

## **INHUMATION GRAVE FURNITURE**

### **STONE LINING**

Burial 20621 used one complete and one incomplete sandstone roof tile at the head of the grave (RF7660 and 13701). See Appendix 00.

### **WOODEN COFFINS**

Five graves contained nailed coffins. The average size of nails was larger than at Bainesse; at least half the nails from Burial 20159 were c.80-90mm long, with one 105mm, while Burial 20340 had nine 80-90mm, two longer (100mm) and only four or five shorter. Burial 20621 also had nails 80-100mm long, with only one shorter; it had nails only at the head and feet ends and none down the long sides of the coffin.

The most interesting grave was Burial 20476 (second half the fourth century or early fifth). The nails survive best at the head end, showing that the end panels were attached from the short side of the coffin and that there were probably nails down the long sides. Whereas most nails from the cemeteries in the region have round heads, this coffin is unique in having nails with rectangular heads. The remains of mineralised wood suggest an unusually thin plank thickness of c.10mm, but the preservation of the wood is quite poor and this could be misleading. While the use of unusual nails could be a quirk of a single coffin-maker in the area it may indicate that the coffin was brought from elsewhere.

### **Other grave structures**

Burial 20532 did not have a nailed coffin, but there were four nails, two on either side of the shoulders. One, incomplete, had an unusually thick flat head, and the other three (55-65mm in length) were gently curved. It is unclear what sort of structure they could come from, and it is possible that were deliberately placed in the grave as a protective measure (see below, p000[Cataract/cremations/nails]).

## **PERSONAL ADORNMENT**

### **Copper alloy finger-rings**

The only finger-rings came from Burial 20955, where a man aged 36-45 wore one on each hand. On the little finger of his right hand he wore a thin, plain band (RF7693). On the ring finger of his left hand he wore a slightly thinner ring with transverse grooves c.1mm apart on the sides (RF7694). This was an old ring when buried; the grooves are very faint on the interior but have fully worn away on the outer surface. The plain ring does not have the same polished outer surface as the decorated one, and was presumably newer.

### **Bracelets**

#### ***Penannular with plain, straight terminals***

The linear feature 20830 and ditch 20566 produced fragments of an undecorated copper alloy bracelet which appear so similar they could come from the same item (RF7649, 7684).

### ***Iron***

An iron bracelet was worn on the right arm of an adult female in Burial 20198 (RF7480). It was fragmentary, but may have been oval in shape rather than the

round shape of most iron bracelets, and as such may have been penannular. One fragment seemed to taper as if to a terminal, but this could just be the result of damage. For iron bracelets from Bainesse, see p000.

## **Burial 20476**

### ***Brooch, rings and other loops***

Burial 20476 contained a collection of 13 circular objects, consisting of a penannular brooch, a piece of horse harness, a finger-ring and 10 other loops. The loops were made in a variety of ways and are of various sizes, and their only connection seems to be their shape.

(a) The largest of the loops is poorly finished with a ledge on the interior, possibly a casting flash from a two-piece mould that has not been fully removed (RF7598).

(b) The next largest (RF7599) is very slightly oval, but the effect is enhanced by the deliberate variation in the width of the loop, making the interior look sub-rectangular. It has a flat back, and was probably cast in a one piece mould.

(c) Three rings of similar size, with diamond cross-section (RF7605-7). These are slightly uneven and appear a little unfinished or carelessly made, with two having visible file marks on them.

(d) The next group were found together and are distinguished by being gilded. There are three small penannular loops, with the ends simply butted together, and one larger annular loop (RF7604, 13720-2). The annular loop is well-made and of a size suitable for a finger-ring.

(e) An annular gilded loop (RF13724), similar but in fact less well-made than RF7604, was found with a definite finger-ring (RF13723) threaded onto the brooch.

(f) A spiral strip ring (RF13723). It is decorated with spaced groups of grooves, each one of which has a patch of silver or white metal foil 2mm wide wrapped round the loop, which thickens at these points. The higher points on the ring are slightly worn. A bracelet with the same form of decoration was found in a grave dating to 320/40 – 400+ at Colchester (Crummy 1983, fig. 44, no. 1688).

