A1L2B, DEATH, BURIAL AND IDENTITY

BEAD ANALYSIS

Dr Elizabeth M Foulds

ASSEMBLAGE SUMMARY

Excavations as part of the motorway upgrade on the A1(M) revealed nearly 400 burials (cremations and inhumations) and additional disarticulated human remains. By far, most human remains were encountered during excavation of a Roman cemetery at the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Bainesse Farm. This cemetery was located along the Roman north-south route known today as 'Dere Street'. Trial trenching conducted in 2005 (NAA 2006), also identified an inhumation that was radiocarbon dated to the 5th to mid-6th centuries AD, so activity in this area is thought to span from the Roman period at least into the Anglo-Saxon period.

Outside of the Bainesse cemetery, inhumations and cremations were recovered from features in several other fields (details in main report). However, this report will specifically discuss all burials where beads were recovered. This includes six inhumations from the Bainesse cemetery (F163C), one from Scurragh House (Fields 207-211), and one at Scotch Corner (Field 265).

In total, 201 beads and 'bead-like' objects were considered in this report. The majority were of known Roman period types, although there were a small number that were more unusual. Three beads were from an Anglo-Saxon burial at Scotch Corner. The beads were found singly, in small groups, and there were at least two burials with single necklaces in each.

METHODOLOGY

There is not a standard for recording or reporting on Roman period glass beads. Recording and reporting of the beads in this report largely follows the protocol set out for Iron Age glass beads (Foulds 2017), as well as terminology and reporting structures as set out by key authors (Guido 1978, Swift 2000, Cool 2010). Emphasis in this report is placed on understanding the types and colours of individual beads, the strings of beads that they created, as well as understanding the role of beads as a part of dress.

All beads submitted for analysis were recorded in a Microsoft Access database using the fields in Table 1. Measurements were taken using digital callipers (resolution: 0.1mm, accuracy ±0.2mm). The beads were recorded between 2015 and 2017 and the report written in 2017-18.

Table 1: List of fields and data types.

RESULTS

A total of 201 beads and 'bead-like' objects were recovered associated with human remains across the A1 widening scheme. Most beads were glass (Table 2), but there were also examples made from

jet, copper alloy, and faience. One 'bead', RF 10508, was a natural fossil crinoid and will not be discussed further than this section. There were 101 beads from a single burial at Scurragh House (Field 207-211), which were mainly jet. Three beads were found with an inhumation at Scotch Corner (Field 265).

Nearly all the beads could be dated to the Roman period by type (Table 3), or were undiagnostic in date, but likely to be Roman. Both Burials 180 and 235 from Field 163C contained bead types that likely spanned several centuries. There were two beads from Field 265 that may have been Anglo-Saxon or later (discussed further below). Overall, the date assessment for most beads suggested a 2nd - 4th centuries AD date, although this likely reflects the changes in burial practice from cremation to inhumation.

A total of 196 beads were found in the primary grave fill of nine different individual burials (Table 4). Three beads were found in the possible later fill of Burial 203.

Excavation of settlement sites normally yield only single examples of beads from each context. This is generally thought to be the result of accidental loss and these beads do little to inform us of how they were used. The assumption is that multiple beads were strung together to form necklaces, although it is also possible that they were worn as bracelets, included on finger-rings or earrings, worn in the hair, or sewn onto textiles. Evidence for how these individual beads were used must rely on evidence for pictorial representation, hoards of complete objects (usually limited to precious/semi-precious jewellery), and burial evidence.

Burial evidence gives us the opportunity to see beads in a different context, although they are not without their difficulties in interpretation. For example, at Lankhills, Winchester, out of all the burials with strings of beads, they were worn in only 39% of cases. In the remaining burials, the individual did not wear the bead strings (Cool 2010, 291). Unworn bead strings may have been collections of the deceased's own jewellery, or could have been gifts at the time of burial. Similarly, the bead strings that were worn by the individuals at the time of death may not necessarily have been worn in life as they were in death and do not necessarily indicate ownership. This may especially be the case in instances of infant/child burials. This adds to the complications of understanding past identity, especially where isotopic analysis has been used to determine geographic origin of populations (e.g. Booth et al. 2010).

