

BANCROFT (Buckinghamshire)

SP 8273 4033

Bancroft sits near Wolverton, Buckinghamshire within the Loughton Brook valley over glacial sands, gravel deposits and boulder clay (Williams and Zeepvat 1994a, 12). Excavations began in 1973 and lasted until 1978 and then again in 1983 to 1986 (Williams and Zeepvat 1994a, 1). Archaeological investigations were in advance of development of the area and, later, to display the site (Williams and Zeepvat 1994a, 1). The excavations investigated nearly 14,000 square metres indicating activity in the Mesolithic onto the medieval period (Williams and Zeepvat 1994a, 1). Settlement began at Bancroft during the Late Bronze Age and, by the Middle Iron Age, the settlement was a linear arrangement consisting of 15 roundhouses (Williams and Zeepvat 1994a, 21, 43). Building 500 is a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age structure and is the 'core' area of the site from which the rest of the settlement branches (Williams and Zeepvat 1994a, 21). The archaeological evidence suggests a small community occupied Bancroft who intensely cultivated their surrounding area and practiced animal husbandry (Williams and Zeepvat 1994a, 56). The excavations uncovered six human remains occurrences dating to the Middle Iron Age and consist of five disarticulated bones and one articulated bones. Ann Stirland and C. B. Denston (1994) conducted the osteological analysis.