

Notes and News

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

1. *Cassington, Oxon.* (Smith's Pit II. Nat. Grid 42/450282)

The face advanced on a front roughly parallel to the prominent hedge seen running across PLATE VIII, A and by the end of the year averaged about 150 yards from it towards the camera. All the ground to the north between the hedges and the road had been worked.

Two mammoth teeth were dredged from the clay layer underlying the gravel (see also *s.v. Dorchester*, Allen's pit II).

During the Michaelmas Term, the Oxford University Archaeological Society dug three sections across the medium-sized circular ditch nearest the lower edge of PLATE VIII, A. To the north and east the ditch had silted naturally; the bank appeared to have been outside the ditch, so that the monument may have been a ploughed-out disc-barrow. The secondary 'red' filling (*cf. Oxoniensia*, 1, 11) contained a slug knife of Neolithic or Bronze Age type (Ashmolean Museum 1950.155), flint flakes, and one fragment of Middle Bronze Age ware. Romano-British pottery was found in the upper layers. To the south, the ditch filling had been re-dug, and only Romano-British pottery was found. Inside the circle, gravel diggers found a small pit of brown earth containing a broken polished stone axe (Ashmolean Museum 1950.165) in its upper filling. A similar pit, about 1 foot in diameter and a few inches into the gravel, containing another broken polished stone axe (Ashmolean Museum 1950.386) was found about half-way between this circular ditch and Cassington Mill, which is on the left-hand margin of PLATE VIII, A.

During the Trinity Term, the Society dug a section across the very large semi-circular ditch covering most of PLATE VIII, A, where it was exposed on the face. The bank associated with this part of the ditch had been on the inside of the circumference (*cf. Oxoniensia*, VII, 104-7), and was partly shovelled back not long after it had been raised. The primary filling of the ditch was sterile, but all subsequent layers yielded Romano-British pottery. The great number of animal bones and potsherds here and all through the soil in this part of the pit, argues for a dense settlement during the Roman occupation. A report will be published.

In the area between these two excavations, three inhumation-burials were discovered by gravel diggers, after they had been damaged to a greater or lesser extent. They were examined on the spot by Mr. H. J. Case.

(1) Adult man extended on back, in a well-cut grave dug partially into the filling of the medium-sized circular ditch. Where dug into gravel the sides were revetted with clay, and a fire had been lit in the grave before the body was lowered into it. Romano-British pottery was in the filling throughout, and fragments of bone inlay plaques with compass-drawn and incised decoration (Ashmolean Museum 1950.155, *cf. Antiquaries Journal*, XVII, 448) were found at the feet and knees. Head north and feet south. A careful burial.

NOTES AND NEWS

(2) Young man of powerful physique extended on face (see PLATE VIII, c). Full articulation. One half of iron shears near left hand. Fragmentary Romano-British pot in filling over pelvis. Romano-British sherds behind skull and throughout filling. Head east and feet west.

(3) Adult man extended on face. Left hand under pelvis. Romano-British sherds in grave filling. Head east and feet west. Both these burials (2 and 3) were in immediately adjoining graves. Their general attitudes, particularly the arm of (3) being trapped under the body, suggested that they had been thrown casually into their graves, which were, in any case, not well cut.

Another inhumation burial (4)—probably of an adult woman, but so thrown about by a mechanical excavator that its attitude could not be judged—was found a few yards towards Cassington Mill from the find-spot of the second polished stone axe. The left radius was encircled by a bronze bracelet which was *in situ* since the bone was found to be stained. It has butting terminals and linear decoration, and it and its burial are probably pre-Roman.

Mr. D. F. Roberts and Mr. D. P. Thomas contributed the following notes on the physical characteristics of these burials:

Cassington (1): The fragmentary remains are those of an adult, probably male, mature but not yet exhibiting signs of senility. The right femur and the right tibia are available for measurement, giving stature of about 5 feet 4 inches.

Cassington (2): The bones appear to be those of a young adult male, certainly younger than (3), and probably in the 25 to 35 age-group. The third molar has fully erupted, but the cusps are scarcely worn. Union of epiphyses of the long bones is complete, but the uppermost segment of the sacrum is still visibly delimited. Pars lambdica of the lambdoid suture remains open. All long bones except the left fibula are available for measurement, indicating a stature when living of c. 5 feet 6 inches.

Muscular markings and general morphology suggest that this was a very powerful individual. In common with the rest of the remains the humeri give the impression of strength, but also exhibit certain asymmetries. There is no indication of any fracture having occurred, so that these are possibly due to functional causes. Examination of the differential development of the ridges for muscular attachment would appear to indicate that the muscles of the left arm were developed more in accordance with the habit of supporting the flexed limb in front of and across the body, in the position, for example, used in holding a shield; while the muscles of the more powerful right arm were developed for freer movement as in cutting and thrusting. This tentative suggestion is supported by other differences in detail. The bones of the leg, while not exhibiting such a marked degree of asymmetrical development, suggest that the muscles of the lower limb were remarkably developed. Certain small but significant differences can be noted on the femora, however, which suggest that the development of the muscles of the lower limb, at least in part, was due to the habitual taking up of a stance in which the left leg was placed forward and flexed, and the right leg was strongly braced in the rear in support.

An interesting feature of both tibiae is that the anterior borders of their distal extremities display pressure facets—the so-called 'squatting facets'—in that their anterior edges seem to have been pushed forward and upwards by the locking of the bone against the neck of the talus when flexion was at its maximum. There is no sign of platymeria or platycnemia.

NOTES AND NEWS

In general, the bones of this individual indicate a state of normal health and development. As far as it was possible to ascertain from their fragmentary condition, fractures were probably all post mortem, and there is no skeletal indication of cause of death.