Single, or small numbers of beads, found in burials is also a known phenomenon. It is possible that these can be explained through three possible scenarios: accidental loss at the time of inhumation, disturbance of earlier activity, intentionally placed as part of the grave goods. A small collection of beads (not enough to form a bracelet) were found in the remains of a box buried in an inhumation in the East London cemetery (Barber and Bowsher 2000), which suggests that even single beads could be kept as keepsakes or mementos and is a reminder that other beads placed within graves could have been placed within a non-surviving container.

Grave fills were 100% sampled and twenty-four beads were recovered through this process. One double segmented jet bead was found in the sample taken from Burial 235 and 23 beads were found through sampling Burial 103. Beads from Burial 235 were of two general types. Nineteen of sample recovered beads were miniscule beads less than 4mm in diameter and 5mm in height. Some were collected by hand, but 54% were recovered from sampling. The other type of bead that was recovered was long smooth biconical opaque black beads. There were two mostly complete examples, plus the remains of two additional beads. The glass was very degraded on two of these examples.

Table 2: Summary of beads by field and material

Table 3: Summary of beads by date

Table 4: Summary of beads by material and burial

PUBLICATION TEXT: BAINESSE CEMETERY>PERSONAL ADORNMENT>BEADS

Bead types

The beads present within the burials in the Bainesse cemetery exhibited both typical and atypical characteristics in terms of the material and types.

Faience

One small faience melon bead (RF 11398.3) was recovered from Burial 221. It seems to have been well used by the time it was deposited, as the perforation ends were very worn and there was a small chip missing. This is a common Roman bead often found deposited in contexts throughout the Roman period, but they typically date to around the late 1st – 2nd century AD. However, they are not common finds in burials, although to date there has been no synthetic analysis of melon beads from Roman Britain. Some authors have suggested that they were used to decorate military equipment or horse harnesses (Price 1995, 107), based on evidence from an Italian burial (Pirling 1997).

Jet

The 25 jet beads fell into seven different types. RF 1047.2 consisted of five whole beads and fragments of another. These beads were all roughly the same size, but varied between annular and globular in shape. Most had at least one flattened perforation end, which made them more cylindrical or barrel shaped. RF 11890 consisted of 18 jet beads and another was found through sampling (RF 12856). One of these beads was globular or cylindrical as in the previous type. In addition, there were 13 segmented beads, which ranged from two to five segments. There was also one long ornate cylindrical bead with closely spaced ribbing on either end with a long plain portion in the centre, although one end had broken off.

Finally, there were three complete, and one broken, jet semi-circular double perforation 'spacer' or double perforation type beads (Allason-Jones 1996, 27, Bell and Thompson 2002a, 178 cat no. 2). There were two types of decoration found on the curved edges. One was a series of notches along the curved length and the other had inscribed decoration in the middle of the curved edge with a ridge emanating from either end. Originally, multiple examples of this type of bead would have been strung together to form a single sinuous strand that was used as a bracelet (similar to the 38 rectangular double perforated beads from Grave 951 at Site 46 Bainesse - Bell and Thompson 2002a, 178-9). They often repeated the same style of decoration on the edges, so that they repeated a motif, but could vary in size to form a graduated strand. However, in this case these beads were re-used or re-purposed and combined with other types of beads.

The popularity of jet for jewellery is usually attributed to the 2nd century AD, but it became very popular in the 3rd century AD (Allason-Jones 1996, 6).

Copper alloy

At least five copper-alloy beads were included in the burials, although in some cases they had disintegrated prior to analysis. It is possible that additional copper-alloy beads were deposited in the graves, but did not survive. RF 11319, RF 11320, and RF 11321 were all barrel shaped beads. RF 11320 was slightly squashed and was found with a fragment of club-moss fibre found with it (Gleba et al. 2017). Two other beads, RF 11398.4 and 10471.4 only survived as fragments, but from the site plan illustrations, RF 11398.4 appeared to be similar to RF 11321.

The copper-alloy beads were also unusual, as metal beads are not often found in Roman contexts (Cool and Price 2002, 27). Cool suggested that they might have been used with military equipment, as Mould (1991, 194) recognised that they are often found on military sites. However, now that they have been found in burial contexts, this may contradict this perspective, although it is entirely possible that they were re-used for something else.

Glass

Six primary types of glass beads were found throughout the burials: annular and globular/spherical, gold-in-glass, hexagonal, rectangular, long bicone, and a decorated polychrome bead. Simple monochrome annular and globular (sometimes spherical) beads was the commonest type, but often due to their simplicity they are difficult to date. There were two small slightly irregular translucent blue annular beads (RF 11890) that exhibited very little weathering and were generally in very good condition. There were three examples of dark translucent turquoise green globular beads and two refitting fragments from a fourth (RF 1047.1). They were slightly irregular in shape, but were overall very consistent. There was also one example of a blue globular bead (RF 11890).

