



Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Report 99/88

THE HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS FROM
CRUNDALE LIMeworks, NR. CANTERBURY,
KENT.

Christine Osborne BTech MSc

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Summary

A small Romano- British cemetery consisting of 1 double (2 adults of unknown sex) and 5 single (2 unsexable adults, 1 child and 2 individuals of uncertain age or sex) cremation burials.

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CRUNDALE LIMWORKS, KENT

The six cremations in this group represent the remains of at least seven individuals, and some of them contain cremated animal bone. One of the individuals seems to be immature in age, the rest adult. Regarding the latter, none could be sexed.

The information regarding the cremations includes the colour of the bone fragments - the whiter the bone, the higher and more efficient the firing temperature. A blue/grey colour indicates lower firing temperatures. Sometimes, the position of the body and pyre can be inferred from the colour of bone of different parts of the body.

Only one cremation exhibited any noticeable pathology:-
AML 874406 (1) has some degenerative disease of the spine.

CRUNDALE LIMWORKS, KENT, SKELETAL INVENTORY

AML 874406 (2)

Weight: 950g

Colour: Predominantly white, some blue/black. Bones cracked and twisted.

Maximum length: 90mm (longbone)

Identifiable fragments: longbone (including femur, humerus and ulna), skull, ribs, vertebra, patella, metacarpals and/or metatarsals, pelvis. Crowns of molar, premolar and incisor.

Sex: Unknown.

Age: Adult.

Other Remarks: A fairly intact vertebral body exhibits signs of bony lipping around the rim. Some fragments have metallic staining. One individual.

AML 874405 (4)

Weight: 425g

Colour: Equal quantities of white and blue/grey.

Maximum length: 39mm (longbone)

Identifiable fragments: skull, longbones including humerus and femur, tarsals (poorly burnt), lower molar.

Sex: Unknown.

Age: Possibly immature - one fragment appears to have an unfused epiphyseal surface. The skull fragments are relatively thin and the rest of the bone generally seems to indicate a younger individual. One individual.

Other remarks: The head seems better burnt than the lower body.

AML 874404 (3)

Weight: 1.7 kg

Colour: Predominantly white. Bones twisted and cracked.

Maximum length: 96mm (ulna)

Identifiable fragments: pelvis, skull, longbone (including ulna, humerus and femur), rib, vertebra, scapula, metatarsals and phalanges .

Sex: Unknown.

Age: Adult - general size and thickness of the bone, and the epiphyseal rings of the vertebrae are fused. One individual.

Other remarks: The vertebrae are not as well burnt as the rest of the skeleton, suggesting that the body was possibly lying in a scoop in the ground beneath the pyre.

AML 814408 (5)

Weight: 500g

Colour: Blue/grey, some white.

Maximum length: 64mm (longbone)

Identifiable fragments: Skull, longbone including femur, fibula and rib.

Sex: Unknown.

Age: Unknown.

One individual.

Other remarks: The skeleton is very incomplete, and generally poorly burnt. Any white bone present tends to have a blue/grey cortex.

AML 874409 (1)

Weight: 1.25g

Colour: Slightly more white than blue/grey.

Maximum length: 68mm (longbone)

Identifiable fragments: Skull, longbone and ribs.

Sex: Unknown.

Age: Unknown.

Other remarks: Contains oyster shell, metallic objects and animal bone.

AML 874407 (3)

Weight: 2kg

Colour: Predominantly white, some blue/grey.

Maximum length: 89mm (scapula)

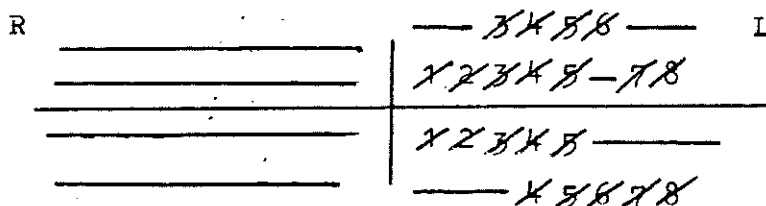
Identifiable fragments: Vertebrae (including the odontoid process of the axis), scapula, skull, ribs, phalanges, metatarsals, humerus, radius, tibia, patella, metacarpals, femur and maxilla.

At least two individuals.

Age: Adult.

Sex: Unknown.

Other remarks: Duplication of the Left maxilla and mandible



representing at least 2 adult individuals.

The vertebral fragments appear less efficiently cremated than the rest of the bone.

19 loose teeth are present and are, in the main, unidentifiable. There are however at least three lower molars and four premolars (too cracked to be able to age at all).