

Contents

List of figures	xi
List of tables	xiv
Berinsfield summary	xvi
Didcot summary	xvi
Berinsfield acknowledgements	xvii
Didcot acknowledgements	xviii
Editorial note: Berinsfield post-excavation history	xviii

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Berinsfield, Wally Corner

by A Boyle, A Dodd and D Miles

Chapter 1: Introduction by David Miles

Site geography	4
Archaeological background	4
The Wally Corner Site	4
Place names	8
Crutch Furlong	8
Wally Corner	8
Method of excavation	8

Chapter 2: Prehistoric and Roman activity

Summary	11
Prehistoric features by Alistair Barclay and Roger Thomas	11
Pond Barrow F116	11
Satellite Burial F97	11
The finds	11
Flint and stone by Roger Thomas and Philippa Bradley	11
Antler by Jonathan Wallis	12
Beaker and Deverel-Rimbury pottery by Alistair Barclay and Roger Thomas	12
Fabrics	12
Catalogue	12
Date and affinities	13
Middle Iron Age pottery by Paul Booth	13
Discussion of the prehistoric evidence by Alistair Barclay and Roger Thomas	13
The Romano-British features by David Miles	14
Introduction	14
Romano-British well, F9	14
Ditches	16
Pits	16
Dating	16
Roman pottery by Paul Booth	16
Fabrics	17
Samian ware	19
Fine wares	19
Amphorae	19
Mortaria	19
White wares	19
White slipped wares	19

'Belgic type' fabrics	19
Oxidised coarse wares	19
Reduced coarse wares	19
Black-burnished ware	22
Calcareous-tempered fabrics	22
Vessel types	22
Principal features	22
Early Roman (group 1)	23
Mid Roman (group 2? and group 3)	23
Late Roman (groups 4 and 5)	23
Illustrated catalogue	24
Pottery discussion	24
Discussion of the Roman evidence <i>by David Miles</i>	26
 Chapter 3: The grave catalogue	
Summary	28
Introduction	28
Inhumations 1-164	28
Anglo-Saxon cremations	61
Material from other contexts	62
Roman well	62
Unstratified material	62
Top Soil	62
Unprovenanced	62
 Chapter 4: Discussion of the finds	
Weapon burials and knives <i>by Heinrich Härke</i>	67
Summary	67
Weapon types and dating	67
Spears	67
Arrowhead	67
Shield fittings	67
Chronology	68
The weapon burial rite at Berinsfield	68
Weapon frequencies and combinations	68
Deposition of weapons	69
Correlations of weapon burial: wealth, age and descent	69
Technical observations	70
Spears	70
Shields	72
Damages and repairs	73
Knives	73
Typology and dating	73
Knives, gender and age at death	73
Locations of knives in the graves	74
Technical observations	74
The brooches <i>by Anne Dodd</i>	75
Disc brooches	76
Applied saucer brooches	77

Cast saucer brooches.....	77
Button brooches	80
Small-long brooches.....	80
Stützarmfibel.....	81
Equal-armed brooch.....	81
Roman brooch.....	82
Unstratified brooches	82
The square-headed brooches <i>by John Hines</i>	83
The great square-headed brooches	83
The small square-headed brooch.....	85
The brooches in their grave contexts.....	85
Buckles and belt fittings <i>by Anne Dodd</i>	86
Finger rings <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	87
Pins <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	88
Wood.....	88
Bone.....	88
Copper alloy.....	88
Iron	89
Toilet implements <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	89
Brush tubes/holders	89
Tweezers	89
Earscoop/spatula and picks	89
Scrapers	90
Bone comb	90
Girdle groups <i>by Anne Dodd</i>	90
The beads <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	91
Introduction	91
Amber	91
Glass.....	92
Monochrome glass.....	93
Disc.....	93
Short coiled and coiled cylinders	93
Annular	93
Short cylinder rounded	94
Biconical	94
Pentagonal cylinder	94
Melon	94
Drawn-cylinder	94
Polychrome glass.....	95
Short cylinder rounded	95
Cylinder.....	95
Disc.....	95
Biconical	95
Melon	95
Discussion.....	95
Metal-in-glass	96
Rock crystal	96
Faïence	97
Miscellaneous stones	97

*Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries:
Berinsfield and Didcot*

