

NETTLEBANK COPSE (Hampshire)

SU 341 393

Nettlebank Copse is a banjo enclosure that lies in a valley leading into the river Test in Wherwell (Hampshire) (Cunliffe and Poole 2000c, 9). The banjo enclosure encircles roughly 2.5 ha and excavations began 1993, as part of the Danebury Environs Programme, which investigated the entire site (Cunliffe and Poole 2000c). Nettlebank Copse is situated in the chalklands area and ‘...hereabouts has a discontinuous mantle of clay-with flint’ (Cunliffe and Poole 2000c, 101). The environment of the area allowed for a mixed farming regime in prehistory. In the Early Iron Age, the site consisted of a small, single-family unit settlement with a single enclosing ditch with an entrance opening to the east (Cunliffe and Poole 2000c, 129). This settlement lasted only about 20-30 years before abandonment. After a brief hiatus, the banjo enclosure was constructed in the Late Iron Age following the same pattern as the original settlement (Cunliffe and Poole 2000c, 131). The site produced a fair amount of animal remains (Early Iron Age MNI: 74; Late Iron Age MNI: 144) (Hamilton 2000c). In addition, the excavations recovered five human remains occurrences consisting of one inhumation and four disarticulated bones. Bari Hooper (2000c) prepared the osteological assessment.