



EXPLORE THE EVIDENCE...ANGLO-SAXON DEATH

Archaeologists and historians documents as evidence for what happened in the past.

Your task is to find out about a grave recorded by the archaeologist, Edward Thurlow Leeds.

Here is your evidence:

- Photographs of an Anglo-Saxon grave when it was excavated.
- Photographs of objects.
- Newspaper cuttings.

Use the evidence to answer these questions:

Question	Answer	What evidence did you use?
Where and when was this grave excavated?		
What was the person in the grave male or female?		
How old was the person?		
What was the person wearing?		
What was found in the grave?		
What else can you find out about this burial?		

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Newspaper Articles

THE OXFORD TIMES,
FRIDAY, 14 MAY, 1937.

ANGLO-SAXON RELICS.

ANOTHER SKELETON FOUND AT WALLINGFORD.

Further proof of the existence of an Anglo-Saxon burial-ground at Wallingford was found last week, when Dr. H. Watts, of Haddon Hill, Didcot, with the assistance of two others, excavated another skeleton in the grounds of the pavilion. This is the tenth skeleton discovered there in recent years. It was by the courtesy of Mr. F. A. Snow that the excavation was carried out.

The remains were five feet below the surface and were those of a woman aged about 20. Above her left shoulder was a carinated grave pot no bigger than a breakfast cup and richly decorated.

On her chest were two brooches, presumably silver bronze, and round her neck and extending to the waist was a beautiful brass one at the bottom, with some amber beads on either side, and above these between 15 and 20 glass beads neatly drilled, and an iron pin, about four inches long, for fastening her cloak.

On Friday, Capt. C. Musgrave, of the Oxford University School of Anatomy, assisted by a student, took the skeleton away to Oxford. He found three bone discs which, he said, were used as counters and declared this last find to be the most interesting of all.

Mr. Snow contemplates starting a museum of his own with relics dug up on his premises during the past 20 years.

*Wallingford
Berks.
Grave II*

WOMAN'S SKELETON FOUND AT WALLINGFORD

Food Vessel and Ornaments in Anglo-Saxon Grave

On Friday a party of excavators in charge of Dr. H. Watts, Haddon Close, Didcot, discovered a remarkably well-preserved skeleton, together with ancient pottery and ornaments, in the grounds of Mr. F. A. Snow's pavilion.

There is no doubt that the site was once an Anglo-Saxon burial ground, for this is the tenth skeleton to be found there in recent years. Archaeologists have every reason to be grateful to Mr. Snow, whose assistance has enabled so many interesting discoveries to be made.

The skeleton, which was found about five feet below the surface, was that of a woman, aged about twenty, who had evidently been afflicted with curvature of the spine.

Above her left shoulder was a carinated food vessel, about the size of a breakfast cup, and richly decorated. It was in a perfect state of preservation. The contents were taken to Oxford by Captain C. Musgrave (Oxford University Museum) for analysis.

On the chest were two brooches, presumably of silver bronze, and round the neck and extending to the waist was a necklace of fifty beads, all beautifully drilled. The bead at the foot of the necklace was of rock crystal, on either side were amber beads, and those above were of glass. Nearby was an iron pin, used for fastening a cloak, and there were also three counters of the type used for playing an ancient game. Dr. Watts stated that the discoveries were most interesting, and added that it was not usual to find so much pottery in Anglo-Saxon graves.

