

# **The Roman Cemetery at Brougham, Cumbria Excavations 1966-67**

## ***Description of the project and the dataset for the ADS***

By Mark Bell and Hilary Cool. 17/07/2003.

### ***Aims and objectives***

The excavations at the cemetery outside of the Roman fort and *vicus* at Brougham in 1966-67 remain one of the largest cemetery excavations ever carried out in the Roman north. They had been carried out under very difficult rescue conditions in advance of, and often at the same time as, a major road-building programme. They had produced a very large body of artefactual data, which was known to be important for 3<sup>rd</sup> century studies in the north. The albeit limited written record indicated a variety of funerary practices were being carried out in this cremation cemetery. Various attempts had been made in the past to interpret the results without success. The aim of the 2000 - 2002 project was to re-assess the material in the light of methodological advances in the interpretation of cremated remains and theoretical approaches to mortuary ritual in the Roman north. The research aims identified were: -

- Placing the assemblage in the public domain
- Establishing the funerary ritual at Brougham
- Placing the Brougham ritual within the regional and national background
- Establishing the nature of the occupation at Brougham in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century
- Preparing the archive to be a lasting research resource.

### ***Summary description***

The data consists of a record for each deposit, which includes the verbatim description of the feature taken from the site notebooks and the listing of the finds derived from the contemporary finds records. Each deposit was issued with a new number during analysis, as there was duplication of numbers during excavation, the record includes the original number. There are fields for our interpretation of the feature (e.g. urned cremation burial, redeposited pyre debris etc), the phase it could be assigned to on the basis of the pottery it contained and a grid reference. The artefacts and ecofacts recovered are fully described and quantified as appropriate. For the human bones the age, sex, weight and pathology of the individual is *given*. For the animal bone the species, side of animal, state of fusion, degree of burning, butchery and pathology. For the pottery the fabric, weight, minimum number of vessels, functional type, rim and base diameter, rim and base equivalent, date, catalogue entry, sooting and repair state are recorded. For the small finds the small find number allocated during the 2000/1 analysis, the old small find number if present, the original site reference code, simple name, catalogue entry, state of burning, date and count are recorded. There is also a reference to the bone veneer typology if appropriate. A weight measure is recorded for the iron nails and melted glass. Each of the artefact and ecofact records can be linked to its context by reference to the new deposit number. To fully comprehend the data it should be used in conjunction with the published report.

## ***Publisher***

The report is to be published as part of the Britannia monograph series, with the database included as a CD. Publication is expected in the summer of 2004 and the ISBN will be 0 907764 31 2

## ***Copyright***

English Heritage and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies hold copyright of the data.

## ***Language***

The language of the report and database is English.

## ***Relations***

All of the finds from Brougham were donated to the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle by the landowner Mr J. Slack in 1970. The finds and the excavation archive are stored at the museum under the accession number 15-1971.

## ***Coverage***

The dataset refers to the excavation of Brougham Roman cemetery in the county of Cumbria in the United Kingdom. In 1966 Brougham was in the county of Westmorland.

## ***The database***

### ***Archive retention***

The archive is to be retained indefinitely.

### ***Resource Type***

The database is in the form of a final report. Working data used in the analysis has been removed.

### ***Format***

The database is in Access 2000 format.

### ***Contributors***

The principal author of the report is H.E.M. Cool. The following people were responsible for creating specific parts of the database:

<b>Table</b>	<b>Author</b>	
Cremated_animal_bone_catalogue	Julie M. Bond and Fay L. Worley	
Cremation catalogue	Jacqueline I. McKinley	
Grave_data	H.E.M. Cool	Barbican Associates

Pathology_codes	Jacqueline I. McKinley	
Pot_catalogue	Dr Jeremy Evans	Barbican Associates
Pottery_fabric_code	Dr Jeremy Evans	Barbican Associates
Small_finds	Quita Mould	Barbican Associates
Veneer_type	S. Greep	

### ***Content of the dataset***

The database consists of nine tables:

#### **Brougham Database Description**

A table listing all the other tables and fields in the database with a description of their content.

#### **Cremated\_animal\_bone\_catalogue**

Lists the entire cremated animal bone; there can be multiple bone deposits for a grave. Animal bone grave number connects this table to the grave data table.