Probably fitting in best with annular and globular beads was the approximately 35 (plus additional fragments) miniscule beads in a variety of colours, including: opaque red, opaque yellow, translucent blue-green, slightly opaque yellow, milky white, and slightly opaque blue. The majority was annular in shape, although RF 12855 and RF 11256 were double segmented, and one of the RF 11254 beads was an intact single segment with the partial remains of a second segment. Many of the annular beads had collars around the perforation, which suggested that many were originally manufactured as a segmented bead, but perhaps later broke apart. This was supported by the similarity in diameter that the segmented examples showed when compared to the annular examples.

These beads ranged in size from 2.9-3.8mm in diameter and 1.9-2.4mm in height (excluding the segmented examples. Perforation diameters were very small and thus difficult to measure, but were ranged between approximately 0.7 and 1.6mm in diameter.

Although annular beads were included in Guido's typology (Group 6), the type description did not include miniscule examples, such as these. However, under modern excavation techniques, this type is becoming recognised. For example, from two inhumations from London (Barber and Bowsher 2000 B197 and B652), one of which was dated to 180 - 300 AD and the other 200 - 400 AD. Thus, a 2nd AD+ seems likely until further dated finds can refine this further. However, caution is needed when dating miniscule beads from unstratified/undated contexts, as Iron Age examples have also recently been found with the chariot burial at Wetwang Slack, Yorkshire (Foulds 2017).

A single gold-in-glass bead (RF 11127) with collars on both ends of the perforation was found in Burial 82, which suggested that it was originally formed as a segmented bead. This rare bead is often attributed to the Late Roman and post-Roman periods (Boon 1966, 1977, Guido 1978), although some can be attributed to late 2nd – 3rd century AD contexts (e.g. 41 beads in cremation Burial Group 89 at Baldock, Hertfordshire - Westell 1931). Three examples were previously found during excavations at Catterick, one (Cool and Price 2002, 259 cat no. 15) was found in the gravel make up of the Bathhouse Room 2 floor (Site 433), giving a date of c.160-200 AD. The other two examples were from Late Roman contexts: a single segment (Bell and Thompson 2002b, 262 cat no. 4) from the excavations at Catterick Bridge (Site 240) from a late 4th to early 5th century AD context; and a gold-in-glass bead with five connected segments (Cool and Price 2002, 262 cat no. 4) from a mid- to late-4th century AD deposit of river cobbles during excavations at Thornborough Farm.

Three beads from RF 10471.1 were green and hexagonal in cross-section. One of these was larger than the others and had very crisp apexes that formed the edges of the hexagon. The other two examples, however, were smaller, had less defined apexes, and were less crisply made. They both appeared to be made from the same glass colour, so the differences may indicate different levels of skills in making this type of bead. Green hexagonal beads are thought to mimic emeralds found on high-status jewellery and were used throughout the Roman Empire (Guido 1978, 96, Swift 2003a). They were used over a very long period and were not attributable to a specific date (Guido 1978, 96–7).

A single blue hexagonal glass bead was found in one of the inhumations (Burial 235). It is very different compared to the green hexagonal beads, as it was longer, thinner, and slightly tapering. Guido noted that blue examples were very rare and cited examples from sites with very late Roman period activity and post-Roman occupation, such as Lankhills Cemetery in Winchester, the Dun Beagbroch in Skye, and Jarlshof in Shetland (Guido 1978, 96–7). Both the Lankhills and Dun Beag examples were considerably shorter than the Bainesse cemetery bead, which measured 16.2mm long and 3.8 x 3.9mm wide (the Jarlshof examples appears to be unpublished). However, the situation may be different in continental Europe as Petculescu (1995, 199) stated that this type of bead was a common 2nd and 3rd century AD type and found throughout the Roman world. However, in Swift's (Swift 2000, 102, 295) analysis of late Roman glass beads she catalogued only 12 examples from seven sites and suggested that blue hexagonal beads were rare compared to green examples.

Five examples of crudely formed translucent blue rectangular beads were also found (RF 11890). These beads varied slightly in size and shape. Guido (1978) dated them mainly to the 3rd – 4th centuries AD. Swift (Swift 2000, 113) demonstrated that blue rectangular examples in particular are only found in Britain and along the Danube and has suggested that they may have been manufactured in both locations.