(g) A penannular brooch (Booth 2014 type D), with folded back terminals decorated with V-shaped notches. The humped pin is curled round the loop and has two grooves at its widest point. The type is most common in south-west Britain, but there is also a concentration round north Lincolnshire (Booth 2014, 147; fig. 4.21). It is more common in towns than on military sites, but is a long-lived type in use throughout the Roman period. The ends of the brooch were pushed together so that the rings could not be removed, which means that the gap is also too small for the brooch pin.

(h) A plain, circular strap distributor from horse harness, designed to hold two narrow straps at right angles. Three similar (but slightly domed) distributors were used on the bridle of a horse buried in its harness in a second- or third-century wagon burial at Kozármisleny, Hungary (Palágyi 1997, figs 6.69-72, c, d, t).

Also in the grave was what is probably the tapering end of a curved nail (RF7608), but which could possibly be an incomplete iron loop *c.*30mm in diameter.

### ***Buckle***

Found near the group of circular objects was a belt-buckle with a D-shaped loop and a buckle plate with lines of repoussé dot decoration, attached to the back-plate with

two copper alloy rivets. This type of belt buckle is dated to the second half of the fourth century and into the fifth (Cool 2010, 286).

### ***Discussion***

The individual in the grave is an unsexed adolescent, 13-17 years old. The presence of the buckle would usually suggest a male grave but the presence of personal possessions placed beside the body is more typical of women, and in the late Roman period penannular brooches seems to be associated with women (Cool 2010, 285). However, the brooch and finger-ring might well have been included in the grave because they were circular rather than because they were owned by the deceased. It is likely this is a collection of items had some religious or magical association. A number of the loops had similarities with the loops found in late fourth-century contexts at the shrine complex at Uley, Gloucestershire, where it was thought many of them were manufactured at the site and then used as votive offerings by worshippers (Bayley and Woodward 1993, 135). As well as plain annular and penannular loops there were 'Class 1' rings with diamond cross-sections like RF7605 and 'Classes III-IV' loops cast in a one-piece mould with a flat back like RF7599 (Henig 1993, fig. 132, nos 20-4, 28-9; Bayley and Woodward 1993, fig. 114, nos 5, 10; fig. 115). While the deposition of loops is not common on British religious sites it was particularly common in France, where over 10,000 were found at the sanctuary at Chastelard les Lardiers alone (Kiernan 2009, 24-5).

A small collection of simple annular rings was found in the ritual burial of a decapitated dog in a cemetery in London. Seven loops, six melon beads, six studs, a lunate pendant and fragments of a chain were found round the neck of the dog (Ridgeway *et al* 2013, 13, figs 11, 38-40). The studs suggest the presence of a collar, but five of the loops were stacked up on top of each other and may have been a separate element to the deposit. At Uley it was suggested that circular objects such as coins, loops and discs were used in the cult of Mercury (Woodward and Leach 1993, 334), but it may be that circular objects have a more general spiritual significance. Explanations for the loops found at sanctuaries in France include their use as simplified wheels (which had their own religious significance) and as symbolic coins or jewellery (Kiernan 2009, 24). In many cultures the circle represents the sun, the cycle of life, the concept of infinity or of being whole or complete, while rings can additionally be seen as a symbol of enclosure and so also of guardianship and protection. The loops in Burial 20476 may therefore have had some religious significance for the deceased, or perhaps, considering the age of the individual, been intended as amulets, as amulets are frequently associated with the young.

### **Hairpin**

An incomplete hairpin found in Burial 20474, of a type made from the first century until the mid-third century (RF7585), is likely to be an accidental inclusion in the grave fill rather than a deliberate inclusion.

## **EQUIPMENT**

### **Fish-hooks**

Two graves produced small copper alloy hooks that could be fish-hooks, although the distinctive barbed end did not survive in either case. That in Burial 20532 (RF7669) was very small and delicate, and had the characteristic hammered and notched end

for attaching the line (Bernal Casasola 2010, 91; fig. 4). The hook in Burial 20340 was more robust (RF7486), with the end of the wire twisted into a loop for the line attachment. This is not a typical form of attachment for fish-hooks, so this may either be an improvised hook, or not a fish-hook at all. Both would be classified as 'very small' (*ibid.*, 89), suitable for small-scale fishing on the local rivers. Fish-hooks have not been noted from graves before, and it is of interest that both came from graves of females, one aged 18-25 and the other 26-35. There were no other possessions in either grave and it would be possible to dismiss either one as an accidental inclusion were it not for the presence of the other.