Cassington (3): The remains seem to be those of a mature adult male, probably over 30 years of age from the condition of the cranial sutures and completed epiphyses. Eruption of teeth is complete, and the third molars exhibit the same degree of wear as the other molars; the condition of the teeth is not incompatible with an age of between 30 and 45 years. Both femora and the right humerus are available for measurement, suggesting a living stature of c. 5 feet 5 inches. This was another muscular individual.

Cassington (4) (Single radius): The completed fusion of epiphyses indicates that this individual was fully mature. Since the bone is light, of small proportions, and the muscle markings are not heavily developed, it would appear that this individual was an adult female, probably about five feet in stature.

2. *Clifton Hampden*. A bronze socketed axe with fluted decoration, and vestiges of a loop (see PLATE VIII, B) found recently during ploughing in a field at West Moor (Nat. Grid 41/541958), has been acquired by the Ashmolean Museum (1950.238).

3. *Compton Beauchamp, Berks.* An upland enclosure of the Romano-British period was investigated on Odstone Down (Nat. Grid 41/286844) during three weeks at Easter, under the direction of Mr. P. P. Rhodes. The site, a ditched enclosure of about two acres, is connected with adjacent Celtic field-systems by an ancient field-way. No traces of dwellings were found within the enclosure, but considerable quantities of pottery made it clear that it was in use from the second to fourth centuries A.D. A V-section ditch of Roman date, of which there was no surface indication, was discovered by trenching to the east of the main enclosure. The finds, which included a bronze brooch of the second century A.D., a small bronze coin of Victorinus (A.D. 268-270), a bone needle, a whetstone, ox-goads, fragments of glass and a quantity of iron nails and animal bones, are comparable with material found by General Pitt-Rivers in the 'villages' in Cranborne Chase (see Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, I, II, III): A report will be published.

4. *Dorchester, Oxon.* Further excavations on prehistoric sites threatened by gravel-digging in Amey's pit were carried out in the summer under the direction of Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson. Site XII (Nat. Grid 41/571956) was an Early Bronze Age burial-circle, which yielded a central oval burial-pit containing a crouched inhumation, accompanied by a very fine and well-preserved B beaker, a rectangular 'bracer' or archer's wrist-guard of greenstone, and two small copper or bronze knives (Ashmolean Museum 1950.395). The circle was cleared completely, and much valuable information was obtained regarding the ritual practices which may have been associated with such interments. A report will be published. Mr. D. F. Roberts and Mr. D. P. Thomas contribute the following note on the physical characteristics of the skeleton:

A very fragmentary specimen, whose skull has been (*post mortem*) folded back into itself, probably by pressure from the earth above the remains. The remains are probably those of a young adult male, aged between 20 and 30 years. The teeth are scarcely worn and the medial epiphysis of the clavicle is not yet completely used. The left femur can be reconstructed for approximate measurement,

NOTES AND NEWS

suggesting that the individual may have been about 5 feet 6 inches or 5 feet 7 inches tall.

A section over 200 feet long was cut through the ditches of Site XIII, the Big Rings (Nat. Grid 41/573955) revealing that the ditches were about 25 feet wide and 6 feet deep with flat bottoms. Each seems to have originally had a broad low bank on its inner edge. The date and purpose of the monument remains obscure, though stratified pottery in the outer ditch proved that it cannot have been constructed later than the Early Iron Age. A report will be published.

Bones and antlers of red deer were dredged from the clay layer underlying the gravel in Messrs. John Allen & Sons' pit no. II to the south of Messrs. Amey's pit. Nat. Grid 41/570950 (see also *s.v.* Cassington, Smith's Pit II).

5. *Great Tew, Oxon.* The Roman villa at Beaconsfield Farm (Nat. Grid 42/405275), which has been known to exist since the seventeenth century, was revealed again during the construction of a barn. Mr. E. M. Jope dug some trial trenches for two days in September, and was able to plan a small portion of the site where there was a tessellated pavement with a hypocaust beneath, in a room which had had painted plaster on the walls.

6. *Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.* Mr. Watt-Watt reported (i) a middle Acheulian hand-axe and a flake found in a load of gravel from the pit immediately north of the farm buildings at Highlands Farm (Nat. Grid 41/742813). The irregular section showed trail with some suggestion of bedding at the base; (ii) an early Acheulian hand-axe found on the floor of a chalk pit immediately west of the farm-house. The section showed pipes of gravel and loam in the chalk (*cf. Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, XIV, 126-54).

7. *Standlake.* Many crop-marks showed in the field north-west of the church (Nat. Grid 42/397037) during May.

8. *Stanton Harcourt.* In Dix's pit the face advanced west from the village to the prominent hedgerow running south-east from the road-bend south of the Vicarage. The line of circular crop-marks around Nat. Grid 42/406056 (see also *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX, 20, top centre of fig. 8) was demolished in 1949, with the exception of the three most westerly. The large circular mark third from the west can be seen in section as a ditch.

Crop-marks in the Vicarage Field (Nat. Grid 42/400057 and see *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX, 20, top left-hand corner of fig. 8) showed well during May, and in an interesting fashion during October as circles of very bleached stubble in the overall yellow. The crop over the ditches had ripened early.

9. *North Stoke, Oxon.* Mr. H. J. Case excavated during July a portion of the south end of the Cursus (*Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX, pl. v; Nat. Grid 41/611856), which will shortly be destroyed by gravel-digging. The parallel ditches, which were about 36 feet apart and from 5½ to 7½ feet deep, yielded large quantities of flint wasters and a few implements but no reliable dating evidence. They led up to a horseshoe-shaped ditch, opening at right angles to them, which had been filled in during antiquity—probably when the Cursus was made; it was obliterated in the area between the Cursus ditches, but preserved at least vestigially throughout the rest of its circuit. A two-period monument is surmised to have existed. A report will be published.

The Cursus and adjoining circles showed clearly as crop-marks in a new ley during October.

