

Britain infant burials were often deposited under the eaves of a house with scant ceremony.

The cemeteries were probably the burial grounds of two families: settlers pushing north into the territory of the Iceni.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our gratitude is due above all to Dr. and Mrs. Debenham who most generously gave their finds to the Ipswich Museum and furthermore permitted their house foundations to be undermined; they also provided hospitality to the excavators during decidedly inclement weather.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. W. B. Kingsbury and his men for salvaging so much of the pottery; to Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Dorling for allowing us to borrow their collection; to the Misses B. and R. Copinger Hill and Mrs. B. Hawkes who helped in the excavation, and to the children and others who helped to restore the pottery when the Museum was without a Technician; to Dr. Calvin Wells for his masterly report on the cremated bones; to Mr. M. R. Hull for his comments on the brooches; to Dr. Ian Stead for allowing us to see his report on the burial from Welwyn Garden City and drawings of his grave groups from St Albans in advance of publication; to Dr. A. E. Werner and Miss M. Bimson for X-raying the lumps of corrosion in which several brooch fragments lay concealed; to Mr. F. W. Simpson who prepared the photographs, and to Miss P. M. Butler who placed at our disposal the resources of the Ipswich Museum.

POSTSCRIPT

Additional information received since this paper was written indicates that Nos. 7, 13 and 14 constituted one grave group, that No. 8 was found in isolation, and that No. 9 was accompanied by a bowl, probably No. 12 or one of those in an even more fragmentary condition.

NOTES ON THE CREMATED BONES

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No. 2. This consists of several hundred fragments, most of which are very small. Most areas of the body are represented here. Identifiable are: cranial remains, including many pieces of vault. part of a petrous temporal bone, a small length of superior orbital margin, and pieces of facial skeleton. A few vertebral and pelvic fragments can be identified and many pieces of long bones, including parts of the articular surfaces of humeral, radial and femoral joints.

The sex of these remains is uncertain but is rather more likely to be female than male, despite some sturdy fragments of femoral shaft.

Lengths of unfused cranial sutures may indicate that this was a young adult—but undue weight must not be attached to this feature when estimating age.

The cremation has been efficiently performed.

No. 3. This consists of several dozen fragments, almost all very small.

Identifiable are: parts of a cranial vault and base, including a fragment of mastoid process. Also many splinters of long bones and a small piece of a talus.

These remains are those of an adult of uncertain age. It is almost certainly a male.

No pathology is recognizable.

The cremation has been carried out efficiently.

No. 5. This contains several dozen minute fragments, almost all less than 10 mm. long. They are from a young child, probably in the 2-3 year old range.

A few tiny flakes of cranial vault are recognizable. Two small cusps of a (probably unerupted) deciduous molar tooth—or teeth—survive. A fragment of iliac bone can be identified. Most of the rest are splinters of the shafts of femora, tibiae and other long bones.

No pathology is detectable.

This cremation has been carried out efficiently.

No. 6. This consists of about four dozen very small fragments of bone, most of them less than 5 mm. long. They are so tiny that almost nothing can be said about them. Two flakes of cranial vault and one small spicule of long bone suggest that this was an adult, not a child—but it is difficult to be sure of this. Most of the fragments are unidentifiable splinters of long bone.

Firing has been carried out efficiently.

No. 9. Only a few extremely incomplete fragments are present. They are from an adult, almost certainly a rather lightly built female. Little can be said about them.

Identifiable are fragments (all small) of cranial vault, vertebrae, ribs, pelvis, long bones, and small bones of feet.

No. 11. This consists of a few dozen very tiny fragments.

Identifiable are: a few flakes of cranial vault, a piece of mandible, rib fragments, and some splinters of long bones.

This was an adult; some unfused cranial sutures may suggest a young adult. The sex cannot be determined.

The cremation has been efficiently fired.

No. 16. This contains a few dozen fragments. Included are: a piece of occipital squama and other areas of cranial vault. A few vertebral pieces; part of the head of a humerus and the base of a scapular spine; a splinter of femoral neck and fragments of femoral condyles; rib flakes; a metacarpal head.

This is an adult male.

The cremation is well fired but not well collected although most parts of the body are represented.

No. 19. This contains a few dozen fragments. Identifiable are: some pieces of cranial vault showing unfused sutures and some of cranial base. Vertebral and long bone fragments are present.

This is probably a young adult male.

The cremation has been well fired but indifferently collected or preserved.

No. 20. This consists of a few dozen fragments. Identifiable are part of the glenoid fossa of a scapula, a fragment of femoral condyle and many splinters of long bones.

This was an adult male.

The cremation has been well fired but poorly collected.

No. 21. This consists of a few hundred fragments. Identifiable are: plaques of cranial vault, some of which show advancing fusion of sutures; a few pieces of cranial base; many fragments of vertebrae and ribs; parts of the proximal articular surfaces of a humerus, a radius and both femora; and numerous splinters of long bone shafts.

This is probably a female.

The age is likely to be in the 40-50 year range.

This cremation has been well fired.

No. 22. This contains a few dozen fragments. Identifiable are: parts of a cranial vault, some showing unfused lengths of suture; a mandibular condyle; pieces of vertebrae; fragments from the glenoid surface of a left scapula, from the head of a humerus and the distal part of a humeral shaft. Also splinters of an innominate and long bones.

This is a male. Probably in the 35-45 year range.

The cremation has been well fired. Collection has been poor.

No. 27. This consists of five well fired fragments of adult long bone.

No. 36. This contained several dozen small fragments of an adult, almost certainly a male.

Identifiable are a few fragments of cranial vault; several pieces of vertebrae including the dens of the axis; parts of the shafts and articular ends of long bones; a patella; a few pelvic scraps and the distal articular surface of a phalanx of the hand.

This individual seems, from the evidence of muscle attachments, to have been fairly robustly built.

Osteophytotic remnants were recognizable on the margins of some vertebral bodies and this may suggest (a) that this person was more likely to be over 30 or 35 when he died, than under that age; (b) that he was accustomed to fairly strenuous work.

The cremation has been efficiently fired but subsequently collection of fragments was indifferently carried out, if we can judge from the surviving remains.

SUMMARY

Of the thirteen cremations reported from Boxford, twelve are adult and one a 2-3 year old child. Of the adults, three are likely to be less than 30; three more than 35. Six have been tentatively sexed as male, three as female, and three (in addition to the child) are unsexable.

All cremations were efficiently fired, though collection—or preservation—of the remains has been poor. No pathology was found.

No cremation contained more than one individual.

No animal bones occurred with any of them.

The very poor condition and extreme fragmentation of these remains makes all the conclusions in this report somewhat more uncertain and tentative than usual.