

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
London and Continental Railways
Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture**

**Human remains from Whitehill Road Barrow,
Longfield and New Barn, Kent**

by Bill White

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 3

2 METHODOLOGY 3

3 RESULTS 3

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY 4

1 INTRODUCTION

An Early Bronze Age secondary burial (41) was discovered cutting into the inner ditch (context 3) of the double ring ditch.

2 METHODOLOGY

The state of bone preservation was addressed by reference to published guidelines (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Age at death was estimated using tooth wear stages (Brothwell 1981). Sex was estimated using skull dimorphism (Ferembach *et al.*, 1980; Brothwell 1981). Cranial and post-cranial measurements were taken where possible (Bass 1995; Brothwell 1981). Non-metric traits were recorded so far as possible (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978; Brothwell 1981). The jaws were examined for non-metric traits, dental hygiene and pathology (Berry 1978; Hillson 1986). Information on general pathology was sought (Ortner and Putschar 1985).

3 RESULTS

The burial was considerably truncated, with only 25-30% of the skeleton surviving. Very little remained below the waist and the upper parts were somewhat fragmentary. The surface of the bone showed patches of weathered cortex but also widespread fibrous degeneration. These circumstances greatly limited what could be discerned from the skeletal remains for this individual.

The remains represented those of an adult *c.* 18-25 yr., probable female. Poor preservation severely limited the amount of recoverable metric, non-metric and pathological data, and it was impossible to calculate stature or offer data on general physique.

In a full dentition, with the exception of the right mandibular molar, linear enamel hypoplasia was evident in the maxillary incisor and canine teeth and in both of the mandibular canines. This is indicative of some form of stress or disease experience in childhood, during the period when the crowns of these teeth became mineralised, *viz.* between four to five years and between six and seven years, respectively (van Beek 1983, 49-66). Despite the relative youth of this person an accumulation of grade 1 calculus on incisor, premolar and third molar teeth was observed. This indicated an absence of oral hygiene practice and of any dietary self-cleaning practices.

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