The Operation of Body Farms - Learning Points for Setting up a Human Taphonomy Facility in the UK

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Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellow 2017
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All images by Rose Mary Johnston unless otherwise specified.
1. Acknowledgements

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Knoxville

Dr Dawnie Steadman - Director of the Forensic Anthropology Centre and Professor of Anthropology University of Tennessee Knoxville

Lt Vince Ayub - Head of Forensics, Knoxville Police Department

Dr Darinka Mileusnic-Polchan - Knox County Medical Examiner

Gail and Ron Wilczynski - International Police Association, Knoxville representatives

Sydney

Dr Maiken Ueland - Chancellor’s Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Technology Sydney

Sgt. Lateisha Lomas - New South Wales Police Dog Unit Detection Training Officer

Dr Sairita Maistry - Forensic Pathologist Department of Forensic Medicine, Glebe

Alison Sears - New South Wales Forensic and Analytical Science Service

Insp. Kristina Skvorc - Forensic Services Group, New South Wales Police

Charles Buttrose - International Police Association, Sydney representative
### Abbreviations and Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFTER</td>
<td>Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSI</td>
<td>Crime Scene Investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAC</td>
<td>Forensic Anthropology Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSG</td>
<td>Forensic Services Group; NSW Police Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTF</td>
<td>Human Taphonomy Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>ME</td>
<td>Medical examiner</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>New South Wales; province in Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMC</td>
<td>Project Management Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSNI</td>
<td>Police Service of Northern Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCO</td>
<td>Scenes of Crime Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taphonomy</td>
<td>the study of the processes affecting a body after death</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTK</td>
<td>University of Tennessee at Knoxville</td>
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<tr>
<td>UTS</td>
<td>University of Technology Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>Volatile Organic Compound gases</td>
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<tr>
<td>WCMT</td>
<td>Winston Churchill Memorial Trust</td>
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3. About the Author

I have been working in Crime Scene Examination for the Police Service of Northern Ireland since 2005. During that time I have been involved in innumerable death investigations, both natural and homicide. Since December 2016 I have been a Major Crime Forensic Adviser for PSNI, where I have been Crime Scene Coordinator for Murders and Major Crime Scenes.
4. Executive Summary

This research project was based on the need for a body farm in the UK. I visited the original body farm in Knoxville Tennessee, as well as the more recently established body farm in Sydney Australia. In both facilities I was able to observe how they are managed and run on a day to day basis. I also had the opportunity to talk to some of the partners and users of the facilities, including local police and medical examiners, to get their opinions of the facilities. From these interviews I have been able to write this report, including recommendations for setting up a body farm here in the UK.
5. Introduction

In Franklin Williamson County, Tennessee, just south of Nashville, there is a Confederate cemetery from the American Civil War. In December 1977 the grave of Colonel William Shy was found to have been tampered with, and that there was a body on top of Col. Shy's coffin, which it was thought had been left there within the previous year. The second body was estimated to have been dead between two and six months. Dr William M Bass, Forensic Anthropologist and the head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, was called in to assist in identifying the remains. In January 1978 Dr Bass was able to confirm that the body was that of a white male with brown hair, approximately 5'11" tall, weighing 175 pounds, and was between 26 and 29 years old. It appeared the male had been dead between six and twelve months, and had died of a wound to the head.

Upon closer examination of the body, however, Dr Bass worked out that the body was in fact that of Col Shy rather than a second male. He was quoted as saying “I got the age, sex, race, height and weight right but I was off on time of death by 113 years” (Nashville Banner, 6/1/78). This error was the impetus in setting up the Forensic Anthropology Centre (FAC) at the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK); the original body farm, opened in 1981. A body farm, or Human Taphonomy Facility (HTF), is a research facility which allows anthropologists to study human decomposition in a variety of settings. Before the FAC was opened, research was conducted using pig carcasses, as they were understood to be the closest analogous carcass to a human one.

Since then another six HTF research facilities have been set up in the continental United States, including in Texas, Colorado, and Southern Illinois, covering the diverse habitats and environments found in the US. What they have found is that the environment and the meteorology of the area can and does have a direct impact on the rate and manner of decomposition of human remains.
Currently the only body farm using human remains found outside the US is the Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research (AFTER) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), in Australia. It was only opened in 2016, and although they have not published the results of any studies yet, they have directly observed differences in decomposition compared to studies in the US.

