

**RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY
IN
HAMPSHIRE**

**Number 3
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**Editors
Sylvia Bremner
Michael Hughes**

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
The Excavation of a Barrow and Associated Urnfield at Fairway Caravan Park, Bournemouth	by John Hedges, Chris Arnold & Melia Hedges 5
A Bronze Age Barrow near Chalton	by Barry Cunliffe 35
A Note on an Inurned Burial from a Barrow on St. Catherine's Hill, Christchurch	by Melia Hedges & Paul Aitken 39
Evidence of Romano-British settlement in Fareham	by A. G. Holmes 43
A Pagan Saxon Cemetery on War Down, Buriton	by Barry Cunliffe 59
Index to Rescue Archaeology in Hampshire, Numbers 1, 2 and 3	61

EDITORIAL NOTE

The sites at Fairway Caravan Park, Bournemouth and St. Catherine's Hill, Christchurch, were within the county of Hampshire at the time of their excavations and until the local government reorganisation in April 1974, when they became part of Dorset. It was therefore decided that these reports should be included in this Journal.

We would like to acknowledge the grant from the Hampshire County Museum Service towards the cost of publication of this journal.

Joint Editors

Sylvia J. Bremner
Michael F. Hughes

South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group
Hampshire Archaeological Committee

The Editors "Rescue Archaeology in Hampshire" c/o Dept. of Archaeology, The University, Southampton.

THE EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND ASSOCIATED URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK, BOURNEMOUTH

by John Hedges, Chris Arnold and Melia Hedges
with a report on the cremated bones by Mrs P. Sheppard

SITE LOCATION AND RECENT HISTORY

The barrow in question had been sited on a small prominence on a part of Canford Heath, just west of West Howe, Bournemouth (Fig. 1) (SZ 05049560: 51.34 metres O.D.). The underlying geology of the area is a mixture of Bagshot beds and Plateau gravel. It was first recorded by Wallace (1919, 79, Fig. facing page 48) when the area around it had been made into a golf course and described by the Ordnance Survey as being a bowl barrow 40 feet (12.2 metres) in diameter and 3.5 feet (1.1 metres) high with some doubtful signs of a ditch (O.S. Card Index). Grinsell mentioned the barrow but added no further information (1940, 362).

In the period about 1960 the area was made into a caravan site and the barrow was so badly damaged by landscaping that it was described by the Ordnance Survey in 1969 as 'a level circular platform, less than 0.1 metre in height' (O.S. Card Index). The total destruction of what remained of the site was foreseen by the South Wessex Archaeological Association when redevelopment plans were made for the area and an excavation, which took place at Easter 1973, was subsequently arranged in conjunction with the Department of Archaeology at the University of Southampton.

EXCAVATION

After clearing the sides of a cutting which had been made to house a caravan, it was realised that the mound of the barrow had been entirely removed by landscaping. Subsequent clearing showed that the sole surviving feature of this monument was the ditch which once surrounded it. This had an inner diameter of 11 metres, a width of 1.1–2 metres and a depth varying from 70–80 centimetres; to the south east there was a causeway 1.20 metres wide.

The top of the ditch was evidently removed during the landscaping and imported turf and topsoil spread over the area. The stratification of what remained of its contents (Fig. 3) was interesting in that layers 2–4 equated with horizons A₁–B₂ of a locally formed podsol (Cornwall 1953, 130) but archaeologically it was not significant. Where the ditch had been dug into the hard local geology the bottom and sides were defined by a layer of panning (horizon B₂) but this was absent in the softer areas as the salts would have just leached straight through and the ditch was accordingly difficult to follow.

Hundreds of flint flakes were found scattered through the ditch fill and some at least looked as though they were the product of human hands rather than natural agencies (Fig. 4). Seven sandstone objects were also found along with six inurned cremations.

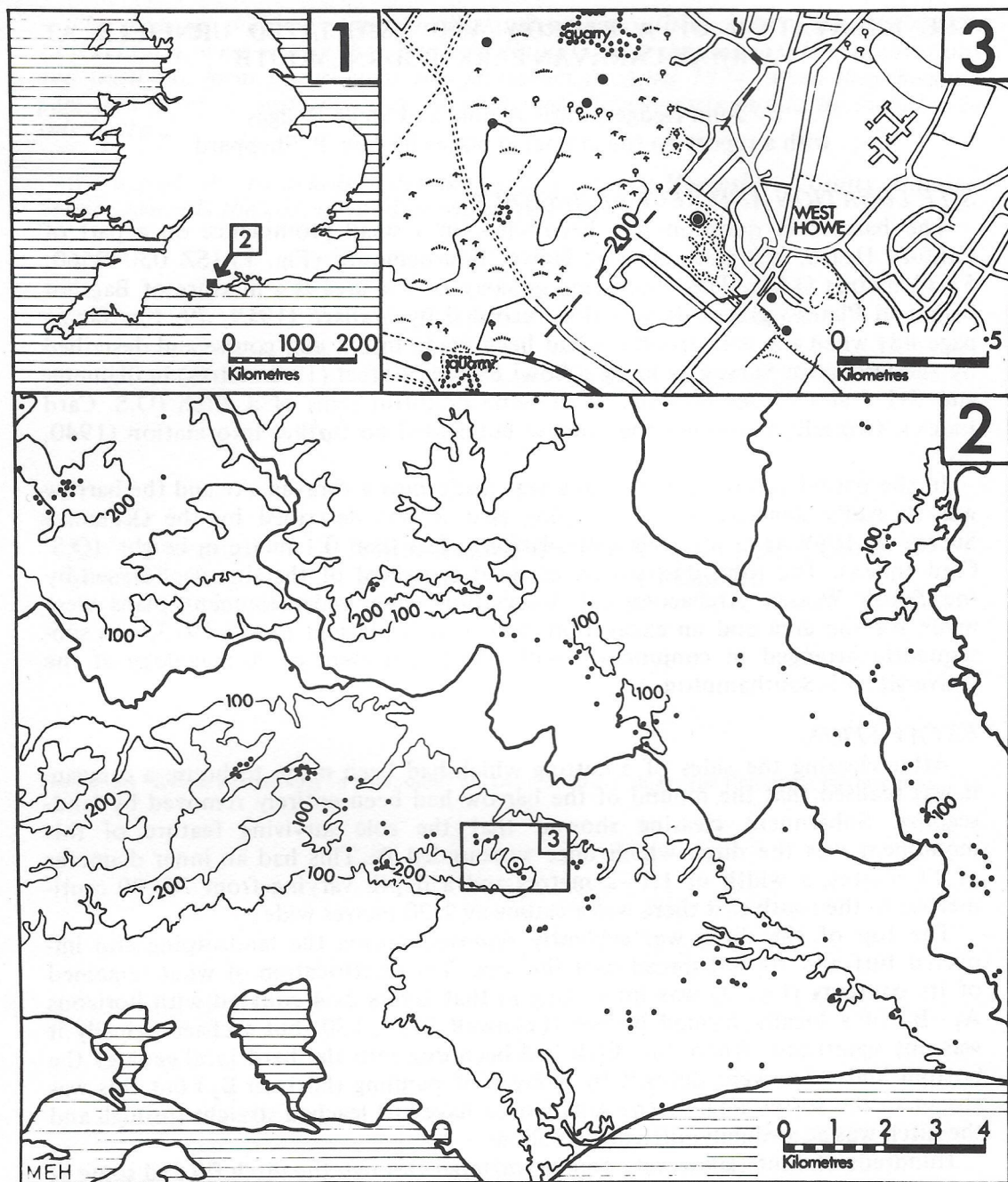


Fig. 1. Fairway Caravan Park: Location Maps.
(Barrows are represented by dots; the site is distinguished by an encircled dot).

