# 2,000-Year-Old Human Sacrifice Victim Unearthed in Dorset



Archaeologists from Bournemouth University have discovered the 2,000-year-old remains of a young woman in her late 20s in Winterborne Kingston, Dorset. The woman, believed to have been a victim of human sacrifice during the Iron Age, showed signs of a stab wound to the neck, described by the team as a "smoking gun" of ritual killings. Additionally, there was damage to her rib, likely inflicted weeks before her death.

The woman lived a physically demanding life, as evidenced by significant degeneration and arthritic changes in her spine and well-developed muscle attachments. Unusually, she was buried face down atop a crescent-shaped arrangement of animal bones at the pit's bottom, differing from other nearby burials that included respectful positioning and offerings.

Isotope analysis of her teeth indicated she consumed water from around 20 miles away in her childhood, suggesting she may have been an outsider. Further DNA analysis is being conducted to confirm her origins. This discovery provides rare physical evidence of human sacrifice practices in Iron Age Britain.