

## EXCAVATIONS AT DANESBOROUGH CAMP

BY JAMES BERRY

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The small excavations described in this paper were made on May 28, 29, and 30<sup>1</sup>, 1924, by Mr. W. Bradbrooke, Col. James Wyness, and myself.<sup>2</sup> The object was to ascertain, if possible,

1. Whether the popular attribution of the "camp" to the Danes is correct, or not.

2. Whether the causeway across the encircling ditch, opposite the supposed original entrance on the S.W. side, formed part of the original structure of the earthwork, as seemed probable, or if it were merely mediæval, or later, filling in of the ditch.

Both these problems were solved.

1. The pottery unearthed was partly of Early Iron Age, and partly Romano-British. Nothing was found that could be definitely dated later than the second

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<sup>1</sup> A fourth day, May 31, was occupied in filling in and restoring the external surface to its previous appearance.

<sup>2</sup> The site was visited during the progress of the work by Mr. E. Hollis (Curator, Aylesbury Museum), Mr. G. Eland (Editor, "Bucks Records"), Mr. W. Barnes (Hon. Sec., Bucks A. & A. Society), Rev. F. W. Bennett, Dr. G. Scott Williamson, Mr. S. A. Sewell, Mrs. Bradbrooke, and Lady Berry, all of whom rendered assistance. The actual digging was done by John Jackson, of Bletchley, John Chinn, of Woburn Sands, Lawrence Williamson, of Fenny Stratford, and Thomas North, Thomas Judd, and John Williamson, of Bow Brickhill, who worked with intelligence and good will.

century A.D. and most of it was of about 1st Cent. B.C. to 1st Cent. A.D.<sup>3</sup>

2. The causeway was proved to be undoubtedly original.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

The Earthwork is on the estate of the Duke of Bedford, who kindly permitted the exploration, and has also been so good as to present all the objects found to the Bucks A. & A. Society's Museum, where they now are. Danesborough Camp is the designation of this large earthwork situated in Wavendon Wood close to the Beds border of this county.

In the North Bucks volume (p. 313) of the Report by the Historical Monuments Commission, it is described as of the "contour fort" type and a plan given, of which Fig. 1 is a reproduction. The reduced plan on the 6 inch Ord. Survey Map (sheet XV. S.E.) also shows approximately the shape of the camp, and the supposed situation of the entrance. The shape is roughly oval or rectangular with rounded corners, and encloses about 8½ acres. It is 1,100 yards E.N.E. of Bow Brickhill Church, about the same distance S.W. of Woburn Sands village, and nearly two miles S.S.E. of Wavendon. It is rather more than two miles from and more than 270 feet higher than the point at which Watling Street crosses the site of Roman Magiovinium<sup>4</sup> a little south of Fenny Stratford. Placed upon a projecting spur of the Lower Greensand at a height of 500 feet it commands (in the absence of surrounding trees) an extensive view northwards towards Newport Pagnell and Olney, and, north-eastwards, towards Bedford, 12 miles distant.

It is protected by a very steep slope on the S.E. side, and by less steep ground on the N.W. and N.E. On

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<sup>3</sup> We desire to express our cordial thanks to Mr. Reginald Smith, F.S.A., of the British Museum, and Dr. Cyril Fox, F.S.A., late of Cambridge, now of the National Museum of Wales, for kind help in the dating of this pottery. Mr. Smith was also good enough to visit the site with us before the excavations were begun.

<sup>4</sup> or Magiointum.

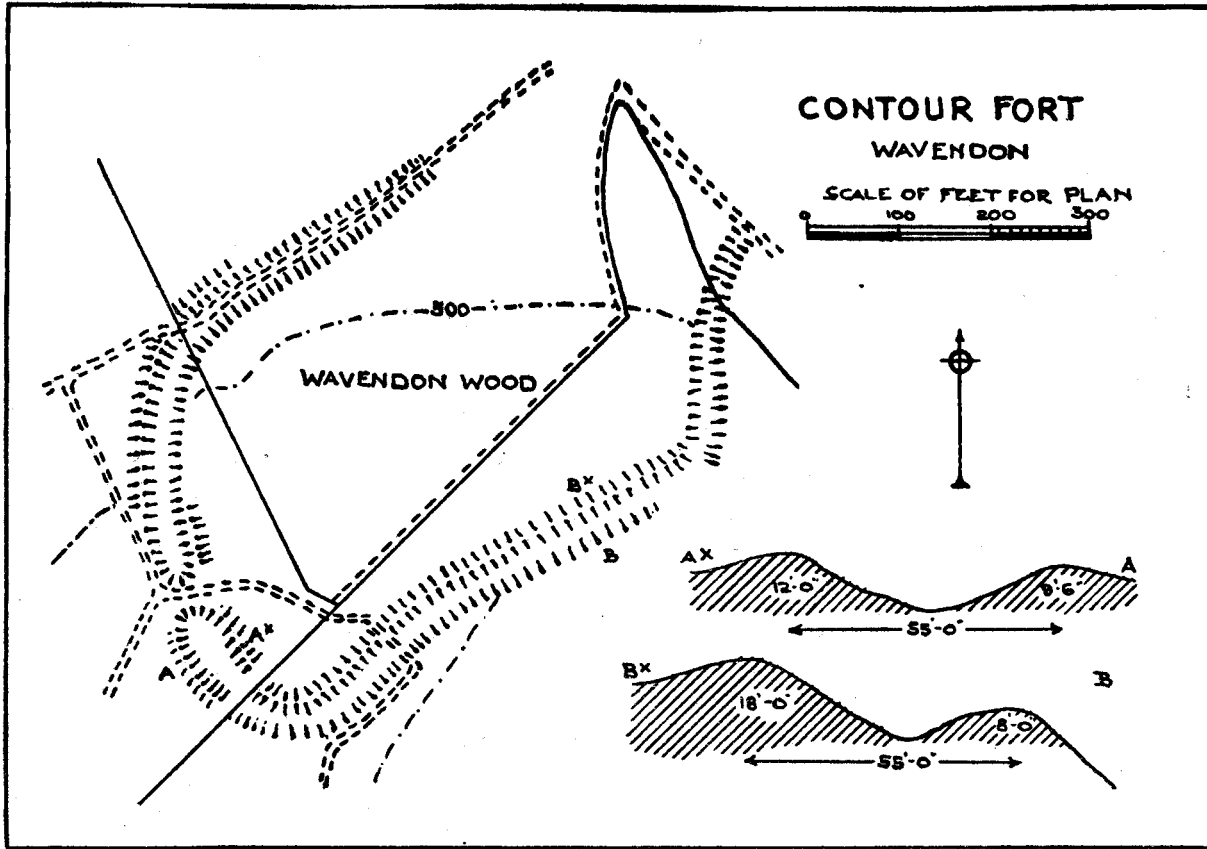


FIG. 1.

Fig. 1.—Plan of the Earthwork (reproduced by permission of H.M. Stationery Office from the Report of the Historical Monuments Commissioners, Vol. II p. 313).

the S.W. side there is no protecting slope. At the northern angle the sandy plateau on which the camp is placed becomes a ridge which descends towards Woburn Sands. The rampart and ditch which surround the camp are particularly well marked on the S.E. (Fig. 2)<sup>5</sup> and S.W. sides, but on the other sides have been sadly denuded by mediæval or modern tracks.

### ENTRANCES

At the N.E. corner is a wide gap (Fig. 3) which may possibly mark the site of an original entrance, although in an unusual situation. Leading up to this along the above-mentioned ridge is a sunken way, now a footpath from Woburn Sands. Inside the camp (Fig. 4) this hollow way extends nearly to the south corner, where, much altered in appearance, it passes out through the vallum a few yards to the north of this corner. There is nothing in the appearance or position of this latter gap to suggest that it could ever have formed any part of the original design.<sup>6</sup>

### WESTERN ENTRANCE

Near the middle of the S.W. side, where the ditch is exceedingly well defined, it is crossed by a narrow causeway leading to a gap in the vallum, here much denuded, especially on the north side. This gap, now occupied by a modern footpath, appeared to be an original entrance. (Fig. 6). It was on this causeway and in the ditch on either side of it that the excavations were made (Fig. 7).

