

ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

REPORT

4514

SERIES/No CONTRACTOR

AUTHOR Alison Cameron March 1985

TITLE The cremated human bone from
Brougham, Cumbria

The Cremated Human Bone from Brougham, Cumbria

The cremated human bone from seven burials was examined in the laboratory. The minimum number of individuals was estimated at seven.

All the bones were well fragmented, being mainly under 30mm long. Those identified as being from the skull and long bones were generally white in colour which suggested the highest degree of cremation. The sacrum, vertebrae and scapula were mostly yellow which indicated that they were less well burnt.

Observations were made for demography (age and sex), but no anthropology or pathology was noted. The results by individual for bone preservation, sex, age, stature, pathology and weight are given in the catalogue (attached) with the methods which produced the results. The results are summarised in Table 1.

Demographic Results

There were five adults, one young adult and one subadult in this population. No other comments were possible.

Grave Goods

Two of the cremations had fragments of bone comb (85 and 91) which appeared to have been cremated with the individual. There was much animal bone in the cremation, especially in 32 and 616(ii). The bone from burial 32 included a horse radius and the vertebra and scapula of a cow.

Alison Cameron
University of Bradford
8th March 1985

<u>Burial no.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Weight</u>
7	-	adult	542g
32	-	?young adult	3722g
59	-	adult	1458g
85	-	adult	1057g
91	-	adult	1096g
160	-	adult	1482g
316(ii)	-	sub-adult	3142g

Table 1 The results for the cremations from Brougham, Cumbria

The Catalogue of Cremated Human Bones from Brougham, Cumbria

Burial 7

Bone preservation: moderate, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: adult, based on the size of the bones

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Weight: 542g

Burial 32

Bone preservation: good, all of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: ?young adult based on endocranial sutural fusion

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Weight: 3772g

Burial 59

Bone preservation: poor, little of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: adult based on the size of the bones

Stature; -

Pathology: -

Weight: 1458g

Burial 85

Bone preservation: poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: adult, based on the size of the bones

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Weight: 1056g

Burial 91

Bone preservation: poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: adult, based on the size of the bones

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Weight: 1096g

Burial 160

Bone preservation: good, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: adult, based on the size of the bones

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Weight: 1482g

There was also a sample of human bone labelled 15-1971-316(ii) which is catalogued below:

Bone preservation: very poor, most of the skeleton was represented

Sex: -

Age: sub-adult based on the size of the bones

Stature: -

Pathology: -

Weight: 3142g.