

Berinsfield Acknowledgements

The excavation and publication of the site at Berinsfield, Wally Corner has been a lengthy process and thanks are due to many people who have been involved over a period of some 20 years.

We would first like to acknowledge the cooperation and active assistance of the Amey Roadstone Corporation (ARC), who made the rescue of the cemetery possible. In particular we are grateful to ARC's then chairman, Mr Mortimer, and the late Mr Gordon Plummer, ARC's production director, to whom all archaeologists working in the Thames valley owe a debt of gratitude for constructive support over many years. The excavation and publication have depended on the financial support of English Heritage and we are most grateful to their Inspectors Brian Davison, Anthony Fleming and Stephen Trow, and to the project monitoring officer Jon Humble. Thanks are also due to the Ashmolean Museum for the assistance of their then conservator Gwyn Miles, who worked on the site and also organised the conservation of the material at the museum, and for the advice and support of David Brown. We are also most grateful to Dr Arthur MacGregor for arranging facilities at the museum for the recataloguing and reassessment of the grave goods prior to this final publication.

The supervisors who worked long hours to uncover the site included Tim Akister, Wendy Page, Bob Wilson, Nick Stainforth and Mike Wilcox, and thanks are also due to the volunteers who rallied to the call in the heroic days of Rescue Archaeology.

The specialist contributors to this volume have borne with long delays in the publication of their reports and we are most grateful for their assistance in revising and updating their original work for the final publication. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Guy Grainger, John Moore and Christina Unwin, who worked on the initial analysis of the cemetery data and finds.

We have benefitted from the advice and constructive criticism of many specialists in the Anglo-Saxon field. Miss Dido Clark, Dr Sally Crawford, Dr Tania Dickinson, Mrs Sonia Chadwick Hawkes and Dr Helena Hamerow have kindly read and commented on draft versions of our texts and their help and encouragement is gratefully acknowledged. Lady Teresa Briscoe, Dr Martin Welch and Dr Roger White have also kindly answered questions for us.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Dr Gary Lock of the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford, with the statistical analysis, and of Dr Tony Dodd, with the production of computer-generated tables and analyses.

The artefacts and grave plans were originally drawn by Wendy Page; amendments and numerous additional illustrations for this report were produced by Karen Nichols.

Finally we would like to thank the volume editor David Jennings, who has been an invaluable source of expertise, practical assistance and good advice, and Dr Ellen McAdam, who initiated the final publication of this report and has given it her constant support.

Didcot Acknowledgements

The authors would first like to thank National Power who funded both the excavation and the publication. Our thanks also go to the various specialist authors who contributed to the report: Alistair Barclay, Paul Booth, Philippa Bradley, Esther Cameron, Elisabeth Crowfoot, Sheila Hamilton-Dyer and John Letts. Specialist advice was provided by Barry Ager, Jean Cook, Dido Clark, Helen Geake, Heinrich Härke, Sheila Raven, Seamus Ross and Ewen Rutter. The illustrations were produced by Paul Hughes. Ric Tyler assisted in the production of figure 84. The conservation of the artefacts was undertaken at short notice by Jonathan Wallis of the Oxfordshire County Museum Service. The report was edited by Ian Scott (chapters 6–10) and David Jennings (chapter 11). We would also like to thank Helena Hamerow who read and commented on the text.

Editorial Note: Berinsfield Post-Excavation History

As stated in the Acknowledgements, there has been a period of approximately 20 years between the excavation and final publication of the site. Given the backlog character of the site it is important that the circumstances under which the final report was assembled are understood.

A number of the reports, like the animal and human bone reports, were commissioned and completed in the initial phase of post-excavation work in the 1970s. Other reports like those for the weapons and knives, and the square-headed brooches were written up in the 1980s.

The site was incorporated into the OAU's backlog programme which English Heritage agreed to fund in 1991, and work began on completing the report in February 1992. Wholesale reworking of the existing material was avoided as this would have made the project financially prohibitive, and therefore while specialists were given the opportunity to revise texts, it was not possible to analyse the material *de novo*. Large sections of the report, however, still needed to be written and this was undertaken in a six-month period from February until July 1992 by Anne Dodd and Angela Boyle. The report was approved for publication by English Heritage in January 1993.

As a consequence the report does not contain references to work undertaken post-1992, and in several cases references are predominantly to an earlier period of work. Our paramount concern, however, has been to make the information available rather than further delay publication.