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<sup>5</sup> The photographic illustrations are the excellent work of Mr. Leopold Durrant, of Fenny Stratford, to whom we are greatly indebted.

<sup>6</sup> In the S.E. vallum is another narrow gap which obviously is not original (Fig. 5). There is no corresponding gap in the counter-scarp bank, and the slight filling up of the ditch is evidently due to the material from the vallum having been thrown into it. There is no evidence of any ancient road having led up to this portion of the camp. It was not thought necessary to attempt any excavation here.



Fig. 2.—Looking W. along the S. fosse. Vallum on the right, counterscarp on the left. Further to the left (outside the photograph) there is a steep slope of 140 feet down to the bottom of a ravine.

The figure standing in this and other views is 6 ft. 3 ins. high.



Fig. 3.—View of the hollow trackway leading up to the (? mediaeval) gap in the vallum (extreme right of the photograph) at the N. corner of the area. The figure to the left in the background is standing on the vallum. Immediately in front is a well marked section of the fosse.



Fig. 4.—The hollow trackway (probably mediaeval) within the area of the Camp. View taken from a point about 40 yards inside the gap seen in preceding photograph.

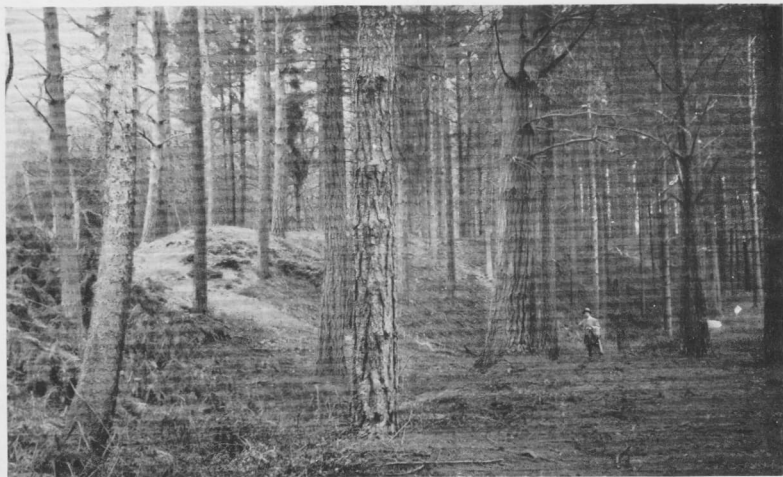


Fig. 5.—The gap (almost certainly mediaeval or modern) in the vallum on the E. side of the camp. No excavation was made here.

The two white marks on the right are on the crest of the counterscarp.





Fig. 6.—Looking E. along the causeway towards the much denuded W. entrance through the vallum.

The upright stick in the foreground is at the centre of the causeway. The white square beyond it marks the centre of the gateway. The figure stands where the N. jamb of this gateway would have been placed.

The southern end of Excavation C is seen in the foreground.

The beginning of the N. slope from causeway to ditch is visible on the left of this photograph.

## THE EXCAVATIONS

The camp being in the middle of a thickly planted pine wood, the trees of which we were forbidden to disturb, made the choice of ground for excavation very difficult and limited.

Two areas, A and B, each 20ft. by 10ft. (see plan, Fig. 7), along the middle of the ditch on either side of the entrance causeway, were selected. It seemed that here, close to the entrance, we should be more likely than elsewhere to find pottery fragments and other objects rejected or lost by the makers and earliest occupants of the place.

Excavation C (Figs. 7, 8, 9) was a trench 24ft. by 4ft. running outwards from the middle of the causeway until it joined A. It was made to ascertain if the causeway were original or made by filling in the ditch.

Each of these three areas were divided, chess-board fashion, into squares of 1ft., which were numbered with Roman numerals from I to X, proceeding from the vallum across the ditch. In the long axis of the ditch the squares were numbered with Arabic numerals from south to north. Each object discovered was, by one or other of the observers, immediately wrapped in paper with the numbers, Roman and Arabic, of the square in which it was found, and a note of the depth from the surface.

Owing to the loose nature of the sandy soil it was not possible in all places to make a deep excavation with vertical sides. Blocks of unexcavated sand had to be left in places at each end and one side of Excavation B, trenches being carried in various places into unmistakably undisturbed greensand. In the case of Excavation A, time did not permit of exposing as thoroughly as could be wished the southern portion of this area. Consequently, very little of the original surface of the north slope of the causeway was actually exposed. The narrowness of Excavation C, limited as it was on each side by trees, and the incompleteness of Excavation A, account for the relatively small number of objects found in these two areas. Nevertheless, since the excavation penetrated in many places through

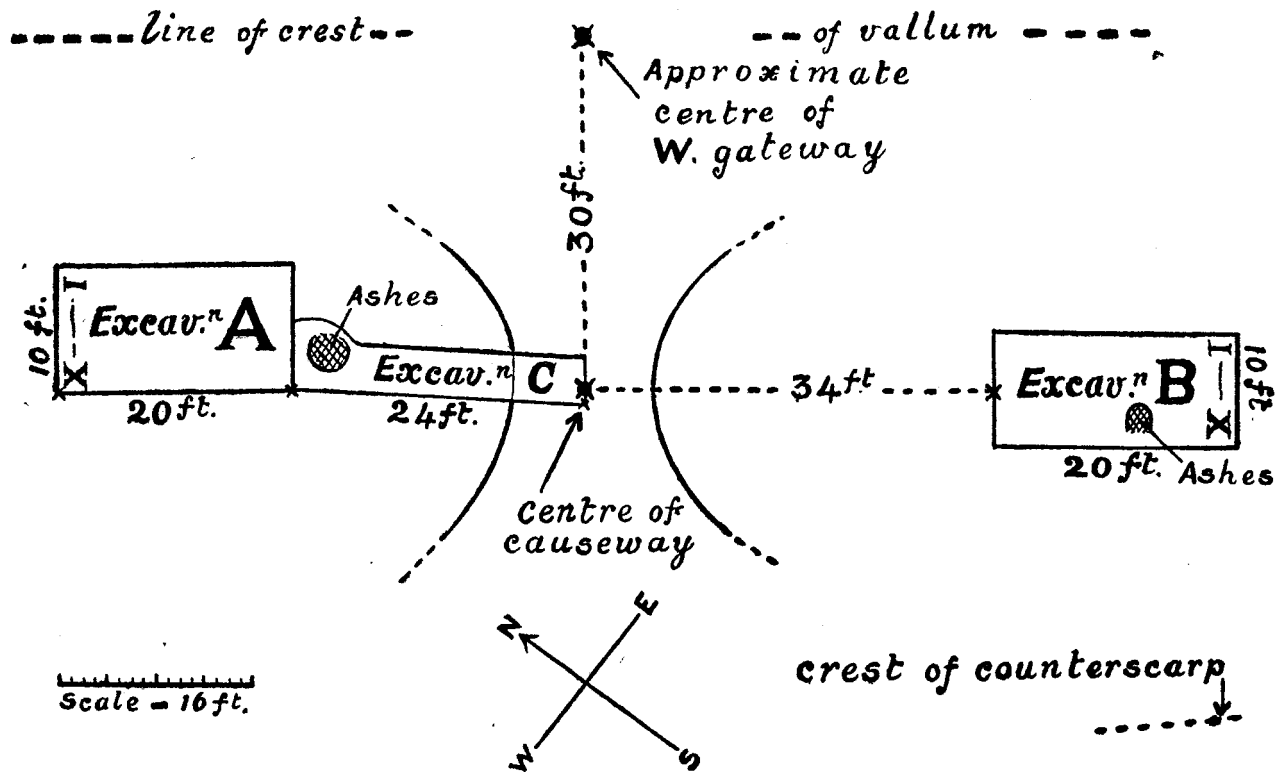


Fig. 7.—Plan of Excavations at W. entrance.

