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SKELETONS UNEARTHED IN WILTSHIRE!

Ancient skeletons have been unearthed while we lay a new water main in Wiltshire as part of the Wessex Water Grid project.

The work forms part of Wessex Waters £200million water supply grid scheme which comprises 20 individual projects across Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset to move water around our region and safeguard customer supplies for the future. Lewis Civil Engineering is carrying out this work across 3 of the phases.



While working in fields along the A303, near West Knoyle, archaeological staff from Wiltshire-based firm AC Archaeology, discovered four human skeletons which are believed to date back to early Iron Age and Saxon periods.

The Iron Age burial, thought to be that of an adult female, was found with her feet chopped off which were re-buried alongside her along with carcasses of at least two sheep or goats on her head. Two of the other three burials, all male, were found with sword wounds to their hips and the fourth grave contained the remains of a 10-year old.

Davin Eversett, from Wessex Water, said: "We are committed to building our infrastructure in an environmentally friendly way.

"In order to achieve this we are working with archaeologists along every significant part of the pipeline's route to ensure that the past is protected."

The bones were carefully removed from the ground and will be cleaned and catalogued before undergoing radiocarbon testing to determine the date at the time of burial. Further research will also provide information about the diet or any diseases that the deceased may have had.

Peter Cox, director of Wiltshire-based AC Archaeology, who was commissioned by Wessex Water, said: "Human remains from these periods are very rare and indicate the long period of settlement that has occurred in the area.

"We're unsure why the female skeleton has been found without her feet or why she may have been buried with sheep, but it must have some link to people's beliefs at the time and perhaps to protecting her soul from bad spirits."