Other materials.....	97
Bead strings.....	97
Buckets <i>by Jean Cook</i>	98
Other fragments.....	101
The Anglo-Saxon pottery <i>by Paul Booth</i>	101
Fabrics.....	102
The 1980 pot.....	102
Textile remains <i>by Elisabeth Crowfoot</i>	103
Spinning and fibres.....	103
Weaving.....	103
The human bones <i>by Mary Harman</i>	106
Conclusions.....	106
The cremations <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	108
The bone and shell remains <i>by Bob Wilson</i>	109
Introduction.....	109
Wild animals.....	110
Foxes.....	110
Domestic animals.....	110
Sex determination.....	110
Ewe/Wether sheep skeleton in Roman pit 38.....	110
Undated sheep skeletons.....	111
Discussion.....	111
Endnote.....	111
 Chapter 5: Discussion by Angela Boyle and Anne Dodd	
Limits of the cemetery.....	112
Age, sex and cemetery population.....	112
Body position.....	116
Multiple burials.....	119
Grave dimensions.....	120
Grave structures.....	121
Orientation.....	124
Chronology.....	124
Social organisation.....	127
Unaccompanied burials.....	133
Cemetery plan and organisation.....	133
Archaeological and historical context.....	137
The site in its context.....	142
Conclusions.....	143
 Appendix 1: The naming of Berinsfield	 144
 Appendix 2: Social status analysis	 145
 End figures (Figs 35–82).....	 150

An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Didcot Power Station
by A Boyle and A Mudd

Chapter 6: Introduction by Angela Boyle

Introduction.....	201
Location and Geology	201
Methodology	202
The evaluation	202
The excavation	202
The archaeological background	202
Earlier discoveries	202
Documentary evidence.....	204

Chapter 7: Prehistoric and Roman activity

Introduction.....	205
The prehistoric features <i>by Andrew Mudd</i>	205
Primary ditches	205
Secondary ditches.....	205
Pits	205
Discussion.....	205
The Romano-British features <i>by Andrew Mudd</i>	207
Discussion.....	208
The later Neolithic pottery <i>by Alistair Barclay</i>	208
Fabric	208
Catalogue.....	208
Firing and manufacture	209
Form and decoration.....	209
Discussion.....	209
The flint assemblage <i>by Philippa Bradley</i>	209
Raw material	209
Technology and dating	210
Discussion.....	210
The Roman pottery <i>by Paul Booth</i>	210

Chapter 8: The catalogue of graves and settlement features by Angela Boyle

Summary	211
Introduction.....	211
Inhumations 1-17.....	212
Other Saxon features	218
Sunken featured buildings	218
SFB 4.....	218
Finds.....	218
SFB 38.....	218
Associated features	218
Finds.....	220
Possible settlement features.....	221
Pit 10.....	221
Finds.....	221
Gully 68	221

Associated feature	221
Chapter 9: Discussion of the finds	
Weapons and knives <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	222
Spearhead	222
Knives	222
Personal equipment <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	222
Gaming pieces	222
Work-box	223
Pins	224
Beads <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	224
Bone bead	225
Mineral replaced organic bead with lead coating	225
Monochrome glass beads	225
Short cylinder rounded beads	225
Biconical beads	225
Barrel bead	225
Discussion	225
Polychrome glass beads	226
Biconical beads	225
Bead with combed decoration	226
Disc with spiral decoration	226
Horned bead	226
Discussion	226
Other Jewellery <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	226
Silver pendant	226
Finger ring	227
Miscellaneous silver rings	227
Barrel padlock <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	228
Chatelaines and girdle hung objects <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	228
Weaving equipment <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	228
Spindle whorl	228
Weaving pick	228
Shears	229
Coins <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	229
Belt fittings <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	229
Buckles	229
Miscellaneous fittings <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	229
Anglo-Saxon pottery <i>by Paul Booth</i>	230
Fabric	230
Vessel types	230
Catalogue of illustrated sherds	230
Context	230
Date	231
Acknowledgement	231
Chapter 10: The environmental evidence	
The human skeletal remains <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	233
Introduction	233

*Two Oxfordshire Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries:
Berinsfield and Didcot*

Age	233
Sex.....	233
Stature.....	233
Discontinuous traits	234
Pathology	234
Conclusion.....	234
Organic remains <i>by Esther Cameron</i>	234
Methodology.....	234
Results	234
Horn handled knives	234
Textile remains	234
Wood remains.....	235
Analysis of suspected gold and silver textile fragments <i>by Elizabeth Crowfoot with Penelope Walton Rogers</i>	235
The charred plant remains <i>by John Letts</i>	235
The animal bones <i>by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer</i>	236
 Chapter 11: Discussion and conclusions <i>by Angela Boyle</i>	
The Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence	237
The sunken featured buildings	237
The cemetery	237
Limits of the cemetery	237
Age, sex and cemetery population	237
Body position.....	238
Grave dimensions	239
Grave structures.....	239
Orientation	240
Chronology.....	240
Christianity and the 'Final Phase'	240
Status and social organisation.....	242
Cemetery plan and organisation	242
The site in its regional context.....	242
 Appendix 1: Grave concordance	 244
 End figures (Figs 89–97)	 245
 Bibliography	 254
 Index.....	 260

