading of finds of uncertain status.

The entry for each deposit ends with a suggested interpretation of the deposit. It should be noted that in some cases it is difficult to decide between interpretations because of the inadequacy of the records and in other cases it is impossible. The main categories of deposits are urned cremation burial and redeposited pyre debris. The grounds for defining the latter are discussed in Chapter 2 on p. 16. It is also possible to identify a number of formal burials where the cremated bone was apparently placed in the grave loose, accompanied by grave goods. These 'uncontained' cremation burials could of course have been contained in some form of organic container for which no evidence has survived. They are described, somewhat inelegantly, as unurned. There are also a number of features which contain what were obviously complete vessels but which have either no cremated human bone or extremely minimal amounts. McKinley (p. 306) prefers the term 'memorials' or cenotaphs for these, but they obviously have similarities with other deposits of complete pottery vessels found on Romano-British sites which have no funerary connotations but for which some ritual explanations can be sought (Merrifield 1987, 49), and the term 'special pot deposit' has been used in the following pages to situate them in a broader context. There are also a small number of features which clearly show intrusions indicative of either 'robbing' or deliberate 'emptying'. The different types of deposits recognised are summarised in TABLE 4.1.

Appendix 5 provides a summary listing of all the deposits catalogued here giving physical deposit type, functional type, phase and human bone details according to the summary convention detailed on p. 309.

TABLE 4.1: TYPES OF FUNERARY RELATED DEPOSITS BY PHASE

	Phase 1	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 3b**	**Phase 4**	**Unphased**	**Total**
Urned burial	24	52	32	9	–	6	123
Unurned burial	1	2	2	1	–	3	9
Redeposited pyre debris	11	13	6	5	–	30	65
'Emptied' deposits	1	–	1	–	–	2	4
Special pot deposits	–	6	4	2	–	–	12
Unknown	11	11	9	2	–	40	73
Inhumation	–	–	–	–	7	–	7
Total	48	84	54	19	7	81	293

MEASUREMENTS

It should be noted that as many of the items that would conventionally be regarded as small finds originated as pyre goods and are now very fragmentary, they rarely retain any useful measurement. In the light of this the decision has been taken not to publish detailed measurements of the bulk of the more fragmentary material but only to provide them for the

more complete pieces and for a selection of the other items where the size of the fragment was considered informative.

ILLUSTRATION CONVENTIONS

FIGURE 4.1 provides the key to the drawing conventions used in the plans and sections and the symbols indicative of the scales. The plans and sections are at a scale of 1:10 based on the imperial originals. The finds are the scales which are appropriate for each (coarse pottery 1:4, decorated samian and samian stamps 1:2, glass vessels 1:2, small finds 1:1). This means that any one figure may have a variety of items illustrated at different scales. To avoid a proliferation of scales on the figures, a single scale is provided and the symbols indicate the varying reductions.

The convention has been adopted that north is always at the top of the page.

It should be noted that the majority of the illustrations had been produced by a variety of different illustrators in the years prior to the work in 2000 to 2002. This accounts for the wide variety of styles used, as it will be appreciated it was not possible to have everything redrawn to a uniform style. In a small number of cases new drawings of some of the pots were made where the originals were found to be inaccurate. The original pot drawings had not always