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

As well as the six burials mentioned, twenty-eight were found outside the ditch to the north-east (excluding three possible unurned ones). The exact area originally covered by this urnfield cannot now be known due to the amount of recent disturbance; it was traced as far as possible however. Sherds were found mixed in with a redeposited layer further to the north-east, which actually covered one burial.

The urns associated with the burials were in a very poor state due to recent mechanical damage but also because of their having been poorly fired and having suffered root penetration in the acid soil. It was accordingly thought unwise to excavate them in the field and each feature was boxed separately with the earth surrounding it and was later examined under laboratory conditions.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF THE CREMATIONS

See appendix for details of the cremated bones.

IX In layer 3 of the ditch in the south-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the pot (S.F.5) was upright and had been placed in a hole about 6 cms. larger than it in diameter, dug into the silted ditch.

The contents included some burnt gravel, cremated bones in a heap, below which were a few sherds.

XIII In layer 3 of the ditch in the south-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the pot (S.F.13) was upright and had been placed in a hole dug into the silted ditch.

The contents included burnt gravel (including some in the hole outside the urn), cremated bone (including a piece outside the urn) and some charcoal.

XV In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.38) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents includes calcined gravel and charcoal.

XVI In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.39) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included gravel.

XVII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.40) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural which had a diameter only 4 cms greater than that of the pot. The latter had evidently been dropped in as the bottom had been pushed in.

The contents included burnt gravel.

XVIII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.41) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural and was capped with gravel.

XIX In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.42) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included gravel (some burnt). Gravel also occurred in the hole around the urn.

XX In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included charcoal and gravel.

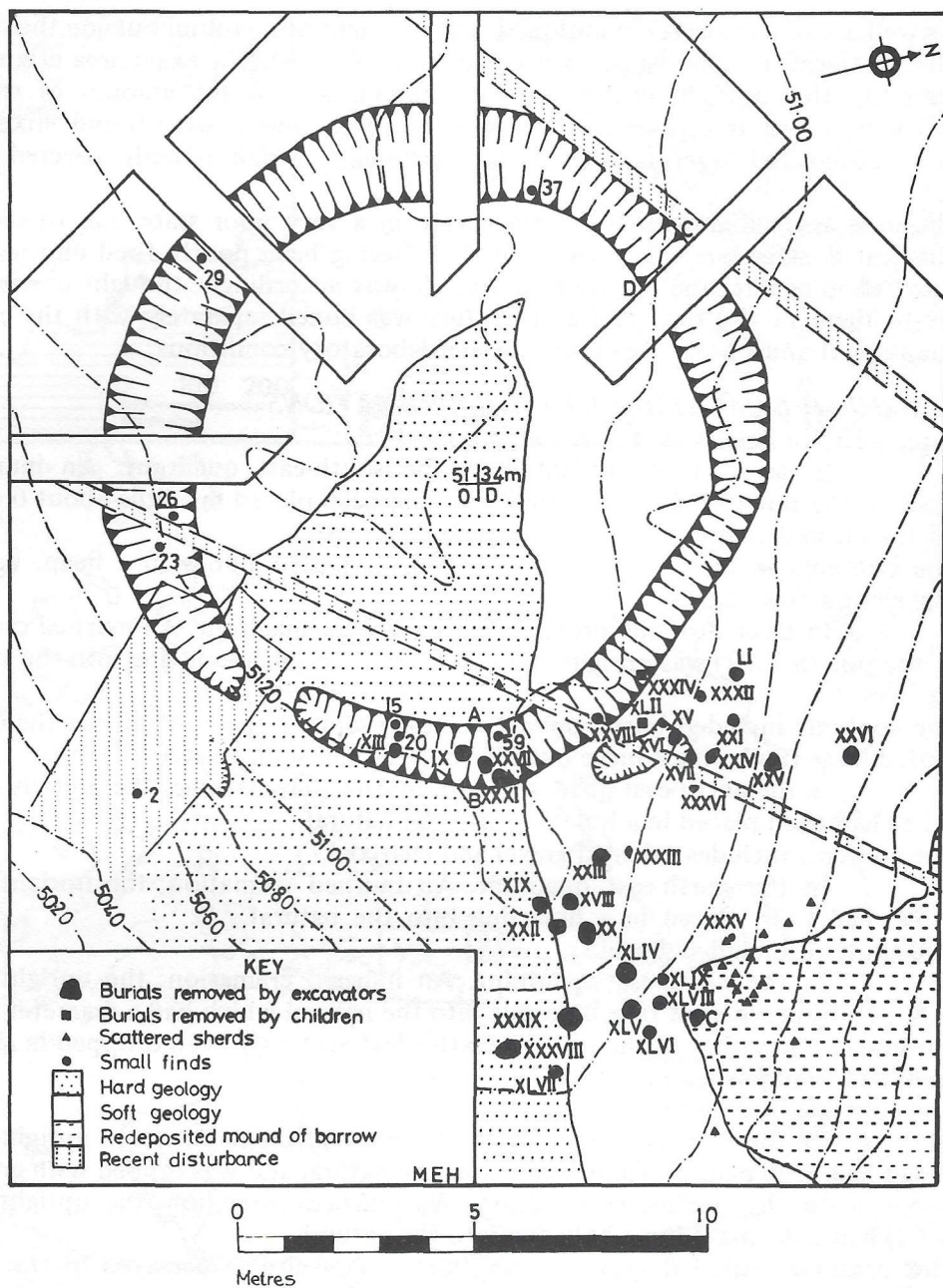


Fig. 2. Fairway Caravan Park: Site Plan.

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

XXI In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.44) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included gravel.

XXII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F. 45) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included gravel (including some from the hole around the urn) and charcoal.

XXIII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.46) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included burnt and unburnt gravel (some unburnt gravel was in the filling of the hole around the urn), a few fragments of cremated bone and some charcoal.

XXIV In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn had been placed in a hole dug into the natural (S.F.47).

The contents included charcoal, small fragments of cremated bone and burnt gravel.

XXV In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; it is not clear whether it was inverted or upright as both the rim and base are missing from the pot (S.F.48). It had however been placed in a hole dug into the natural; this, unusually, was triangular in shape.

The contents included large quantities of charcoal (one piece with dimensions 5x7x16 cms), gravel (some burnt) including a piece 14x9x6 cms and a small fragment of sandstone.

XXVI In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.49) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included burnt gravel, charcoal, three small pieces of sandstone a fragment of cremated bone and some sherds (including one from low down in the fill).

XXVII In layer 2 of the ditch in the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.51) had been placed in a hole dug into the ditch fill.

The contents included some gravel.

XXVIII In layer 3 of the ditch fill in the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the inverted urn (S.F.53) had been placed in a hole dug into the ditch fill.

The contents included cremated bone and a small amount of gravel.

XXXI In layer 2 of the ditch in the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the inverted urn (S.F.57) had been placed in a hole dug in the ditch fill. This would seem to have been about 4.5 cms deeper than the rim of the vessel as found.

The contents included burnt gravel and a piece of sandstone 4.5 x 5 cms.

XXXII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.58) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural. The base under which was a large stone seems to have been broken on deposition as it was pushed up inside the pot.