My belief is that one is needed in Europe, and sooner rather than later. In 2017 Amsterdam’s Academic Medical Center (AMC) obtained a permit to open Europe’s first taphonomic cemetery. This will be similar to the FACs in America and Australia, but it is only planning on experimenting on buried human remains, which will obviously limit the research that can be conducted; for example, they will be unable to do any research looking at flies that may colonise the remains as the body needs to be in the open air for this to occur.

The Amsterdam facility is a good starting point, but we need more than one facility in Europe. The climate and soil chemistry in different areas of the UK can be vastly different from each other; for example remains will decompose differently in peaty bog land compared to sandy soil near the coast, and the weather on any given day in the highlands of Scotland can be very different to that in London; so of course they are going to be different to the conditions in Holland. Generalising from their studies will not necessarily get us the best results.

Why is the study of human decomposition so important? From a forensic point of view, sometimes Police need to be able to estimate how long a body has been at a certain site. Even if foul play is not suspected, the Coroner has a legal obligation to investigate the circumstances surrounding sudden or unexpected deaths, and the more information we have about how a human body decomposes the more accurate we can be with estimations of Post Mortem Interval. If we know how a body decomposes naturally, we are able to see if certain marks on the body are injuries or are a natural byproduct of decomposition, for example skin may split during decomposition and this could be mistaken for an injury sustained prior to death.
So why don’t we have a body farm in the UK? I’m not sure why, but I hope that this paper will help in the campaign to get one built. There is currently a campaign for one to be set up, spearheaded by the forensic anthropologist Dr Anna Williams, from Huddersfield University. My Fellowship was awarded to enable me to visit the FAC in Knoxville and the AFTER facility in Sydney, in order to research how body farms are set up and run on a daily basis. This research should hopefully help with the campaign to get a body farm in the UK.
6. Findings

6.1 Forensic Anthropology Centre, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Dr Bill Bass opened the FAC in Knoxville in 1981, the first body farm in the world. The facility as it stands now covers nearly 3 acres close to the University of Tennessee Medical Centre in Knoxville, and has between 150 and 200 donor bodies involved in active research at any one time. The facility is owned and run by the University of Tennessee, with the research being conducted by the Forensic Anthropology Centre. Some of the research projects at the centre have been suggested by law enforcement personnel as issues that came from real life cases - for example, if a corpse is hanging, how does this affect the distribution of insects on the remains in comparison to a body on the ground?

![Image 1 Original sign outside facility](image)

There is no federal or state legislation that deals directly with the body farms and the research they do. However, the University has legal counsel who will give advice and guidance when required. Funding for the FAC mainly comes from grants. The salaries of the permanent staff are paid by the Department of Anthropology, and graduate research assistants are generally paid for using grant money and departmental funding. Undergraduate students are also used to do a lot of the work, including cleaning the facility, and collecting donated bodies.
There are approximately 4000 ‘pre-donors’ - people who have registered to leave their bodies to the FAC for research purposes. Some of the pre-donors are even from the UK. When a donor dies the FAC is notified and arrangements are made to collect the body. The FAC will normally only collect a body within one hundred miles of Knoxville - any further than that transportation has to be arranged and paid for by the donor’s family. The FAC will also sometimes accept donors who have not been preregistered, but whether or not they are accepted will depend ongoing research. One of the first questions asked is the cause of death - there are certain infectious diseases that mean the body will not be accepted.

The donor body is brought directly to the William M Bass Forensic Anthropology building. Here there is intake where photographs are taken, height and weight are measured, and blood and other biological samples are taken. The donor is given an ID number, and it is this number which follows the remains throughout the process. The donor’s personal information is kept confidential, and only staff at the FAC has access to this information.
The donor will be placed in a specified area within the FAC area, with markers placed nearby to identify it. Some of the bodies will be left as they are, but others will be subjected to trauma, or placed in specific positions, in order to simulate specific real-life circumstances. When entering this area, personnel go through a ‘clean’ area to ensure they don’t bring any contamination on site, and also to ensure that nothing is brought out of the facility. This involves an area allowing people to put on specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This PPE is disposable, i.e. gloves or overshoes.

The length of time the remains are left out will depend on the research being conducted. There is no standard size for plots that are used for a single donor, mainly because the ground is not level and they need to maximise the space used. Once the particular research project has concluded, the remains are ‘cleaned’ of flesh and the bones are added to the William M Bass donated skeletal collection. This collection currently has nearly 1700 individuals, as well as over 50 cremated individuals. These skeletons can be used for further research.

