

Devils' Wood, Sproughton: Human bone report

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One cremation was submitted to the Laboratory for examination. The bones were well calcined and broken into fairly small fragments. Few pieces were over 2 cm. in size and the majority were around 1 cm.

The fragments were sorted into parts of the body and the breakdown was as follows:-

	Weight (gms.)	%
Skull	206	24.2
Long bones	475	55.7
Pelvic girdle	59	6.9
Vertebral column	23	2.7
Ribs	53	6.2
Extremities	38	4.5
Unidentified fragments over 9 mm.	155	
under 9 mm. and over 5.6 mm.	137	
under 5.6 and over 1.7 mm.	109	
	<u>1,255</u>	

Note: The percentages were calculated on the total weight of identified fragments only.

The longbones and skull are over-represented (as compared with an un-cremated skeleton) and other parts such as the vertebrae and extremities are under-represented. This is partly due to ease of recognition of the larger fragments and partly due to the friability of eg. vertebral bodies which usually crush to a fine powder and are therefore not recognisable.

The bones were mainly those of a mature adult, possibly male. There were however a few fragments which appeared to be from longbones with unfused epiphyses, ie from a juvenile. This suggestion of the presence of more than one individual was not supported by the individually identifiable bone fragments, as no duplication was noted.