### **Spindle-whorl**

A pierced pottery disc, perhaps intended as a spindle-whorl, was found in Burial 20474. This could have been included to represent the woman's occupation (the skeleton was tentatively identified as female), but as well as being only very roughly shaped it was also incomplete, so may well be an accidental inclusion in the grave fill.

### **Military equipment**

The grave of a neonate (Burial 21162) contained two complete links from ring-mail. The grave also contained two hobnails and what appear to be two tacks, although one has a bent shank and may have been used as a hobnail. Although it is possible they had a ritual function, being made of iron (see below), neonates very rarely have any form of grave-goods and these items are likely to be accidental inclusions.

### **FOOTWEAR**

Ten graves contained hobnails, six of which produced less than ten hobnails. The shoes from Burial 20621 (7-12 years) were placed outside the coffin towards the foot end. They are unlikely to have been the personal possessions of the deceased and must have been added by a mourner and must have some symbolic or practical significance; it might be significant that this is the grave of a juvenile (see p00 [general discussion] for discussion of shoes in graves). The nailed shoes in the other three graves were worn by the corpses, all of which were adults (Burials 20159, (unsexed), 20474 (female?) and 20960 (male?)). The shoes in Burial 20960 were robust (over 176 hobnails, sole thickness of c.12mm, four layers of leather), which could support the identification of the skeleton as male. They included a number of little used hobnails, with conical heads 8mm tall.

### **GRAVE FURNITURE FROM CREMATIONS**

#### **NAILS AND OTHER STRUCTURAL FITTINGS**

The corpse was carried to the cremation pyre on a bier, being either placed directly on the bier or on a bed placed on it. If the bier belonged to those who supervised the cemetery then it would be re-used for other burials, but biers supplied by the family or friends of the deceased could be burnt on the pyre, if required. A very rare depiction of a Roman bier is shown on an Augustan relief of a man's funeral from Amiternum, Italy; it has substantial carrying poles for eight men, short legs so that it was raised off the ground when set down, and had a highly decorated roof or canopy over the funerary bed and foot-stool that are being carried on it (Kleiner 1992, figs

88-9). The remains of a more basic bier from Angera consisted of two long beams reinforced by cross-beams (Noy 2000, 39-40).

A bier, required to support the weight of the corpse and possibly also a bed, had to be quite substantial. If nails were used in its construction logic would suggest they would need to be at least as long as those used for coffins (over 60mm), and while nails of this length are rarely found in cremations they would have been easier to spot and avoid than the smaller nails when collecting the remains from the remains of the pyre for burial elsewhere.

A list of the 'funerary things' that had been prepared in advance that was recorded on an inscription from Rome included a bed and textile coverings, but it is unclear if he had had the bed made or had just set one aside (Noy 2000, 42). It is likely that the bed was usually made specially for the funeral, since presumably few households had a spare bed or dining couch designed for a single person that they could make available for the pyre (most beds and couches being built for more than one person).

If specially made, then it is likely that for speed, and because it was for single use, it was nailed together rather than constructed with the stronger, but more time-consuming wood-joints used for domestic furniture (which rarely used nails: Mols 1999, 92-5, pl. 22; Ulrich 2007, figs 4.2, 4.6). The funerary bed could rely on painted decoration, brightly-coloured mattress covers, and on occasion added decoration such as bone (and probably wood) veneer, for an impressive appearance, rather than quality carpentry. This may be supported by the remains of a funerary bed from Beckfoot that had a nailed construction; it had 51mm long nails at the corners and smaller ones along the frame (Bellhouse 1954, 51). The nails seem a little short (suggesting a wood thickness of only 17-20mm), and may indicate that the bed was lighter than those used in life, which would also reduce its weight when being carried on the bier.

## **Nails**

Nails in cremations at Cataractontium and at Bainsesse are generally 30-50mm in length, which traditionally would be used on wood 10-20mm thick. This distinction in the length of nails found in inhumations and cremations is very noticeable and has occasionally been noted elsewhere; nails under 37mm, for example, were found only in the cremations and not the inhumations at Gloucester (Powell 2008, 115). They were presumably used for non-weight-bearing elements on the bier or funerary bed, or possibly boxes or chests used as pyre goods. If they came from scrap wood used as fuel, larger nails, and a wider range of sizes, would be expected.

