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The late Roman cemetery at Lankhills, just north of Winchester, is one of the best known in Roman Britain as a result of work carried in 1967-1972. Excavations by Oxford Archaeology from 2000-2005 revealed a further 307 inhumation graves and 25 cremation burials, almost all of 4th century date. Most burials were laid out roughly west-east, the majority in wooden coffins. Grave goods, including nailed shoes, pottery and coins, were more common than usual in late Romano-British urban cemeteries. A number of age/gender associations were apparent; for example, jewellery was often associated with adolescents and young women, and spindle whorls with older women. Six crossbow brooches (to add to eight from earlier work), buried with males, were almost invariably associated with belt equipment and indicate an official/military element within the cemetery population. The most spectacular individual burial contained a gilded and inscribed crossbow brooch, silver gilt belt fitting and decorated spurs; a unique assemblage in Roman Britain. Isotope analysis shows that some of the cemetery population were immigrants probably deriving from a variety of locations in Europe and perhaps even - in at least one case - North Africa.



Above: Grave 1175, of older adult male, with knife and belt fittings



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