Southampton Archaeology Unit

Report 1104

Report on Archaeological Watching Brief at
82 Oliver's Battery Road,
Winchester, Hampshire

Scheduled Monument No 12141

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2013

Client: English Heritage (5952 ANL)

Archaeological Watching Brief at 82 Oliver's Battery Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

By Dr A D Russel BA PhD MIFA

Archaeology Unit report	1104
Ordnance Survey grid reference	SU 4587 2796
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Executive summary

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit carried out a watching brief on the groundworks for a garage and link at 82 Oliver's Battery Road, Winchester between 16th and 18th November 2009. The work was carried out in response to a planning condition on planning application 05/0322/FULLS. The site lies to the south of Badger Farm Road and north of Downlands Road to the south of Winchester at grid ref 458279. The site lay within the scheduled area around a Bronze Age bowl barrow designated Scheduled Monument Number 12141 which was subject to excavation in the 1930s. Those excavations revealed that a secondary use of the site was as an inhumation cemetery and a number of skeletons, some headless, were found.

The watching brief was carried out partly within and partly outside the scheduled area of the upstanding prehistoric burial mound, and revealed a small cemetery. Graves, possible graves, possible post-pits and other features were found. Part of one grave was threatened by the foundations and it was excavated. The legs of three skeletons were removed; others beneath them were left in-situ. One individual had been buried face down, and fettered to another individual in the same grave. Radiocarbon dates from the three individuals spanned the period AD 980-1170. The broken bones in the legs of one individual showed that they had fallen from a height onto outstretched feet, around the time they died.

The set of fetters is the first such artifact to be found in a burial context. It was tight-fitting and used two rivets to close each shackle, rather than a padlock.

Topographically the site lay on the high land overlooking the Itchen Valley, close to Port-Lane, a route way from Winchester to Romsey that formed the boundary of the Soke of Winchester, an area of land surrounding the city of Winchester that was under the direct jurisdiction of the Bishop, certainly from the Conquest onwards.

The site was probably used as an execution cemetery and the possible post-pits may have held gallows for hanging or exhibiting criminals. A later grave cut one possible posthole, suggesting the site was long-lived.

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1 The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council carried out an archaeological watching brief on groundworks to replace a garage with a new double garage and link to the house at 82 Oliver's Battery Road, Winchester, Hants for Mr T Ottridge (fig 1).

1.2 The site lies on the chalk to the south of Badger Farm Road and north of Downlands Road to the south of Winchester at grid ref SU 45872796. The work was carried out in response to a planning condition imposed on planning application 05/0322/FULLS between 16th and 18th November 2009. The site lay partly within the scheduled area around a Bronze Age burial mound, situated to the south.

1.3 The site lies on the Seaford Chalk, previously known as the Upper Chalk (BGS 1998). The soil on the site was a calcareous rendzina soil over weathered chalk.

1.4 The site lies at approximately 120mOD towards the top of a hill overlooking the valley of the Itchen to the east.

1.5 The watching brief was carried out by Dr A Russel BA PhD MIfA on the 16th, 17th, and 18th November 2009. Three areas, one 7.35m by 5.75m (Trenches 1-5), a second (Trench 6) 2.0m by 0.60m for post pads, and a third 1.6m by 1m (Trench 7) for a soakaway, were excavated by machine (Fig 2).

1.6 The works revealed natural chalk cut by a number of features, some of which were clearly graves. After discussions with English Heritage and Winchester City Council all the graves apart from one were left in-situ after suitable protection with geotextile. The one excavated grave lay partly inside the area of the new building. The grave contained multiple burials and the legs of a number of individuals were removed; the skeletons lower down in the grave were left in-situ.

1.7 The householder was concerned about the potential costs of the post-excavation work and this was funded by English Heritage through the HEEP programme.

1.8 The English Heritage Project Number was 5952 and the English Heritage Project Assurance Officer was Dr Helen Keeley.

1.9 The author would like to thank Mr Tim Ottridge, the householder, f Tracey Mathews of Winchester City Council, and Drs Richard Massey of English Heritage for their assistance with the project.

2. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

2.1 The aims of the investigation as defined in the written scheme of investigation were *'to record any evidence of human use of the site, particularly in relation to the construction and use of the nearby Bronze Age bowl barrow'*. (Southampton Archaeology 2009)

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 The fieldwork as defined by the written scheme of investigation was that *'The groundworks will consist of the excavation of trenches for foundations. All excavation work within the scheduled area will be subject to a watching brief.'* (Southampton Archaeology 2009). A soakaway trench was also dug.
The trenches were excavated by mechanical digger using a toothless bucket by the contractor in accordance with the drawings submitted for planning permission.

3.2 All archaeological records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system. The colours of deposits were recorded using the Munsell Soil Color Chart and are in the archive. The trenches were located onto a print out of the digital OS base map for the area using direct measurement. The corners of the trenches were located as follows:

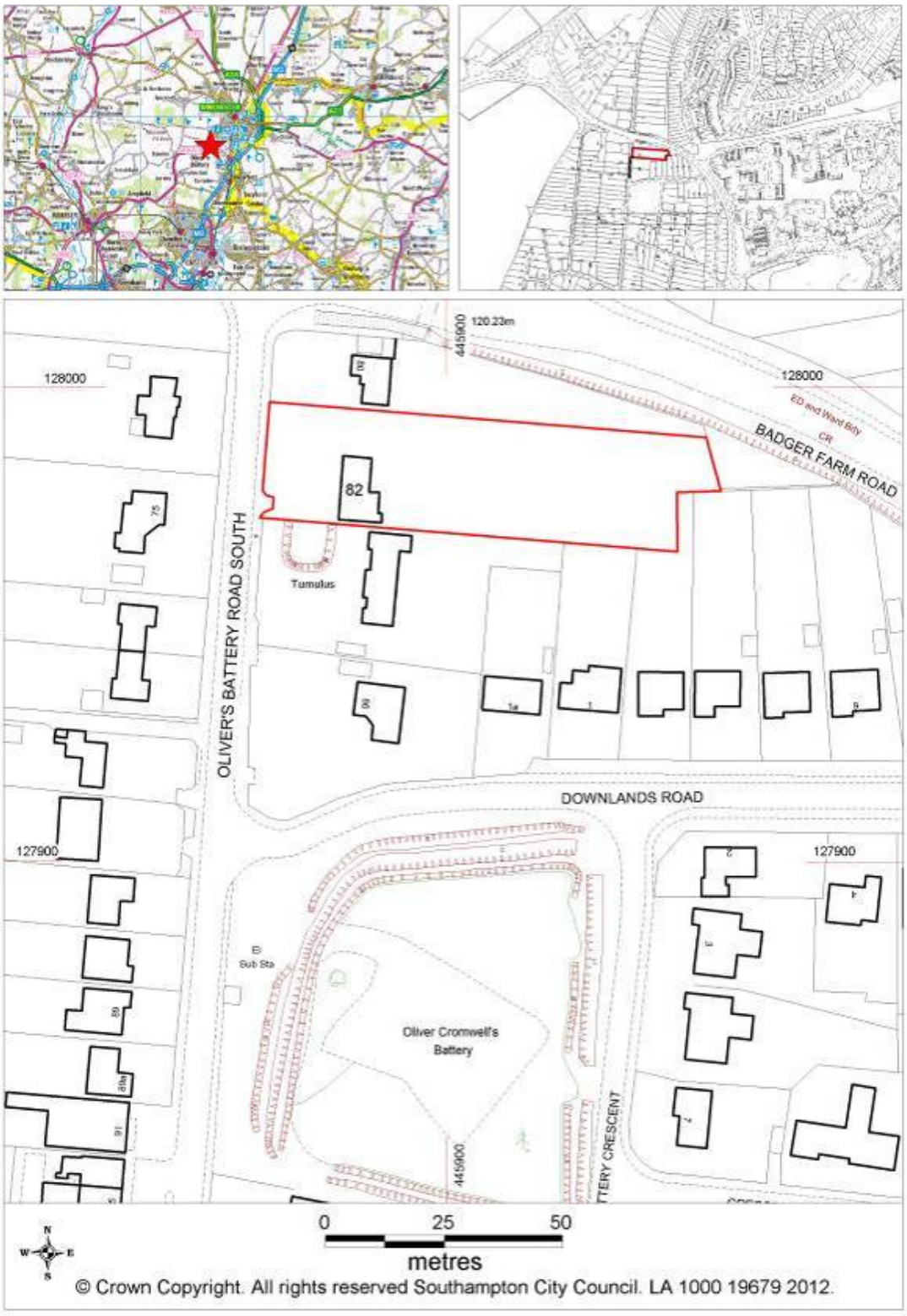

Figure 1. The location of 82 Oliver's Battery Road. The earthwork known as Oliver Cromwell's Battery lies to the south of the site.

