

WATCHFIELD (Oxfordshire)

SU 257 907

Watchfield lies near Shrivenham in Oxfordshire within the Vale of White Horse and overlies Corallian Limestone Bedrock (Birbeck 2001, 223). The site has had a number of archaeological investigations over the years (Birbeck 2001; Scull 1992). Oxford Archaeological Unit investigated the site in 1983 (Scull 1992), University of Durham in 1989 (Scull 1992) and Wessex Archaeology in 1998 (Birbeck 2001), in advance of both road construction and housing development. The excavations uncovered an enclosed Early/Middle Iron Age settlement with an entrance to the south at Watchfield with accompanying ditches, postholes and pits (Birbeck 2001, 225, 228). The archaeological evidence suggests the inhabitants at the site engaged in a mixture of farming and animal-rearing economies with various craft productions (Birbeck 2001, 232). Moreover, the archaeological investigations recovered eight human remains occurrences that consist of four inhumations and four disarticulated bones (McKinley 2001; Marlow 1992). Jacqueline McKinley (2001) conducted the osteological analysis for Wessex Archaeology and C.A. Marlow analysed the skeletal material from the earlier excavations (1992).