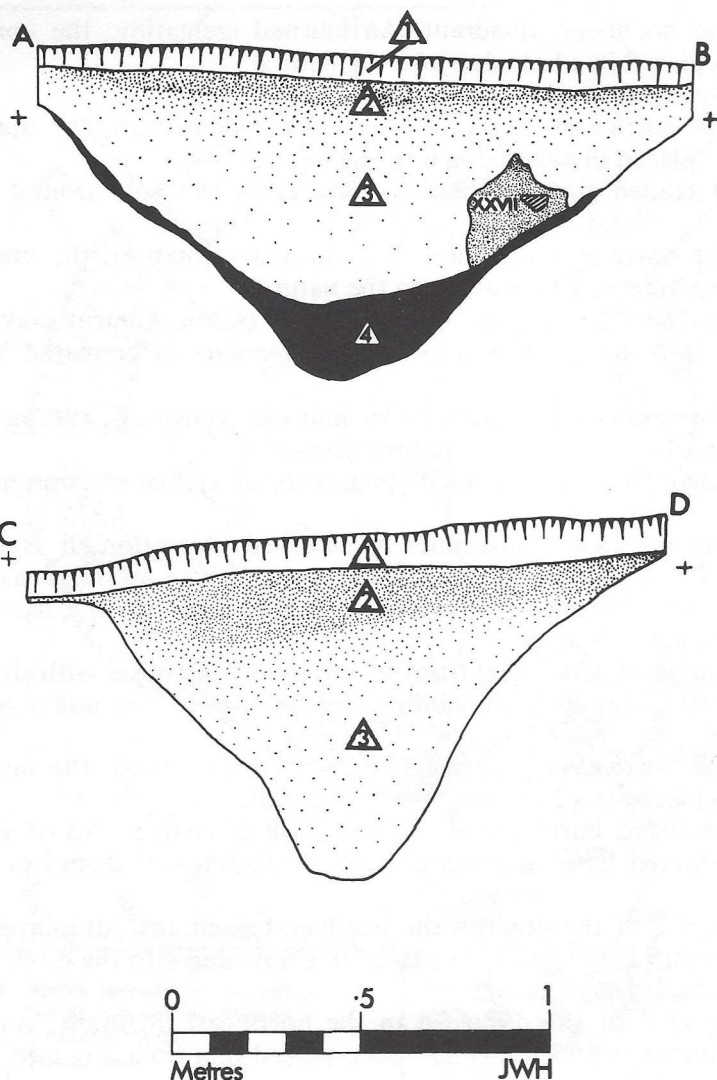


Fig. 3. Fairway Caravan Park: Sections through Ditch.

XXXIII In the north-east quadrant. Apparently the base of a small vessel (S.F.60) found lying at an angle in a hole dug in the natural.

The contents included a few small pieces of unburnt gravel.

XXXIV In layer 2 of the ditch in the north-east quadrant. The burial was unfortunately found in a baulk by children and disturbed. It would seem to have originally consisted of two urns (S.Fs 61 and 64) which were deposited in an

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

upright position, but which were definitely incomplete and lying one inside the other.

The contents included some burnt gravel and charcoal. There was definitely a sandstone capping to the burial made up of a number of pieces varying in size; the dimensions of the largest was 20x15x15 cms while some of the small fragments were less than 1 cm across. Five of these pieces had been grooved (S.Fs. 96-100).

XXXV In the north-east quadrant. A hollow some 16 cms across and 10 cms deep with a rounded profile; this contained cremated bone, sherds, (which had been put there as such) (S.F.101) and some charcoal.

XXXVI In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F. 67) had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included carbonised wood and burnt gravel.

XXXVIII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.69) had been placed in a hole dug in the natural.

XXXIX In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the upright urn (S.F.71) had been placed in a hole dug in the natural.

The contents included a piece of bone in poor condition, gravel and charcoal.

XLII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the pot (S.F.77) was upright and had been placed in a hole dug in the natural.

The contents included some bone and burnt gravel.

XLIV In the north-east quadrant. A possible unurned cremation. A small pit dug into the natural was found with a rounded profile, 36 cms in diameter and 25 cms deep. The top of it was covered with large pieces of gravel.

The contents included charcoal and gravel.

XLV In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the pot (S.F.81) was upright and had been placed in a hole dug into the natural. The burial had been capped by large pieces of gravel.

The contents included a large amount of gravel, pieces of grooved sandstone (S.F. 205), fragments of ungrooved sandstone, charcoal and cremated bones.

XLVI In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the pot (S.F.82) was upright and had been placed in a hole dug in the natural.

The contents included some gravel.

XLVII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the pot (S.F.85) was upright and had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included a little charcoal. There was also some gravel in the urn with more under it.

XLVIII In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the pot (S.F.93) was upright and had been placed in a hole dug into the natural.

The contents included gravel, some of which was burnt. More gravel was found under the pot.

XLIX In the north-east quadrant. A possible unurned cremation; a pit (with a rounded profile), dug in the natural was full of black earth. It measured 10 cms deep and had a diameter of 22 cms.

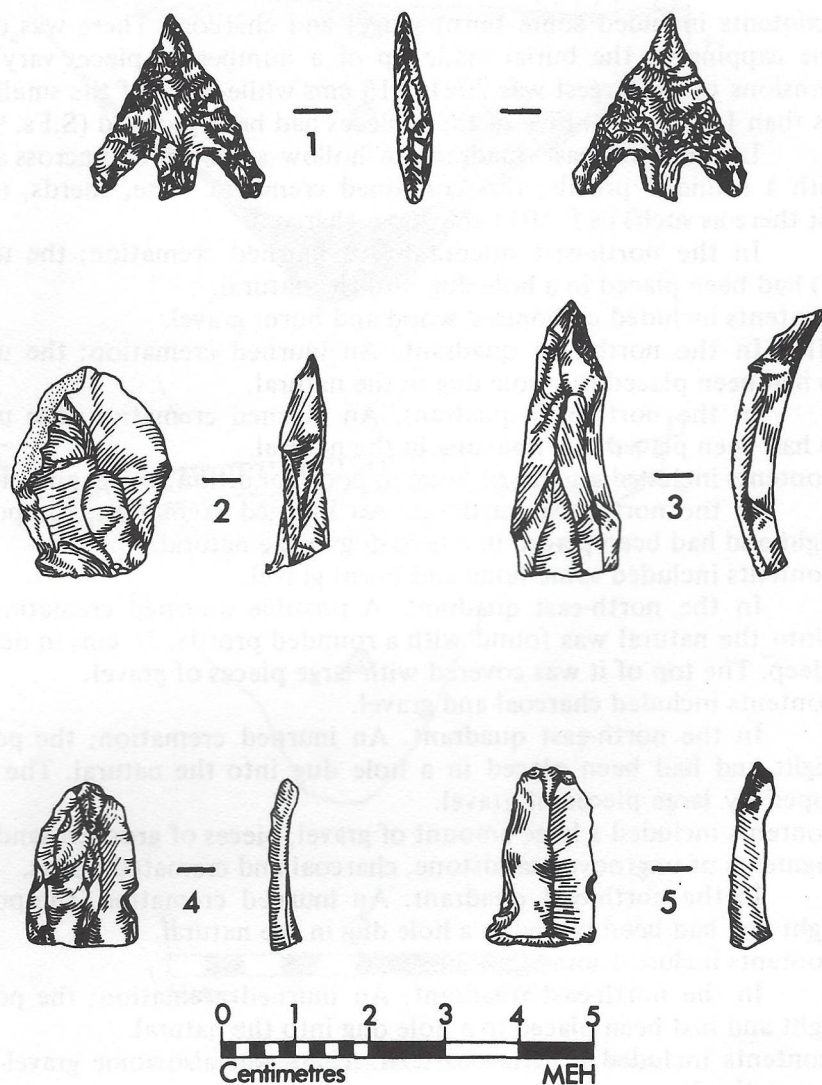


Fig. 4. Fairway Caravan Park: Flint Arrowhead (S.F. 2) and Flakes.