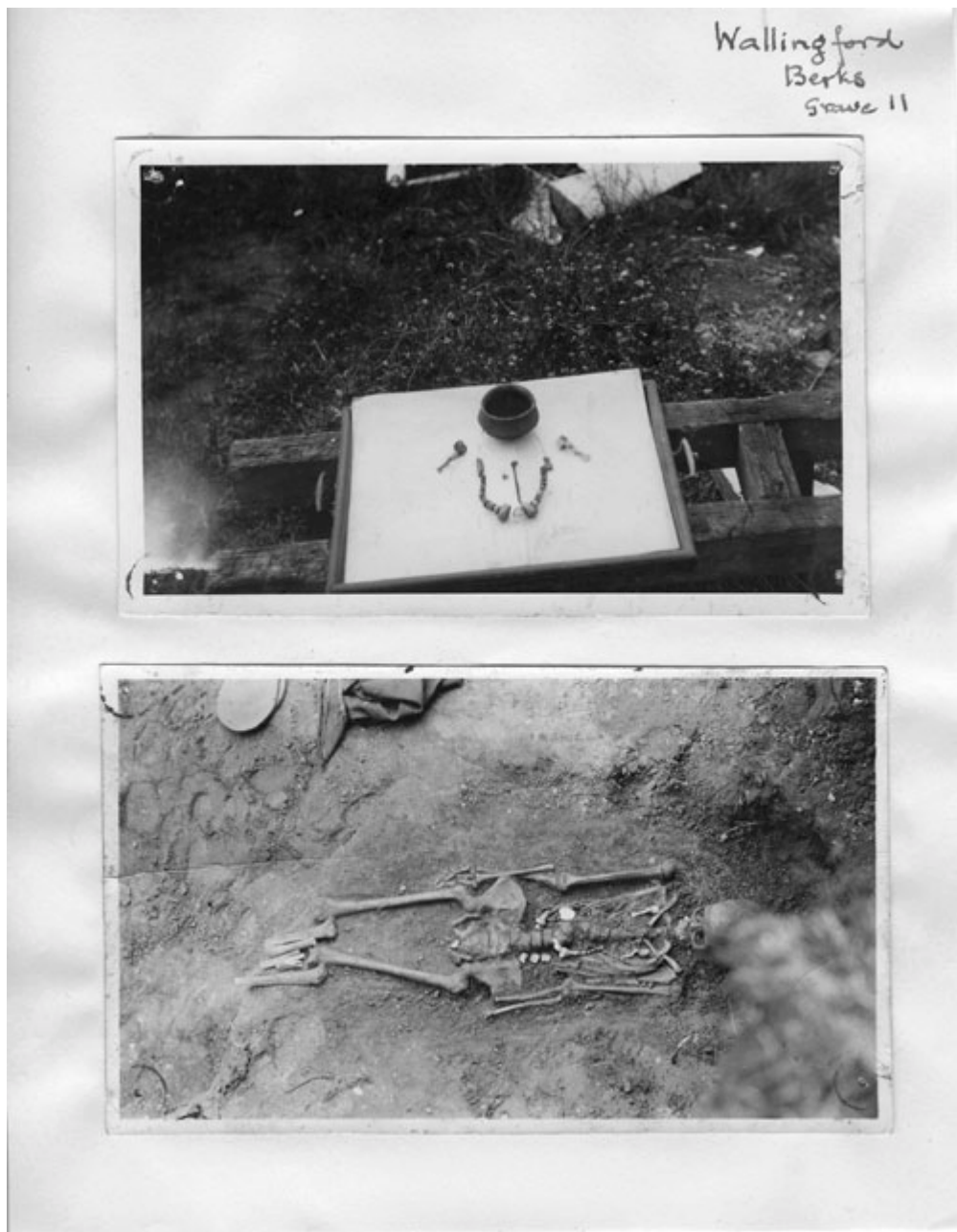
The ornaments have been examined by experts, who find that the date of burial was between 450 and 500 A.D.

To enable the public to see these relics and others which have been found in the Pavilion grounds, Mr. Snow has decided to start a small museum. No fee will be charged, but a box will be available for voluntary contributions, and the money so collected will go to local charities.

(Reprinted from the "Berks and Oxon Advertiser," May 14th, 1937).

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Photographs (1)



Record sheet created by Edward Thurlow Leeds

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Photographs (2)



Record sheet created by Edward Thurlow Leeds

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Photographs (3)



Ashmolean Museum record of objects