NOTES AND NEWS

10. *Stonesfield and Wootton, Oxon.* At Callow Hill (Stonesfield) the Oxford University Archaeological Society undertook an excavation for three weeks in September, under the direction of Mr. N. Thomas and Mr. A. Hunter. Sections were cut across the ditch of the Roman villa enclosure (see V.C.H. *Oxon.*, I, 314 f., no. 12; Nat. Grid 42/398183), and an original entrance gap in the east side was cleared. Sections were also cut through the ditch running south of and parallel to the villa enclosure-ditch, and through the two banks and ditches in Wootton parish running north and south between the villa and the Woodleys-Blenheim sector of Grim's Dyke (Nat. Grid 42/393179), and a cobbled area immediately behind the bank of the inner of the two north-south earthworks was cleared. The pottery found suggested that the villa ditch was constructed in the last quarter of the first century A.D. and continued in use until the fourth century, and that the two north-south earthworks were constructed some years earlier than the villa ditch, their pottery being more native in tradition. A report will be published.

11. *Towcester, Northants.* Mr. Lovel Feil reported that road operations had cut through Watling Street in the centre of the town (Nat. Grid 42/693487). At least three superimposed road surfaces were noted. Pottery found included plain and decorated Samian and coarse wares, of the first-fourth centuries A.D., and some mediaeval sherds. Among the Roman sherds were fragments of buff ware amphorae of the first century A.D., and a Samian base stamped NAL L I A C I—Malliacus of Lezoux, early second century A.D.

12. *Wantage, Berks.* Mr. A. J. Taylor reported that a new housing estate was being laid out in the orchard and field said to be the site of King Alfred's palace and Fitzwarren's Manor House (Nat. Grid 41/396885). Considerable quantities of Roman pottery, mostly of late date, were found in the field but no traces of masonry were seen. A skeleton was also discovered in the top soil, and removed by the workmen. Work had not begun in the orchard when the site was visited.

13. *Wroxton, Oxon.* Miss C. H. Mackay, of the Oxfordshire Ironstone Co. Ltd., reported the discovery by Mr. J. Eadon during ironstone working, of a hoard of 127 Roman coins (Nat. Grid 42/399435). There was no trace of pottery with them, and it is supposed that they had been buried in a bag. The coins, which are in good condition, range in date from Tacitus (A.D. 275) to Licinius (A.D. 308-324), and the date of burial is suggested by one coin struck in Licinius's name by Constantine at Ostia, and by one coin struck by Constantine at Arelate (Arles). The Ostia mint was closed, and that of Arelate opened, c. July, A.D. 313, and the hoard was probably buried by the end of that year.

Roman pottery was found for some considerable distance round the site of the hoard, and there was a large area of burnt ironstone about a foot below the ground surface. No traces of any buildings were seen. The hoard has been placed on loan in the Ashmolean Museum by Trinity College, Oxford, owners of the land.

MEDIEVAL NOTES

1. *Oxford (Beaumont Street).* During excavations for the foundations of the Randolph Hotel extension, a rubbish pit was discovered at least twelve feet wide and more than fifteen feet deep with vertical sides. No stratigraphy was seen, bones of sheep and ox and clay-pipe stems occurring throughout, with sherds of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century pottery.

NOTES AND NEWS

2. *Oxford (New Road)*. Further excavations (cf. *Oxoniensia*, XIII, 70, and XIV, 81) on the site of Nuffield College were undertaken during July and August, under the direction of Mr. R. P. Pierce Price and Mr. K. Marshall. Half-sections of two ditches were revealed. The first, which was running across the site from the south-west corner of the Warden's house pointing towards the Castle Mound, proved to be 9 feet deep and about 28 feet across at gravel level. Pottery from the bottom silting was of early medieval date, and the ditch appeared to have remained open, with constant clearances, for many centuries, for the upper levels yielded only eighteenth century material. The second ditch, which ran nearly parallel to New Road, just inside the boundary wall on that side of the site, was very similar in size and stratification to the first and appears to have had a similar history, the pottery in the primary silting being late eleventh to early twelfth centuries. The first ditch is probably connected in some way with the main city ditch of Oxford. The second is probably the Castle ditch. A report will be published.

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HUMPHREY CASE.

SKELETAL MATERIAL FROM RADLEY AND CASSINGTON

Mr. D. F. Roberts has kindly contributed the following additional reports: *Radley Barrow 4, Bronze Age Cremation*¹: The small quantity of ashes and charred fragments was examined and a number of the latter identified. From the fact that there is no repetition of any recognizable fragment, it is suggested that a single individual is represented.

From amongst the remains were selected the charred neck of a small femur, with no proper lesser trochanter, a fairly complete and fully ossified lunate or scaphoid and a small phalanx from the hand. From this evidence, from the size of a fragment of petrous temporal, the slight thickness of the skull with evidence of separation along sutures, the small size of the rib fragments, the size and condition of the cervical vertebrae, and from the fact that a number of epiphyses were separated off, it is suggested that the remains are those of a child, probably aged between six and twelve years—a hypothesis with which all the identifiable remains are consistent. Many fragments appear to have been broken after cremation.

*Saxon Purwell Farm I*²: This young adult male specimen exhibits but slight wear on the teeth, being probably in the 20 to 30 age-group. The third upper right molar is not erupted, while those wisdom teeth which have erupted are small. This quite muscular individual is interesting on account of the asymmetry of the humeri, the right being much stouter than the left.

*Saxon Purwell Farm II*²: The remains are probably those of a young adult female. The skull is in quite good condition, allowing a limited number of measurements to be taken, e.g. the head length is 174 mm., head breadth 133 mm., giving a cephalic index of 76.4. The right femur and both humeri are available for measurement, indicating a living stature of about 5 feet.

¹ *Oxoniensia*, XIII, 8.

² *Oxoniensia*, VII, 65.

NOTES AND NEWS

TABLE OF LONG BONE MEASUREMENTS (mm.)