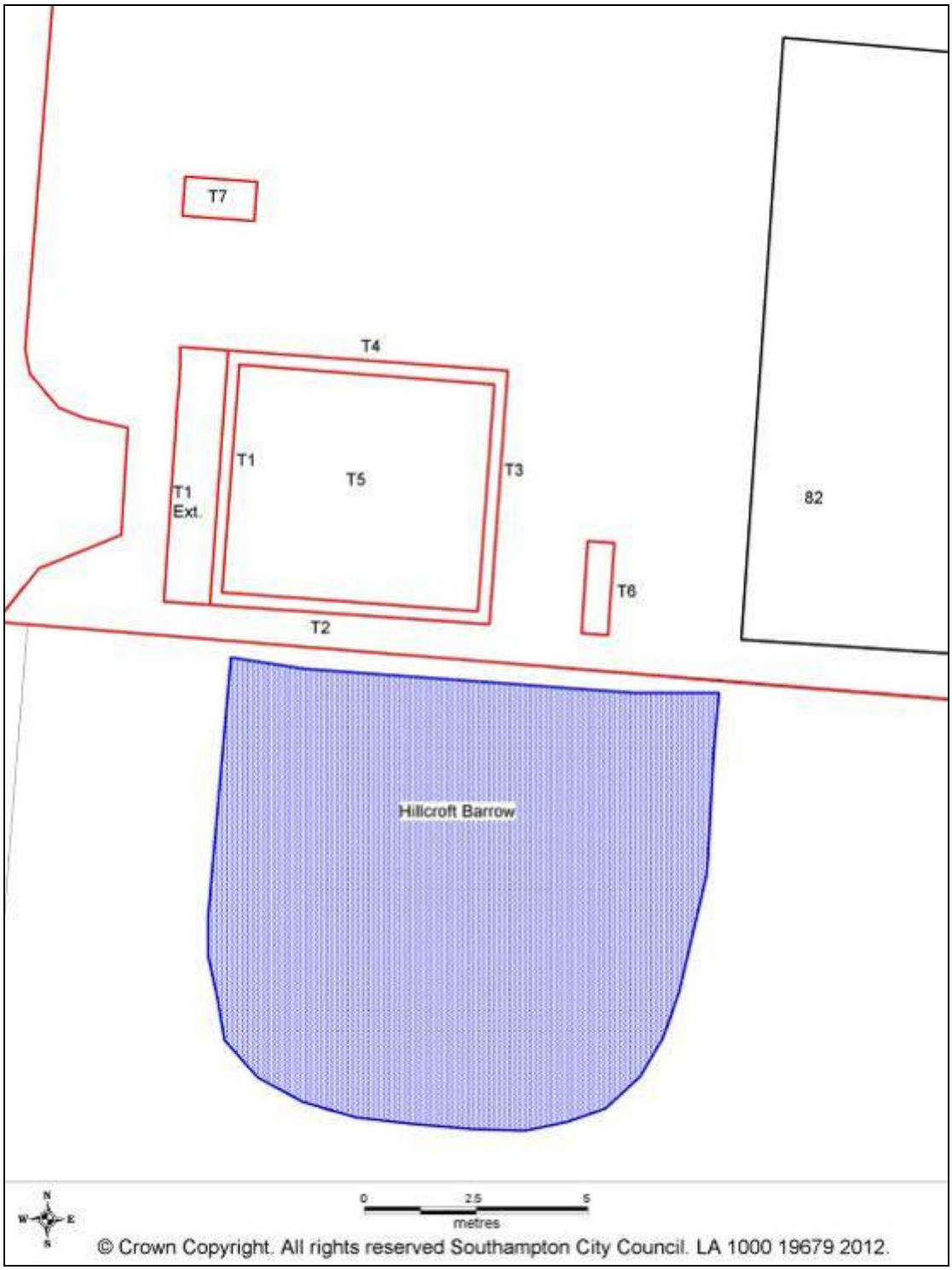

Figure 2. Trench Plan, with upstanding mound of the Hillcroft barrow to the south.

Trench	Location	Grid reference
Trenches 1-5	Northwest	445865 127979
	Northeast	445872 127978
	Southwest	445864 127973
	Southeast	445872 127973
Trench 6	Northwest	445874 127974
	Northeast	445875 127974
	Southwest	445874 127972
	Southeast	445874 127972
Trench 7	Northwest	445865 127983
	Northeast	445867 127982
	Southwest	445865 127982
	Southeast	445866 127982

4. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The chalk downland to the south of Winchester is rich in archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic period onwards. There are a number of ditched enclosures thought to be settlements, and numerous round barrows. Archaeological sites recorded on the Winchester Historic Environment Record within 500m of 82 Oliver's Battery Road are shown in figure 3. The sites are as follows

1. Quartzite pebble mace head with hour-glass perforation, a stray find. Thought to be Mesolithic. NGR SU 458278

2. A Neolithic axe, found in the bank of the Oliver's Battery earthwork. NGR SU 458278.

3. Neolithic flint knife, finely worked on both long edges and one short end, found at 3 Mount View Road. NGR SU 45652773.

4. Bronze Age bowl barrow in the grounds of 'Hillcroft', surviving some 700mm high with 3m wide ditch. Excavations in 1930 found a primary cremation urn in a hole cut into the chalk with 6-7 secondary urns, calcined bones and charcoal. NGR SU 45872796.

5. Bronze Age pottery sherds and bone fragments found in 1942 in the grounds of 'Saxonhurst'. Possibly a cremation. NGR SU 45962786

6. Bronze Age pit found in evaluation of land at Pitt Manor in 2012. Three pottery vessels, together with freshly knapped flint flakes, and a burnt sarsen fragment. NGR SU 45722845

7. Iron Age/Roman Sub-rectangular enclosure, known as Oliver Cromwell's Battery. Internal dimensions of 75m (N-S) by 66m. The bank survives up to 1m above the ground surface, with an external ditch, up to 8m wide and up to 1.5m below the top of the bank. A bank and ditch which extended south-eastwards from the southwest corner of the monument has been destroyed. Excavations in 1930 recovered Iron Age and early Roman material. NGR SU 45892786.

8. Anglo-Saxon burial found in 1930 (Andrew 1932, 11-19) cutting into the earthwork of Oliver Cromwell's Battery. Male inhumation, orientated towards the north and accompanied by a bronze hanging bowl placed over the chest, a silver-pommelled scramasax with the remains of a wooden sheath, and an iron spear head. Dated to the second half of the 7th or early part of the 8th century (Geake 1999, 7-8). NGR SU 45922789.

9 Secondary burials from 'Hillcroft' barrow. Excavations in 1930 found numerous secondary burials inserted into the 'Hillcroft' bowl barrow. Many had been decapitated; iron buckles suggest the bodies were clothed. NGR SU 45872796.