List of Figures

Berinsfield, Wally Corner

Chapter 1

Figure 1	General location plan	2
Figure 2	General view of the site looking northwards	3
Figure 3	Cropmarks and archaeological sites in the Dorchester area.....	5
Figure 4	Plot of cropmarks at Wally Corner and the extent of the 1960 and 1974/75 excavations.....	6
Figure 5	Aerial Photograph of the Wally Corner cropmarks taken by Cambridge University (AFU 47). The gravel quarry is on the site of the 1960s excavations, the 1974/5 excavation site is left of centre, to the right of the barn (N is to the left of the photograph)	7
Figure 6	Site plan of prehistoric and Roman features.....	9

Chapter 2

Figure 7	Plan and section of Feature 116.....	10
Figure 8	Feature 116, with Anglo-Saxon grave 134 in the centre of the feature, four post structure in the foreground and prehistoric feature 97 in the background	11
Figure 9	Prehistoric pottery	12
Figure 10	Plan and profile of the Romano-British well	15
Figure 11	Romano-British pottery	25

Chapter 4

Figure 12	Weapon burials and epigenetic traits. The arrows indicate the proposed horizontal stratigraphy of male burials (for dating see Tables 5 and 33).....	71
Figure 13	Pie-chart of the numbers and proportions of brooch types	75
Figure 14	Cast saucer brooches 54/2 (top left), 63/2 (top right), 107/2 (bottom right) and button brooch 18/1 (bottom left)	79
Figure 15	Cast saucer brooch 22/1	80
Figure 16	Equal-armed brooch 8/2	82
Figure 17	Great square-headed brooch 102/1	83
Figure 18	Great square-headed brooch 107/1	84
Figure 19	Small square-headed brooch 77/3	85
Figure 20	Details of grave 102, showing amber beads, cast saucer brooches and great square-headed brooch.....	86
Figure 21	Restored bucket from grave 29.....	99
Figure 22	Anglo-Saxon pottery: 1 '1980' pot; 2 cremation 31; 3 cremation 111	100
Figure 23	Textile diagrams: graves 49, 64, 104 and 107	103

Chapter 5

Figure 24	Detail of the cemetery: grave 149 right foreground, cutting grave 148; right background grave 150; left background grave 128. (Roman gully 132 in background cut by graves 128 and 150)	112
Figure 25	Grave 141.....	119
Figure 26	Distribution of grave structures and furniture	122
Figure 27	Grave 104 with the charred logs visible either side of the grave	123
Figure 28	Distribution of datable graves	125

Figure 29	Bar charts of comparative wealth scores.....	132
Figure 30	Distribution of wealth scores by object-type	134
Figure 31	Distribution of epigenetic traits in the cemetery	135
Figure 32	Distribution of male, female and child burials.....	136
Figure 33	Location plan of the principal early Saxon settlements in the Upper Thames valley	139
Figure 34	Map of Dorchester showing the excavated sites.....	140

End Figures

Figure 35	Site plan of the main area of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Dots show position of head.....	150
Figure 36	Grave plans 1-6	151
Figure 37	Grave plans 8-15	152
Figure 38	Grave plans 18-24	153
Figure 39	Grave plans 25-32	154
Figure 40	Grave plans 33-43	155
Figure 41	Grave plans 44-51	156
Figure 42	Grave plans 52-57	157
Figure 43	Grave plans 58-63	158
Figure 44	Grave plans 64-73	159
Figure 45	Grave plans 74-86	160
Figure 46	Grave plans 91-104	161
Figure 47	Grave plans 106-117	162
Figure 48	Grave plans 118-127	163
Figure 49	Grave plans 128-135	164
Figure 50	Grave plans 136-151	165
Figure 51	Grave plans 152-164	166
Figure 52	Graves 1-5, grave goods	167
Figure 53	Graves 5-6, grave goods	168
Figure 54	Graves 6-15, grave goods	169
Figure 55	Graves 18-22, grave goods	170
Figure 56	Graves 22-24, grave goods	171
Figure 57	Graves 26-28, grave goods	172
Figure 58	Graves 29-32, grave goods	173
Figure 59	Graves 34-37, grave goods	174
Figure 60	Graves 42-43, grave goods	175
Figure 61	Graves 47-50, grave goods	176
Figure 62	Grave 51, grave goods	177
Figure 63	Grave 52, grave goods	178
Figure 64	Grave 53-54, grave goods	179
Figure 65	Grave 54-58, grave goods	180
Figure 66	Graves 59-61, grave goods	181
Figure 67	Graves 63-64, grave goods	182
Figure 68	Graves 66-69, grave goods	183
Figure 69	Graves 72-78, grave goods	184
Figure 70	Graves 82-83, grave goods	185
Figure 71	Graves 86-101, grave goods	186
Figure 72	Grave 102, grave goods	187
Figure 73	Grave 102, grave goods	188