Measurement	Cassington (1)		Purwell Fm. II		Cassington (2)		Cassington (3)		Dorchester Beaker	
	R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.	R.	L.
Femur max. 1	427	—	406	—	461	460	449	448	—	475
" " 2	428	—	406	—	461	460	449	449	—	—
" oblique	424	—	403	—	459	458	447	445	—	472
Humerus max.	—	—	299	292	342	327	328	—	—	—
" oblique	—	—	298	289	337	323	324	—	—	—
Tibia max. 1	354	—	—	—	370	371	—	—	—	—
" " 2	352	—	—	—	366	367	—	—	—	—
" oblique	349	—	—	—	362	364	—	—	—	—
Fibula	—	—	—	—	347	—	—	—	—	—
Radius	—	—	—	—	237	235	—	—	—	—
Ulna	—	—	—	—	257	253	—	—	—	—

These measurements are defined as follows :

Femur max. 1 : The maximum length with the bone resting on the horizontal surface of the Hepburn Osteometric Board (used in all the above measurements).

Femur max. 2 : The maximum length with the bone moved vertically as well as horizontally.

Femur oblique : The length taken with the bone resting on the horizontal surface of the board, and with both condyles in contact with the vertical end.

Humerus max. : The maximum length with the bone moved vertically as well as horizontally.

Humerus oblique : The length taken with the bone resting and both borders of the trochlea in contact with the vertical end of the board.

Tibia max. 1 : The maximum length including the spine, with the bone moved vertically.

Tibia max. 2 : The maximum length excluding the spine.

Tibia oblique : The length taken with the spine in the orifice of the board and both of the articular surfaces touching the end of the board with the bone resting.

The fibula, radius and ulna measurements refer to their maximum lengths, the bone in each case being moved vertically.

THE LAMBOURN SEVEN BARROWS

The question as to which grave-goods and interments should be referred to which of the barrows in this group (around Nat. Grid 41/330830) excavated by Edwin Martin Atkins¹ and Dr. J. Wilson,² then President of Trinity College, Oxford, over the years 1850-1858 has long been a puzzle.³ Recent field-work, and the discovery in the Bodleian Library of a plan used by the excavators⁴ and a watercolour painting

¹ 1808-1859.

² 1790-1873.

³ Published original sources are (1) *Arch. Journ.*, vii, 386, 391 ; (2) *Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club* (1870-1871), 147-8, 178-81 ; (3) *Arch. Journ.*, LXXVII, 47-54. In succeeding footnotes reference is made to these papers by their numbers.

⁴ MS. Maps Top. Gen. a.1, fol. 23. What would have been a straightforward identification is complicated by the excavators having changed their numbering in almost every instance—once three times.