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

LI In the north-east quadrant. A possible unurned cremation; a straight sided pit 28 cms in diameter and 15 cms deep had been dug in the natural. The pit contained a great deal of charcoal, some burnt gravel and a small fragment of sandstone.

C In the north-east quadrant. An inurned cremation; the inverted urn (S.F.204) had been placed in a hole dug in the natural.

The contents included large pieces of gravel and two small pieces of sandstone.

SMALL FINDS

Flint

S.F.2. Barbed and tanged arrow-head (Fig.4,1). Found in the gravel of caravan pitch in the south-east quadrant.

Literally thousands of flint flakes were found in the ditch fill and it is possible that some could have been manufactured by human agencies: a sample is shown in Fig. 4, 2-5.

Sandstone

S.F.15 Two fragments of sandstone with concave worked surfaces.(Fig. 5, 1). Although found several centimetres apart they fit together and might possibly be part of a quern. Dimensions: 11x6x3.5 cms. South-east quadrant, in ditch, layer 3.

S.F.20 A piece of sandstone with a convex worked surface which is probably from a quern. Dimensions: 7.5x5.0x4.5 cms. South-east quadrant, in ditch layer 3.

S.F.23 A piece of sandstone with a flat worked surface which probably came from a quern. Dimensions: 5.5x4.7x3.6 cms. South-east quadrant, in ditch, layer 3.

S.F.26 A piece of sandstone with a concavo-convex worked surface which probably came from a quern. Dimensions: 10.7x6.2x4.0 cms. South east quadrant, in ditch, layer 3.

S.F.29 Two joining fragments of sandstone with concave worked surfaces which probably came from a quern. The pieces were found together but the break is not a recent one. Dimensions: 8x6.6x2.9 cms. South-west quadrant, in ditch layer 3.

S.F.37 A conical sandstone object with a design carved on its broad end (Fig. 5,2); it would appear that a piece has been broken from one side but as the design seems to take account of this we cannot be sure. Dimensions: 7 cms high, 6 cms across the top. North-west quadrant, in ditch, layer 3.

S.F.59 A flat sandstone slab with grooves on both sides (Fig. 6). One of the surfaces is concave and worked and it would seem that the object is a re-used saddle quern. Dimensions: 35x33x9 cms. North-east quadrant, in top of ditch, layer 2.

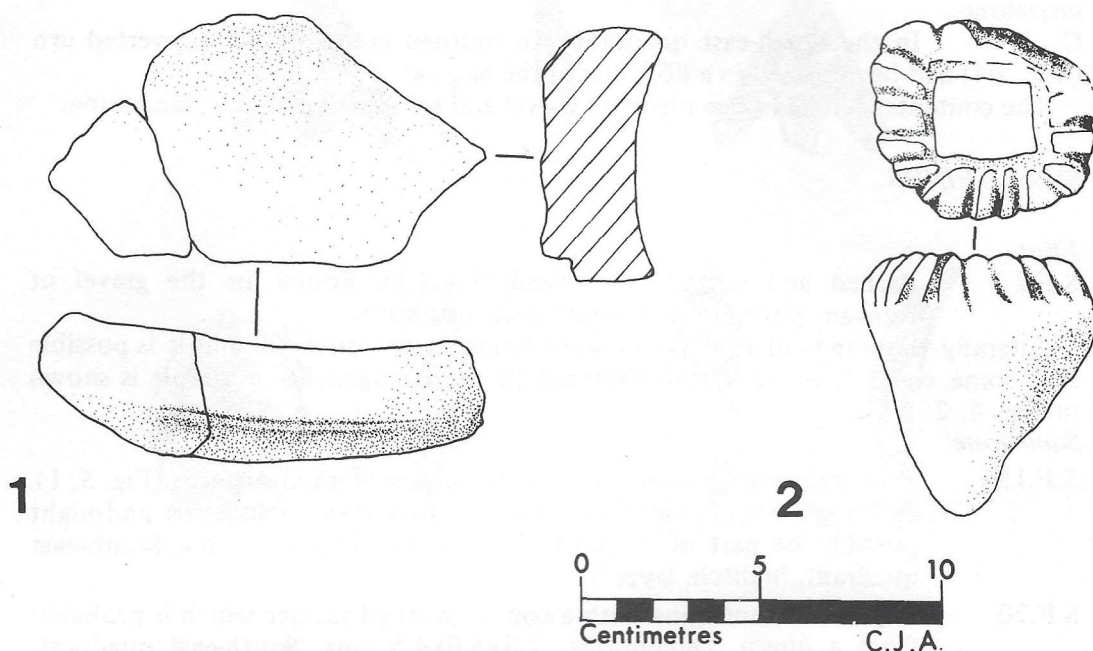


Fig. 5. Fairway Caravan Park: 1 Fragment of Sandstone Quern (S.F. 15); 2 Conical Sandstone Object (S.F. 37).

- S.F.64 A piece of sandstone with a flat worked surface on one side and a concave one on the other. Seemingly from a quern but apparently was part of a capping to feature XXXIV which was disturbed by children. Dimensions: 6.5x6.0x2.9 cms.
- S.F.95 A piece of sandstone with two flat worked surfaces; probably from a quern. Dimensions: 9.5x6.2x4.0 cms. Extension to north-east quadrant, in topsoil.
- S.F.205 Six amorphous pieces of sandstone from the upper layers of feature LXV (i.e. from within the urn of an inurned burial). Two fit together and show a groove which is straight, semi-circular in section, and has a width of 1.5 cms. Dimensions: 11.5x7.5x5 cms.
- S.F.96–100 The fragments of sandstone capping feature XXXIV included five with grooves of varying widths and depths. The dimensions of the largest are 8.5x7x4 cms.