Figure 74	Graves 102–104, grave goods	189
Figure 75	Graves 104–107, grave goods	190
Figure 76	Grave 107, grave goods	191
Figure 77	Graves 110–121, grave goods	192
Figure 78	Graves 122–128, grave goods	193
Figure 79	Graves 130–136, grave goods	194
Figure 80	Graves 141–149, grave goods	195
Figure 81	Graves 150–161, grave goods	196
Figure 82	Unstratified	197

Didcot Power Station

Chapter 6

Figure 83	Location of evaluation trenches and area excavation	201
Figure 84	Cropmarks and archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery	203

Chapter 7

Figure 85	Sections of features 20, 36, 37, 56 and 57; pottery sherds from feature 11 (85.1) and feature 20 (85.2–5)	206
Figure 86	Sections of features 12, 18 and 39	207

Chapter 8

Figure 87	Plan and sections of sunken featured building 38 and associated features 58, 80, 82 and 83	219
Figure 88	Finds from sunken featured building 38 and associated features; Anglo-Saxon pottery from grave 1 (88.1) and sunken featured building 4 (88.2–4)	220

End figures

Figure 89	Plan of excavated features	245
Figure 90	Grave plans 1–4	246
Figure 91	Grave plans 5–10	247
Figure 92	Grave plans 11–17	248
Figure 93	Graves 1–2, gravegoods	249
Figure 94	Graves 4–5 and 7, gravegoods	250
Figure 95	Graves 8 and 11, gravegoods	251
Figure 96	Graves 12–14 and 16, gravegoods	252
Figure 97	Work-box from grave 12 and proposed reconstruction	253

List of Tables

Berinsfield, Wally Corner

Chapter 2

Table 1	Quantities of Roman pottery by context type: numbers of sherds (and weight in g)	17
Table 2	Quantities of Roman pottery	18
Table 3	Correlation of Roman pottery fabric and vessel types: quantification by rim count	20

Chapter 3

Table 4	Grave goods by context	63
---------	------------------------------	----

Chapter 4

Table 5	Weapon and knife types and chronology	66
Table 6	Spear types	67
Table 7	Shield boss types	68
Table 8	Weapon combinations	68
Table 9	Epigenetic traits and weapon burial	70
Table 10	Length of spears	70
Table 11	Diameters of spear shafts	70
Table 12	Boss apex constructions	72
Table 13	Diameters of shield boards	72
Table 14	Thickness of shield boards	73
Table 15	Types of knives at Berinsfield	73
Table 16	Knives in relation to gender and age	74
Table 17	Locations of knives	74
Table 18	Brooch types and associations	76
Table 19	Amber beads	92
Table 20	Monochrome glass beads	93
Table 21	Polychrome glass beads	94
Table 22	Drawn glass beads	95
Table 23	Beads of other materials	96
Table 24	Details of burials containing buckets	98
Table 25	Correlation of Anglo-Saxon pottery fabrics with context type: quantification by number of sherds and weight in grams	101
Table 26	Details of textiles	104
Table 27	Distribution of deaths according to age and sex	107
Table 28	Incidence of caries, abscess and loss in numbers of teeth and tooth sockets seen, divided according to age	107
Table 29	Distribution of deaths at Abingdon according to age and sex	108
Table 30	Abingdon: incidence of caries, abscess and loss in numbers of teeth and tooth sockets seen, divided according to age groups	108
Table 31	Bone and shell fragment frequency	109

Chapter 5

Table 32	Principal characteristics of graves	113
Table 33	Proposed phasing of the site	126

Table 34	Object-type count for female burials.....	128
Table 35	Object-type count for child burials.....	129
Table 36	Object-type count for male burials	130
Table 37	Contingency table of weapon frequencies with male burials	131
Table 38	Contingency table of brooch frequencies with female and child burials	132

Appendix 2

Appendix Table 1	Status ranking of graves with diagnostically male grave goods	147
Appendix Table 2	Status ranking of graves with diagnostically female grave goods	148
Appendix Table 3	Status ranking of graves with non-sex linked grave goods.....	149

Didcot Power Station

Chapter 7

Table 39	Summary of the flint assemblage.....	209
----------	--------------------------------------	-----

Chapter 10

Table 40	Summary of osteological details	232
Table 41	Environmental species identification	235
Table 42	Species and anatomy catalogue of animal bone fragments	236

Chapter 11

Table 43	Grave characteristics: orientation, body position, diagnostic grave goods, suggested date	238
Table 44	Distribution of grave goods	241