In one inhumation, an unusual group of opaque black long smooth biconical beads (RF 33019) were found. Long smooth biconical beads are a common bead shape in the Roman period, but they usually occur in blue or green in Britain, and sometimes blue with opaque white and red chevron decoration around the widest part of the circumference. In Britain, black beads were made primarily from jet or shale, whereas a recent review has shown that in the rest of the Roman Empire, black glass was used more often and for a wider variety of beads than identified by Guido in Britain (Cosyns 2011). Unfortunately, the only biconical beads identified by Cosyns (Cosyns 2011, 112) were small biconical beads measuring 2.5-3mm in diameter and length. These are much smaller than the Bainesse examples, which measured approximately 5-6mm maximum diameter and 12-17mm in maximum height. However, it is clear that these beads fit in with the wider pattern of the use of black glass used in the Roman Empire and the shape is consistent with other Roman beads. It is likely that the use and popularity of both jet or shale and black glass jewellery were linked, as Cosyns states that

the use of black glass jewellery became common across the Empire in the second half of the 2nd century AD.

The single large annular bead (RF 11398.1) was made primarily from translucent blue-green glass. Both faces were decorated with three blue and white whirl dots on each side and the circumference of the bead was decorated with three rows of cable twists. The cable twists sandwiched a yellow and white twist between blue and white twists. The bead was complete, although a fragment had broken away at some point likely after deposition, as it was found with the largest portion of the bead. Given the internal fracturing elsewhere on the bead and the slight iridescent shine and weathering on the inside surface of the broken fragment, it is likely that the breakage occurred either in antiquity or sometime after. It is not likely that it broke at the time of excavation.

This bead was very different from many of the beads used in the Roman period, which tended to be very small (excluding melon beads). However, it bore similarity with Guido's (1978) Class 9 (annular beads decorated with two-colour twisted cables) and some Group 2 beads (Miscellaneous spiral-decorated beads). The Class 9 beads were large annular beads that were decorated with cable twists that were usually placed as a continuous wave around the surface of the bead. As a type, Group 2 were slightly more nebulous and did not form a coherent group. However, some have the same whirl (spiral) design and cable twist as those found on the Bainesse bead, such as the bead from Traprain Law, East Lothian (Cree 1923) and an example from The Lanes, Carlisle (Price and Cottam 2010, 257 fig 133).

There are also similarities with this bead and Roman period glass bangles, especially Kilbride-Jones Type 2 (Kilbride-Jones 1937 and later elaborated on by, Stevenson 1953, 1976, Price 1988). It is possible that the similar patterns in colour choice and decorative motif indicates that there was a connection between the manufacture of both types of objects. It may be that they were created by the same craftsperson or workshop.

Dating and interpreting the Bainesse bead is challenging, as there is little synthetic study to draw on and the majority of similar beads were not found through modern excavation. The only exception is the Carlisle bead, but it was made from different colours and it was found in a 2nd - 3rd century AD context (McCarthy 2010). In contrast, Type 2 glass bangles are suggested to date to around the end of the 1st century AD (Price 1988, 347), although finds from dated contexts are limited. Through similarities to other beads and bangles, this bead may date to the 1st - 2nd centuries AD.

Price (Price 1988, 354) and Guido (1978) suggested that beads and bangles with twisted cable motifs from the Roman period were a British design and were manufactured for the local population, rather than by 'Roman's. This is a possibility, given that there is evidence for different regional forms of dress found throughout the provinces (Rothe 2009, Croom 2010). However, it would be wrong to assume any continuity with the use of pre-Roman glass bangles. Evidence for glass bangles in Britain is very small compared to continental Europe (Roymans et al. 2014), as only a small number of fragments have been found in Britain (Foulds 2017). This suggests that they were probably never worn in great numbers. In contrast, there are stronger connections between the use of large annular glass beads in the Late Iron Age and Roman period in Britain.

Burial summary

Burial 82

This burial contained only a single bead: the globular gold-in-glass bead (RF 11127). The bead was found in the central area of the grave cut. Very little skeletal evidence remained, but the bead was not found in the vicinity of the mandible or teeth, which indicated that the deceased person was not buried wearing the bead in the neck region. This suggests that the bead may have been worn on the wrist, contained in a pouch or other container, placed within the grave by someone else, or accidental disturbance of earlier activity at the site. In general, this type of bead is not closely datable. It could be as early as the 2nd – 3rd century AD, but could also be late Roman in date.

