

From the material evidence recovered from the gravel pit and its vicinity, the burial site at Brantham Hall indicates a lengthy period of occupation in the locality. The beaker pottery is characteristic of the regional variations found at this time. The 3 beakers from grave I are important in that they show the diversity in methods of decoration and in design at one time. The urnfield, known only in part, is small compared with other sites in the regional Ardleigh group. The pottery shows the wide variety in size and finger-tip decoration. It is difficult to find, at present, any parallels to urn 9 among contemporary native pottery.⁴ Further excavation is necessary to establish a more complete picture of the Ardleigh group within the southern Deverel-Rimbury complex.

NOTES ON THE CREMATIONS

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Cremation A. ? Male. Age 25-35. This consists of a few dozen fragments, mostly very small. They are almost all from the cranial vault or splinters of long bone shafts. There is no indubitably diagnostic element for the sex of this person, but it is highly probable that this was a male. Muscle markings are well developed. Pieces of cranial vault with early sutural fusion suggest, but do not completely prove, the age range indicated above. Firing of the remains has been efficient throughout. Collection of the fragments was poor. Only one person can be detected here. No animal elements were found.

Cremation B. Unsexable. Child ?5-10 years. This consists of many dozens of fragments, but most of these are little more than grains or spicules of dust. A few small pieces of cranial vault and long bones are recognizable. Firing has been uniformly efficient. Collection of surviving fragments was poor. Only one person seems to be represented here. No animal remains were detected.

Cremation C. Male. Adult. This consists of a few hundred fragments, all of which are very small. Most of these pieces are splinters of long bones. Only a very few tiny fragments of cranial vault are present. Also a few vertebrae, and small bones of hands and feet. Part of the superior margin of the L. orbit makes it virtually certain that this was a male. All fragments have been well fired. Collection of the remains was no more than fairly efficient. Only one person is detectable. No animal fragments were found.

Cremation D. Male. Adult. This consists of several dozen fragments, all of them small. They are almost entirely splinters of long bones, but a few scraps of vertebrae, hand and foot bones are also present. Fragments of cranial vault are virtually absent. Surviving pieces with muscle markings suggest that this was a fairly robust

male. All fragments are well fired. Collection was poor. Only one person can be detected. No animal remains were found.

Cremation E. Male. Adult. This consists of about three dozen fragments, all small. The superior margin of a R. orbit indicates that this was a man. Other identifiable elements include pieces of cranial vault, vertebrae, rib and long bones. A nearly complete R hamate has also survived. Firing is efficient throughout. Collection was poor. Only one person is detectable. No animal remains were found.

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