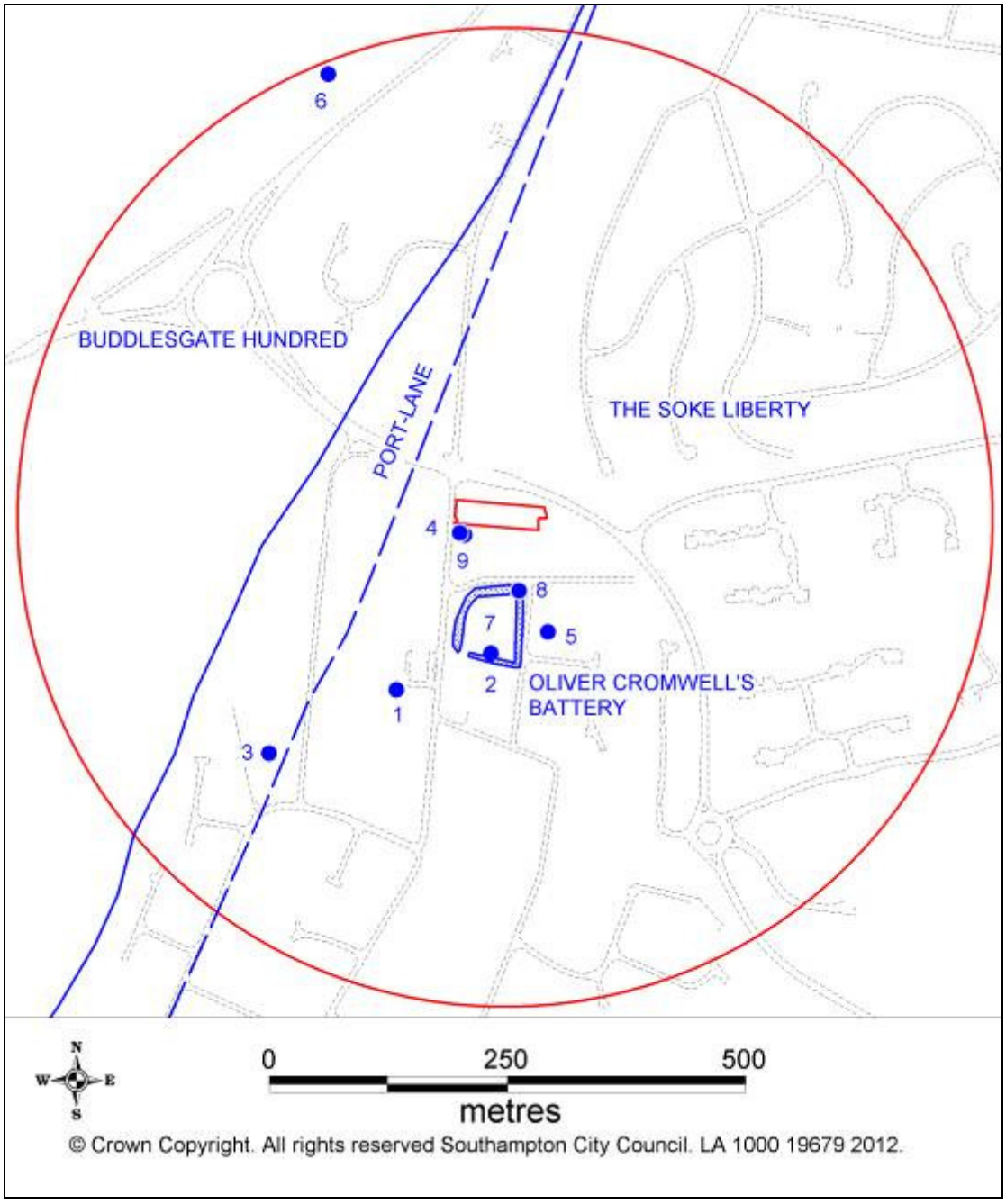

Figure 3. Finds and sites in the area around the site, shown as a red rectangle.

Some 70m to the west of the site lies the Port-Lane. This was the old route from Winchester to Hursley and on to Romsey, marked on both Taylor's 1759 map of Hampshire, and the Ordnance Survey's 1810 edition, which give the name hyphenated. The north end of Port-Lane has disappeared, but further south it survives as Old Kennel Lane and then Port Lane. The name Port-Lane suggests that the road, which runs adjacent to the site, was in existence

in the Saxon period, reinforced by its closely following the boundary of Buddlesgate Hundred.

The boundary of Buddlesgate Hundred lies some 170m to the west of the site. Buddlesgate Hundred covered a large area to the north, west and south of Winchester, and was the property of the prior and convent of St Swithun in Winchester (Page 1908, 401). The Priory was said to have been founded in 634 by Cenwalh, King of Wessex, acquiring its dedication to St Swithun in 971, and being later known as Old Minster (Page 1903, 108). The land to the west of the boundary was in the Soke or Liberty of Winchester. The Soke was held by the Bishops of Winchester, and was an area of land in and around the city that fell under the personal jurisdiction of the Bishop. It is thought to have been established at the Conquest (Page 1912, 47).

4.2 These finds suggest this hilltop has attracted people for millennia. The Neolithic finds (2 & 3) may relate to the clearance of the woodland cover from the chalk. Certainly by the Bronze Age the area was probably open and the hilltop was chosen for burial with a barrow situated on the crest of the ridge (4), another probable burial to the southeast of it (5), and a pit with a possible structured deposit to the northwest (6). In the Iron Age an enclosure was sited on the highest point (7). The area was chosen again for the burial of a high status individual around AD 700, placed in the bank of the Iron Age enclosure (8).

4.3 Of greater relevance to the site in question is the work of Walter Andrew who investigated the Hillcroft Barrow at 84 Oliver's Battery Road in 1930. As part of the investigation of the Oliver Cromwell's Battery earthwork Andrew also excavated a three-foot-wide trench from north to south across the barrow which now lies within Nos 82 and 84 Oliver's Battery Road. He described it as "a low 'round' barrow 38ft by 32ft in diameter and of an average height of only 3ft." The locals knew the site as 'a burial mound of the great plague at Winchester in 1666' (Andrew 1932, 9-10).

4.4 A disturbed, central, urn was revealed together with cremated bone, but the excavation was abandoned due to the large number of skeletons, which being left in-situ, prevented further excavation. Andrew described them as 'thrown upon the natural surface of the soil in any direction, and even crossing each other." He recorded three headless skeletons north of an area which conversely contained more skulls than bodies. One loose fragment of bone bore two cuts. Artifacts consisted of a bottle and a 'churchwarden pipe', together with two iron buckles. Andrew considered the buckles to be of the Cromwellian period, and the skeletons to be of that date, with the 18th century bottle and pipe relating to an antiquarian excavation which had disturbed the central cremation (Andrew 1932, 9-10). None of the finds or any records of the work made their way to a public collection.

4.5 The barrow, designated Scheduled Monument Number 12141 now lies partly within the boundary of No 82 Oliver's Battery Road, with the majority of the upstanding mound being in the property to the south, No 84. The barrow is recorded on the Winchester District HER as 'Hillcroft bowl barrow' under no MWC3780.

5. RESULTS

A number of features were observed (fig 4). Some intercut but not enough to be able to define a stratigraphic sequence.

5.1 Natural

Natural chalk, 3, was encountered in all trenches except Trench 6. In Trench 7, the soakaway, it was seen to be at least 1.2m deep. Context 2 was a layer of weathered chalk, some 200mm thick, that was encountered across the entire site. There was some evidence of disturbance of its upper surface, possibly due to ploughing.

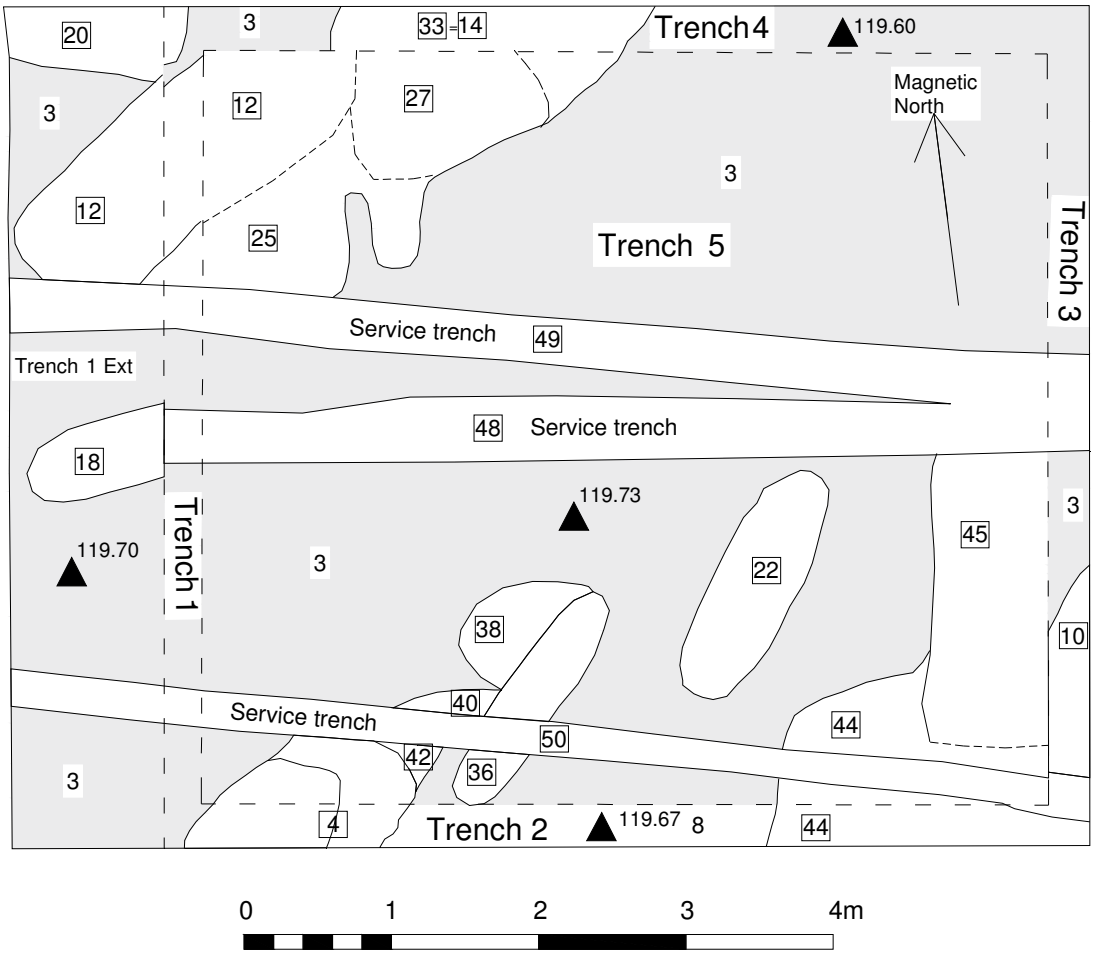

Figure 4. Plan of Trenches 1 to 5, showing the features. The chalk is shown as grey.

