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REPORT ON THE CREMATIONS FROM KINGSTON RUSSEL, DORSET

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Five cremations from this site were submitted for examination, two of which were intrusive. All five groups were, however, very small in content and contained very small fragments of bone. Due to the fragmentary nature, as well as the small number of identifiable pieces, it was impossible in each case to sex or age any individuals with certain accuracy. In fact it is difficult to say how many individuals were contained in each cremation except to say that there was probably only one. There is no evidence in any of the cases that there should be more than one individual present.

A detailed description of each cremation follows.

KINGSTON RUSSEL 6N - CREMATION B:

The largest fragment from this cremation was 40.5 mm. with the average size being approximately 23.75 mm. The bones were all white in colour with a few skull fragments being dark grey. There was heavy calcination with fissuring and cracking of the bone. Some twisting has occurred indicating that the bones were subjected to fairly intensive heat. The total weight of the remains is 25.0 grams with the total number of fragments at 51. There are 7 skull fragments weighing 4.0 grams; two teeth weighing less than .5 gram; possible rib fragments weighing less than .5 gram; 5 fragments of small long bones, such as metatarsal, metacarpals, and phalanges, weighing 1.5 gram; 17 fragments of large long bones weighing 14.0 grams; and 18 unidentifiable fragments weighing 4.0 grams; Of the teeth fragments remaining only the single roots of an incisor, canine, or lower premolar and an upper molar with the enamel flaked off have survived. The dentine is still present on the molar but any wear pattern or evidence of caries is indiscernable.

KINGSTON RUSSEL 6N - CREMATION N:

The largest fragment from this cremation was 34.0 mm. with the

approximate average size at 22.0 mm. All the fragments were white except for the largest fragment which was grey/black on the outside and black inside. The fragments were heavily calcined showing some fissuring and cracking. There was no twisting, however. The total weight of the cremated bone is 13.0 grams with the total number of fragments being 19. There are 2 skull fragments weighing less than .5 gram; 2 fragments of rib and small tubular bone weighing less than .5 gram; 11 long bone fragments weighing 10.0 grams; and 4 unidentifiable fragments weighing less than .5 gram.

KINGSTON RUSSEL 6N - CREMATION X:

The approximate average size of the fragments of this cremation is 23.0 mm. The majority of the fragments were white in colour with 2 fragments being blue/black. Five of the fragments were unburnt. These unburnt pieces were of articular surfaces and possible skull fragments. The bones were calcined with little cracking. There was no twisting of the bone. The total weight of cremated bone is 25.0 grams with the total number of fragments being 69. There are 5 unburnt fragments weighing 1.5 grams; 2 rib fragments weighing less than .5 gram; 13 long bone fragments weighing 11.0 grams; and 38 unidentifiable fragments weighing 9.0 grams.

KINGSTON RUSSEL BARROW 6G - INTRUSIVE A:

This cremation contained very small fragments and some quite large fragments, enough to be recognisable. The approximate average size of the fragments is 22.5 mm. The majority of the fragments were beige/white with a few grey fragments. Some of the bones included in this group were unburnt. The bones that were burnt are brittle with much fissuring. There was no twisting, however. The total weight of the group is 109.0 grams. The total weight of unburnt bone is 2 grams with the total number of fragments being about 22. Apart from the human fragments there are also some rodent bones. These included an incisor, a skull fragment, and an unidentified fragment.

Of the human bones there is an unfused metacarpal of a juvenile, with no epiphyses; a right acromion fragment; the head and a fragment of the shaft of a first rib; and assorted unidentifiable cancellous fragments. Of the burnt bone there is 28 skull fragments weighing 19.0 grams, which includes one petrous portion, one fragment of sphenoid; 4 teeth fragments weighing less than .5 gram, which includes the crown of an unworn molar which was probably maxillary having 3 cusps, 3 root fragments, one of a premolar and the other two of incisor, canine, or premolar or any combination of the three; 2 scapula fragments weighing 2.5 grams; 10 rib fragments weighing 4.0 grams; and including a fragment of a left first rib; 3 vertebral fragments weighing 1.0 gram, which are of articular facets; 8 fragments of metatarsal weighing 2.0 grams; 31 long bone fragments weighing 37.0 grams, including a portion of the head of a radius; and many unidentifiable fragments weighing 35.5 grams.

KINGSTON RUSSEL BARROW 6G - INTRUSIVE B:

The largest piece of bone from this cremation is 44.5 mm. with the approximate average size being 27 mm. The majority of the fragments were white with a few fragments grey. There was much fissuring and cracking with slight twisting in some of the bigger fragments. The total weight is 76.5 grams with a total of 59 fragments. There are 20 long bone fragments weighing 58.0 grams; 4 vertebral fragments, mostly of bodies and one transverse process, weighing 3.0 grams; and 34 unidentifiable fragments weighing 15.5 grams.

Cremation	Element	No. of Fragments	Weight (in grams)	% of Total
Cremation B	skull frags.	7	4.0	16%
	teeth frags.	2	less than .5	less than 2%
	small long bone frags.	5	1.5	6%
	large long bone frags.	17	14.0	56%
	unidentifiable	18	4.0	16%
Cremation N	skull frags.	2	less than .5	less than 3.8%
	rib and small bone frags.	2	less than .5	less than 3.8%
	large long bone frags.	11	10.0	76.9%
	unidentifiable	4	less than .5	less than 3.8%
Cremation X	unburnt frags.	5	1.5	6%
	rib frags.	2	less than .5	less than 2%
	long bone frags	13	11.0	44%
	unidentifiable	38	9.0	36%
Intrusive A	skull frags.	29	19.0	17.7%
	teeth frags.	4	less than .5	less than .46%
	scapula frags.	2	2.5	2.3%
	rib frags.	10	4.0	3.7%
	vertebral frags.	3	1.0	.92%
	metatarsal frags.	8	2.0	1.85%
	long bone frags.	31	37.0	34.25%
	unidentifiable		35.5	32.87%

Cremation	Element	No. of Fragments	Weight	% of Total
Intrusive B	long bone frags.	20.	58.0	75.9%
	vertebral frags.	4	3.0	3.9%
	unidentifiable	34	15.5	20.2%