

THE HYDE900 INVESTIGATION 2010-2014: THE RESULTS

The results from Professor Higham at Oxford finally resolved the 'Mystery of the Unmarked Grave'. It had contained bones from five individuals whose dates ranged from 1230 to 1500 and who displayed a wide variety of degenerative conditions suggesting that they might, possibly, have ended their lives in the abbey's infirmary. In addition, there was one individual who dated from around the year 1100 indicating that he could have been amongst the first cohort of monks who moved from New Minster to Hyde Abbey. Collectively these findings represented a fascinating link with the history of the Abbey in medieval times.

The 'pelvis revelation'

Meanwhile, however, Dr. Tucker also took the opportunity to re-examine some of the human remains which had been found (but never carbon dated) by the 1999 'Search for Alfred' community dig. It was decided that a number of these bones should also be tested by Professor Higham.

This produced a startling discovery which established a firm connection with the Royal House of Wessex.

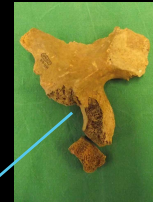
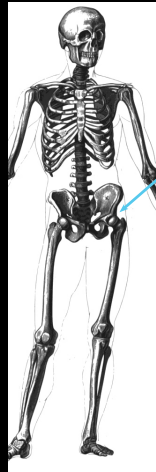
A pelvis was identified which dated from the end of the ninth century or the years of the tenth century. This made it definitely a 'New Minster' bone (the first ever found) and, given its context and age, there is a strong likelihood that it belonged to either King Alfred or King Edward.

The 'Search for Alfred the Great' was not over but a major clue had been found as evidence that his remains were not lost for ever – but, instead, were still waiting, possibly, to be revealed (albeit scattered and shattered) within the grounds of Hyde Abbey.

A new chapter has opened in the fascinating, posthumous story of King Alfred the Great.



Representatives from the University of Winchester, the Diocese of Winchester and Hyde900 meet with the Revd. Canon Cliff Bannister at the Unmarked Grave to plan its excavation. Dr. Katie Tucker, who led the excavation, is second from right.



The 'Power Pelvis' dating from the late 9th to early 10th century found in the altar area of Hyde Abbey, making it very likely that it belonged to either King Alfred or King Edward.



Dr Katie Tucker examining the bones at the University of Winchester.



Professor Tom Higham with the radiocarbon accelerator at Oxford University.