One of the problems identified by the AC regarding the demographics of the donors is that they tend to be old white men, which limits the conclusions they can draw from their research. Part of the outreach programme is to try to encourage donors from other demographics - young people, women, African Americans and Hispanics.
The donor's remains are not returned to their family, but become a part of the research collection permanently. Instead, there is a memorial garden dedicated to all the donors. The FAC also keeps in contact with families, and does outreach lectures and presentations so that what they do isn’t seen as something ‘hidden.’

During my stay in Knoxville I spoke to a lot of the locals about the purpose of my research - visiting the body farm. Everyone I spoke to was very supportive and proud of the facility. According to Dr Dawnie Steadman, the current Director of the FAC, this public attitude is something that they work hard to foster. The facility is surrounded by a tall wooden fence and a chain link fence with razor wire. The security staff at the medical centre check on the exterior of the fence during their patrols. Also, because there is a helipad at the medical centre, there is closed airspace over the site. To date these have been the only security measures needed to keep people out. Only once have people tried to break in - a couple of law students were caught at the site. Instead of problems with human interlopers, they have more of a problem with raccoons - the bodies which are left in the open have nets placed over the hands and feet in order to discourage scavenging.

My overall impression of the facility was that it was a centre for learning. There is research going on constantly. Undergraduate anthropology students are
encouraged to hone their field skills, while post graduate and post-doctoral students are supported in designing and carrying out practical research projects. And over the summer break, the facility offers courses to law enforcement personnel.

While in Tennessee I spent some time with the Knoxville Police Department Forensics Unit. The police department has used the FAC in the past when dealing with active cases. In one instance where a body had been found after a house fire, the FAC was able to give advice on whether or not it was a homicide. They have also been consulted when skeletal remains have been found, to ensure that all the bones are found and recovered. Lt Vince Ayub, the supervisor of the forensics unit, has attended training courses at the FAC, and encourages his staff to do the same.

I also had the chance to speak to Dr Darinka Mileusnic-Polchan, Knox County Medical Examiner. The ME’s office used to be based at the UTK along with the FAC, so they developed a close working relationship. The facilities are now on separate sites but still work together. Dr Mileusnic-Polchan currently has several projects ongoing at the FAC along with Dr Steadman. The ME’s office now has an anthropologist on staff, but they would still use the FAC in order to test hypotheses on current cases. Dr Mileusnic-Polchan also stated that the FAC is the sort of facility you don’t know that you need, but once you have it you wonder how you did without it.
6.2 Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research, University of Technology Sydney

The AFTER facility was opened in 2016 by the University of Technology, Sydney, under the direction of Dr Shari Forbes, with funding from the Australian Research Council. The AFTER facility has had one major advantage that the FAC didn’t have - it has had help from other human taphonomy research facilities at the planning stage. The AFTER site covers about 12 acres of Australia Bushland near Sydney. At present they have 41 donor bodies on site, after 2 years of operation.

![Image 5 The AFTER site](image)

Legislation covering the operation of the body farm in Australia appears to be close to existing legislation in the UK. As in the UK, any facility which deals with human tissue measuring more than 1cm³ has to be licensed by the government and is regularly inspected to ensure it complies with the legislation. This is covered under the Human Tissue Act 2004 in the UK, and the Human Tissue Act 1983 and Human Tissue Regulation 2015 in Australia.

Funding for the facility has come from several areas. During the planning process a Project Management Committee (PMC) was set up. This committee includes
members from the University, the New South Wales Police Department, New South Wales Forensic Services Group, Victoria Police, academics, and the Australian Federal Police. Each of these stakeholders provided initial cash contribution to get the project off the ground. Most of the funding for the facility however comes from the UTS - they cover approximately 80% of the costs. All members of the PMC have unlimited access to the facility.

The PMC are involved in approving any research projects that are run at the AFTER facility. Ethics approval is required for each project. This was a major hurdle, as ethics standards had to be created for the body farm specifically. They also had to create specific paperwork, standard operating procedures, and quality assurance processes. Each partner organisation had slightly different standards and compromises had to be made, especially where police casework is involved.

The donor process is slightly different to the process for the FAC. People sign up to donate their bodies to the University of Technology for scientific research, and indicate whether or not they want that research to include forensic research. Those that come to the AFTER facility usually arrive within 24-48hrs. Currently there is no scenario development done with the donors (e.g. stabbing, or shooting); there is deposition of the bodies only.

In order to prevent contamination between the outside world and the facility, there is a clear separation area built in to the entrance of the site. On one side you can wear 'street' clothes; once you pass through you must wear the appropriate PPE.