One cremation (Burial 6785) produced a very large nail. It had two short nails to one side in the pit, and one very long, gently bent, nail (L: 130mm) carefully placed near the cremation vessel. The long nail in particular has clearly been deliberately included in the pit, and possibly the others also. The deliberate inclusion of nails in cremations (including nails larger than the cremation vessel itself) has been noted elsewhere in the Empire (Alfayé Villa 2010, 429, figs 11-2). In the ancient world iron was considered to have the power to both repel and restrain supernatural forces, while nails, with their ability to fix things in place, were used in both magic and medicine (*ibid.*, 432, 441). Iron nails may therefore have been used in graves to either protect the dead from malign spirits, or to protect the living, by holding the 'restless dead' in the grave. The restless dead in the ancient world

consisted of those who had died prematurely, who died before they were married, who had died by violence or who had not had proper burial rites (*ibid.*, 445, 449). The last category is not relevant in the context of a cemetery burial, but the first two in particular would be relevant here as the remains in Burial 6785 included an infant of 0-6 months, a child of 3-4 years and an individual 10 years+. Placing of nails in the graves of infants in particular has been noted elsewhere (*ibid.*, 450).

### **Tacks**

Small tacks with flat heads (Diam: 7mm L: 15-25mm) are a feature of cremations but not inhumations. They may have come from pyre-goods such as small caskets, possibly ones specifically made for the funeral since good-quality caskets would have been made without any structural nails (and while nails were used to fasten metal fittings onto boxes, no such fittings have been recovered from the cremations). It is possible the tacks were used for some purpose specific to a cremation, such as pinning any drapery, leather covers or other decorations in position. They were not used in large quantities; at Baines up to nine were found (see above p00[Bain cremations-nails]), while the *bustum* burial, where there was no selection of material for burial elsewhere, only produced seven. Up to thirteen similar tacks were recovered from a child's cremation at Mucking (Lucy and Evans 2016, 283, cremation 44).

### *The bustum*

The *bustum* burial 6790 produced at least 44 nails (now mainly incomplete), the majority of which came from the upper two layers, and therefore above most of the human remains. There were seven nails 60-80mm in length, another eight over 40mm, up to 22 under 40mm, and seven tacks. There was therefore a small number suitable for robust construction, most of which came from the middle third of the pit. The majority of the nails were under 40mm, suitable for use on wood 10-16mm thick. There was only a small number of tacks, some of which had been hammered diagonally into the wood. Just slightly smaller in size were four small tacks made from thin copper alloy sheet folded into a cone and flattened on the top (RF14524, 14531). Their use on copper alloy edging and metal sheets suggest many were used on decorated or patched caskets (cf P.A.S. NLM-8A3B53, Winteringham, North Lincolnshire).

### *Burial 20106*

The other unusual cremation is Burial 20106, which produced a minimum of 108 nails. Even if the whole of the pyre remains were carefully collected and buried in the pit it has produced more nails than the *bustum*, where the pyre remains were left in place. There were 18 tacks, 76 nails under 40mm in length, and 14 nails of 60-70mm (of which only one was certainly 70mm long). If all this material comes from a single event then the display on the pyre must have been extremely elaborate, perhaps including a bier with a canopy or stands for pyre-goods or to create a flat surface above the rough-cut fuel wood. It almost certainly included a funerary bed decorated with bone, as examples of veneer/inlay were recovered (see below). A cremation at Brougham that produced bone inlay from a funerary bed also produced a large number of nails, at least 97 nails of which were less than 36mm in length (Mould 2004, 271). A cremation at Trentholme Drive, York produced an even larger number

of nails, although unfortunately the lengths are not discussed apart from two copper nails of 40mm and 13mm. In total there were 188 iron nails, and although no bone veneer was found, it is possible this cremation had an all-wood funerary bed and bier (Wenham 1969, 32, no. 41).

### **Double-spiked loop**

One cremation (Burial 6783) produced a double-spiked loop with straight arms (RF11403). An example has also been found in a cremation at Brougham (Cool 2004, redeposited pyre debris, fig. 4.109, no. 3). While this could come from scrap wood, or be the handle or hinge from a chest on the pyre, the increasing numbers found in burials suggest they had some function in the funerary rites as fittings on biers, funerary beds or (in inhumations) coffins. They could be handles, rope guides, decoration, or used for holding other forms of decoration such as cloth drapery or garlands.