Burial 103

Approximately 35 glass beads were found in Burial 103 (RF 11252, 11253, 11254, 11255, 11256, 12855). All of these beads were tiny annular beads, although two were double segments and there was one possible segment. They occurred in milky white, opaque yellow, opaque red, slightly opaque yellow, and translucent blue-green/slightly opaque blue.

The 35 beads from this burial were perplexing. Although annular/globular and segmented beads are known from Roman contexts, the miniscule size makes these beads unusual. In addition, the colour of glass that these beads were made from, especially milky white and opaque red, are not typical for the Roman period. Red glass in particular was used in the Iron Age and Early Roman period, primarily as decoration on horse equipment (e.g. Polden Hill, Somerset hoard), but red glass beads are highly unusual. Therefore, it was not possible to determine the date of these beads based on their physical characteristics alone.

They were found in a cluster in the fill of an assumed grave, as no skeletal material survived. RF 11257 was found nearby, which has been identified as a bulla amulet (see Alex Croom report). If they were all strung together, the beads would have formed a strand that was approximately 75.3mm long, which on their own would not have been long enough to form a bracelet even for an infant. It may make sense for the beads and the bulla to be strung together, but the bead perforation holes are so small that the stringing material may not have been strong enough to support the amulet.

Burial 180

Approximately 15 beads made of glass (RF 10471.1), jet (RF 10471.2), and copper alloy (RF10471.4) were found in this grave fill along with a copper alloy phallic pendant (RF 10471.3 – see Alex Croom report). There were two 'clumps', each containing a mix of the bead types and materials. The jet beads were all annular/barrel/cylindrical types that were similar in shape and size, while the glass beads were green, but some were globular and others were hexagonal-sectioned. The copper-alloy beads were mostly disintegrated, but one large remaining fragment suggested that it was probably annular in shape.

Although no skeletal remains survived, the beads and pendant were found at one end of the grave cut together, which suggested it may have been worn by the deceased (possibly an infant). It was likely that all the beads were strung together. From the surviving intact beads it was possible to estimate that they would have formed a strand approximately 100mm long, which on their own is

not long enough for a necklace worn by a child. However, it is possible that they were strung for a bracelet, or a longer piece of string was used for a necklace.

Burial 203

Three similar annular copper alloy beads were found in association with Burial 203 along with a possible phallic pendant (see Croom report). One of the beads (RF 11320), was found slightly squashed and with a fragment of fibre later identified as being club-moss (Gleba et al. 2017). It seems likely that a long-twisted thread of club-moss strung together the three copper alloy beads along with the pendant.

These three beads were not found in the primary fill of this burial and they could be a later and/or intrusive element. Nonetheless, they are extremely significant as copper alloy beads are a rare find from Roman Britain, as is the surviving string, and because it is possible to make a case that these three beads were strung together. In addition, the beads were not necessarily used in a personal adornment sense (i.e. necklace or bracelet), but may have formed a decorative component of some other object.

These three beads are also interesting because the club-moss string had a very small overall diameter compared to the perforation diameter of the beads, even if the string shrunk over time due to age. As prehistoric and Roman period textile survival is rare in Britain, we have little understanding of the types of materials and the diameter of string used with beads. Perforation diameter of later prehistoric and Roman period beads can vary from only 2mm to 10mm, but this only indicates the maximum size of whatever substance beads were strung on to. The fact that the club-moss was so small compared to the relatively large size of the copper alloy beads is interesting, but there is also the possibility that this was a re-use of these beads and that they were previously strung onto something much larger in diameter.

Burial 221

The grave cut was assumed to be that of a child, although no skeletal remains survived. Four beads were found together in a line and were placed centrally within the grave, which suggested that they were strung together at the time of deposition. The beads consisted of two copper alloy beads (RF 11398.2 and 11398.4), both of which disintegrated prior to analysis. The third bead was a turquoise blue faience melon bead (RF 11398.3) that measured 13.9mm in diameter and 12.4mm in height. Although the blue glaze was intact in some areas of the surface, there was considerable wear (smoothing) around the perforation ends and a chip missing from the perforation. The final bead was a large ornately decorated glass bead that measured 34.6mm in diameter and 14.4mm in height. It was an annular in shape and made primarily from translucent green glass. The circumference of bead was decorated with three rows of cable twists: blue-white, yellow-white, blue-white. Three blue and white whirls were placed on the face of the bead around the perforation hole. The large perforation diameter of the glass and melon bead suggests that they may have been strung onto a leather thong, especially given the weight of the glass bead. It was not clear how the beads would have been used from the way they were deposited in the grave. The decorated glass bead would have been very large in comparison to the other beads, so if it was worn as a bracelet it would have been cumbersome.

