

8 Fuel Ash Slag *by PRJ Duffy*

A quantity of fuel ash slag (or cramp) was recovered from both cists containing cremations. By far the largest amount was from cist 010, which contained 1140.1g. Cist 004 contained 208.3g, with a further 824.4g comprising bone with cramp adhering to the surface of the cremated material. Cist 003 was found to contain 1.1g of this material. It is probable, given the machine truncation across site, that the material from the latter cist is present as a result of machine action.

The association of fuel ash slag with cremated bone

is one that is often found in cremation deposits of this date (eg [Downes 1995](#)). The nature of this material remains enigmatic and is still not fully understood. Recent excavations in Orkney have led to an Historic Scotland-funded analysis of this material in an attempt to resolve the question of its origin (see [Ballin Smith, in prep](#)); further discussion of the subject is underway ([Photos-Jones et al, in prep](#)). Accordingly, analysis of the material from Ferndale was not undertaken at this time.