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

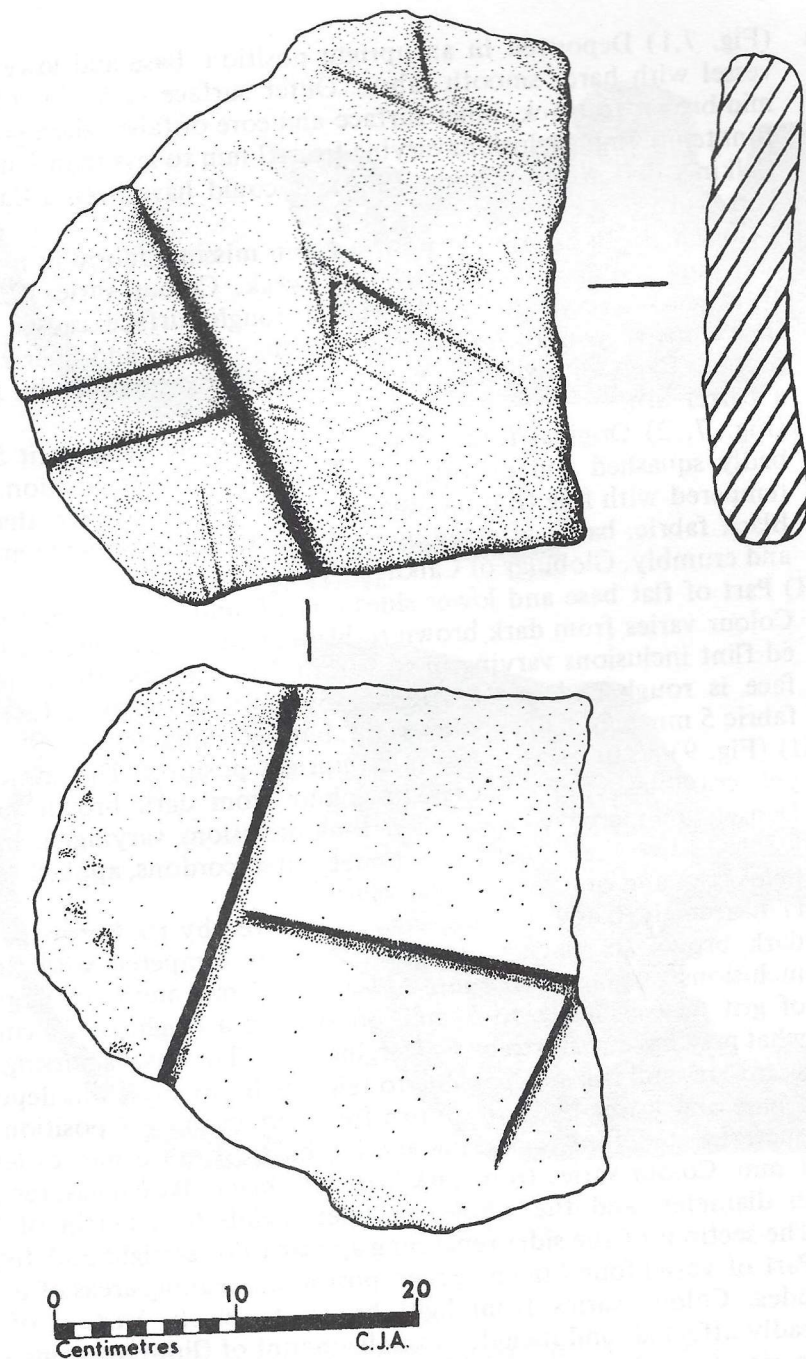


Fig. 6. Fairway Caravan Park: Incised Sandstone Quern (S.F. 59)

Pottery

- S.F.5 (IX) (Fig. 7,1) Deposited in an upright position. Base and lower body of vessel with hard, smooth fabric. Outer surface varies in colour from mid-brown to black, inner surface and core of fabric dark grey. Dense flint tempering, inclusions varying from 3 mm to less than 1 mm. Using Calkin's definitions (Calkin 1964), it could have been a bucket or a barrel urn.
- S.F.13 (XIII) (Fig. 8, 1) In an upright position, rim missing, fabric in places hard and smooth, elsewhere extremely weak. Colour varies throughout from dark brown to black. Has a rough surface caused by flint inclusions varying from 4 mm to less than 1 mm and quartzite up to 3 mm. Band of oval impressions on upper part of body. Probably a barrel urn.
- S.F.38 (XV) (Fig. 7, 2) Original form of vessel not entirely clear as it has been badly squashed and distorted. Found in an upright position. Heavily tempered with fine flint inclusions measuring 1 mm to less than 1 mm. Black fabric, badly affected by root growth and in consequence rough and crumbly. Globular of Calkin's Type 1.
- S.F.39 (XVI) Part of flat base and lower sides only, found in an upright position. Colour varies from dark brown to black. Heavily tempered with crushed flint inclusions varying in size from 2 mm to less than 1 mm. Surface is rough and badly affected by roots. Base diameter 12 cms. fabric 5 mm thick. Shape uncertain, but not globular.
- S.F.40 (XVII) (Fig. 9) Vessel was found in an upright position. The fabric is hard yet crumbles easily. Varies in colour from dark brown to black. Densely tempered with crushed flint inclusions varying in size from 7 mm to less than 1 mm. Two undecorated cordons, applied to vessel, below rim and on shoulder. Barrel urn.
- S.F.41 (XVIII) Extremely badly warped, surface removed by root growth. Colour dark brown to black throughout. Heavily tempered with fine flint inclusions varying from 2 mm to less than 1 mm and some large pieces of grit measuring up to 7 mm. Survives to a height of 27 cms, with what may have been straight diverging sides. The base is missing as well as the rim and it is not possible to tell which way up it was deposited.
- S.F.42 (XIX) Base and lower body of an urn found in an upright position. Little quartzite and flint tempering varying in size from 6 mm to less than 1 mm. Colour varies from dark brown to black. Base measures 15 cms in diameter, and the whole specimen stands to a height of 8 cms. The sections of the sides remaining appear to be straight and diverging.
- S.F.43 (XX) Part of vessel found in an upright position, including areas of base and sides. Colour varies from light brown to black. Surface of fabric badly affected, and includes a small amount of flint tempering varying in size from 5 mm to less than 1 mm. Base measures 15 cms in diameter, and remaining fragment stands to a height of 21 cms. The

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

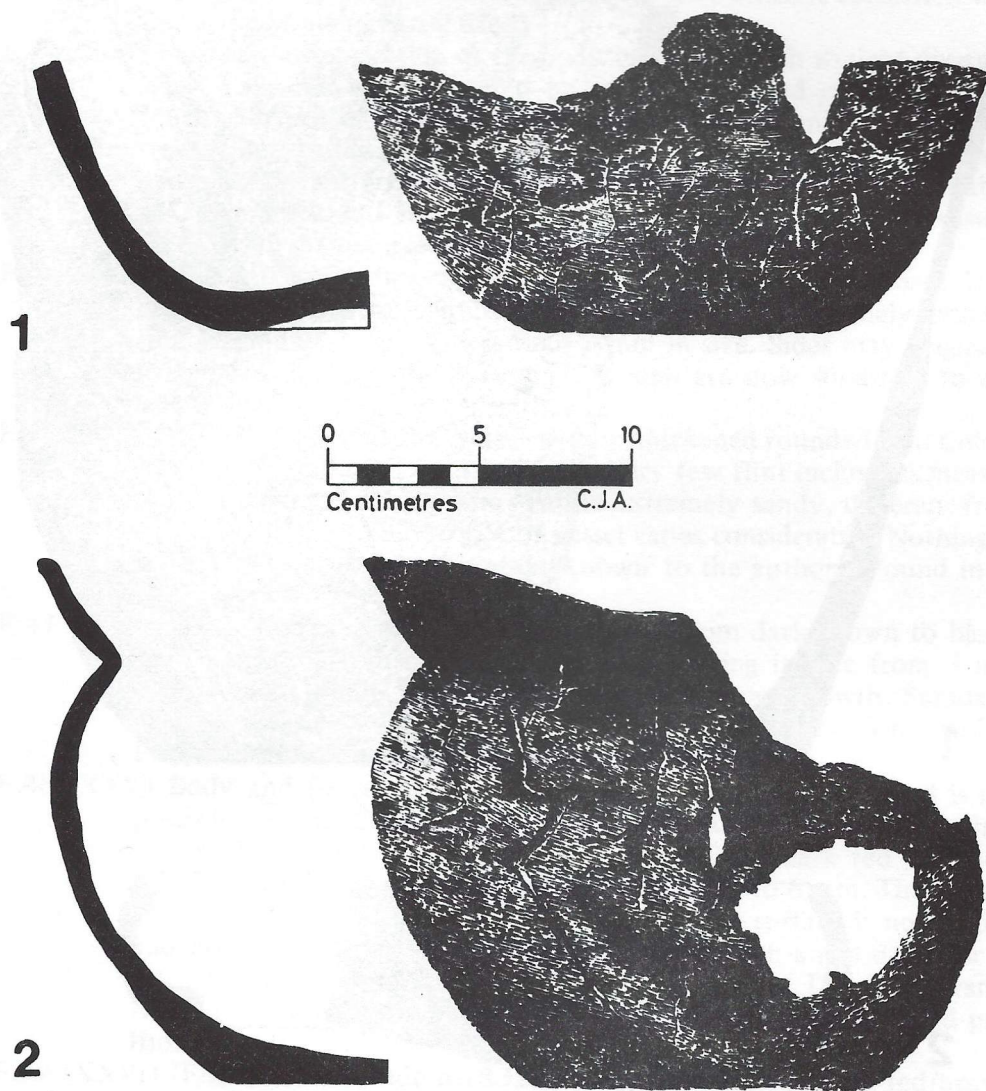


Fig. 7. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery: 1 (S.F. 5); 2 (S.F. 38).