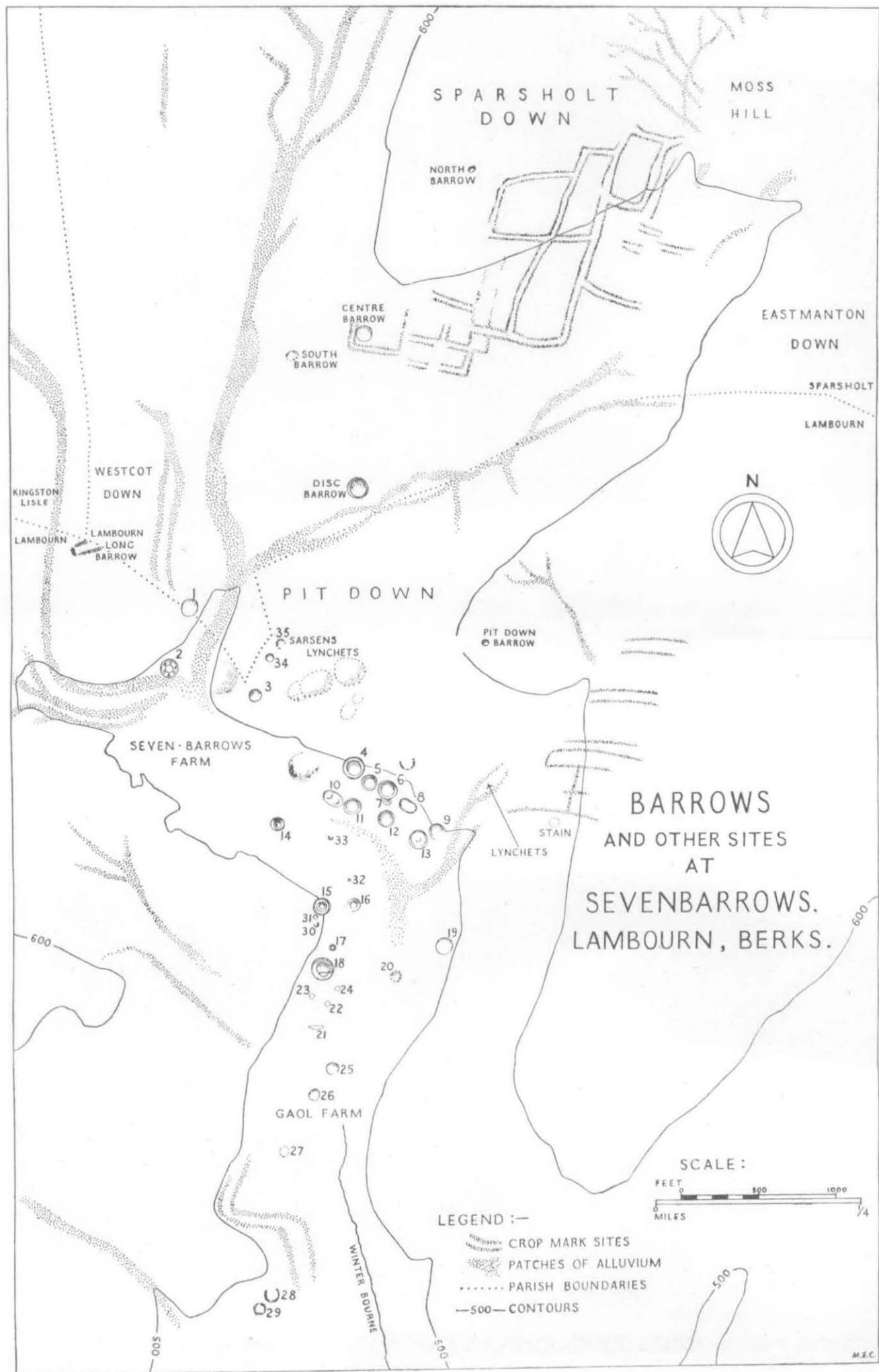


FIG. 23

From a map drawn by Mrs. M. E. Cox and based on field work by Mr. L. V. Grinsell, Mr. A. D. Passmore and the writer, and also on aerial photographs by Major G. W. G. Allen, Mr. D. N. Riley, Dr. J. K. St. Joseph and the Royal Air Force

[To face page 111

NOTES AND NEWS

of one of the finds and letters⁵ from Martin Atkins to Wilson covering the period have done something to answer this question, while raising others of great interest.

The results are tabulated below, reference being made to individual barrows by the names or numbers given them by Mr. L. V. Grinsell in his magnificent papers on Berkshire Barrows.⁶ Where I have added sites, I have followed my numbering on from his. (See FIG. 23.) A full report will be published in the *Berks. Arch. Journ.*

The Lambourn Long Barrow and all barrows on Grinsell's list except those mentioned below :

Excavations were made by Martin Atkins and Wilson, but no details were given.

Sparsholt Down North and South, Pit Down and Nos. 20, 21 and 23 : Apparently not dug by Martin Atkins.

Sparsholt Down Centre : This barrow stands in the corner of one field of a now newly discovered Celtic Field group. A cist cut in the chalk probably lay underneath this barrow.

Sparsholt Disc : A small Stage A IV Cinerary Urn⁷ inverted over a cremation was probably discovered in this barrow by Wilson when it was ploughed.

No. 1 : This is the 'barrow standing apart from the rest and more towards Kingston Lisle',⁸ published by Reginald Smith from notes and drawings made by Albert Way⁹ found in the library of the Society of Antiquaries. The central primary deposit was a cremation of two persons. Near the skull fragments was a small bronze knife¹⁰ with a slight midrib and with a portion of fabric adhering to one face ; a biconical pygmy cup¹¹ and a bronze awl¹² were also with the deposit. It is uncertain whether an offset cist cut in the chalk containing a crouched skeleton was primary or not, and it is doubtful in the case of an inhumation of a child and a single cremation both in the body of the barrow. The barrow was probably enlarged to accommodate a Stage A V Cinerary Urn¹³ containing a small bronze knife with midrib.¹⁴ Other secondary deposits were around the perimeter—54 cremations all surrounded with sarsens and some with capstones, and 59 cinerary urns,¹⁵ probably all Late Bronze Age, containing cremations and also protected by sarsens. The quarry ditch was 3 feet deep, and contained large sarsens, charcoal and 'dark soil'.

The time taken over this excavation is noteworthy—Martin Atkins began on 25 October, 1850, and did not finish until 13 November. Apparently he drew plans and sections to scale, and was careful to restore the barrow to its proper shape. Except for the ditch, it must have been completely stripped.

⁵ MS. Top. Berks. e.8.

⁶ *B.A. Journ.*, xxxiv, 171-91 ; xl, 20-62 ; xlii, 102-16.

⁷ Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery* (1912), II, no. 39 ; MS. Maps Top. gen. a.1, fol. 27 (the water-colour painting in the Bodleian Library) ; (3), fig. 6 may reproduce a poor drawing of this urn. It is labelled without authority in the text as from Barrow No. 1. British Museum.

⁸ (2), 178.

⁹ 1805-1874. These papers are no longer at the Society of Antiquaries and I have been unable to find them elsewhere.

¹⁰ (3), fig. 3, 1. British Museum.

¹¹ (3), fig. 2 ; Abercromby, II, no. 250. British Museum.

¹² (3), fig. 2. British Museum.

¹³ (3), fig. 4. Lost.

¹⁴ (3), fig. 3, 2. British Museum. A barbed and tanged arrowhead found on the surface of the mound appears in the same illustration.

¹⁵ Three are illustrated. Abercromby, II, nos. 388, 392, 408. See also (3), fig. 5. These are in the British Museum with three more probably from this barrow.

NOTES AND NEWS

No. 4 or 6 : Only a piece of charcoal was found in partial excavation. Interment perhaps intact.

*No. 9*¹⁶ : 'One of the best shaped barrows of the main group, that in the eastern corner towards Lamborne, and near a road there. . . . The barrow was 8 feet high.'¹⁷ The reference is plainly to the now disused branch road from Upper Lambourn to Wantage; the barrow now stands about 7 feet, having been flattened at the top. The primary interment was a cremation, probably of a woman, in an upright Stage II Cinerary Urn¹⁸ standing in a four-walled sarsen cist with capstone, the interspace being stuffed with chalk and wood ashes. The cist was covered by an inner cairn of sarsens and flints, mixed with chalk and wood ashes. In the covering skin of the barrow, probably of chalk, was a secondary interment, a contracted skeleton of an adult man under 6 feet tall.

No. 10 : By elimination, I take this to be the 'small barrow, connected jointly with another by a trench going round the two'.¹⁹ It contained the skeletons of an ox²⁰ and of a dog 'something of the lurcher kind'.²¹

No. 18 : This is the 'barrow intersecting plantation Cowleaze' of the British Museum Register.²² In the centre of the narrow end, about 2 feet from the surface was a circular sarsen cist with capstone, containing a cremation, a bronze awl, and a shale ring about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter.²³ By the side of the capstone was a jet amulet (about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch) with hour-glass perforation.²⁴ This is perhaps a secondary interment in what appears to be an addition to a bell-barrow; but the picture is not clear as a modern plantation ditch crosses the barrow.