5.3 Possible barrow ditch

At the south end of Trench 5 and in Trench 2 was a deposit of soil, context 8. It was brown silty clay with a high density of chalk fragments and much disarticulated human bone including a broken tibia, a fibula and foot bones, all belonging to an adult (over 18yrs). In Trench 5 soil 8 lay on the natural chalk but in Trench 2 it was still present in the base of the trench after it had been excavated to formation depth so it would appear to fill a feature [9] with a fairly steep north edge and to spill over that edge northwards. It is assumed that the edge of feature 9 coincided with north edge of Trench 2 and it was removed

by the machine and is therefore not illustrated on figure 4. Given the presence of the barrow mound to the south it is likely that the feature is the barrow ditch, although it could have been an east-west grave.

A similar deposit to context 8 was seen in Trench 6 where it was numbered 29, from which fragments of adult human bone were collected. If both soils were in the same feature it was over 7m from east to west so is likely to be the ditch around the barrow.

5.4 Possible post-pits

Two features were much smaller than the probable graves and may have been pits, perhaps for posts.

Feature 38

Feature [38] lay in the southern half of the site and was sub-circular measuring at least 0.90m in diameter. It contained chalky brown silty clay, (39), which included fragments of human bone. The human bone was left in situ. The eastern half of this pit had been removed by grave [36].

Feature 40

Feature [40] lay adjacent to and south of feature [38]. It measured at least 0.75m in length and 0.20m in width, but had had its eastern end removed by grave [36] and its southern half removed by water pipe trench [50]. It contained fill (41), brown chalky silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5.5 Features of uncertain purpose

The definite graves were aligned northeast—southwest. A number of other features, not on this alignment, were found. As they were not excavated further, and in some cases not fully exposed, they can only be said to be of an uncertain purpose.

Feature 20

Feature [20] was located in the northwest corner of the site. It measured at least 1.22m east-west by at least 470mm north-south and was 300mm deep. It contained fill (21), a brown silty clay loam from which no finds were recovered.

Feature 25

Feature 25 was an area of soil in the northwest corner of the site. It may have been a number of intercutting graves, itself cut by graves 12, 27 and possibly 14. It measured at least 3.5m by at least 1.0m by 300mm deep. It was cut by graves 12 and 27 to the north and by modern service 49 to the south. Its relationship to grave 14 to the north is uncertain. Its fill, 26, was brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Feature 27

Feature [27] was an irregular feature, at least 1.3m by 1.0m and at least 300mm deep. Its relationship to grave 14 was uncertain but it cut feature [25] and appeared to be cut by grave [12]. Its fill, (28), was a yellow silt loam which contained human bone and West Country roof slate. A rib bone from an adult (over 18yrs) was recovered.

Feature 44

Feature [44] was an irregular feature in the south-east corner of the site. It measured at least 2.22m by 1.25m and was at least 300mm deep but its east and southern edges were outside the excavated area. It cut context 8 and was cut to the northeast by feature [45]. It contained fill (17), a pinkish-white fine silt. No finds were recovered.

Feature 45

Feature [45] was aligned north—south, and was sub-rectangular measuring at least 2.0m in length by 1.16m wide. It cut feature 44 to the south. The north end had been removed by a modern service, the east side by the machine. It contained fill (24), brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5.6 Graves

Grave 4

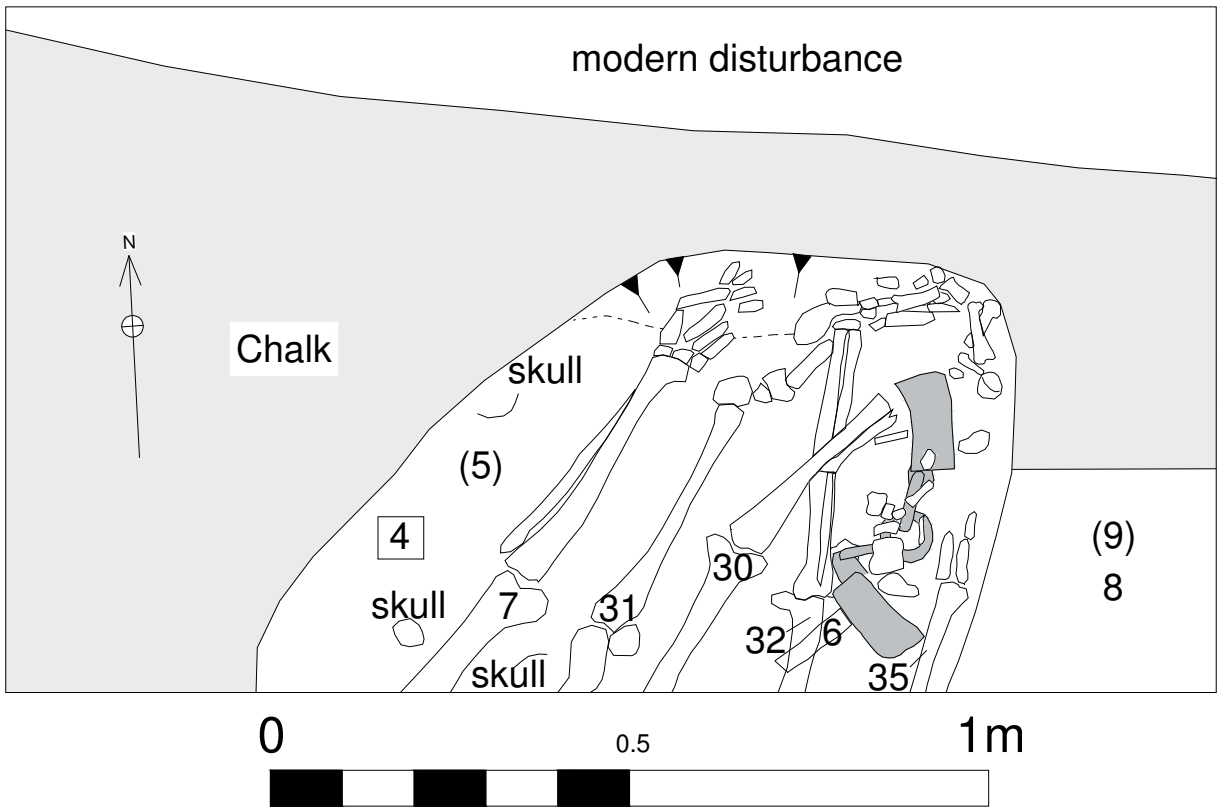

Figure 5: Plan of skeletons in grave 4 ***(showing fetters in dark grey).***

This grave was located at the southern edge of the site towards the western corner of the foundation trenches. It was a northeast—southwest rectangular cut with rounded ends (fig 5). It had near vertical sides where exposed and the exposed part of the grave was 1.30m long by 940mm wide. Some 300mm in depth was excavated but the full depth was not reached and further skeletons were present beneath the level at which the archaeological excavation ceased. The grave cut soil (8) in [9] (the possible barrow ditch) and feature [42] (a possible grave). The fill of the grave, (5) was a brown silty clay loam (figure 5). Apart from human bone the only find recovered from the fill was a burnt flint.

Several skeletons were exposed within the grave cut. All that was exposed were the lower legs; each one was given a context number. The legs of four

individuals were removed. Further skeletons were left in-situ in the grave. K Egging Dinwiddy of Wessex Archaeology provided descriptions of the skeletal material (Appendix 1, of which brief details are given here.

Figure 6: View of Grave 4 from the south showing skeletons and the fetters (right).

Individual One

Individual One, contexts 7 and 31, was a fairly large & robust male, *c.* 1.70 to 1.71m (*c.* 5'7") in height, and aged over 18 years (but not old). He was buried supine. The left foot showed signs of an advanced bunion *Hallux valgus*, and the metatarsals exhibit dorsal extension, perhaps from persistent pressure on the mid-foot causing plantar splaying and dorsal constriction.

Individual Two

Individual Two, contexts 30 and 32, was a large male, c. 18-35 years, and *c.* 1.74 to 1.75m (*c.* 5'9") in height. He was buried prone. The ankle of the right leg, 30, was fettered to Individual Three. The right foot showed hyper-flexion of the feet and ankles, the left foot had changes as seen in congenital *talipes calcaneo-valgus* (the opposite of 'clubfoot'), and *pes planus* (flat footedness) (Adams 1986, 438).

Individual Two has a variety of fractures and injuries to the lower limbs, consistent with a fall or drop onto the feet from a height (Appendix 5). None of the lesions show any signs of healing. The nature of the fractures (macro- and microscopically) determined that they occurred in green or fresh bone (Lyman 1994, 315-328).