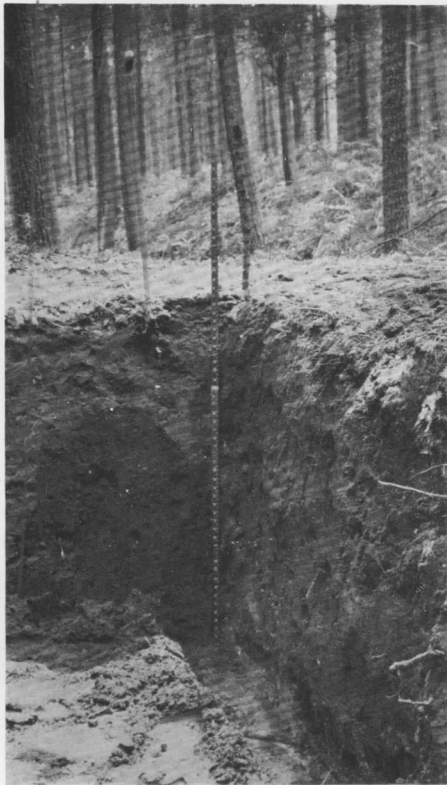


Fig. 8.—S.W. corner of Excavation C at the centre of the causeway.

Just to the right of the lower end of the measuring rod, can be seen dark horizontal lines which are in the undisturbed greensand.

In the background are, right, the counterscarp bank ; left, the ditch in which Excavation B was made.

the silting into undisturbed soil, we were able to obtain a fairly good idea of the shape of the slope on either side of the causeway (Fig. 9) and of the adjacent ditch. The bottom of the ditch in A and B was found to be U shaped. This must not be regarded, however, as indicating that the bottom of the remoter parts was not of the usual V shape, because the presence of the sloping sides of the causeway would necessarily in such soil transform a V into a U. It is obviously far more difficult to determine the exact outline of a ditch cut in sand than in chalk, in which so many Bronze and Iron Age camps have been excavated in this country. In the second case the contrast between the white chalk in which the ditch is cut and the material with which it is subsequently filled, is much greater than in the first case.

#### THE CAUSEWAY

The causeway some 60ft. long is nearly level, there being an ascent of about one foot from its centre to the entrance in the vallum (Figs. 6, 7, 8). The ditch close to the causeway on the south side is slightly wider than elsewhere, since the counterscarp bank, here about 3-4 feet high, bends a little outwards away from the camp. On the opposite (northern) side, the ditch near the causeway appears now to be narrower. This apparent narrowing is due, however, to the construction of a modern track. In making this the material of the bank has evidently been removed and thrown into the ditch. If the curve of the counterscarp bank, at some little distance to the north, where it has not been disturbed, be prolonged, it will be found to fall approximately into line with that of the south side. Doubtless, in its original condition, it also bent slightly away from the vallum as it approached the entrance to the camp.

Excavation C (Figs. 8, 9) quickly proved that the causeway formed part of the original plan of the camp, no ditch having been dug here. Beneath a few inches of humus lay two feet of dark, muddy, unstratified ochre-coloured sand, possibly natural, but apparently a good deal disturbed. Beneath this again, at a depth

# EXCAVATION - C.

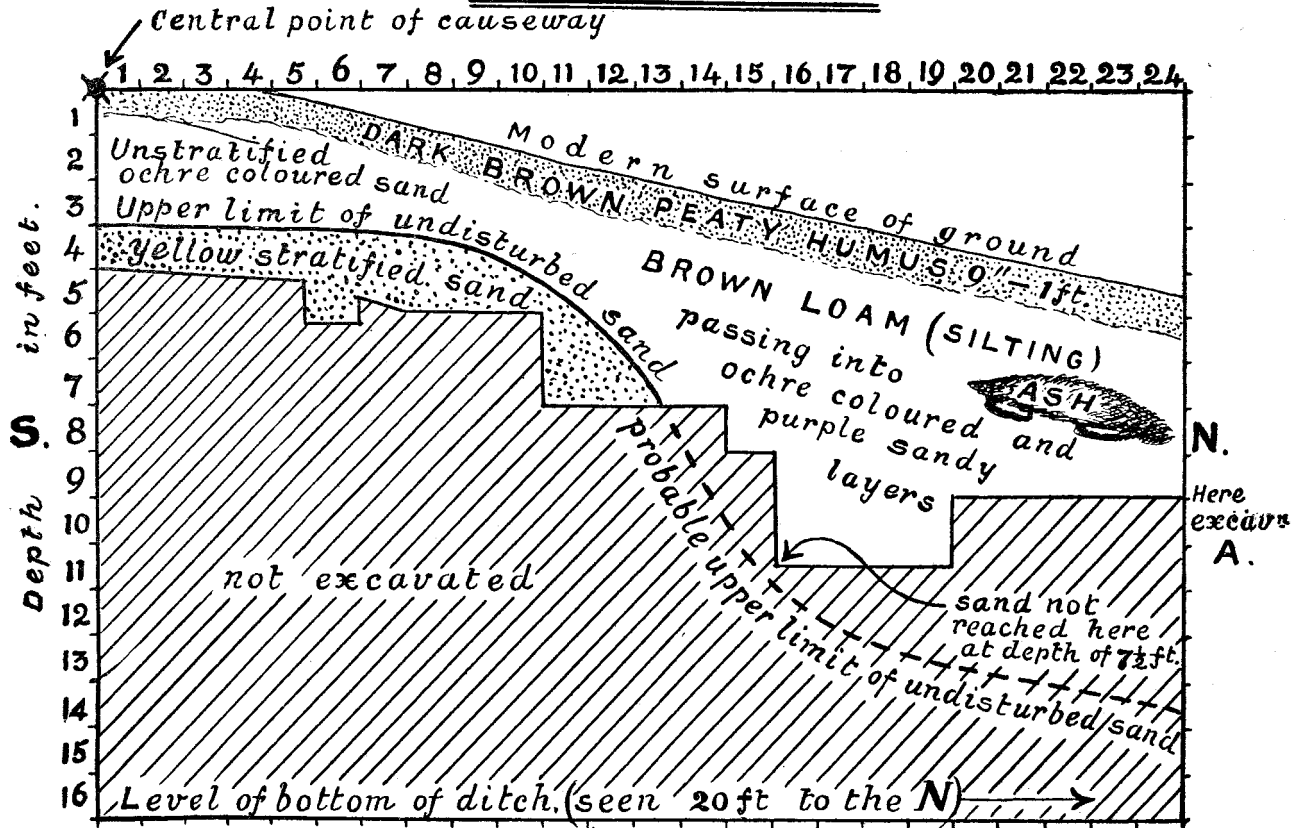


Fig. 9.—Vertical section through N. half of the causeway. Seen from the east (the camp) side.

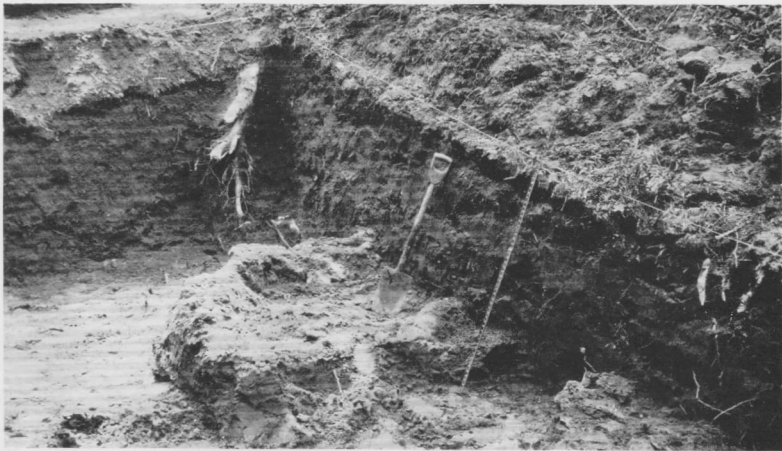


Fig. 10.—The S.W. angle of Excavation B at an early stage of the work. On the right the line of stratification of the silting on the counterscarp side can be seen. On the left, similar lines are seen sloping down towards the bottom of the ditch.

The spade rests on the layer of ashes, not yet removed.