Burial 235

A total of 28 beads were found in this burial (RF 11890 and 12856). Of the seven glass beads, all of them were translucent blue, but they were annular, globular, hexagonal, and rectangular in shape. The remaining 21 beads were jet, most of which were segmented (two, three, four, and five segments). There was also a cylindrical/barrel shaped bead, an ornate long cylindrical bead, and four double pierced spacer beads. One of the spacer beads was broken approximately in half, so that only one of the perforations would have been functional. It is likely that this occurred in antiquity and was re-used on this necklace, as they are usually found as bracelets/armlets (Allason-Jones 1996, Bell and Thompson 2002a, 179 cat no. 2). The style of the ornate long cylindrical bead bears some resemblance to the end terminals found on the jet necklace from Walmgate found in 1892 (Allason-Jones 1996, 26 YORYM H.321.1).

The necklace could be partly reconstructed from site photographs and plans and would have formed a strand approximately 206.8mm long. The perforations of the glass beads were very small (0.6-1.6mm in diameter), so the material the beads were strung onto would have been very thin. The four double perforated bracelet beads were evenly dispersed so that when worn by the deceased individual there was one at the back, front, left, and right. A focal point at the front may have been created by the ornate cylindrical bead, copper-alloy loop (RF 11906), and long hexagonal blue bead, all of which were on the right side of the centre-front jet bracelet bead. On the left side, was the large plain cylindrical bead. The remainder of the necklace was formed by the plainer segmented (mainly three and four) jet and blue glass beads. Alternatively, RF 11906 may have been part of a clasp for the necklace, although there was no evidence for a hook.

In some ways, this necklace seems somewhat haphazard and lacking consistency in the repetition of pattern and colour. However, this necklace re-uses beads from at least a jet bracelet and possibly from other jet and/or glass bracelets/necklaces. In addition, there is a pattern created by the placement of the bracelet beads, by placing the fancier beads at the front to show them off, and in the repetition of the segmented jet beads.

PUBLICATION TEXT: SCURRAGH HOUSE>PERSONAL ADORNMENT>BEADS

A necklace made from jet and glass beads was found with an inhumation (10827) in Field 209. There was a total of 85 jet beads and sixteen glass examples. They were found on top of the skull area, but it was not clear if they were worn at the time of burial. There were five types of glass bead (short blue biconical, globular blue, Guido (1978) Class 8/Foulds (2017) Class 1 Type 110, metal-in-glass, and a blue rectangular (square-sectioned) bead). There were several different types of jet bead: annular, short barrel, a smooth biconical type, cylindrical beads with incised decoration, short cylindrical beads, facetted, and segmented with between two and four sections. There was great variation in the segmented beads, as some had very clear segment definition, while others had only slightly incised lines to suggest multiple sections. It is assumed that the majority of these beads were initially shaped on a lathe and the segmented beads were later sawn apart to form individual beads or segmented beads. In some cases, the beads were not sawn precisely in the middle of the two segments, but instead sometimes included a portion of the next section.

If the beads were strung together in a single continuous strand, it would have totalled approximately 720mm in length if they were simply strung together. This would result in a necklace approximately bust length as a single strand (there was no evidence for a clasp or fastening). Due to the alignment of the beads at the time of excavation, reconstruction of the necklace has been difficult. However, it

was clear that there were clusters and densities of beads, which suggested that it may have been double-stranded for at least a portion of the necklace.