Individual Three

Individual Three, context 6 and context 35, was probably male, and aged 18-35. He was buried supine. Lateral squatting facets were observed in the tibiae, the only individual in the grave to have them. The left leg, 6, was fettered to Individual Two.

Individual Four

Context 51 was allocated to two metatarsals recovered with the left foot of Individual One. They were of a pale greyish colour, and noticeably smaller than the metatarsals of the Individuals One, Two and Three. Sex: uncertain; age: adult >18 years.

Other skeletal material

The grave backfill (context 5) included four fragments of human skull with old breaks. They were scattered throughout the grave (fig 5). These came from adults greater than 18 years, and probably male. Also recovered was a small fragment of arm from a fairly robust & large individual, a large fragment of a right scapula, a small fragment of a left scapula, a finger bone and two toe bones.

Radiocarbon Dating

Three samples, from Individuals 1-3, were submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) and Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit (ORAU). Appendix 4 gives full details of the radiocarbon dates. A synthesis is given here.

> The results (Table 1) are conventional radiocarbon ages (Stuiver and Polach 1977), and are quoted in accordance with the international standard known as the Trondheim convention (Stuiver and Kra 1986). The calibrations of these results, which relate the radiocarbon measurements directly to the calendrical time scale, are given in Table 1. All have been calculated using the datasets published by Reimer *et al* (2009) and the computer program OxCal v4.1 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; 1998; 2001; 2009). The ranges in Table 1 have been calculated according to the maximum intercept method (Stuiver and Reimer 1986); the probability distributions shown in Figure 1 are derived from the probability method (Stuiver and Reimer 1993).

Laboratory number	Sample reference	Material	$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)	$\delta^{15}N$ (‰)	Radiocarbon Age (BP)	Calibrated Date (95% confidence)
OxA-25745	AY 420 (7) Individual 1	Human bone, left femur	-19.2	+8.2	942±24	cal AD 1020-1170
OxA-25679	AY 420 (30) Individual 2	Human bone, right femur	-18.9	+11.0	991±26	cal AD 990-1150
SUERC-37908	AY 420 (6) Individual 3	Human bone, left tibia	-18.9	+11.6	991±26	cal AD 980-1160

Table 1: 82 Oliver's Battery Road, Winchester – radiocarbon results

The three measurements are statistically consistent (T'=2.3; ν=2; T'(1%)=6.0; Ward and Wilson 1978) and thus all the individuals could have died at the same time. These individuals therefore all probably died in the eleventh or twelfth centuries cal AD.

The Fetters

A set of iron fetters were found around the right leg (30) of Individual Two and the left leg (6) of Individual Three. P Ottaway has provided full details in Appendix 2 and a synthesis is given here.

The object (fig 7) is composed of two robust straps formed into U-shaped fittings joined by two figure 8-shaped links with a ring between them. Each U-shaped fitting has an arm which is drawn out at one end into an eye joined to a figure 8-shaped link. Each fitting is also pierced twice on each side of the 'mouth' and the mouth is then closed by a pair of sturdy rivets flattened at the head. One fitting is bent inwards slightly at the mouth, broken over one of the rivet holes and the rivet is missing.

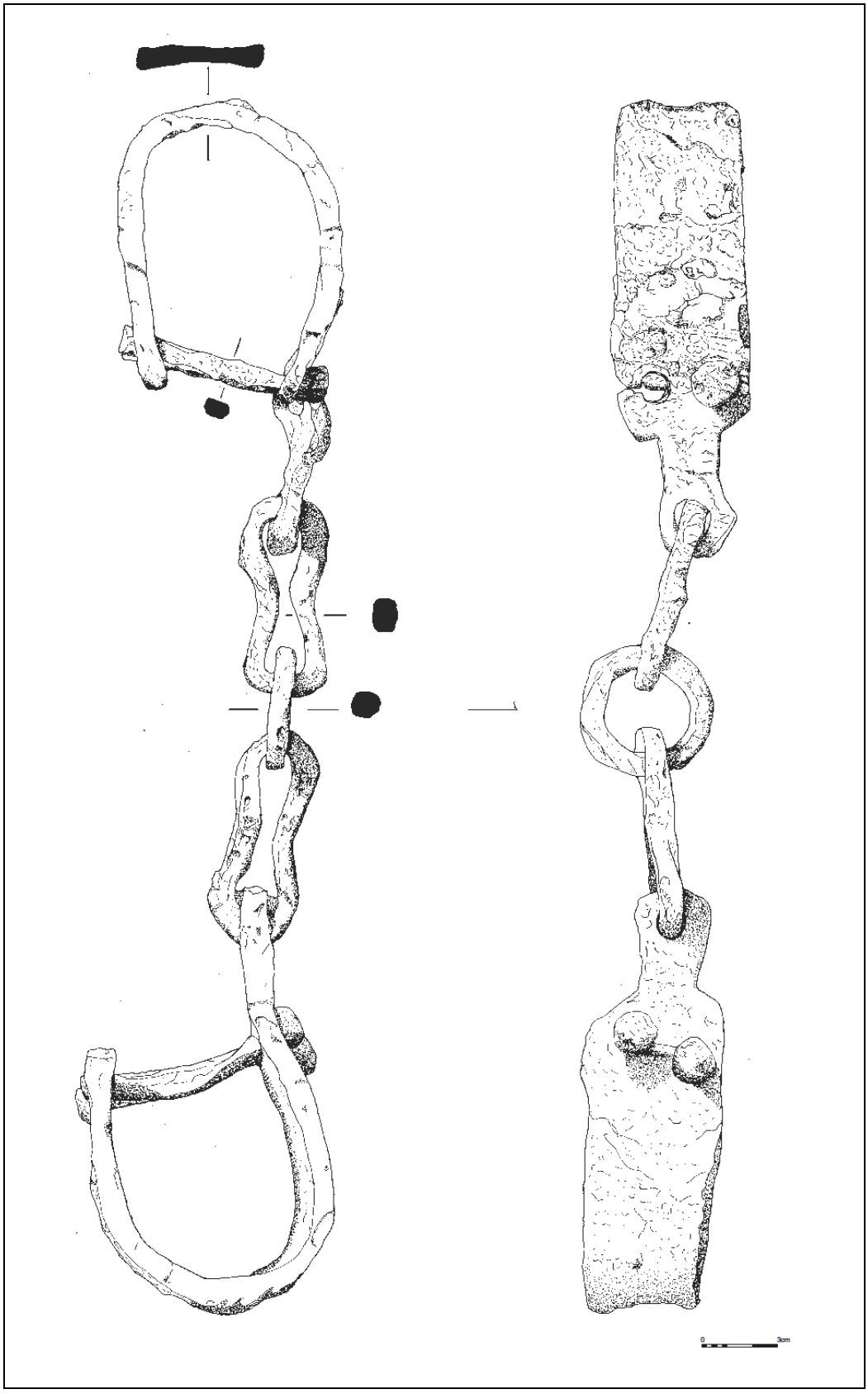

Figure 7. The fetters after cleaning (drawn by M Footit).

This object is unusual and very important evidence for the history of punishment and restraint, especially as there is no known comparable item from the periods in question. As was shown by the burial, the U-shaped fittings would have fitted around a person's ankles preventing them from walking freely. The size of the fittings, with an internal diameter of c.70mm, suggests they were a tight fit. Although the rivets closing the U-shaped fittings could have been removed, the Oliver's Battery fetters were probably intended for the restraint of an individual over a long period of time rather than being temporary as in the case of fetters with a lock.

Organic Remains

The fetters were examined for organic traces by P Walton Rogers (see Appendix 3) and a small area of reddish brown material on the inner surface of the shackle around the right leg of Individual Two was examined. It proved to be organic material and probably represents decayed and semi-mineralised flesh or leather.

Grave 10

Grave [10] was exposed in Trench 3. Only a small part of the northwest edge of the cut was seen which suggested the grave was aligned northeast—southwest. It measured at least 1.47m by 300mm by 300mm and contained fill (11), a brown silty clay loam. An area of spongy human bone, probably part of a pelvis, was exposed; it was left in situ. The southern edge of this feature had been removed by modern water pipe trench [50].

Grave 12

Grave [12] was a northeast—southwest parallel sides probable grave in the north west area of the site. It measured at least 1.84m by 900mm by 300m. Its fill (13) was a brown silty clay loam which did not produce any finds. It cut Grave 27 and was cut by modern service trench [49].

Grave 14/33

Grave [14/33] was exposed in the base of Trench 4 in the northernmost part of the site. It was difficult to differentiate from feature [25]. If it was aligned northeast-southwest then it was some 1.6m wide and probably was a multiple burial. The exposed part was at least 2.10m east-west by 300m north-south

and it was over 300mm deep. It contained fill (15/34) a brown silty clay loam. At its west end the top of a skull (16) was revealed; it was left in situ.