Image 6 Separation between clean & dirty
Similar to the processes in the FAC, the donors in the AFTER are given a unique reference number which follows the remains throughout the process. The AFTER facility has been set up so that bodies can be placed in groups of four. The soil was tested prior to body deposition in order to get an accurate background level for the components in the ground. The bodies are each placed in a plot 5m x 5m, as testing has shown that this is the minimum distance to prevent leaching of decomposition between plots (see Appendix 3 for plan of plots). There is also a weather station on site so that daily conditions can be measured, and then correlated with research findings.
Already, with limited studies ongoing, the researchers at AFTER have been able to observe major differences between the visual markers decomposition on human remains compared to pig carcasses (which had been used for studies up until then). They are, however, planning research involving both human and pig remains, so that it can be decided if any research can still be conducted using pigs carcasses. They have already found that the Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) gases given off during the early stages of decomposition differ between them. This is a potential issue, as body recovery dogs are currently trained using pig carcasses in the UK - if the gases are detectably different then there is a chance that our dogs may be missing out on recovering human remains.

Another issue that has been identified during the limited research being conducted in Sydney, is the need to develop a new scale for describing the stages of decomposition in Sydney - the existing descriptors for the stages of decay are not appropriate for the conditions in Australia. For example, they have noted that some of the donors are displaying all stages of decay at the same time - the feet show no signs of decay, the abdomen shows bloating, and there is partial skeletonisation of the skull.

None of the remains have been finished with yet, so they have not had to clean the flesh off the bones. It is anticipated that this will be a post-doctoral research project. As in the FAC, the skeletons will also become an important resource for researchers in the future. As in Knoxville, there is a memorial garden with a monument for the donors’ families to visit.

Dr Shari Forbes, the UTS professor in charge of AFTER, is engaged in some outreach work with the press and the public in order to increase awareness of the facility and all that they do. People I spoke to in Sydney were not aware of the body farm there - this may be because it is relatively new, or perhaps because Sydney is a much larger city than Knoxville, so it is harder to get the news out there. Dr Maiken Ueland, who showed me around the facility, told me that people in the immediate area of AFTER were consulted during its planning and building, and their concerns were taken on board. For example, as part of the NSW Health licensing agreement for the
facility, there should never be more than ten donors at any one time in what is considered active decay. This should hopefully help stop bad smells in the area.

Security for the facility includes the fact that it is not well signposted - if you didn't know it was there you would have difficulty finding it. The facility has electronic card access and each person has their own code to input to gain access and cancel the alarm. The fence is also topped with razor wire. So far they have had no one trying to enter the facility illegally. They have had some problems with the local wildlife however. There are hawks, wild dogs and goannas (rather large monitor lizards) in the area, all of which have been known to scavenge pig remains, so should be considered as possible scavengers for human remains as well. To this end, each donor is covered in a cage to stop the scavengers from getting in. The cages however led to another issue - birds were able to get in but then were stuck in the cage. The cages now have wire on the bottom as well, so that animals and birds can no longer get in.
One problem that they did identify was with venomous spiders in the area - care must be taken when touching anything on site just in case. Once I was told this I spent a lot of time hiding behind Dr Ueland.

The facility is in a no fly zone, similar to the restricted airspace of the FAC. The AFTER facility is actually in a Royal Australian Air Force area, so the area is monitored closely. It is also heavily wooded - if you look the site up on Google Earth all you can see are trees, with no clue as to the research being conducted there.

I was very impressed with the AFTER facility. A lot of thought had obviously gone in to its planning, and the university staff were constantly looking for ways to improve the site. They are currently looking for ways to earn money. For example, they are hoping to be able to start running training courses at the site that they will be able to charge money for.

In Sydney I met with Alison Seers, a research biologist who is also research coordinator for the Project Management Committee of AFTER. Alison was able to tell me some of the issues that had come up among the stakeholders of AFTER. For
example, each of the partner agencies is coming from a slightly different area of operation, so it took a while to design paperwork that was acceptable for everyone. It didn’t occur to the academics that more paperwork was needed, and they were a little more lax with Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance than the criminal justice partners were used to. Alison did say that the PMC gave a good cross section of relevant industries which must benefit the facility.

I was lucky to be able to meet with one of the local forensic pathologists, Dr Sairita Maistry, at the Department of Forensic Medicine, Glebe. The Department conducts approximately 2000 post mortems per year on behalf of the coroner. They have their own dentists, neuropathologists, paediatric pathologists, and anthropologists on staff. Dr Maistry stated that she believed the AFTER facility could only be a good resource for them. Her only issue would be the lack of diversity of the cadavers being donated - they need to be able to study more than just older, white, thin males.