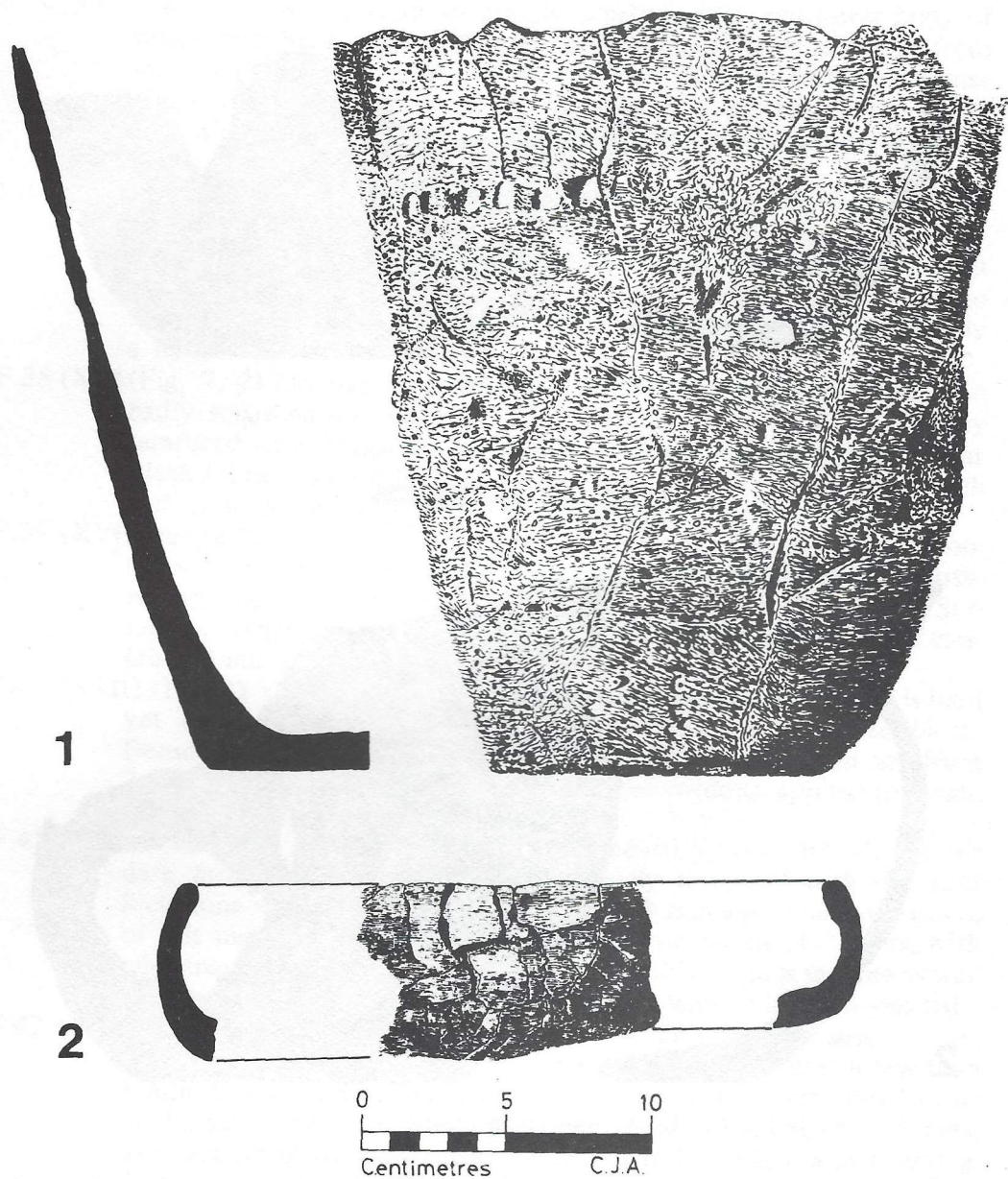


Fig. 8. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery: 1 (S.F. 13); 2 (S.F. 46).

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

crumbly sides of the vessel appear to be straight and diverging from the base and slightly concave at the shoulder, which is consistent with the shape of many barrel urns.

- S.F.44 (XXI) Base and lower portion of the body of a vessel with straight diverging sides. Fabric is badly affected by root growth and crumbles to the touch. Surface of fabric is rough with flint inclusions varying in size from 2 mm to less than 1 mm and some quartz, the former extremely dense on the surface. Colour varies from dark brown to black. Fabric 5–7 mm thick and vessel stands to a height of 7.5 cms. Base measures 10.5 cms in diameter. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.45 (XXII) (Fig. 10) Badly distorted vessel, with small thin walls and base. Dark brown to black in colour. Heavily tempered with finely crushed flint fragments 1 mm to less than 1 mm in size. Sides may originally have been straight and diverging, though are now squashed to one side. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.46 (XXIII) (Fig. 8, 2) Small low vessel with unthickened rounded rim. Colour varies from pinkish-brown to black. Very few flint inclusions measuring 1 mm to less than 1 mm. Fabric extremely sandy, different from all others. Height and profile of vessel varies considerably. Nothing of similar proportions and context known to the authors. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.47 (XXIV) Lower body sherd, varying in colour from dark brown to black. High density of crushed flint inclusions varying in size from 3 mm to less than 1 mm. Fabric badly affected by root growth. Stands to greatest height of 10 cms with straight diverging sides 13 mm thick. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.48 (XXV) Body and flattened rim of vessel so badly distorted that it is not possible to establish its original form with any certainty, though it was probably straight sided. Colour varies from dark red to black. High density of flint inclusions which measure up to 6 mm. The surface and fabric are badly affected by roots and the surface is now rough and crumbly. Survives to a height of 18 cms with a rim diameter of 20–24 cms measured to the outside of the rim. The fabric varies from 4–15 mm thick in its present state. Found in an inverted position.
- S.F.49 (XXVI) (Fig. 11) Well made hard fabric varying in colour from red/brown to brown and black. Higher density of crushed flint inclusions on upper and lower body, measuring 4 mm to less than 1 mm, the fabric in the middle of the body being smooth and relatively free of inclusions at the surface. Rim missing, though decoration below rim consisted of a concave, flat depression around body, not apparently formed by cordons. Barrel urn, in upright position.
- S.F.51 (XXVII) Base and lower body of vessel with ?straight converging sides. Base slightly concave. Colour varies from dark brown to black.