No. 19 : Contained bones, probably animal.

A newly re-discovered ditched barrow about 6 inches high and cratered centrally. (No. 31. Diameter of mound 26 feet.)

This is to the south of *No. 15*, abutting on it; it is the 'small ring barrow, first south from *No. 19*' or 'next planted barrow' of the British Museum Register.²⁵ It contained the skeleton of a large man, lying on the left side and probably crouched.²⁶ At the right shoulder was a broken 'urn',²⁷ a V-perforated shale button probably used to fasten a cloak, a flint punch, an end-scraper flaked for hafting, and a waste flake with cortex. At the feet were six fine arrow-heads with long barbs (three were undamaged), a flint flake with used edge and spur removed, and a nicely retouched square-ended knife flaked for hafting—both probably cutting-up knives. A glutinous

¹⁶ There is no reference in the letters to this barrow.

¹⁷ (2), 180.

¹⁸ Abercromby, II, no. 17. British Museum. See *Ant. Journ.*, xx, 470-1, for the most interesting similarity between this vessel and that found on the primary silt of the ditch of the Middle Bronze Age enclosure at Ram's Hill, Uffington, Berks.

¹⁹ (2), 180-1.

²⁰ Identified as *Bos longifrons* by Sir Richard Owen (1804-1892).

²¹ (2), 181. Ashmolean Museum NC472.

²² 1862.

²³ British Museum.

²⁴ British Museum. Cf. for approximate shape *P.S.A.S.*, LXX, 300, fig. 10A (Loanhead of Daviot).

²⁵ 1862.

²⁶ 'In most, indeed, I believe, all the cases of entire interment, the bodies were not laid out at length, but the knees drawn up to the chin . . .' (2), 179.

²⁷ Lost. The A Beaker in the British Museum (Abercromby, I, no. 7) is the only known vessel from the Seven Barrows which one cannot now assign. It would fit with this assemblage. It has been mended, and its base made up.

NOTES AND NEWS

substance was noticed on the arrow-heads.²⁸ An 'ashy bed' was spread over the burial; 'nearer the surface of the ground' were found 'a human jaw and other bones, also a stag's horn'. The placing of goods to symbolize the craftsman at the shoulders, and the hunter at the feet, is noteworthy.

Either what appears as a faint penannular ditch (No. 30. 23 feet by 20 feet and about 50 feet south of the barrow described above) or (I believe less probably) No. 17:²⁹

One of these is the '2nd small ring barrow' of the British Museum Register.³⁰ There were two graves within the circumference of the ditch. The first was 5 feet 3 inches by 3 feet 3 inches by 5 feet deep. At the bottom was the crouched skeleton of a very young boy lying on his left side, with a C Beaker³¹ and a nest of 9 flakes with the same glutinous substance already mentioned around them, both at his feet. There were six waste-flakes, a simple half-moon scraper, a simple end-scraper, and a flake with tiny marks of use—in fact playthings. A bed of ashes was spread over the burial. Buried above the boy in the same grave and in the same alignment, was an adult man crouched on his left side, and far more maturely equipped. Behind his right shoulder was a magnificent flint dagger³² with the haft (the same glutinous substance was on it) pointing diagonally across the grave; Martin Atkins judged from this position that it was a spear-head. It is mint-fresh. Also by the shoulder was a nodule of iron pyrites, marked with apparent scratches of use, and a so-called 'strike-a-light'—a well-trimmed flint flake.³³

The second grave which was circular and 3 feet 6 inches deep contained a 'child's bones' and a 'cup' or 'small pot broken'.³⁴ There were sherds in the top-soil between the graves.

Moss Hill. (Nat. Grid 41/336843): Martin Atkins reported partly excavating a small long (probably oval) mound, containing near the surface at the broad end a straight setting of sarsens, one of which impinged on a skeleton whose skull perplexed him.³⁵ There were three more skeletons 'huddled together'. A small chambered long barrow? Or a pillow mound?³⁶

On two visits I have not been able to find this barrow, and I hope that a more experienced field-worker will succeed. The wood on Moss Hill has certainly been enlarged since 1830.³⁷ In places it is thick with leaves and top timber.

²⁸ Martin Atkins believed this substance, also mentioned below, to be the remains of leather (i.e. thonging here) or fish skin. Could it be an adhesive of bone glue? See *P.P.S.*, xv, 51 for birch-bark glue.

²⁹ A short re-excavation would settle the doubt.

³⁰ 1862.

³¹ Abercromby, 1, no. 41. British Museum 1862.7.7.4. This beaker is noteworthy for a line of five small holes, apparently ancient, in its fabric near the foot; and for an impression of Bread Wheat on the neck. See Jessen and Helback, *Cereals in Great Britain and Ireland in Prehistoric and Early Historic Times* (1944), 18.

³² Evans, *Ancient Stone Implements* (1897), fig. 264.

³³ All the implements mentioned in this report are in the British Museum. The flint is fresh and dark grey, where its colour is visible. Patina ranges from opaque white (as in surface finds in the neighbourhood) through light grey to a mere lustre, as in this particular case. Had it been protected in some way? Would much handling inhibit patination?

³⁴ Lost.

³⁵ ' . . . if it is a human skull I never saw one like it . . . ' the mysterious skull . . . turns out to be that of a very hard headed and I should think hard featured man.'

³⁶ Crawford and Keiller, *Wessex from the Air* (1928), 18-24. The coin mentioned in *B.A. Journ.*, xl, 61, might be from this barrow.

³⁷ O.S. 1-inch, 1st edition. Martin Atkins was digging in October 1852.

