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| Supplemental Table 2: Stages of Thermal Alteration in Human Remains at McQueen Shell Ring. | | | | | |
| Stage | General Color | Description | Estimated Temp. Range (°C) | Munsell colors |
| 0 | (*unburned*) | Unburnt and unaltered bone |  |  |
| I | Brown / Dark brown | Little structural alteration. Surface may appear mildly warped.1 | < 200º | 10YR 3/6 |
| II | Black | Characteristic sooty appearance due to carbonization.2 Small cracks. | 200º-400º | N1, N2 |
| III | Tan | More structural changes apparent, which include transverse linear fractures (gill pattern), delamination at the edges, and structural warp. Surface may be somewhat glassy where unmarred; not brittle or chalky. In past research, these structural alterations are more often associated with bone fragments that have turned gray.2, 3 The color of the McQueen fragments at this stage may be due to soil contact during cremation2 or after interment.4 | 400º - 800º | 2.5Y 7/10, 5Y 7/10, 10YR 7/8 |
| IV | Yellow | Structural alterations similar to those seen in tan fragments, though the color of most “yellow” fragments might be more accurately described as “ivory.” Slight chalky texture. Taken to be a transitional state between the tan and gray. | ~700º - 900 º | 5Y 9/8 |
| V | Gray | Surface is more irregular. Higher concentration of cracks. Fragments are generally smaller and brittle. | 800º - 1000º | N6, N7, N8 |
| VI | White | Fragments generally very small. Surface is porous. Texture is chalky, and can easily crumble through casual handling. Complete destruction of tooth enamel by this point.3 | 900º-1100 º | N9 |
| VII | Blue-White | White fragments, typically with bluish tint, though ancillary tint may be pink or yellow.1 Fragments are chalky. | 1100+º | N9, with 2.5PB 8/2, 2.5R 9/2, 7.5Y 9/8 |
| Notes: 1 – (Shipman et al. 1984); 2 - (Walker et al. 2008); 3 - (Holck 2008); 4 - (Svenson and Wendel 1965). | | | | |