Grave 18

Grave [18] was aligned east-northeast—west-southwest. It measured at least 1.0m long by 480mm wide and 150mm deep, and had rounded ends. Its east end had been cut away by Trench 1 and its upper levels had been truncated by a shallow modern service trench [48], but it can have been no more than 1.3m in length originally and if a grave was probably for a child, or a partial body. It contained fill (19) a brown silty clay loam from which no finds were recovered.

Grave 22

Grave [22] was a parallel-sided grave with rounded ends. It was aligned northeast—southwest and measured 1.70m long by 550mm wide. It contained fill (23), a brown silty clay loam. No finds were recovered.

Grave 36

Grave [36] was a northeast—southwest aligned, narrow, parallel-sided feature with rounded ends. It measured 1.69m by 390mm and was not excavated. It cut pits [38] and [40] and was cut by modern water pipe trench [50]. Its fill, (37), was a dark yellowish brown, silty clay containing fragments of human bone including a humerus.

Grave 42

A small part of grave [42] was exposed measuring 340mm by 160mm. It had been almost completely removed by grave [4] to the south and by the water pipe trench [50] to the north. It contained brown silty clay (43) that contained a fragment of tibia that was left in situ.

5.7 Modern

Three modern features crossed the site. They were features [48], an electric cable trench, [49] a service trench, and [50] a water pipe trench.

6. DISCUSSION

The site has a number of traits that make it unusual.

- Variations in burial alignment. It is difficult to be certain that the unexcavated features were graves, but of those identified as graves the alignments are either with the head to the west (grave 18) or with the head to the southwest (graves 4, 10, 12, 14/33,22, 36, and 42). Other features that may have been graves were aligned closer to north—south (features 25 and 45) or east-west (feature 20). Such variation from the more usual west-east alignment is typical of execution cemeteries (Reynolds 2009, 158), and can be seen in the Hampshire execution cemeteries such as Meon Hill, where the bodies had the head to the north or to the south (Liddell 1933); Stockbridge Down where the orientation seems random (Hill 1937); and Old Dairy Cottage, Harestock, where the bodies were laid with heads predominantly to the southeast (Reynolds 2009, 118).
- A prone burial. Reynolds has argued that prone burials in the Christian period are indicators of offences involving superstition, witchcraft, and sorcery, but also continue a pagan practice of burying in a way designed to stop 'powerful' individuals from returning to haunt the living. The other Hampshire execution cemeteries of Meon Hill, Stockbridge Down and Old Dairy Cottage all contained prone burials.
- Two individuals fettered together. Individuals Two and Three were fettered together. A contemporary record of fetters being used at an execution comes from a continental account of the Guildford massacre in 1036, where Earl Godwine decimated the aethling Aelfred's retinue. The Flemish *Encomium Emmae Reginae* (c1041-2) has the victims manacled and fettered before being speared to death (Reynolds 2009, 58).
- Presence of a gallows. The large possible post-pits 38 and 40 can be matched at other early medieval execution sites (Reynolds 2009, 158-9), including an example from Stockbridge Down, Hants. Individual Two fell from a height onto outstretched legs, inflicting multiple

breakages on the legs and ankles, possibly after being cut down from a gallows.

- Multiple burials. Grave 4 contained at least four burials. The lowest burial could have been earlier, but the top three were probably buried at the same time. Multiple burials point to contemporaneous execution and/or display of corpses, and double burials are known from the Hampshire execution cemeteries of both Stockbridge Down and Old Dairy Cottage. Contemporary burial of more than three individuals, however, is rare, known only at Dunstable and Guildown (Reynolds 2009, 176-7).
- Evidence of decapitation, The scattered fragments of skull in grave 4 could be evidence of decapitation although none showed evidence of cut marks. Andrew's excavations in the Hillcroft barrow, a few metres south of the present work provides better evidence and Reynolds has argued (2009, 60) that Andrew found an execution cemetery as evidenced by a number of bodies without skulls, and groups of skulls found together without bodies. Such findings are paralleled at other Hampshire execution sites; at Stockbridge Down 12% were decapitated, at Meon Hill 56% were decapitated, and at Old Dairy Cottage 78% were decapitated. At Old Dairy Cottage references to *heafod stocc* 'headstakes' in the Saxon charter bounds point to display of skulls, and Aelfric's late 10th-century description of a city marked by the heads of wrongdoers placed outside the city walls, was written in Winchester at this time (Reynolds 2009, 119).
- Location on a prominent position in the landscape. The Hillcroft Barrow occupied a prominent position in the landscape. It first attracted burials in the Bronze Age (fig 8), and the Saxon use of Oliver Cromwell's Battery for an elite burial c. AD 700, shows that such dominant positions were still considered important in the Saxon period. The later use of the hilltop for execution would have allowed a gallows to be seen from as wide a compass as possible. It would have been potentially visible to any traveller heading north up the Itchen valley, approaching Winchester from the southwest, or travelling along the

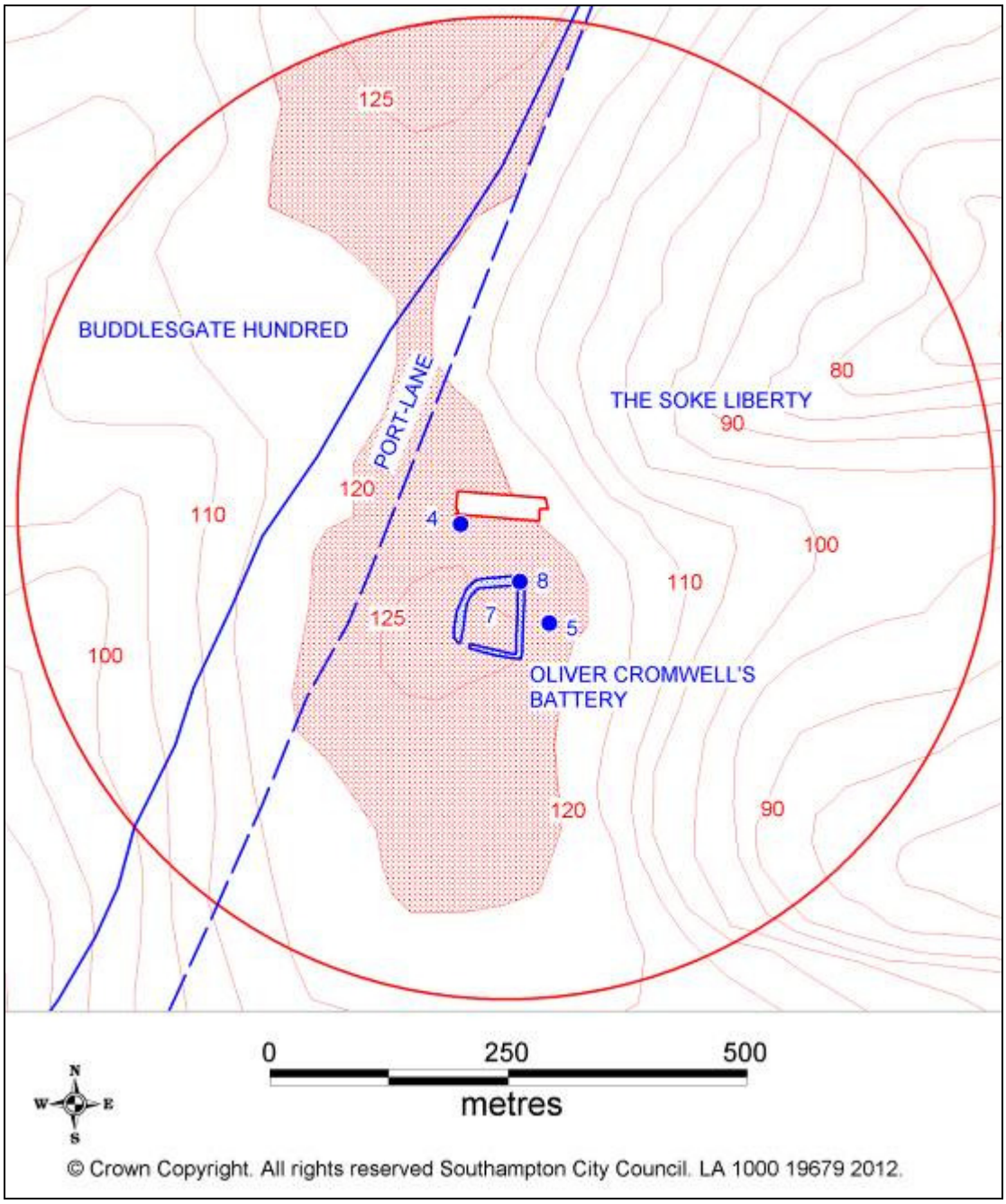

Figure 8. The location of the site in the landscape. Land over 120m above sea level is shaded.