NOTES AND NEWS

Other field-work : Mr. A. D. Passmore very kindly lent me his field-map of the area, and drew my attention to two low mounds to the north-east of barrow *No. 3* (*Nos. 34 and 35*). They are about 50 feet in diameter ; having tested them with a probe, I believe that they are ploughed-out barrows,³⁸ and I feel the same way about the two mounds (*Nos. 25 and 26*) north of Gaol Farm, noted by Mr. Grinsell and marked by Mr. Passmore on his map.³⁹

*Nos. 21, 22, 23,*⁴⁰ and a new site (*No. 24*) showed up plainly as light stains in January, 1951, in the ploughed field south of *No. 18*, and were photographed.⁴¹ Another light stain (*No. 27*) showed in the corner of the field south-west and across the road from Gaol Farm. In the next field, farther south, two circle sites (*Nos. 28 and 29*) were photographed from the air by Major Allen in 1938.⁴² Another possible circle, immediately north-east of *No. 6*, showed partially in an aerial photograph taken by Mr. D. N. Riley in 1943.⁴³ I should also like to draw attention to a small mound of chalk (*No. 32*. Diameter about 15 feet) north-east of *No. 15*, and what may be a penannular ditch enclosing a shallow mound (*No. 33*. Diameter about 30 feet) south-east of *No. 14*.

The Ordnance Survey (1-inch) 1st edition marked a mound in the field south of *No. 2*. The only rise I can see corresponds to the terrace of a minor dry valley.

HUMPHREY CASE.

EWELME HONOUR COURT LEETS, 1712-20

It is generally known that the great Honour of Wallingford survived into post-medieval times under the name of the Honour of Ewelme, but what it meant in practice has been obscure. The accounts of the Duchy of Cornwall throw light on its state in 1296-7¹ and a survey of the honour exists for 1649,² but thereafter little would be known but for some privately owned documents recently saved from salvage. These belonged to the steward, Richard Carter of Chilton. He was deputy Lieutenant of Bucks. in 1715 and married the daughter of the vicar of Watlington. Their granddaughter married Sir John Aubrey, Bt., of Boarstall and Dorton, whose heirs inherited the Ewelme honour papers. The accumulation of these found among the Aubrey Fletcher estate documents has been transferred to the Bodleian Library from the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Museum at Aylesbury. They relate to the court leets held by the steward of the honour of Ewelme from 1712 to 1720.

Views of frankpledge were held for Ardington, Hinton and Purley or Tidmarsh in Berks., for High Wycombe, Quainton, Shabbington and Wingrave in Bucks., Cherrington and Little Rissington in Gloucs., Allington and Sutton Scotney in Hants, Uxbridge in Middlesex, Aston Rowant, Bicester, Binfield, Chalgrove, Checkendon, Chinnor, Clanfield, Ewelme, Great Haseley, Horspath, Lewknor and

³⁸ The most north-easterly (*No. 35*) is on land arable in 1846. Lambourn Tithe Map, Oxford Diocesan Papers, in the Bodleian Library. I saw two small sarsen boulders on the mound.

³⁹ Also on land arable in 1846.

⁴⁰ Marked as small mounds on the O.S. (6-inch), 1st edition (1876), and subsequently as 'sites' of barrows.

⁴¹ Mr. Passmore had previously noted more than three barrows in this field.

⁴² Ashmolean Museum. Allen negs. 709, 710. A field boundary cuts *No. 28*.

⁴³ Ashmolean Museum. Riley negs. film 11, no. 15.

¹ L. M. Midgley, *Ministers' Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall*, Camden 3rd ser. LXVI-LXVII.

² P.R.O., E.317, Oxon. no. 10 ; a microfilm is in Bodleian Library, MS. Films 11.

NOTES AND NEWS

Thrupp in Oxon. The honour of Wallingford was separated from the Duchy of Cornwall in 1540 and united with the manor of Ewelme to form the honour of Ewelme. Until that year manors held of the honour of Ewelme were held of the honour of Wallingford³ and it is surprising to find that the ghost of this important medieval honour walked so far as late as the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Richard Carter obtained the stewardship of the honour and manor of Ewelme in 1712. There is a detailed record of his expenses in obtaining letters patent under the treasury seal (1/2/1). At Wycombe in 1716 and 1717 Carter held his own court but generally Cornelius Norton (1715) or Thomas Stevens (and occasionally Philip Draper) actually held the courts as his deputies. Thomas Stevens was a gentleman of Henley (MS. ch. Oxon. 3334) who was also steward of Lachbrooke and Ipsden manors (MSS. ch. Oxon. 3402 and rolls Oxon. 49-50).

Lipscombe has given a list of the stewards and their deputies from 1725 until the sale of the honour by the Crown in 1817. The purchaser was Jacob Bosanquet, Esq., who sold it to the Earl of Macclesfield in 1821.⁴ Some notes made by the late Dr. H. E. Salter (presumably from Shirburn estate papers) show that no courts were held after 1847 for Lewknor or Horspath nor after 1846 for Chinnor. Aston Rowant last paid its dues to 'Stokenchurch Court' or 'Postcomb Court' in 1793, but Adwill still paid in 1847 though under protest.

The papers are now arranged in three boxes referenced MSS. dd. Ewelme honour d. 1-3 and comprise thirteen bundles. Each bundle contains a series of packets made up of loose papers relating to a single view of frankpledge. The last leaf of each packet is the view itself. This is headed by the names of the place and steward, and the date. Then follows a list of the tithings with the names of the constables and tithingmen and their successors in case of a change. Then comes a list of the jurors. The presentments sometimes follow and sometimes are on a different piece of paper. Most of the other pieces in each packet contain, on separate scraps of paper, the lists of male inhabitants submitted by the tithingmen or constables. Each scrap has been given a separate reference number, consisting of bundle number, packet number and item number separated by strokes. A descriptive card of each packet has been made for inclusion in the slip-index of Bodleian charters, with a cross reference card for each tithing mentioned.