Much of the later pottery was found at or below this level. All the Iron Age fragments were found from one to four feet beneath this layer. (See Fig. 11).

of only three feet, was unmistakable natural Greensand, which had never been disturbed. Of a yellow colour, it was stratified and marked with darker bands of characteristic ferruginous staining. On tracing the upper surface of this layer of undisturbed greensand outwards towards the ditch, it was found to bend down, somewhat abruptly, at a distance of about 10ft. from the centre of the causeway, which had, therefore, originally a breadth of some 20ft. Although the middle part of this slope down to the ditch was not actually exposed, yet further outwards (in excavation A) the same sandy layer was reached in several places, so that the approximate position of the original slope from causeway to ditch was fairly accurately ascertained. Owing to the partial filling up of the ditch on its west side our excavation A did not lie exactly over the centre of the original ditch, but was mostly on the vallum side of it.

The nature of the material excavated at A and B consisted mainly of sandy and muddy layers of silting, varying in colour from yellow or ochre-colour to dark reddish-brown or purple, all beneath a superficial layer (6—9 inches) of peaty humus in which pine needles were a prominent feature.

The true bottom of the ditch was reached at 9ft. in A and 8ft. in B (see Fig. 11).

Many flint chips, foreign of course to the soil in which they were found, were discovered in all three excavations, but chiefly in the deeper layers of A and B. They presented all degrees of patination. One large flake which I saw removed from the very bottom of the B ditch had sharp, razor-like edges, and no patination at all on its freshly fractured surfaces. Only two flints showed definite evidence of human workmanship. These are illustrated on Plate X. One was a very beautiful triangular pigmy ( $\frac{5}{16} \times \frac{7}{32} \times \frac{5}{32}$  inch) with well-marked secondary chipping along the butt edge. It was found in A at a depth of 1 foot, and 13 feet from the centre of the causeway. The other flake ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch long) showed no secondary chipping.

During the progress of the excavations in the sandy soil, numerous nodular masses and flat slabs of iron-



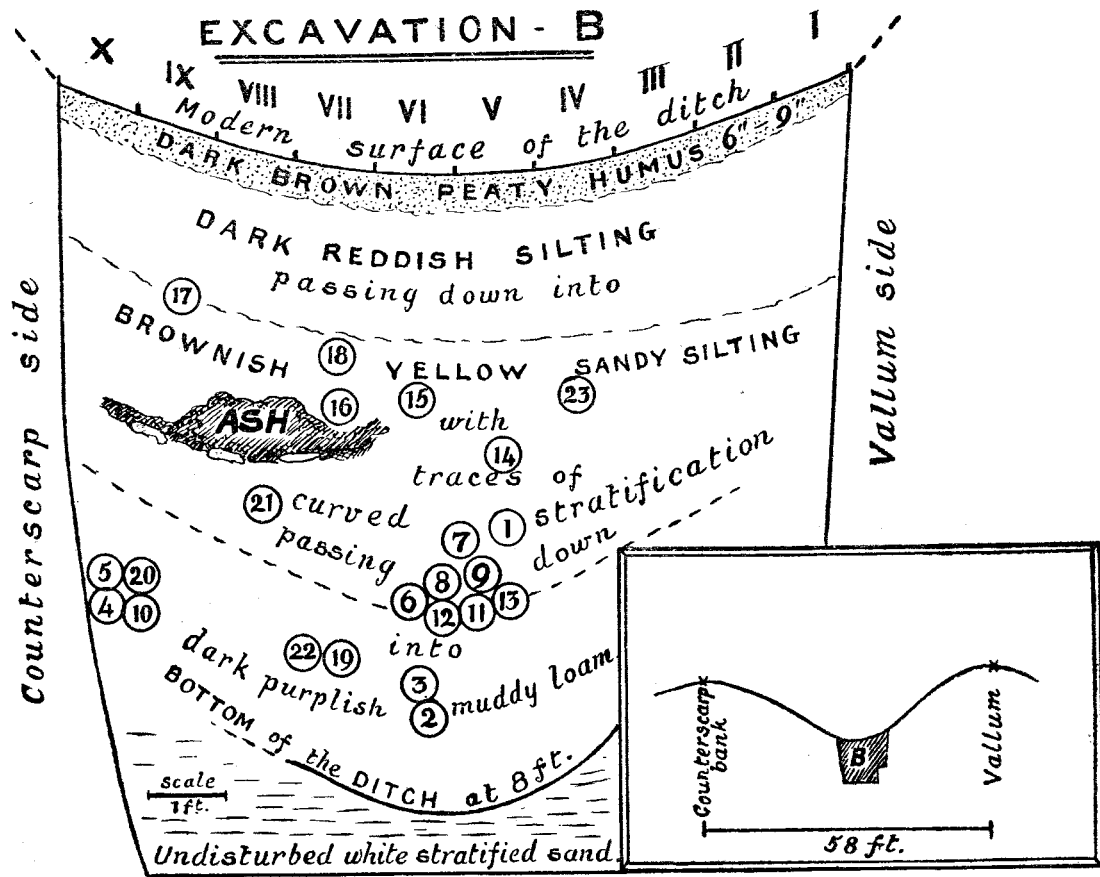
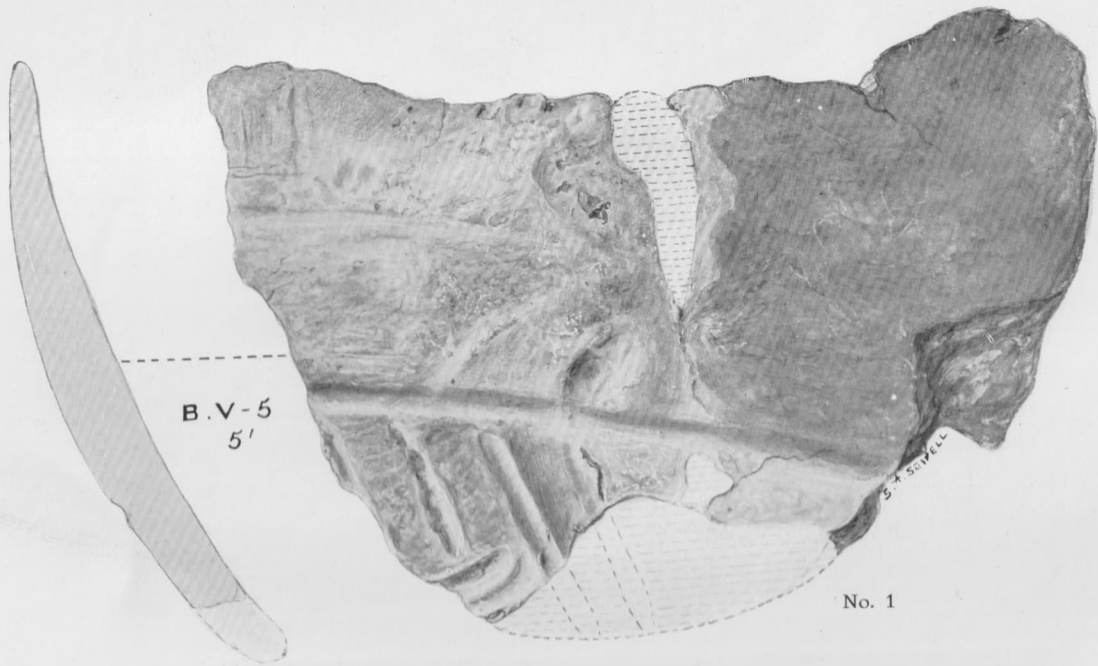


FIG. II.

Fig. 11.—Vertical section across the ditch near the southern slope of the causeway. All the characteristic pieces of pottery figured in Plates I—IX have been projected into this section. The numbers within circles correspond to those of the figures in the Plates.



B.V-5  
5'

S. A. SHIPLEY

No. 1

*(Actual size.)*

sandstone were found at the deeper levels in all three excavations. Layers and nodules of this material occur naturally in greensand, and would be found in material thrown up from it.