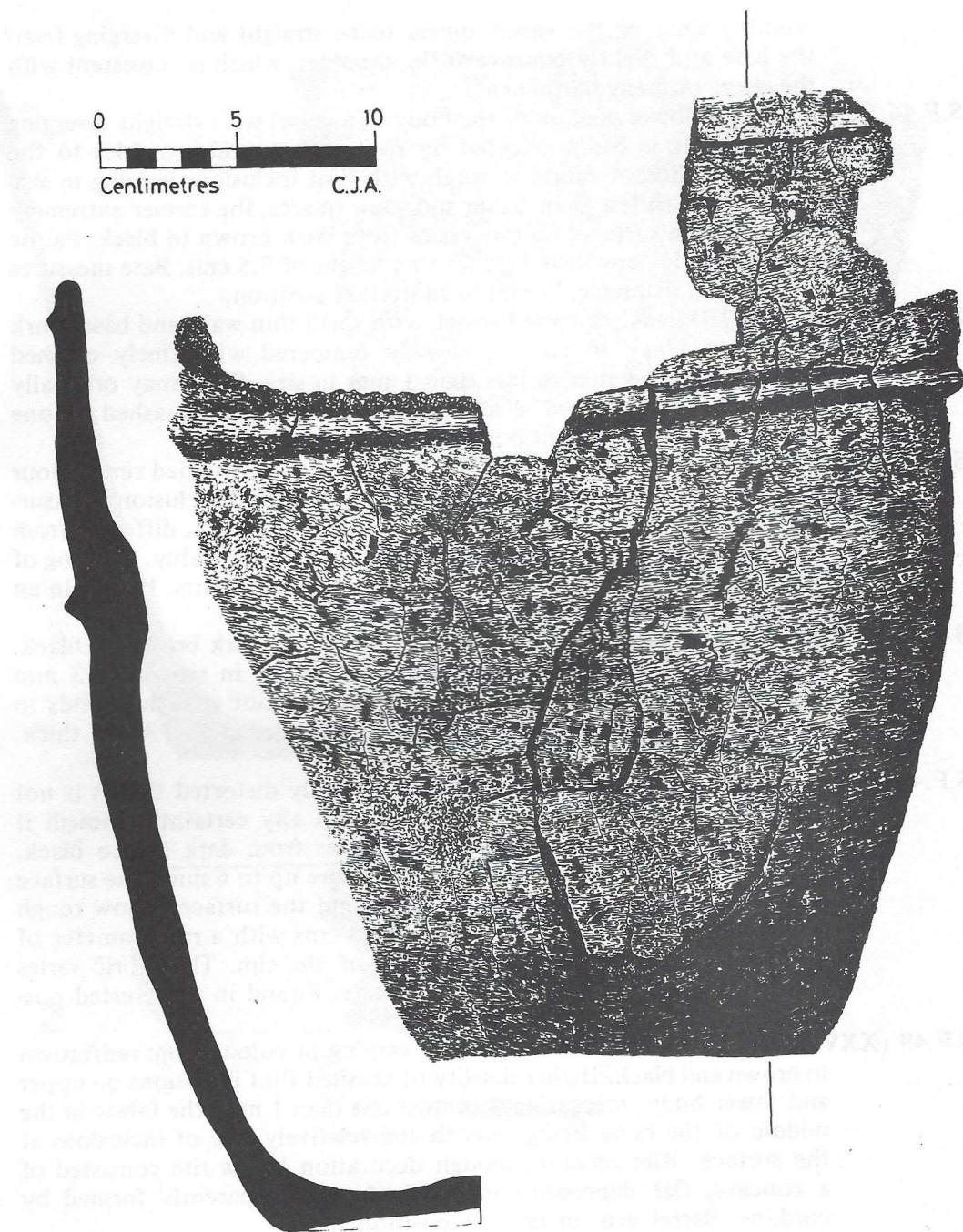


Fig. 9. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery (S.F. 40).

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

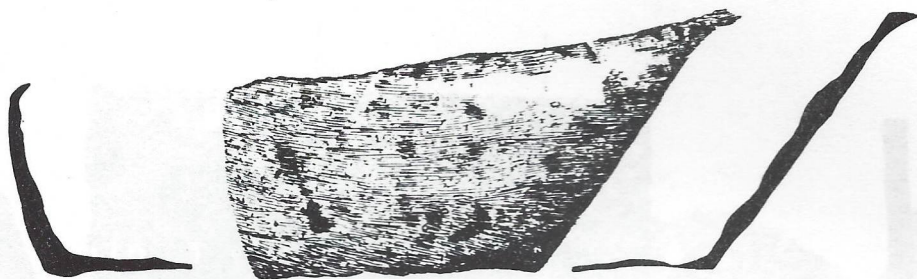


Fig. 10. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery (S.F. 45).

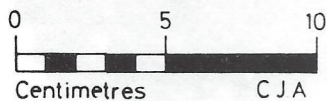


Fig. 11. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery (S.F. 49).

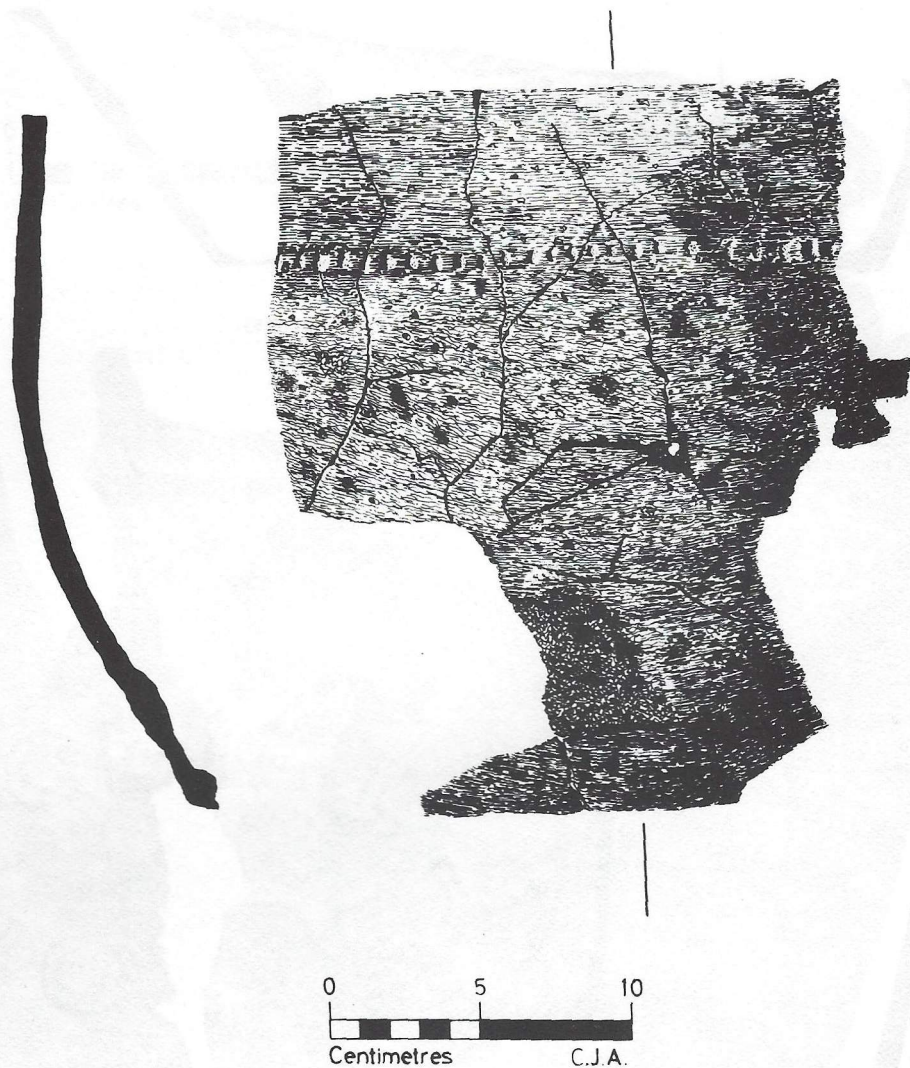


Fig. 12. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery (S.F. 53).