- Roman Road from Old Sarum from the east. The Old Dairy Cottage execution site would have covered the northern approaches to the city. A close parallel is at nearby Stockbridge where the Meon Hill cemetery

and the Stockbridge Down cemetery occupied prominent positions to the west and east of the town.

Position on an important boundary. The Hillcroft site lies just inside the Soke of Winchester, where its west boundary met the Buddlesgate Hundred. The Hundreds probably preserve a pattern of estates potentially as early as the seventh century (Reynolds 2009, 205), and they were a common place for the siting of execution cemeteries from the late seventh century onwards (Reynolds 2009, 155-6). The Soke is thought to be an immediate post-conquest subdivision, if so the placing of the execution cemetery at this spot suggests a post-conquest date.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The evidence points to the site being used for the execution of criminals in the late Saxon or early Norman period and therefore belonging to group of twenty-seven execution cemeteries as listed by Reynolds (2009, 96-179). Reynolds had tentatively identified the Hill croft site as an execution cemetery and the evidence found at No 82 would seem to vindicate his suggestion. The 'Hillcroft' cemetery provides a second such execution cemetery for Winchester. The cemetery, placed just within the boundary of the Soke, can perhaps be linked directly to the judicial role of the Bishop of Winchester, who perhaps established the Soke as their personal holding after the Conquest. The positioning of an execution cemetery on two sides of the city is paralleled at nearby Stockbridge, where execution cemeteries were sited either side of this small town on a major route way. The finding of a set of fetters, and their probable use in the execution itself, is the first such find.

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APPENDIX 1 THE HUMAN BONE

By K. Egging Dinwiddy

Introduction

Human bone from ten contexts was received for analysis. Six contexts comprise the remains of three *in situ* burials made simultaneously in a mass grave (context 4 - not fully excavated and further individuals left *in situ*). Redeposited bone derived from the fills of two graves (4 and 27), and two disturbed areas adjacent to grave 4. Two of the individuals within grave 4 had been fettered together, one having been buried in a prone position. The three *in situ* individuals probably died in the 11th or 12th centuries AD.

Methods

The degree of bone erosion was recorded using the system of grading devised by McKinley (2004, fig. 6.1-7). Age was assessed from the stage of skeletal development and the patterns and degree of age-related changes to the bone (Scheuer and Black 2000; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Sex was ascertained from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994). Measurements were taken and skeletal indices calculated where possible (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004; Bass 1987). Non-metric traits were recorded in accordance with Berry and Berry (1967) and Finnegan (1978).

Results

The following provides a summary of the results, details are held in the archive.

Disturbance and condition

Grave 4 was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. It cut through a barrow ditch (feature 9), a possible grave (feature 42) and into the natural chalk bedrock. There was little disturbance or damage to the excavated remains of the three burials, though some of the redeposited material indicates potential disturbance of the unexcavated portion. Grave 27, from which one redeposited bone was recovered, was also only excavated to a depth of 0.30m. It cut through feature 25, and was cut by unexcavated grave 12. Redeposited material within and around the graves indicates some disturbance of the occupants of one or more of the graves in the vicinity.

The bone is predominantly in excellent condition, with most (six contexts) having minimal surface erosion (grade 0-1 and 1). The redeposited material is slightly more degraded, ranging from grades 1 to 3. Fragmentation is slight and consists predominantly of old breaks; slight machine damage is also evident (context 6). Recent cuts were present where the *in situ* bones had been separated from the unexcavated remains. The percentage of skeletal recovery from the *in situ* burials is low (all <25%) for the same reason.

Demographic data and skeletal indices

A minimum of four adults are represented in the assemblage. The *in situ* remains are those of three adult males (one probable), all *c.* 18 to 35 years of age, and all fairly large and robust. Based on position, size, morphology, and condition, the six legs have been conclusively paired as follows: (6 (shackle)/35); (7/31); (30 (shackle)/32). As such, it is apparent that two men were shackled together, one of which (30/32) was buried in a prone position. A minimum of one unsexed individual is represented amongst in the redeposited material.

It was possible to estimate the stature of two of the *in situ* males: 7/31 *c.* 1.70 to 1.71m (*c.* 5'7"); 30/32 *c.* 1.74 to 1.75m (*c.* 5'9"). The average (1.73m, c. 5'8") is a little above the mean of *c.* 1.71m for late-medieval males, given by Roberts and Cox (2003, 248, table 5.11).

The platycnemic index (reflecting the degree of medio-lateral flattening of the tibiae) was calculated for three individuals. The two males from grave 4 had eurycnemic scores, i.e. broad and within the normal range (7/31: right 80.8, left 83.7; 30/32: left 79.9). The tibia from context 8 (unsexed; redeposited) is notably flattened (platycnemic), scoring 61.

Non-metric traits

Some skeletal morphological variations are congenital (hereditary or spontaneous), whilst others may be linked to activity. The aetiology and hereditability of many traits, however, remain unclear (Tyrrell 2000, 292).

The number of standard non-metric trait observations was limited due to the low level of skeletal recovery. Lateral squatting facets were only observed in the tibiae of 6/35, whilst a fairly uncommon variation (vastus notch) was present in the patellae of 30/32. Double anterior calcaneal facets and distinct peroneal grooves were only manifest in the calcanea of 7/31.

There is no evidence to suggest a genetic relationship between any of the individuals in the assemblage.

Pathological lesions

<u>Trauma</u>

One of the shackled men (30/32) has a variety of fractures and injuries to the lower limbs. None of the lesions show any signs of healing. The nature of the fractures (macro- and microscopically) determined that they occurred in green or fresh bone (Lyman 1994, 315-328).

Injuries to the right leg comprise a depressed plateau fracture to the medial condyle of the tibia (from an impact with the femur condyle), and lower, mid-shaft fractures to the tibia and fibula, probably from an angulated force

(Adams 1987, 254-5). A small depression on the distal shaft of the tibia may be a result of the shackle riding-up and pressing into the leg.

The left proximal tibia has a depression across the anterior surface, just above the tuberosity, which corresponds with the inferior edge of the patella. The left fibula has an incomplete mid-shaft fracture, probably caused by a direct blow over the bone (Adams 1987, 264). A shear fracture has separated the medial malleolus from the left distal tibia, while small depressions on the posterior of the trochlear surface of the left talus correspond to the topography of the distal tibia. The navicular has a hairline fracture on the plantar edge of the talal articular surface, and small depression indicating forceful contact with the talus. These injuries suggest an impact whilst the foot was hyper-extended. The calcaneum is fragmented and damaged; it is possible that it was also injured (Adams 1987, 280). The injuries are consistent with a *perimortem* traumatic incident, i.e. a fall or drop onto the feet from a height.

Joint disease

Joint diseases represent the most commonly recorded conditions in archaeological bone assemblages. Typical lesions (e.g. osteophytes and/or pitting) may reflect age-related 'wear-and-tear', or may form in response to various disease processes. Many conditions increase in frequency and severity with age, though other factors are often involved (Rogers and Waldron 1995).

There are 123 observable extra-spinal joints, of which 11 (8.9%) are from the unsexed material. Marginal osteophytes were observed in 11 (8.9%) of joints, and one (0.8%) has slight pitting. Of the 41 male tarsals, seven (17.1%) have osteophytes, as do two of the six male ankle joints (33.3%). All of these are in one individual (30/32), and associated with probable congenital deformity (see below). Pitting was observed in one of the 19 (5.3%) meta-phalangeal joints of the feet, and is associated with *hallux valgus* (see below).

Hallux valgus

Hallux valgus ('bunion') was identified in the first meta-phalangeal joint (left foot) of 7/31. Associated bevelling of the articular margin and enthesophyte growth suggest that the condition was advanced. The cause of the condition is thought to be largely genetic, associated with the ligaments and tendons. Unsuitable footwear is also considered to be a factor by some.

Probable congenital deformity

The tarsal of 30/32 were somewhat deformed. The tali, naviculars, and cuneiforms are affected. Nodular bony buttresses extend along the dorso-lateral aspects of the tarsals, and the talal necks, implying a constriction of the dorso-lateral surfaces, and/or splaying of the plantar surfaces (hyper-flexion of the feet and ankles). The lateral portions of the tali heads are abnormally concave, whilst the corresponding surfaces of the naviculars are distinctly convex. The changes give the impression of prolonged contact or pressure along the dorso-lateral side of the mid-feet. The changes are consistent with prolonged dorsi-flexion and/or eversion of the foot, as seen in congenital *talipes calcaneo-valgus* (the opposite of 'clubfoot'), and *pes planus* (flat footedness) (Adams 1986, 438).

APPENDIX 2 THE IRON FETTERS

By P. Ottaway

The object is composed of two robust straps formed into U-shaped fittings joined by two figure 8-shaped links with a ring between them.