Bone_ID	Unique number allocated in the 2000/2001 analysis
Animal_bone_grave_number	References the grave number in Grave_data table
Species	Species of animal if it can be determined
Bone	Element of the skeleton
Side_of_animal	Left or right of animal if identified
Proximal_fusion	Proximal fusion if identified
Distal_fusion	Distal fusion if identified
Animal_bone_burnt	Yes/No field indicating burning observed
Colour	Degree of burning observed
Butchery	Butchery commented on where noted
Pathology	Pathology commented on where noted
Abrasion	Yes/No field indicating abrasion observed
Animal_bone_comments	General comments
Location	This is a four letter code (BC/AB) showing the original numbering system relating to the deposit. References to 198 relate to the position of items excavated under laboratory conditions.

#### **Cremation catalogue**

Lists the cremations found, there can be more than one cremation in a grave deposit. Cremation grave number links to the grave data table.

Cremation_ID	Unique number allocated in the 2000/2001 analysis
Cremation_grave_number	References the grave number in Grave_data table
Cremation_weight_in_grams	Total weight of bone in grams processed in 2000/2001 season. This includes all bone human, animal and artefactual. It excludes the many veneers removed prior to 2000.
Cremation_age	Broad age category
Cremation_age_from	In years
Cremation_age_To	In years
Sex	Sex, where it can be determined
Pathology	Listing of pathology for the cremation. The pathology codes are listed in the Pathology_codes table
Cremation_comments	General comments. The weight of pyre goods only refers to those removed during 2000/2001 processing

### Grave\_data

This is the main table and links to the other tables using the Grave\_Number field. This includes the transcription of the original site notebook entry for each deposit. The grave number has been allocated during the new analysis of 2000-2001.

Grave_Number	The new reference number for deposits
Year_of_excavation	Year excavated
Original_grave_number_and_description	Original grave number
Site_book_entry	Transcript of information in site notebooks and cremation books
Phase	The phase assigned to the grave; 0 is unstratified no phase
X_co-ordinate	Grid reference allocated in 2000/2001
Y_co-ordinate	Grid reference allocated in 2000/2001
Type	Interpretation of the deposit

### Pathology\_codes

This table explains the code letters in the field pathology in the table Cremation\_catalogue.

Code	Pathology code letters
Description	Description of the pathology

### Pot\_catalogue

This table list the pottery found. References the grave by the field Pot grave number.

Pot_ID	Unique number allocated in the 2000/2001 analysis
Pot_grave_number	References the grave number in Grave_data table
Original_sf_code	Original code given to pottery as recorded on them or their packaging. Generally in form of four letter code (BC/AB), occasionally in the form of a small find number
Ware	Fabric code as listed in Pottery_fabric_code table
Number_of_sherds	Number of pot sherds
Pot_weight_in_grams	Weight in grams
Minimum_number_of_vessels	Minimum number of vessels present
Pot_type	Type of pot for functional analysis
Diameter_cm	Rim diameter in centimetres
Rim_equivalent_percentage	Proportion of circumference of rim extant maximum 100
Base_equivalent_percentage	Proportion of circumference of base extant maximum 100
Base_diameter_cm	Base diameter in centimetres
Pot_date_from	In years AD
Pot_date_to	In years AD
Soot	Description where sooting, burning and limescale, if any, occurred on pot
Repair	Description of repair, if any, on the pot
Pot_catalogue_entry	Catalogue entry for pot
Pot_burnt	Presence or absence of burning thought to be associated with pyre

### Pottery\_fabric\_code

This table explains the codes used in the Ware field of the Pot\_catalogue table.

Ware	Fabric code letter
Pot_description	Description of fabric. Note some codes refer to single sherds no longer identifiable

### Small\_finds

This table lists the small finds from each grave, with a description and links to the main grave table using the small find grave number field.

Small_find_number	Unique number allocated in 2000/2001 analysis
Small_find_grave_number	References the grave number in Grave_data table
Original_sf_number	The small find number assigned during excavation and marked on the packaging. Very few items seem to have been allocated numbers originally
Site_reference	The original code given to the finds as recorded on the packaging. Generally in the form of a four letter code (BC/AB)

Simple_name	Simple name for the object
Material	Material the object is made from
Bone_veneer_classification	For bone veneers only. Broad bone veneer type listed in Veneer_type table, but this includes more detailed classification
SF_catalogue_entry	Catalogue number of the items as they appear in chapter 4 of report
State	Whether the item shows obvious signs of burning from the pyre
Date	A spot date if it is possible to assign one
Count_of_fragments	Number of items, multiple fragments of a single item have been recorded as one (1)
SF_weight_in_grams	Weight of iron nails and melted glass only, in grams
SF_comments	These comments relate to deposit 198 and give the position of items as excavated under laboratory conditions

### **Veneer\_type**

This lists the broad classification of the bone veneer types, listed in the Small\_finds table field Bone\_veneer\_classification.

Code	Broad bone veneer classification
Description	Description of the bone veneer class