The tithingman's or constable's bill or return listed 'all men kind' over twelve years old, indicating (but not naming) sons and 'men' or 'servants'. Occasionally the tithingman's own name is omitted, but can be supplied from the view of frankpledge. There is no simple formula for converting the lists of male inhabitants into population figures, as the number of dependent women and children is conjectural. However, the returns afford a valuable check on the printed Hearth Tax Returns of 1665 and the estimated population figures given by the Oxfordshire incumbents in 1738. In some places a complicating consideration is the fact that the liberty of Ewelme might not be co-extensive with the parish, as at Wycombe (1716; 9/10/5). The exact location of some fees cannot be determined by the returns, as at Aston Rowant and Chinnor.

Among the views of frankpledge are a few stray papers which show some of the procedure. There are forms declaring the elections of two new tithingmen and

³ V.C.H. Berks., III, 528.

⁴ *History of Bucks.*, I, 22-3.

NOTES AND NEWS

enjoining each to take oath before the next J.P. in six days, under pain of a 40s. fine (5/22/6-7), with blank forms (5/22/1-5) and four blanks on a single sheet not yet severed from one another for circulation (5/22/8).

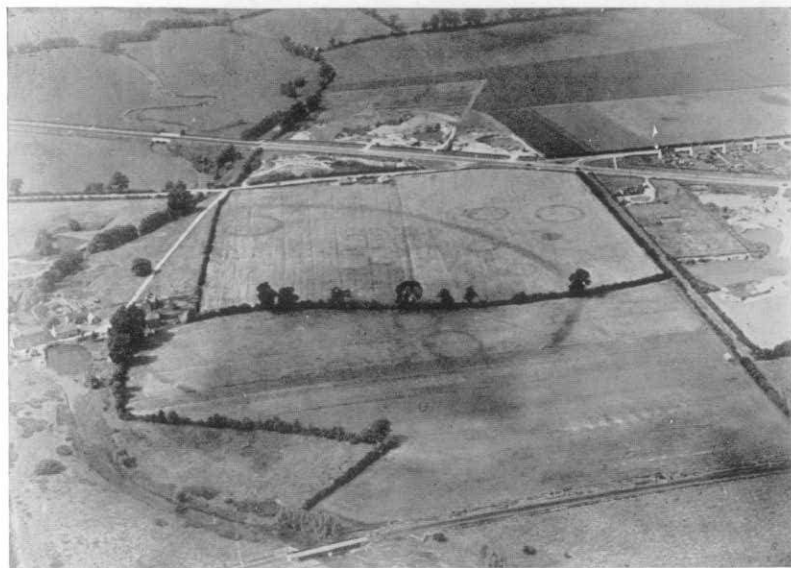
One piece of scrap paper used by the constables and tithingmen is a summons to them to summon all men in the tithing and two jurymen at 9 o'clock (11/5/7). Most of the men in the tithing summoned were essoined and a stroke is often put against the name of each individual in the return made by the tithingman or constable, but sometimes a dot is put against the names of jurymen (e.g. 3/3/16). Each stroke represented a penny, for at Shirburn in 1712 (1/3/1) the total is reckoned in terms of shillings and pence. At Assendon in 1713, strokes in the left-hand margin are accompanied by the money equivalent in the right-hand margin. But on 5 October 1716, the men of Horspath tithing attended the court even though not jurymen (9/7/5). Seven men in 1716 refused to pay the Shabbington view of frankpledge acknowledgement (9/8/3). The jurymen were householders, described as 'all fumllers' (5/6/4). One was fined 3s. 4d. for not appearing (9/5/7) and his name is duly omitted from a list of jurymen attending a view of frankpledge (9/5/15). The Chalgrove bundle for September 1719, contains a mandate from the steward to Thomas Cozens and William Webb, his deputies, to distrain for debt (13/1/1). The bill of a plaintiff and defendant's fees in a plea in the honour of Ewelme court survive for 1715 (6/13/1-2).

The presentments generally relate to hedges, ditches, ways and commons. Many at Hillingdon in 1715 (5/6/9) concern cottages built without the proper 4 acres attached, while the lords of Uxbridge are presented for failing to set out the market bushel. At Bicester in 1716, 13 dunghills are presented (11/2/15) and in 1719 Bicester has 31 ameracements for dunghills and 1 order for the removal of a chimney (11/1/2). Record is made of the elections or re-elections of tithingmen and constables. The officers elected at Bicester (11/2/16) include flesh and ale tasters and leather-scalers, and at Uxbridge (11/11/6), constables, headboroughs, leather-scalers and aleconners. An exceptional document is 5/19/13, 'an account of the Inhabitants of Little Rissington as they have served Constable one after another successively' from 1676 to 1716.

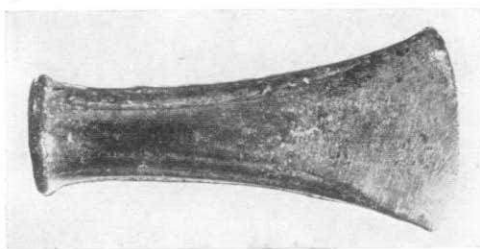
The tithings for which there are returns number 14 in Berks., 27 in Bucks., 5 in Gloucs., 3 in Hants., 7 in Middlesex, 2 in Northants., 85 in Oxon., and 1 in Wilts. A detailed list of these is in the Bodleian Library's typescript catalogue of collections of deeds.

W. O. HASSALL.

PLATE VIII



A



B



C

A. Air-photograph of Smith's Pit II, Cassington, Oxon.

B. Bronze socketed axe from Clifton Hampden, Oxon. Scale : *c.* $\frac{1}{2}$

C. Inhumation burial (2) at Smith's Pit II, Cassington

Ph. : the late Major G. W. G. Allen

Ph. : Ashmolean Museum

Ph. : Mr. H. J. Case