## **FUNERARY BED**

### **Veneer or inlay**

Burial 20106 produced 39 fragments of bone veneer (glued onto wood) or inlay (inlaid in wood) in three designs, with 77 scraps that were too small for certain classification (the term 'veneer' will be used in the following for convenience). Funerary beds decorated with ivory or bone were a feature of elaborate funerals in Italy in the first century and have occasionally been found in Britain, although the practice had died out by the end of the Flavian period (Noys 2000, 39, Greep 2004, 274). Bone decoration from later cremations in Britain have now been found at a number of sites, most noticeably at Brougham and Birdoswald, and could possibly be a feature of mid to late third-century burials of soldiers or their families (Greep 2004, 274; Wilmott *et al* 2009, 283, 290).

There were four categories of decoration:

Type 1: wide strip (11-16mm), with a saltire cross between grooves.

1.1: with single groove between saltires

1.2: with double groove between saltires

Type 2: wide strip (13mm) with diagonal lines between single grooves.

Type 3: thin strip (9-11mm), with groups of grooves set in a zig-zag pattern

Type 4: thin strip (8-9mm) with groups of diagonal grooves spaced at internals

[Table for Appendix?]

*Table 00: Catalogue of bone veneer from Burial 20106*

no	type	part	W (mm)	Th (mm)	L (mm)	context	RF
1	1.1	end (s)	14	6.0	25+	20109	7421
2	1.1	end (s)	13	4.3	19+	20109	7436
3	1.1	end (s)	14	5.1	49+	20109	7421
4	1.1	body	13	4.8	27+	20107	13181
5	1.1	body	14	5.5	37+	20109	7421
6	1.1	body	15	5.6	32+	20109	7436

7	1.1	body	15	5.7	25+	20109	7436
8	1.1	body	11	5.1	21+	20109	7421
9	1.2	end (sa)	16	4.5	32+	20109	7436
10	1.2	end (s)	15	4.5	18+	20109	7436
11	1.2	end (s)	13	4.5	24+	20107	7411
12	1.2	body	13	3.7	32+	20109	7436
13	1.2	body	13	3.9	30+	20109	7421
14	1.2	fragment	-	4.7	-	20109	7436
15	1.2	fragment	-	-	-	20109	7436
16	1	body	15	5.6	22+	20109	7436
17	1	fragment	-	4.8	-	20107	7411
18	1	fragment	13+	5.4	-	20109	7421
19	1	fragment	-	-	-	20109	7436
20	1	fragment	-	-	-	20107	13181
21	2	end (sa)	13	3.7	32+	20109	7436
22	2	body	13	4.1+	21+	20109	7421
23	2	fragment	10+	3.0	14+	20107	7411
24	2	fragment	9+	3.9	22+	20109	7421
25	2	fragment	-	-	-	20109	7436
26	3	end (a)	10	5.0	93+	20109	7421
27	3	end (a)	9	3.8	11+	20109	7421
28	3	body	11	5.4	24+	20107	7411
29	3	body	11	5.1	24+	20107	7411
30	4	end (a)	8	4.9	33+	20107	7411
31	4	end (a)	8	3.4+	-	20107	13181
32	4	end (s)	8	4.9	22+	20109	7436
33	4	end (s)	9	4.0	26+	20107	7411
34	4	body	8	5.8	52+	20109	7436
35	4?	body	8	3.9	30+	20107	7411
36	4?	body	8	4.5	25+	20107	13181
37	4?	body	9	5.5	18+	20107	7411
38	4?	body	8	4.6	24+	20107	7411
39	4?	body	8	4.5	19+	20107	13181

#### Key

- (a) angled end
- (sa) slightly angled end
- (s) straight end

#### Type 1 (20 fragments)

The strips range from 11-16mm in width but are generally c.13-4mm, and are 4-6mm thick. The ends are generally straight, but there is at least one fragment with the end cut at a slight angle (cat. no. 9). This piece also shows that single and double grooves could be used on the same strip.