In two places in excavations B and C, a number of these stones were found arranged to form very rough hearths, on each of which was a lenticular layer of wood ashes about 9 inches thick at the centre and about 3 feet in diameter. The exact shape and position of these masses of ash is shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4, and in Fig. 10. At first it was thought that they might mark the sites of small potters' kilns or possibly of a primitive smelting furnace. The complete absence of any wasters of pottery or of scorix or slag, and the rudeness of the arrangement of the stones, at once negated any such idea.

By far the most important objects found were numerous fragments of pottery. Considering the very limited extent of the excavations, we were fortunate in finding as much as we did, and still more in that most of it could be dated at least approximately, within the comparatively narrow limits of two or three centuries. This pottery will now be described in detail.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE POTTERY

(Plates I-IX)

All the pottery found was wheel made, except possibly No. 1, which was doubtful. None of it appeared to be modern or mediæval.

Of the 148 pieces found one was a small complete pot (Plate V), 16 were portions of rims, and 8 of bases. No handles or spouts of vessels were found.

Very few of the fragments could be fitted together, and it was not found possible to reconstruct from the fragments any portion of a pot from rim to base. Portions of at least 15 different kinds of vessel were recognised. *With two exceptions no fragment of pottery of any kind was found either on the surface of the ground or at any depth less than 3ft. from it.*

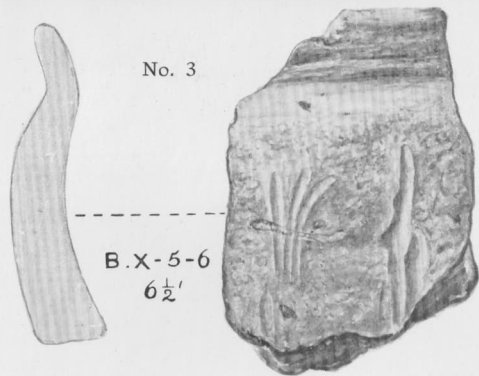
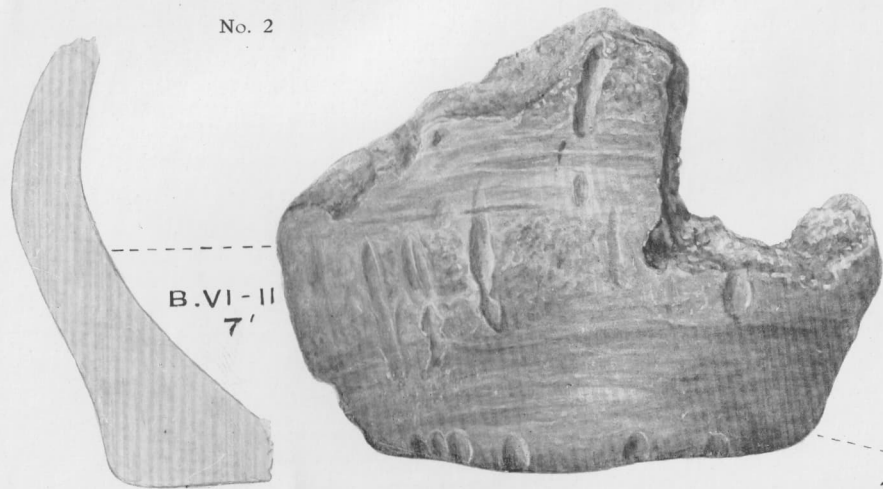
As regards the classification of the pottery, it fell mainly into three broad divisions:—

- (a) A hard brown or blackish ware, mostly found at the deepest parts of the ditch (none less than 5ft. from the surface, most of it 6-8ft.), and therefore presumably the oldest in date (Plates II, III, IV, VI, 10, 11, 13).
- (b) A somewhat coarser ware, red or brown on the surface, and with grey (ill fired) interior. From the position in which most of it was found (5-9ft. deep) it was apparently of much the same early date as the preceding (Plate VIII, 19, 21, 22).
- (c) A hard, very well made, creamy white, ware of good texture, mostly ornamented with horizontal impressed lines (Plate VII). Some of this had a brown burnished surface. It was evidently somewhat later in date than the remainder, and most of it was found at a somewhat higher level (about 3-4 feet deep).

Of the total number of fragments, 129 came from excavation B. These could be put into one or other of the above divisions as follows:—(a) 30, (b) 44, (c) 55.

The fragments from excavation A were mostly of (a) or (b) class, only one fragment of (c) having been found here. The pieces selected for illustration and detailed description (mostly from excavation B) are those which from their shape, texture, or ornamentation are characteristic of the various kinds of pottery that were found. There was nothing in the remainder that is not illustrated by one or other of the specimens figured.

The drawings have been made by Mr. Sydney A. Sewell with great care and accuracy. They are of the exact size of the original specimens, with the exception of those in Plate VIII, which have been reduced by one-tenth. The half-tone blocks prepared from them are by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.

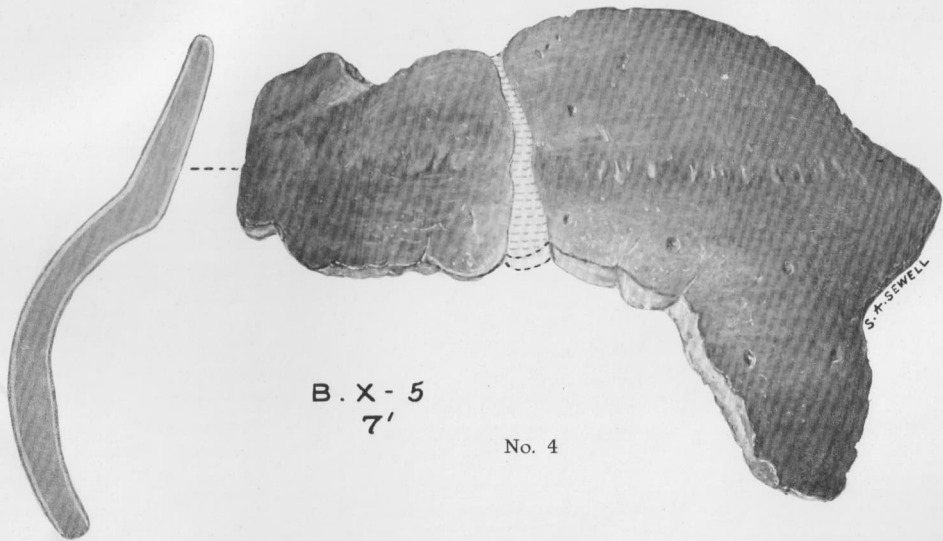


*a*

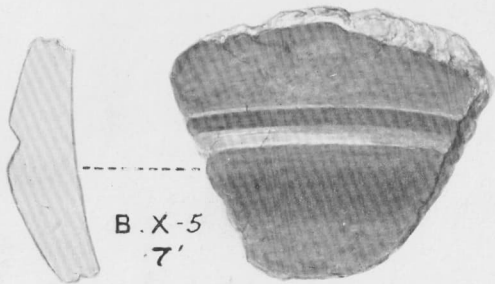
*b*

S. F. SEWELL

(Actual size.)

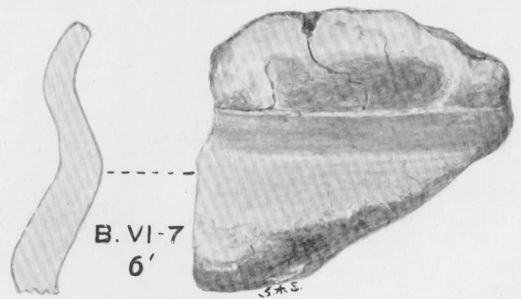


*(Actual size.)*



B. X-5  
7'

No. 5



B. VI-7  
6'

No. 6  
S.E.

*(Actual size.)*

## EXCAVATION B

## Plate I

- No. 1 Fragment of a large pot or bowl of hard, coarse, reddish brown ware, ornamented with horizontal and oblique lines, drawn with a stick or other blunt object. Diameter about 15 inches.  
Centre of ditch. Depth from surface, 5ft. Mr. Reginald Smith considers this to be of "La Tène (pre-Roman) date."

