

Another Bronze Age Cemetery discovered in Allithwaite

A benefit of developing farmland is the requirement to undertake an archaeological assessment of the site as part of the planning application. At Jack Hill, Allithwaite last year an archaeological assessment of the site considered the possibility of Bronze Age burial urns being present as had been discovered in 2001 in a site on Church Road, Allithwaite and so before building commenced Greendale Archaeology excavated 10 random trenches. The first of these contained a small group of pits, one of which contained a mostly intact prehistoric vessel containing cremated remains, and more cremated remains were found in 2 other locations. A larger area around these features was excavated to reveal a further 8 cremation vessels of varying degrees of completeness, thus making a total of 11 cremations. This cremation cemetery was dated to the Early Bronze Age (2100 - 1700 BC). Such burials are scarce in Cumbria and these finds are significant and add to the knowledge of prehistoric settlement and burials.

An arrowhead in two pieces and a small amount of flint and other stone material was also recovered as well as a fragment of iron slag. The occurrence of the arrowhead in such cremations was deemed to be relatively rare. 6kg of bone and teeth will be analysed, the results are awaited with interest.

Extracted from "Land at Jack Hill, Allithwaite, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria. Post-Excavation, Analysis & Publication of Archaeological Fieldwork Project Design" Greendale Archaeology report to Applethwaite Ltd August 2016. The full report is available on request from myself

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