

BALKSBURY CAMP (Hampshire)

SU 350 445

Balksbury Camp is a univallate hillfort that sits on a low plateau at the junction of the rivers Anton and Anna and lies near Andover in Hampshire (Wainwright and Davies 1995, 1). The site rests on the Upper Chalk where '[t]he chalk surface is broken by periglacial polygons and stripes of "soil" and sand, and the spur is capped by a thin deposit of "clay-with-flint" and Tertiary flint gravel' (Wainwright and Davies 1995, 2). There have been a series of excavations throughout the years beginning with Mrs. J. Hawkes in 1940 and M. W. Thompson in 1958 (Wainwright and Davies 1995, 3). More recently, in 1967 (Wainwright 1969), 1973 and 1981 (Wainwright and Davies 1995) excavations recommenced due to advancing housing development. Balksbury Camp's inhabitants constructed the single enclosure during the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age and it encircles about 18 ha (Wainwright and Davies 1995, 1). The recent excavations indicate the Late Bronze Age/Iron Age inhabitants practice a mixed farming regime with a heavy reliance on wheat, barley, cattle and sheep (Wainwright and Davies 1995, 169). In addition, animal bones are prevalent amidst Iron Age contexts (Maltby 1995); in contrast, only two deposits contain human remains (Henderson *et al.* 1995, 83; Wainwright 1969, 29). The excavations recovered a single inhumation from an erosion layer against the south east portion of the enclosure bank (Wainwright 1969, 29) as well as of cranial fragments from the backfill of a pit (pit 1B) (Henderson *et al.* 1995, 83). Janet Henderson, Justine Bayley and Stephanie Garwood prepared the osteological assessment and conducted the skeletal analysis.