#### Type 2 (five fragments)



A less common type of wide strip, with a thickness of 3-4mm. The diagonal lines often do not run across the full width of the strip. The one surviving end fragment is cut at a slight angle (cat. no. 21).

#### Type 3 (four fragments)

Slightly narrower strips, 4-5mm thick. Although no complete strips survive, the longest is over 93mm. Two have ends cut at a 45° angle; the ends have groups of three or four horizontal/vertical lines and the first group of diagonal lines consist of three rather than four lines (cat. nos 26, 27).

#### Type 4 (10 fragments)

The narrowest strip, 4-6mm thick. Two fragments have angled ends, one of which (cat. no. 30) has only three diagonal grooves instead of the usual four (cf type 3). There are also pieces with straight-cut ends.

The thickness of the pieces varies from *c.*3mm to 6mm, and while not as extreme as the variation seen at Brougham and Birdoswald (Wilmott *et al* 2009, 285-6), would still have created an uneven surface if used as veneer or require extra work cutting the wood if used as inlay, but possibly an uneven finish was not a concern for a funerary bed. It is unknown if the funerary bed had a specific traditional shape, or followed contemporary domestic furniture design. A 'traditional' design might have a curved head board, following Greek prototypes, while a contemporary shape would have wooden walls (called boards) on three sides (Croom 2007, figs 10, 18; cf. fig. 8). The bone pieces with angled ends may have been used to create open squares replicating the wood panelling common on such boards, or a more elaborate design such as a meander pattern (see Mols 1999, figs 64, 88, 93 for examples in wood). A cast of a bed with boards from Pompeii which still has bone decoration *in situ* has two continuous horizontal lines joined at intervals by paired vertical lines on all three boards (Spinazzola 1953, figs 510-1). As it would take some time to make all the bone strips required it is possible they were made in advance and stored until required and only then attached to a bed made specifically for the funeral.

A small bone loop came from the same pit (RF7410). It is well-made, but only roughly finished, with file marks visible on the sides. It has an internal diameter of *c.*11mm, suggesting use as a finger-ring unlikely. Grooved examples of bone rings have been found in cremations that also produced bone veneer at Brougham (Cool 2004, cremation 70, two unsexed adults, and cremation 307, two adults, male and unsexed; fig. 4.69, no. 4, fig. 4.251, no.12). A thicker loop was also found in the pit of a cremation at Birdoswald fort that had bone veneer in the cremation urn (Wilmott *et al* 2009, fig. 381, no. 20; cremation 3, adult female). Such loops are not veneer but could be an associated decorative element on the funerary bed or bier, such as a drop-handle or a tie for textile drapes or garlands.

#### *Parallels*

The design of the Catterick pieces, consisting of straight grooves on rectangular strips, is very limited compared to those used at other sites. At Brougham the bone veneer could be allocated to seven major groupings, including geometric shapes and figurative pieces as well as strips, and including circular and dot and ring decorative motifs, while the cremation at Birdoswald had four groups of forms, and also

included dot and ring decoration (Greep 2004, 275-82; Wilmott *et al* 2009, 283). While the grooves on the Catterick examples were probably filled with coloured wax, there was no evidence of the colouring on the bone itself seen at the other two sites.

*Table 00: Comparison of bone veneer designs at Brougham and Birdoswald*

Type 1.1: Brougham type A6.2 (rare at site): Greep 2004, fig. 5.2, no. 307

Type 1.2: Birdoswald type A6.3: Wilmott *et al* 2009, fig. 381, nos 12-3

Type 2: no parallels

Type 3: Brougham type A5 (common at site): Greep 2004, fig. 5.2, no. 194;

Birdoswald: Wilmott *et al* 2009, fig. 381, nos 5-6

Type 4: no certain parallels

### **Use of funerary bed**

The use of a decorated bed is a way of demonstrating wealth or expressing grief through conspicuous expenditure. Bone veneer is usually associated with the remains of adults although it has very occasionally been found with adolescents (Greep 2004, 274, table 5.3); the remains in Burial 20106 have been identified as an (unsexed) individual between 14.5 and 23 years old (see p000[human remains report]). They were provided for both men and women (Greep 2004, table 5.3; Wilmott *et al* 2009, 283). The other surviving artefacts from Burial 20106 unfortunately do not help in identifying the sex of the individual buried in the pit. They consist of a few hobnails of the smaller size, perhaps more suitable for an adolescent or female than an adult male, and a fragment of a pipe-clay figurine, which are often associated with children in a burial context. The fact that funerary beds were most commonly used for adults would suggest the individual in Burial 20106 was an adult, closer to 23 years, while the figurine, if it belonged to the deceased rather than to a mourner, would point towards some-one closer to the lower end of the age range.