Each U-shaped fitting has an arm which is drawn out at one end into an eye joined to a figure 8-shaped link. Each fitting is also pierced twice on each side of the 'mouth' and the mouth is then closed by a pair of sturdy rivets flattened at the head. One fitting is bent inwards slightly at the mouth, broken over one of the rivet holes and the rivet is missing.

Overall L. c.455. Fittings: L.c.170, W. across mouth 80, W. (strap) 49, T.10; rivets: L. c.94, T. 11; space within each fitting c.66 x 72. Figure 8-shaped links: L. 90 and 78, W.37 and 35, T.9mm

The iron shackles, perhaps more correctly referred to as leg irons, from Oliver's Battery are composed of two robust straps formed into U-shaped fittings joined by two figure 8-shaped links with a ring between them. They were found holding two individuals together in a burial dated by C14 to either the late Anglo-Saxon or early medieval period. This object is unusual and very important evidence for the history of punishment and restraint, especially as there is no known comparable item from the periods in question. As was shown by the burial, the U-shaped fittings would have fitted around a person's ankles preventing them from walking freely. The size of fittings with an internal diameter of c.70mm suggests they were a tight fit. Attached to the central ring there would probably have been another chain which divided into two; at each end there would have been a fitting to secure the wrists. This arrangement can be clearly seen, for example, on the well-known Wedgewood medallion of c.1787-90, depicting a kneeling negro slave, which was based on the seal of the London Abolition Committee (collections of the National Maritime Museum: www.collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/254428.html).

Although the rivets closing the U-shaped fittings could have been removed, the Oliver's Battery fetters were probably intended for the restraint of an individual over a long period of time rather than being temporary as in the case of a fetter with a lock.

Although essentially simple in form, the very robust character of the Oliver's Battery fetters is unusual for the ironwork of the time and may speak of a specialist smith undertaking a commission for a particular circumstance. Depictions of men under restraint are very rare in Anglo-Saxon and medieval illustrations, but, whether as prisoners or as Christ prior to the Crucifixion, they are usually shown with their arms tied, but not their legs, and there is no use of ironwork to be seen. For example, the thieves shown hanged in the Life and Miracles of St Edmund, King and Martyr of c.1130 have their wrists tied together in front of them (New York, Pierpont Morgan Library, M736). However, there was presumably a model for the smith who made the Oliver's Battery leg irons to work from which probably lies at or near the beginning of a long tradition of the restraint of criminals, prisoners and others in a manner which did not change a great deal until modern times.

I am grateful to Alex Nichols and the Curator of Ripon Prison Museum for their assistance with this report.

APPENDIX 3 THE ORGANIC REMAINS

Penelope Walton Rogers, The Anglo-Saxon Laboratory

A complete pair of iron fetters linked by a chain, one shackle still with leg bones in position, was provided for examination. A sample of the reddish brown material on the inner surface of the shackle with bones *in situ* was removed with a scalpel and mounted in water for microscopy. It was viewed at x100-x400 magnification, with a transmitted-light microscope, using incident light and transmitted light, with and without a polarising analyser. The sample proved to be organic material arranged in small aggregates with little internal

structure. It most probably represents decayed and semi-mineralised flesh or leather.

APPENDIX 4 RADIOCARBON DATING

Peter Marshall, Christopher Bronk Ramsey and Gordon Cook

Three radiocarbon samples, from Individuals 1-3, were submitted to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) and Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit (ORAU) for radiocarbon dating.

This sample processed at SUERC was pre-treated following a modified Longin (1971) method, converted to carbon dioxide in a pre-cleaned sealed quartz tube (Vandeputte *et al* 1996), graphitised as described by (Slota *et al* 1987) and measured by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) (Xu *et al* 2004).

The two samples dated at ORAU were processed using the gelatinisation and ultrafiltration protocols described by Bronk Ramsey *et al.* (2004a) and Brock *et al.* 2010. The samples were combusted, graphitised, and dated by Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) as described by Bronk Ramsey *et al.* (2004b).

Radiocarbon results

The results (Table 1) are conventional radiocarbon ages (Stuiver and Polach 1977), and are quoted in accordance with the international standard known as the Trondheim convention (Stuiver and Kra 1986).

Radiocarbon calibration

The calibrations of these results, which relate the radiocarbon measurements directly to the calendrical time scale, are given in Table 1 and in Figure 1. All have been calculated using the datasets published by Reimer *et al* (2009) and the computer program OxCal v4.1 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; 1998; 2001; 2009).

The calibrated date ranges cited are quoted in the form recommended by Mook (1986), with the end points rounded outward to 10 years for errors greater than 25 years. The ranges in Table 1 have been calculated according to the maximum intercept method (Stuiver and Reimer 1986); the probability distributions shown in Figure 1 are derived from the probability method (Stuiver and Reimer 1993).

Stable isotope measurements

Carbon and nitrogen stable isotope analysis was applied to the samples as the potential for diet-induced radiocarbon offsets if an individual has taken up carbon from a reservoir not in equilibrium with the terrestrial biosphere (Lanting and van der Plicht 1998) might have implications for the chronology of the burials.

The stable isotope results (Table 1) indicate that the humans consumed a diet predominantly based upon temperate terrestrial C_3 foods (Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984; Katzenberg and Krouse 1989). The radiocarbon results are therefore unlikely to be affected by any significant reservoir effects (Bayliss *et al* 2004) and the calibrated date ranges can be regarded as accurate estimates of the ages of their samples.

All the samples gave C:N values within the range normally used to indicate good collagen preservation (2.9–3.6; DeNiro 1985).

Interpretation

The three measurements are statistically consistent ($T'=2.3$; $\nu=2$; $T'(1\%)=6.0$; Ward and Wilson 1978) and thus all the individuals could have died at the same time. These individuals therefore all probably died in the eleventh or twelfth centuries cal AD.

Table 1: 82 Oliver's Battery Road, Winchester – radiocarbon results

Laboratory number	**Sample reference**	**Material**	**$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)**	**$\delta^{15}N$ (‰)**	**C/N ratio**	**Radiocarbon Age (BP)**	**Calibrated Date (95% confidence)**
OxA-25745	AY 420 (7) – Individual 1	Human bone, left femur	-19.2	+8.2	3.2	942±24	cal AD 1020-1170
OxA-25679	AY 420 (30) – Individual 2	Human bone, right femur	-18.9	+11.0	3.2	991±26	cal AD 990-1150
SUERC-37908	AY 420 (6) – Individual 3	Human bone, left tibia	-18.9	+11.6	3.2	991±26	cal AD 980-1160

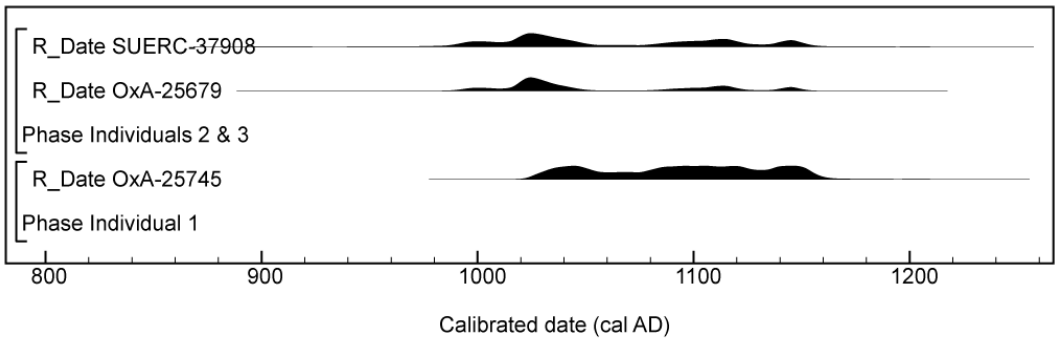

Figure 1: Probability distributions of dates from 82 Oliver's Battery Road, Winchester. Each distribution represents the relative probability that an event occurred at a particular time. These distributions are the result of simple radiocarbon calibration (Stuiver and Reimer 1993).

APPENDIX 5 PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DAMAGED LEGS OF INDIVIDUAL TWO

Individual Two: Leg 32

Photo 1. Lower part of Leg 32.

Photo 2. Fractured tibia of Leg 32.

Photo 3. Area of tibia of Leg 32 with damage from impact from the patella.

Photo 4. Flaking of femur of Leg 32 due to impact from tibia.

Photo 5. Flaking of tibia of Leg 32 from impact with ankle.

Photo 6. Damage to foot of Leg 32.

Individual Two: Leg 30

Photo 7. Lower part of Leg 30 showing misaligned fracture of tibia and fibula, and shackle.

Photo 8. Lower part of leg 30.

Photo 9. Greenstick fracture of the fibula from Leg 30

Photo 10. Fracture of the tibia and fibula of Leg 30, just above the position of the shackle. Note iron-stained notch caused by pressure from the shackle.

Photo 11. Area of depressed bone in head of tibia of Leg 30 caused by impact from femur.