## Plate II

- No. 2 (a and b). Part of base and side of a thick pot of coarse dark ware rudely ornamented with horizontal and vertical impressed lines. Base flat, with cruciform pattern and rows of small pits (b). Diameter at base 3ins., at shoulder 4½ins. Found near centre of ditch. Depth 7ft. Early Iron Age.
- No. 3 Fragment of rim of similar ware, perhaps upper part of preceding, close to which it was found. Diameter of mouth about 3ins. Depth 6½ft. Early Iron Age.

## Plate III

- No. 4 Part of a beaker of Romano-British ware. Smooth dark leather-brown ware. Row of little pits and short lines above the rounded shoulder. Diameter at neck about 2ins., at shoulder about 4ins. Side of ditch. Depth 7ft. Early Iron Age, perhaps 1st Cent. A.D.

## Plate IV

- No. 5 Fragment of ware with smooth leather-brown surface. Ornament, deeply incised groove of triangular section. Found with two other similar fragments at side of ditch. Depth 7ft. Early Iron Age.



- No. 6 Fragment of neck of a large pot. Coarse, dark, imperfectly fired ware. Coated with a thin layer of reddish brown clay slip. Centre of ditch. Depth 6ft. Early Iron Age.

## Plate V

- No. 7 Small complete<sup>7</sup> pot of brick red, rather sandy, rough ware. Base flat, and so rough that when the pot is placed on a flat surface it is tilted markedly from the vertical. No ornament. Height  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins. Diameter at lip  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ins., neck (internally)  $\frac{3}{8}$  ins., shoulder  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins., base  $1\frac{3}{8}$  ins. Centre of ditch. Depth 5ft. ? Early Iron Age, but unusual. ? Roman.
- No. 8 Part of base of a similar pot, also with rough bottom. The section shows the thickness of the base and the pointed lower end of the interior of this and the preceding. Centre of ditch. Depth 6ft.
- No. 9 Part of neck and rim of an apparently somewhat similar but smaller pot. Centre of ditch. Depth 6ft.

With regard to these three pots (7, 8, and 9) it is very difficult to assign a definite date to them. They are certainly rare, and there is, apparently, nothing quite like them in the British Museum or the Cambridge Archæological Museum. The shape of the neck and rim seem to suggest Early Iron age, but on the other hand the exceeding irregularity of the base in 7 and 8 is certainly very unusual, and demands some explanation. Mr. Reginald Smith, who was at first inclined to assign all three to the Early Iron Age, has recently kindly drawn my attention to an illustrated paper by Mr. Walter J. Kaye, jun., F.S.A., on

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<sup>7</sup> Quite complete when first excavated except for a slight cut on the side caused by the spade. Afterwards a portion of the rim was unfortunately broken off and lost.

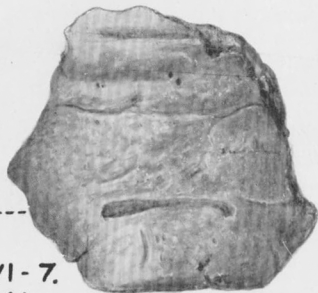


No 7

B.V-VI-5-6.  
5'



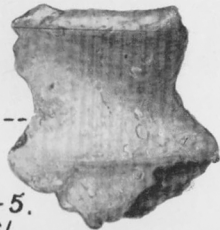
B.VI-7.  
6'



No. 8



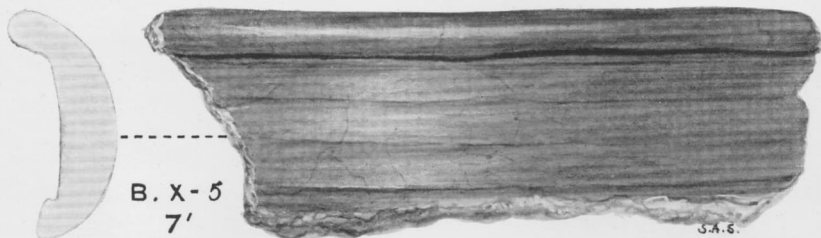
B.V-5.  
6'



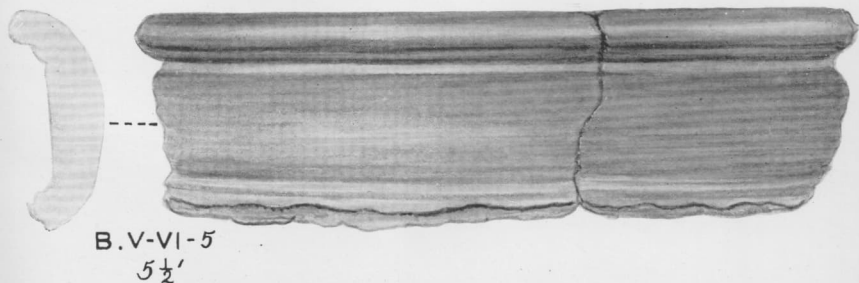
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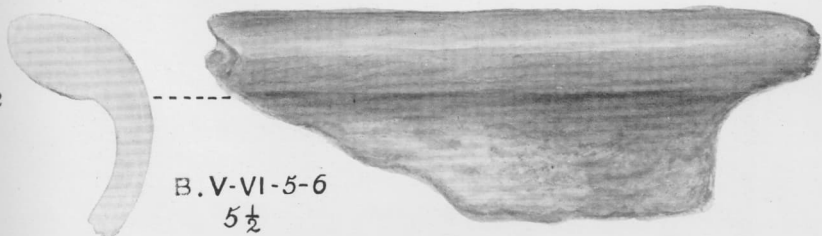
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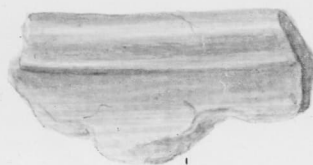
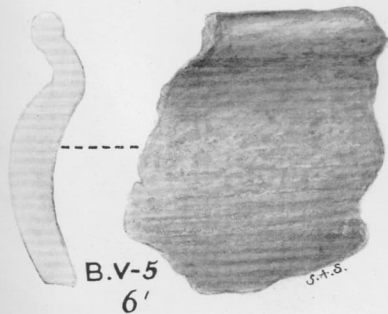
No. 11



No. 12



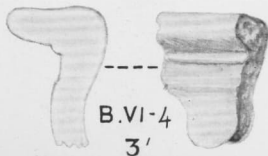
No. 13



B. V-5  
3 1/2'

No. 14

No. 15



(Actual size.)

“Roman and other Triple Vases”<sup>8</sup> and writes to me (Jan. 1, 1926): “I feel almost certain, after looking at the paper once more, that your three examples belonged together, and were stuck on a ring of clay. Roman period.”

This affords a good explanation of the roughness of the bases of 7 and 8, which certainly look as if they had been loosely attached to something else and subsequently detached without any actual fracture. The great majority of the vessels figured by Mr. Kaye seem, however, to be much more definitely Roman as regards the neck and rim than do those of Danesborough.

#### Plate VI

No. 10 Part of a rim of pot or bowl, with slightly concave neck. Leather-brown smooth ware.

Diameter of lip 5½ins., neck (internally) 5ins.

Centre of ditch. Depth 5½ft.

Early Iron Age.

No. 11 Part of rim of similar ware, but with slightly different moulding of the edge. Diameter about 7ins.

Centre of ditch. Depth 5½ft.

Early Iron Age, a little later than the preceding.

The neck in this and the preceding specimen presents, immediately below the projecting rim, a slightly concave horizontal band  $\frac{5}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch deep. In the development of this class of pottery this band tends to pass gradually from the concave to the absolutely flat, vertical surface.

Specimen No. 10, with its definite concavity, Mr. Smith attributes to the first quarter of the 1st Cent. A.D., that is, just pre-Roman.

<sup>8</sup> *The Antiquary*, Vol. 50, 1914, pp. 172, 223, and 290.

No. 11, in which the surface is almost flat, is of slightly later date, while in others, still later (not represented in our collection) the band is absolutely flat and vertical. The slightly more elaborate moulding of the projecting rim of 11, compared with 10, points in the same direction, to slight further development, and therefore later date.