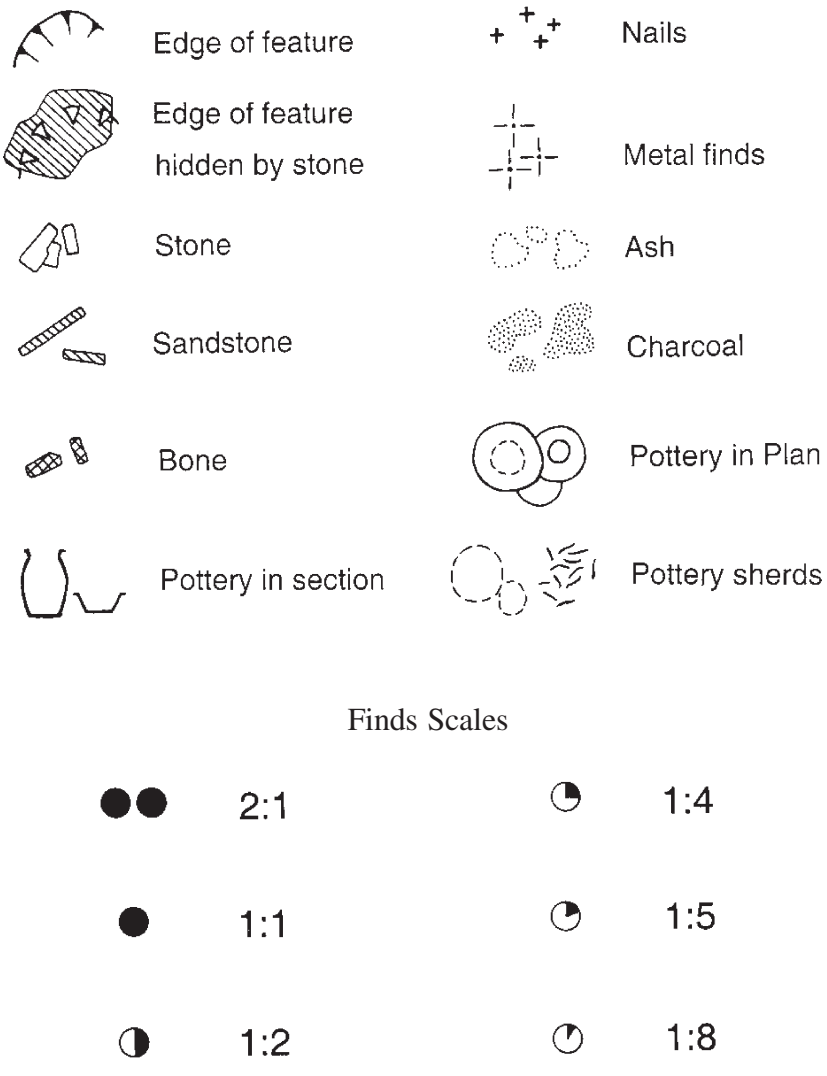

FIG. 4.1 Key to the conventions used in the figures for Chapter 4.

indicated when a vessel appeared to have been deliberately holed. This feature is noted in the catalogue where appropriate but no attempt has been made to alter the drawings to show the feature, as this would have involved considerable reconstruction work, and it was not felt that this could be justified.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE INVENTORY

HUMAN BONE

The abbreviations used in the description of the human bone are as follows.

op – osteophytes; oa – osteoarthritis; ddd – degenerative disc disease;
exo – exostoses; Schmorl's – Schmorl's node; amtl – *ante mortem* tooth loss;
mv – morphological variation; C – cervical; T – thoracic; L – lumbar;
S – sacral; ap – articular process

The certainty of the identity of the sex is given as follows:

male/female – undoubtedly
male?/female? – probable
male??/female?? – most likely

CHARCOAL

For the conventions used in the charcoal report see p. 268.

SAMIAN POTTERY

D. – figure-type in Déchelette 1904
O. – figure-type in Oswald 1936–7
Rogers – motif in Rogers 1974

AUTHORSHIP

The authorship of the catalogue entries is as follows. It should be noted that Quita Mould was responsible for all the metal small find entries unless specifically indicated by the initials of other authors.

Human bone	Jacqueline I. McKinley
Animal bone	Julie Bond and Fay Worley
Charcoal	Gill Campbell
Gold	Lindsay Allason-Jones (LAJ)
Brooches	Sarnia Butcher (SB), Justine Bayley (JB)
Metal patera	H.E.M. Cool (HEMC), Justine Bayley (JB)
All other metalwork	Quita Mould
Worked bone	Stephen Greep
Samian pottery	B. Dickinson, B.R. Hartley and H.W. Pengelly
All other pottery	Jeremy Evans
Glass	H.E.M. Cool
Pipeclay figurine	Frank Jenkins