PUBLICATION TEXT: SCOTCH CORNER>PERSONAL ADORNMENT>BEADS

Three beads were recovered with a disturbed inhumation at Scotch Corner. The beads consisted of a short translucent blue biconical type (RF 13015), a short blue cylinder bead (RF 13013), and a short green cylinder bead (RF 13014). Although the short biconical bead type is known in Roman contexts, the other two beads are more unusual in size and shape. They are more characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon period and the radiocarbon date for the skeletal remains confirms this, as it suggested a mid-6th to mid-7th century AD date (SUERC-73025, GU43710). The inclusion of beaded necklaces and strands connecting brooches in Anglo-Saxon inhumations is well documented (e.g. West Heslerton, Sewerby, Scorton). Small numbers of beads, are known to occur in Anglo-Saxon graves, as at West Heslerton (Haughton and Powlesland 1999), but these graves are often heavily disturbed by ploughing or truncated by later features. It is not clear if the inclusion of three beads in Grave 31508 was intentional, or the result of later disturbance.

PUBLICATION TEXT: DISCUSSION>BEADS AND NECKLACES

In total, there were eight inhumations across the scheme that contained beads and there were no instances of beads in the cremations (Table 5). There were a few instances of single and small groups of beads in graves, there were two necklaces and two possible additional strands that may have formed bracelets or necklaces. Poor preservation of skeletal material has made it impossible in most cases to determine the age and gender (where possible) or the deceased individual, as well as whether the beads formed an object that was worn at the time of death, placed in the grave as an unworn grave good, or was an accidental inclusion. The only clear instance was Burial 235, which contained well preserved human remains (3.5-4.5yo) and a jet and glass bead necklace placed in the neck region. In all other cases, age can only be estimated to be likely young, due to the small size of the grave cuts. The inclusion of string of beads, and grave goods more generally, with children in Roman burials is a recognized phenomenon (Cool 2010, 296, Gowland 2016).

Table 5: Summary of beads associated with human remains

Single beads and small groups of beads

By their nature, to be used as body ornament as a necklace or bracelet, several beads must be used together to form a composite object. They may be placed within a grave as either worn or unworn grave goods. Thus, when single beads, or bead groups in very small number are found in inhumation graves they become difficult to interpret. On the one hand, they could be accidentally or unintentionally included in the grave, possibly the result of disturbing earlier burial/settlement activity. This was an interpretation of a single glass beads from inhumation Grave 87 from Lankhills (Booth et al. 2010) and is certainly a possible interpretation of the single gold-in-glass bead from Bainesse Burial 82.

Other possible interpretations for single beads and small groups include: amulets or talismans, part of larger organic objects (necklace/bracelet/anklet) that did not survive, or sewn onto clothes. It is also possible that they were not used by the deceased person in life, but that these beads represent

a gift or token from another individual at the time of the burial. Three cut facetted stone beads were found in an inhumation in London and were suggested to be part of the contents of a box (Barber and Bowsher 2000 in Burial 291). These beads did not form a wearable object, so they may have been keepsakes or collected beads from a broken necklace. These are possible interpretations for the small collections of beads found in Bainesse Burial 221 and possibly 203. These beads were not numerous enough in their own right to form an object and in the case of Burial 203 the bead and pendant could have been a later inclusion.

The collection of beads from Burial 221 is particularly interesting. On its own, the melon bead was not especially unusual, as they are well known from Roman period sites in Britain. Melon beads from inhumations in Britain are rare, but they do occur. For example, a single melon bead was included on a necklace in a 1st century AD 'Durotrigian' style burial of a young woman (e.g. Aitken and Aitken 1990 Burial 8). There is also evidence of a melon bead associated with a 1st - early 2nd century AD cremation burial, as one was included in the grave goods of Cremation Burial 1266 in Gloucester (Simmonds et al. 2008). Cool (Cool 2008, 108) pointed out that there are growing numbers of instances that suggest melon beads were used as a talisman.

This may also be the first instance of one of these large annular cable twist beads with applied spirals found in an inhumation, even if we widen our search to other beads that used cable twist decoration (e.g. Guido Class 9 and 14). We may also be able to extend the theory of the melon bead amulet to the glass bead, as Swift (Swift 2003b, 343) noted a correlation between opaque beads with coloured trail decoration with children's graves in the Late Roman West. Although this practice is later than the assumed date for Burial 221 at Bainesse, a parallel for the use of a large glass bead as a talisman that was attached to a bell via a two-stranded cable bracelet can be found in a grave at Butt Road, Colchester dated to AD c. 320 - c.450 (Crummy 198332, cat 548, 38 cat 1610). There was also a melon bead found inside a copper-alloy bell from the Culver Street excavations at Colchester that was found in a building phased to c.225 - c.275/325 (Crummy 1992, 187 cat 1663). Beads found in other burial contexts with other amuletic objects, such as jet bears, bells, and other objects have also recently been highlighted by Crummy (2010). Beyond inhumations, there is evidence for a bell with three melon beads found inside it, that may have been intentionally deposited in the foundation of a building in Norfolk (Ashwin and Tester 2014). The range of dates from these examples suggest that melon and large decorated annular beads played an important role for much of the Roman period in Britain.