- No. 12 Part of rim of a large bowl or basin of coarse brown gritty ware. No ornament. Diameter about 1ft. or more. Centre of ditch. Depth  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. Probably early Romano-British period.
- No. 13 Fragment of a rim similar to No. 3, as regards colour, texture, and size, but without ornament. Depth 6ft. Early Iron Age.
- No. 14 Fragment of rim of vessel of pale brownish, hard and rather gritty ware. Diameter about  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Depth  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. Early Romano-British period.
- No. 15 A similar fragment of rim, with slightly different moulding. Depth 3ft. Early Romano-British period.

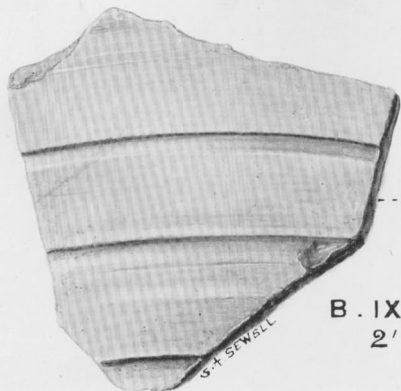
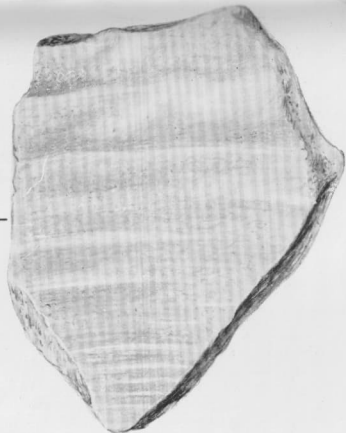
#### Plate VII

- Nos. 16, 17, and 18. Three fragments (out of more than 50 found) of a hard, well fired, thin, pale buff or cream coloured ware, of much better texture than any of the preceding (except 14 and 15). The paste of some of the pieces is almost white. The ornament consists of very sharply defined parallel grooves of triangular section. Many of the fragments show a brown burnish on the outer surface. The curvature of the fragments in most cases shows that the diameter of the pot from which they came was about 6ins.



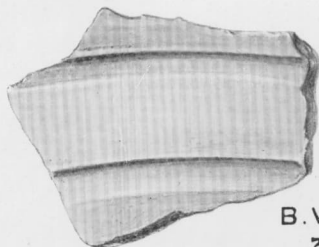
No. 16

B. VII-9  
3½'



No. 17

B. IX-15  
2'



No. 18

B. VII-8  
3'



(Actual size.)

No bases or rims definitely belonging to this class of ware were found.

With the exception of one piece (17) found at 2ft. near the side of the ditch, and of 4 pieces found at a somewhat lower level than all the rest, the whole of this pottery was found at a depth of 3-4ft, that is well above the levels at which most of the other pottery was found.

Mr. Reginald Smith tells me that he cannot match it in the British Museum, but that it "may be Roman or of Roman period with traces of British technique. It is certainly later than the bulk of the pottery found."

Dr. Cyril Fox cannot match it at the Cambridge Archæological Museum, but agrees as to this being its probable date.

Mr. F. W. Reader, formerly one of the late General Pitt Rivers's assistants, considers it to be "Late Keltic," and similar to some found by that archæologist in Wiltshire.

A search through the pottery in the Farnham Museum has failed to produce anything quite like it, nor can I find the same ware figured in any of Pitt Rivers's plates. I have not been able to find any pottery quite like this in any of the English museums that I have examined, but I have seen in the Namur Museum some pottery of exactly the same colour and texture, but without the incised lines of ornament. This came from a Belgian site, and was attributed to the second century A.D.\*

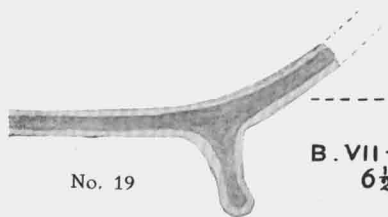
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\* It is interesting to note that the discovery of a piece of ornamented red Samian ware by Dr. Bradbrooke at Roman Magiovinium, only two miles from our camp, was published by Prof. Haverfield; it was attributed by him and other experts, to the end of I. Cent. A.D. or the beginning of II. A.D., and to be of E. Gaulish origin. See *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* 2nd Series XXIV 35. Jan. 18, 1912.

## Plate VIII

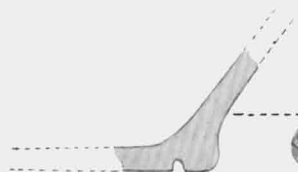
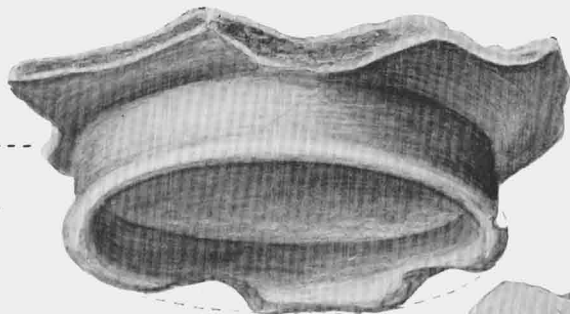
- No. 19 Base of a shallow dish or bowl with a raised circular foot  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch high with diameter  $2\frac{5}{8}$ ins. Soft poor ware with 'soapy' surface, and dark interior and reddish brown exterior.  
Near centre of ditch. Depth  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft.  
Mr. R. A. Smith and Dr. Cyril Fox attribute this to 1st Cent. B.C.
- No. 20 Fragment of base of hard dark brown ware. Base flat, with a deeply incised narrow groove close to outer edge.  
Diameter of base  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ins.  
From the side of the ditch. Depth 7ft.  
This base with its incised ring is exactly matched by Pot 24, 793, in the Cambridge Museum, said to have come from the neighbourhood of Cambridge. Probably 1st Cent., A.D.
- No. 21 Part of side and flat base of a large bowl of coarse reddish brown ware with dark (ill-fired) interior. Diameter of base about 6ins. Depth 5ft. Early Iron Age.
- No. 22 Part of base and side of somewhat similar shallow bowl of same ware, but coated with clay slip. Ornament, vertical lines impressed on clay slip. Base raised about  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch by moulding at the edge.  
Diameter of base about 4ins.  
Near centre of ditch. Depth 7ft.  
Early Iron Age (Dr. Fox); probably La Tène III. (Mr. Smith).
- No. 23 Fragment of similar rough red ware, with flat base and no ornament.  
Near centre of ditch. Depth 3ft.  
Dr. Fox and Mr. Smith both attribute this fragment to 1st half of 1st Cent., A.D.





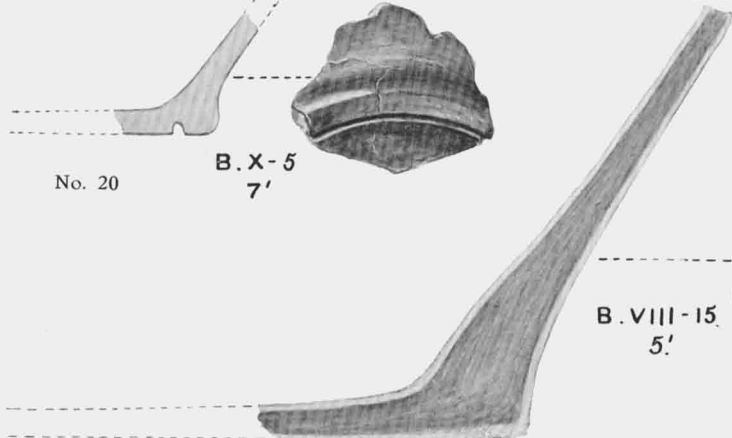
No. 19

B. VII-10.  
6½'



No. 20

B. X-5  
7'

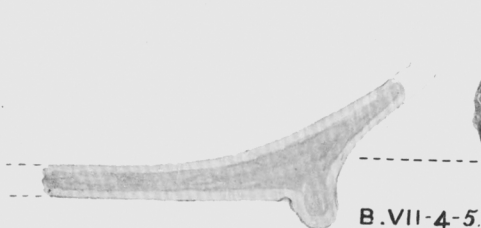


No. 21

B. VIII-15.  
5'

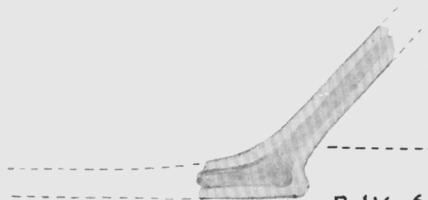
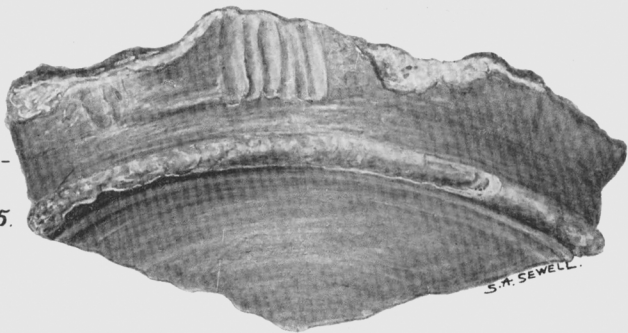


(Reduced 9/10ths.)



