

BIRCHFIELD ROAD (SITE 4) (Bedfordshire)

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Between 2004 and 2005, Oxford Archaeology carried out excavations at nine sites in Bedfordshire in advance of construction of the Great Barford Bypass (Timby 2007, 1). The areas investigated lie along the slopes of the left bank of the River Great Ouse that are on the Oxford Clay formation and overlies glacially derived drift geology (Timby 2007, 1). One of the sites in this investigation, Birchfield Road (Site 4), revealed evidence of human activity in the Middle Iron Age into the Roman period. Evidence from the Middle Iron Age was fragmentary, yet during the Late Iron Age, the inhabitants at Birchfield Road laid out a large ditch system that showed some domestic activity within the system's main enclosure (Enclosure 44) (Webley 2007c, 55). The inhabitants of the site predominately practiced a pastoral economy intermixed with some agriculture (Webley 2007c, 55). Furthermore, excavations uncovered a single unurned cremation and an inhumation associated with Enclosure 44 (Webley 2007b, 40). Jonny Geber conducted the osteological analysis of the skeletal material.