I also spent some time with the NSW Police Department on my visit. Insp. Kristina Skvorc showed me around the Forensic Services Group (FSG) facilities. NSW Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCOs) are mainly police officers rather than civilians as is more common in the UK. As part of their employment, SOCOs have to complete a research project - this allows them to be considered Expert Witnesses in court. Insp. Skvorc sees the AFTER facility as a great resource for her SOCOs to be able to do specific research projects relating to death investigation. She is also hopeful that they will be able to run body recovery training at the facility.

The other Police section I was able to visit was the NSW Dog Section. Sgt. Lateisha Lomas, the Dog Unit Detection Training Officer, gave me a tour of their facilities near Sydney. They have 3 dogs currently that are trained to search for human remains, and hope to have more in the future. The AFTER facility will be of tremendous help in this training, although the decomposition VOCs in the area are likely to be overwhelming for the dogs. Training will be best for the dogs in colder weather when the VOCs will not be as strong.
The dog section also has 2 dogs which can detect blood, and have a third currently in training. These dogs have been used in the past to follow blood trails, and have even found blood at scenes after the area has been cleaned or there has been a fire. They have been able to find blood after 6 months, and are particularly useful in finding blood on difficult surfaces. I was given a demonstration with one of the blood dogs, and she was able to find a small spot of blood on a plant (Image 11 above), as well as blood on gravel which was difficult to see even when she pointed it out to us.

Sgt. Lomas is hoping to do several studies at the AFTER facility. One will be with buried remains to see if the dogs can detect accurately. One of the UTS doctoral students is also hoping to do a study on whether or not dogs can differentiate between blood from a live or a dead source.

Because the AFTER facility works so closely with the partner agencies in the PMC, they are able to foster a lot of goodwill. Everyone I spoke to about the facility was very supportive, and eager to develop further research projects.
7. Conclusions & Recommendations

There is no doubting that setting up a human taphonomy facility in the UK will be a large undertaking. There are a lot of factors that need to be considered during the planning stage as well as the operation of the facility. From my Fellowship research I have the following recommendations:

Legislation

The UK legislation, in particular the Human Tissue Act (HTA), will need to be looked at closely to see if there are any changes that need to be made to allow a HTF to operate. The site will obviously have to be licensed under the HTA and abide will all provisions of that act. Health and Safety legislation will also have to be closely followed.

Garnier Local Support

It is vitally important that the public is consulted and listened to on this issue. Dealing with human remains is quite rightly an emotive issue for most people, but explaining what exactly is done in HTFs, as well as engaging in public consultations, has worked well in both the FAC and AFTER to get the public ‘on board’.

If necessary the research can start slowly to get the public used to the idea. For example, the first research projects could involve either leaving the donor’s bodies on the surface without being subjected to post mortem trauma, or perhaps having them all buried in order to monitor decomposition in different soils. This would be similar to the Amsterdam facility mentioned in the introduction, with the intention of moving on to eventual research on bodies on the surface.

Choosing a Site

It is very important to decide on the ideal site for the body farm, in part because it is important that it is only accessible by those who have a legitimate need to be there. The donor’s in the FAC and AFTER are treated with the utmost dignity, and part of this is ensuring that only researchers or other relevant people have access to the sites.

Security of the site is paramount. Fences need to be high enough to stop casual access or views into the site. It is also useful to have the site far away from
residential areas. The FAC and AFTER are both sited in wooded areas which also controls what can be seen from the air. They are both also in restricted air space, meaning that there can be no overflights without express permission. I would suggest that an area that is already controlled by the military or the government would work well for this control.

Preparing the Site

Once the site has been chosen it is important to set it up correctly. I would recommend that the area be surveyed before any remains are deposited, in order to find the background composition of the soil and surrounding area. It would also be useful to do studies to see how far decomposition fluids may leech in the soil so that the plot sizes can be decided on.

There needs to be a way of separating the ‘clean’ and ‘dirty’ areas of the site. People need to be able to access the outer areas - for example, bodies will have to be transported to the site and there needs to be somewhere private where these bodies can be deposited before they are then moved into the ‘dirty’ area; the research area. It is a good idea to have refrigerated storage in this area to keep the bodies preserved until they can be used.

The set up in AFTER seems to be a good method of separation - a person has to physically climb up and down steps to go between the 2 areas, before going through a second gate and putting on the appropriate PPE. There are also bins there for the disposal of the used PPE when a person is leaving the site.