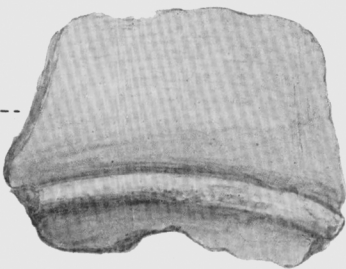
No. 22

B.VII-4-5.  
7'



No. 23

B.IV-6.  
3'

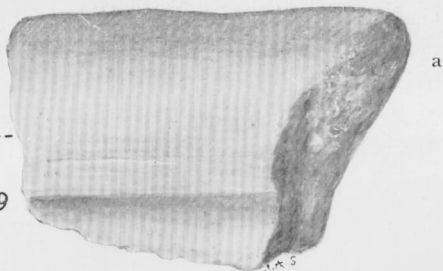


(Reduced 9/10ths.)

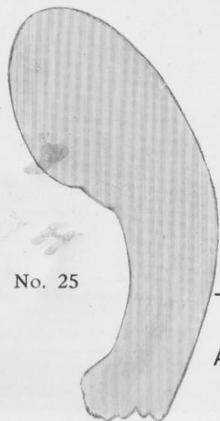
No. 24



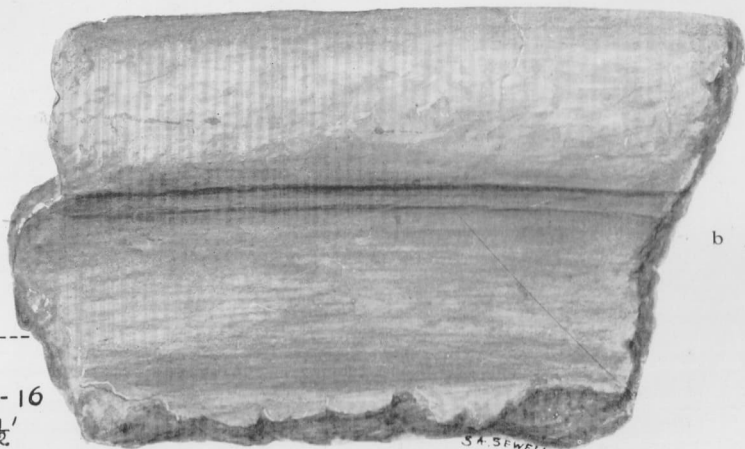
A. II-19  
6'



No. 25



A. III-16  
4½'



(Actual size.)

## EXCAVATION A

## Plate IX

No. 24 Fragment of a rim of a large dish or jar, of coarse red earthenware, with 'soapy' surface.

Diameter about 12ins. Thickness  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch. Found in the silting of the ditch 40 feet from the centre of the causeway near its junction with the ditch, but on the vallum side of it.

Depth 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

Probably Early 1st Cent., A.D.

No. 25 Fragment of rim of a somewhat similar jar of coarser reddish brown earthenware. Diameter about 15ins. Thickness  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch. Found in the silting of the ditch 43 feet from the centre of the causeway on the vallum side of the ditch.

Depth 6ft.

Probably Early 1st Cent., A.D.

## EXCAVATION C

This yielded no pottery.

## CONCLUSIONS

It is the duty of a local archæological society to record facts, with as much detail as possible, and not to wander off too much into the realm of theory, in which it is easy to go astray. Facts duly and carefully recorded may be of considerable value to experts whose wider knowledge may enable them to draw conclusions and to generalise in a manner which it is not always wise for amateurs to attempt.

The classification and dating of Early Iron Age pottery is admittedly very difficult. Speaking generally, more is known at present about the identification of Bronze Age pottery than of Early Iron Age pottery. It is often hard to say definitely whether a particular piece of pottery should be attributed to the Early Iron Age or to the subsequent Romano-British period. No doubt there was much

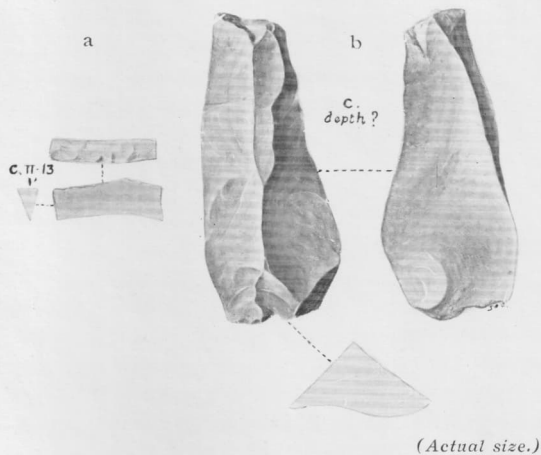
overlapping of the two periods. In different parts of the country, or even in the same part, both kinds of pottery were being simultaneously manufactured side by side for a considerable time, until the superior culture of the invaders gradually replaced that of the natives. It must not be assumed that upon the advent of the Romans to our country, the British potters immediately dropped their tools and methods and adopted those of their conquerors. The process of conversion must often have been a gradual one.

Although negative evidence is not of any great value in the case of excavations of such limited extent, yet no Bronze Age pottery was forthcoming, nor any that could reasonably be dated later than about the second century A.D. No glazed pottery, or coins, or any objects of metal or glass were found.

The pottery that was found made it clear that the ditch was in existence at least many centuries before the period of the Danish invasions. *It could not have been made by these people.* Whether they, at any time, occupied the already existing enclosure is another matter, upon which the excavations afford no evidence either for or against.

Similarly, the few flint flakes found, of which only two show definite evidence of human workmanship, afford no help in the dating of the camp. The Neolithic people, who presumably worked these flints, may have wandered about upon, or even occupied, the site long before the camp was made, and dropped these flints upon the ground.

The finding of so many fragments of pottery of Early Iron or Romano-British Age, so near the bottom of the ditch, and the complete absence of any pottery of still earlier date, make it unlikely that the ditch was made, at most, more than a very few centuries before the advent of the Romans to this country. On the other hand, it must be remembered that only an extremely small portion of the actual bottom of the ditch has been uncovered. Subsequent exploration will doubtless throw fresh light upon the subject, and may serve to confirm or modify the conclusions at which we have arrived.



Two flints of human workmanship, found in Excavation A.  
 (See page 371).

The presence of the two piles of ashes in excavation B and C tell us but little. Situated in each case 3-4ft. below the present surface of the ground and approximately on the same level as the later fragments of pottery, they have no necessary connection with the inhabitants of the camp. They may well have come from fires lighted by some casual wanderers who may have sought a temporary shelter in the ditch perhaps after the camp had been abandoned by its original makers and inhabitants. Within the necessary narrow limits of the present exploration it is clear that the work was abundantly justified by the effectual answers it gave to the two main questions raised on page 363. Meanwhile the results encourage one to hope that it may be found possible, at some future time, to make a further examination on similar lines, with a view to answering some of the many other questions which arise in connection with this important and interesting earthwork.