## **PERSONAL ADORNMENT**

### **Bracelet**

#### ***Diamond cross-section***

The bracelet in Burial 6790 was found towards one end of the pit, in the upper layers. It is in poor condition, and the form of the fastening is uncertain beyond consisting of wire wrapped round the band; it could be two sliding knots or a hook and eye. It has a wide diamond-shaped cross-section that tapers to a square cross-section towards the fasteners.

## **FOOTWEAR**

### **Nailed shoes**

Six cremations contained hobnails, three with over 20 hobnails (two adults and one mixed, from the *bustum*), and three with between five and seven hobnails (including two containing children). Leather from the shoes in Burials 6729, 6785 and some of 6790 was still present when the cremated remains were buried, as some of the hobnails had evidence of mineralised leather or were corroded together, held in position by leather. It has been observed that bones from the feet are sometimes less fully burnt than the rest of the body, being towards the edge of the pyre, so these could be the remains of worn shoes (Noy 2000, 40), but they could also have been pyre-goods, since it was noted that some bone from all three graves was

incompletely burned and that the cremations had not been fully successful, either because a high enough temperature was not reached, or because the pyre was not left to burn for long enough (see p000 [bone rep]).

The *bustum* Burial 6790 produced a minimum of 234 hobnails, from at least two pairs of shoes. Most of the layers in the pit produced both hobnails with 8-10mm and 10-12mm heads, with sole thicknesses of 9-10mm and 12-14mm. The majority of the hobnails came from the lowest layers, where most of the human remains were found. There were 116 hobnails in the lowest level, where the incompletely burnt remains of a female or adolescent were found, and may have come from shoes worn by the corpse; some of the hobnails were corroded together indicating some leather also remained unburnt. Two different sizes of hobnails, however, would suggest two pairs of shoes. Only 48 hobnails came from the upper two layers, where most of the nails came from, and may represent pyre-goods.

The presence of multiple shoes is not surprising since there were at least five individuals (adults and adolescents) in this burial, but there is also the possibility of two pairs in another cremation (Burial 6723, unsexed adult), where there were two different sole thicknesses (8mm and 12mm). Burial 6782 only produced seven hobnails, c.8mm in diameter, which were flat and worn-down and from a sole c.6-8mm thick, and must have come from a small or quite thin-walled shoe (RF13715). This fits well with the age of the individual buried there, a child 4-6 years old. Burial 6785, containing a neonate, a child and an individual over 10 produced seven hobnails, two of which had a sole thickness of c.12mm, which could possibly have belonged to the older individual.

## **EQUIPMENT**

### **Pipe-clay figurine**

The fill of the cremation pit for Burial 20106 contained part of the base of a pipe-clay figurine, with little obvious signs of burning (RF7420). It has a rectangular base with rough incised line decoration, the remains of two human bare feet and what are likely to be the remains of attributes to either side. Examples from France, for example, depict Venus the Protector with a figure on a pedestal to one side and a cockerel on the other, and ones from Switzerland show Hercules with the end of his club resting on the ground to one side and the lower folds of a lion-skin on the other (cf von Gonzenbach 1993, figs 88-9; fig. 73, no. 39). This is an uncommon form of pipe-clay figurine in this country, since the vast majority are the '*dea nutrix*' type, or Venus standing with one hand raised to her head, so it is of interest that a fragment that could come from a similar figurine to that from Burial 20106 has previously been found at Catterick (Cooper 2002, fig. 327, no. 3). Pipe-clay figurines have been found in a number of cremations, including a figurine of Venus from a late third or fourth-century cremation at Brougham (Cool 2004, 400-1, unsexed subadult-adult). In Gaul pipe-clay figurines are generally associated with both cremations and inhumations of children (Barber and Bowsher 2000, 319).

### **Other categories**

A length of partially hollow crinoid stem was found in Burial 6790. This is probably an accidental inclusion, but Romans are known to have occasionally kept fossils as curios or magical stones.