The collection of copper-alloy beads, along with a melon bead, and large decorated annular bead, therefore presents an interesting case. Given that the grave was possibly that of a child, perhaps it was simply a toy or collection of curios. Alternatively, in light of the unusual combination of the large decorated bead and the melon bead and the possibility that both could have been amulets, it is possible to view this collection as something protective or even magical.

Beads strands

Two inhumations contained clearly identifiable necklaces: Bainesse Burial 235 and Scurragh House, both of which combined jet and glass beads. Jet bead necklaces are well known from Roman Britain and they tend to be dated to the later half of the Roman period. Some of these necklaces were completely made from jet, such as the BEMCO necklace (ASDU 2016), a burial in the cemetery at Boscombe Down, Amesbury, Wiltshire (unpublished, but mentioned in Pearce 2012) , and two necklaces from York (H.321.1 and H.321.4 as described in Allason-Jones 1996), one necklace from Colchester Grave 69, and possibly Colchester Grave 503 (Crummy et al. 1993); but, there are examples of other necklaces made from a mixture of jet and glass beads, such as the example from a double burial at Hartlepool (Daniels et al. 1987), in Burial 388 at Poundbury, Dorset (Farwell and

Molleson 1993), and possibly a second necklace from Colchester Grave 69. The Hartlepool necklace is the nearest geographically and probably the most comparable to the Scurragh House necklace. It was also made primarily out of segmented jet beads (120 beads) and 26 glass beads: 13 gold-in-glass, ten blue globular, one short blue biconical, one green hexagonal, and one green cylindrical. Both necklaces included gold-in-glass beads, blue globular, and short blue biconical beads, but the opaque yellow annular beads make the Scurragh House necklace different.

Two other possible bead strands were found: one in Burial 103 and one in Burial 180. Both strands would have been relatively short and were associated with different types of amulets (bulla and phallic). It is possible that the pendants were suspended from these bead strings, but it is not clear if they formed bracelets. They were not associated with surviving skeletal material, so it is also unclear whether these objects were worn at burial or unworn.

OTHER BEADS IN GRAVE BACKFILL

Approximately a quarter of a faience melon bead (RF 7061) fragment was found in the fill of an infant inhumation (Grave 9343 from the Cataractonium defences in Field 179). Given the nature of the fill and the small size of the bead fragment, it is likely that its presence can be attributed to the disturbance of earlier deposits. However, there does remain a chance that due to the proximity of the find next to the infant's head, that it was deliberately included.

Half a melon bead (RF 9315) was found associated with a possible cist, (Field 179 Burial 17712), although the presence of human remains could not be confirmed.

BEADS IN DISARTICULATED REMAINS CONTEXTS

Cataractonium Field 176 Context 1571

Three beads were found in context 1571, which contained disarticulated human remains. This included a small faience melon bead found within a copper-alloy bead or segment (RF 8627) and a globular glass bead of unknown colour due to the extent of the weathered crust (RF 6145). The faience melon bead is distinctive of the Roman period and is usually attributed to the 1st – 2nd centuries AD, but the globular bead is an undiagnostic type.

Cataractonium Field 176 Context 1405

A single bead was recovered from context 1405, which contained disarticulated human remains. RF 157 was a short green cylindrical bead.

CATALOGUE

Abbreviations: D=diameter, H=height

Bainesse cemetery

1 Globular gold-in-glass bead with a collar around the perforation, suggesting it was originally segmented. Complete. D: 6.8mm, H: 5.9mm, Perforation diameter: 1.8mm. Field 163C, Burial 82, Context 12793, RF 11127.

2 Miniscule annular opaque red bead. Complete. D: 3.2mm, H: 2.1mm, Perforation diameter: 1.1mm. Field 163C, Burial 103, Context 12900, RF 11252.

3 Miniscule annular opaque red bead. Complete. D: 3.4mm, H: 2.2mm, Perforation diameter: 1.1mm. Field 163C, Burial 103, Context 12900, RF 11252.

Scurragh House

Scotch Corner

Other beads in grave backfill

Beads in disarticulated remains contexts

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