A weather station on site is a good idea to add further information to the research being conducted - the temperature, wind speed, and humidity can all have an effect on decomposition and should be recorded where appropriate.

Management of the Site

Most research done in body farms is led by academics; it would therefore seem appropriate that overall management of the facility is by academics from a particular University’s Anthropology Department. Most of the funding for the facility should also probably come from University funding, as this seems to work well in the other HTFs. Partner agencies, such as Police Services or the Home Office, could also contribute funding towards the facility, which would give them access to the site. In the AFTER facility this was a one off fee, but I would suggest that a yearly payment would be better in order to help with the ongoing running costs.
Partner agencies should also be involved in a Project Management Committee, as is the case in Sydney. This committee can help with drawing up standard operating procedures, and quality assurance, as well as deciding on the most appropriate research projects to run on the site.

There should also be an ethics committee involved in deciding on the appropriate research to conduct. This should also help with fostering public support for the project.

Donation of Bodies

I would recommend that a procedure be put in place to enable people to donate their bodies to a HTF in the UK. It could be a matter of copying the forms used in Australia, where a person decides to donate their body to the university medical department for research, and can then specify that they will also allow their body to be used for forensic research. The FAC forms also have a specific area where the donor can indicate whether or not they are willing for trauma research to be conducted on their remains. In this way the donors will always be giving informed consent as to what they are donating to.

A memorial garden or area where family can visit would also be a good idea.

There should be a way of maximising the diversity of the donor bodies. Both the FAC and AFTER have the same issue with most donors being old white men. Information sessions with potential donors might be a way of increasing the diversity of the bodies donated.

Conclusion

Setting up a Human Taphonomy Facility in the UK will not be easy. It will require cooperation from a lot of different public and private sector partners to make it happen. But I believe that if we don't do this we are leaving the UK behind in terms of forensic anthropological research. We have the opportunity to set up the first facility of its kind in Europe, and to gain the international renown that this would entail.
8.1 Appendix 1 - Organisations Visited

Australian Facility for Taphonomic Experimental Research, University of Technology Sydney - https://www.uts.edu.au/about/faculty-science/after-facility/our-facility


Forensic Anthropology Centre, University of Tennessee - http://fac.utk.edu/

Forensic Services Division, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation - https://www.tn.gov/tbi/divisions/forensic-services-division.html


Knoxville Police Department Forensics Unit - http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_departments_offices/police_department/criminal_investigations/forensics_unit

Medical Examiners’ Office, Regional Forensic Centre, Knox County - https://www.knoxcounty.org/rfc/dept-med-examiners.php

8.2 Appendix 2 - Interview Questions

These questions were used as a starting point for general conversations on the facilities rather than as a structured interview.

Body Farms

I. What are the first steps in setting up a body farm?

II. How important has it been to have local support, and how do you foster good relations with the locals?

III. How much space is needed?

IV. Is there specific legislation dealing with human taphonomy facilities? State or federal?

V. How do you get bodies?

VI. Is the facility inspected? By whom and how often?

VII. How do you keep records? Who can access the data, and what is it used for?

VIII. What are the main health and safety issues?

IX. How much publicity does the facility need or get?

X. Where do you get funding - university, students, law enforcement, grants?

XI. Who uses the facility?

XII. Have you had problems with people trying to gain unauthorised access to the site?

Others

I. Have you had occasion to use the facility?

II. How did you get access? Did you get what you needed?

III. Does the facility and the research conducted there benefit your role, either directly or indirectly?

IV. Is there anything in particular you would like to see included or studied at the facility?
8.3 Appendix 3 - Layout of plots at AFTER

5 x 5 m plots

Road between plot groups - to allow vehicular access

Paths between plot groups to allow access
8.4 Appendix 4 - Useful Links

My blog - http://bodyfarmukgirl.blogspot.co.uk/

Campaign for starting a body farm in the UK - http://htf4uk.blogspot.co.uk/

Donating your body to the FAC in Knoxville - http://fac.utk.edu/body-donation/

Donating your body to AFTER in Sydney -

Human Tissue Act 1984 (Australia) -

Human Tissue Act 2004 (UK) -
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/30/contents

Human Tissue Regulation 2015 (Australia) -

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust - https://www.wcmt.org.uk/
9. References/Further Reading


Gennard, DE 2007 *Forensic Entomology: An Introduction*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.


Hunter, J, Simpson, B, & Sturdy Colls, C 2013 *Forensic Approaches to Buried Remains*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.