High density of flint inclusions measuring 2 mm to less than 1 mm. Base 8 mm thick, sides 4 mm. Stands to height of 10 cms, with diameter at base of 10 cms. Surface badly affected by roots, though in places smooth and hard. Found in an upright position.

S.F.53 (XXVIII)(Fig. 12) Upper portion of body only. Colour varies from pink / brown to black. Average density of crushed flint inclusions varying from 4 mm to less than 1 mm. Surface vesicular. Upper portion of body hard and smooth. Found in an inverted position. A barrel urn.

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

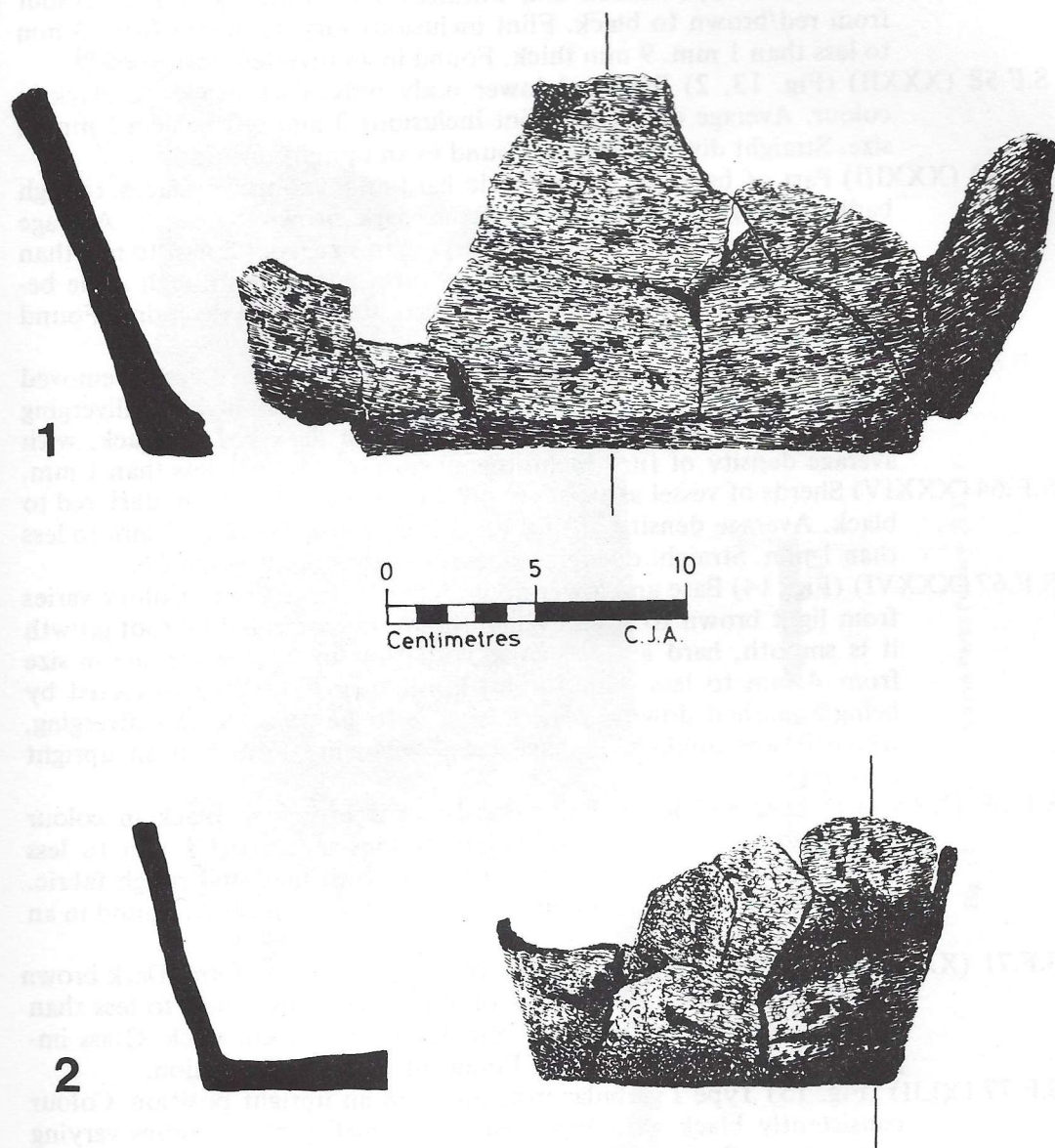


Fig. 13. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery: 1 (S.F. 61); 2 (S.F. 58).

- S.F.57 (XXXI) Rim-sherd, rounded and unthickened, fabric varying in colour from red/brown to black. Flint inclusions varying in size from 3 mm to less than 1 mm. 9 mm thick. Found in an inverted position.
- S.F.58 (XXXII) (Fig. 13, 2) Base and lower body only, dark brown to black in colour. Average density of flint inclusions 3 mm to less than 1 mm in size. Straight diverging sides. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.60 (XXXIII) Part of base and sides, fabric hard and smooth in places, though badly damaged. Colour varies from dark brown to black. Average density of small flint inclusions varying in size from 2 mm to less than 1 mm. Fabric 6 mm thick. Original form not clear, though angle between base and sides suggests body was straight and diverging. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.61 (XXXIV) (Fig. 13, 1) Base and lower body of badly smashed vessel removed from a baulk by children. Probably upright. Sides of body diverging and ?straight. Fabric varies in colour from dark red to black, with average density of flint inclusions measuring 2 mm to less than 1 mm.
- S.F.64 (XXXIV) Sherds of vessel associated with 61. Colour varies from dark red to black. Average density of flint inclusions measuring from 3 mm to less than 1 mm. Straight diverging sides. Found upright within 61.
- S.F.67 (XXXVI) (Fig. 14) Base and lower body only of a large vessel. Colour varies from light brown to black. Where fabric is unaffected by root growth it is smooth, hard and vesicular with flint inclusions varying in size from 4 mm to less than 1 mm. Form may have been distorted by being squashed downwards, causing it to be concave and diverging, which it was unlikely to have been originally. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.69 (XXXVIII) Base and lower body sherds, light brown to black in colour with high density of small flint inclusions measuring 1 mm to less than 1 mm. Sides straight and diverging, with hard and rough fabric. Base 14 cms diameter, 6 mm thick. Body 4–5 mm thick. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.71 (XXXIX) Sherds of a vessel probably of barrel or bucket form. Dark brown in colour with average density of flint inclusions 3 mm to less than 1 mm in size. Body sherds 5 mm thick, base 1 cm thick. Grass impressions on surface of body. Found in an upright position.
- S.F.77 (XLII) (Fig. 15) Type I globular urn, found in an upright position. Colour consistently black with high density of small flint inclusions varying in size from 2mm to less than 1 mm. Fabric badly affected by root growth.
- S.F.81 (XLV) Base and lower body of an urn with straight diverging sides found in an upright position. Badly affected by root growth which has made the fabric extremely fragile. Colour generally light brown and grey. Fabric vesicular with flint inclusions measuring 3 mm to less than 1mm, and generally smooth. Survives to a height of 6 cms. Base 11mm

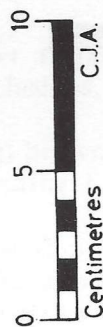
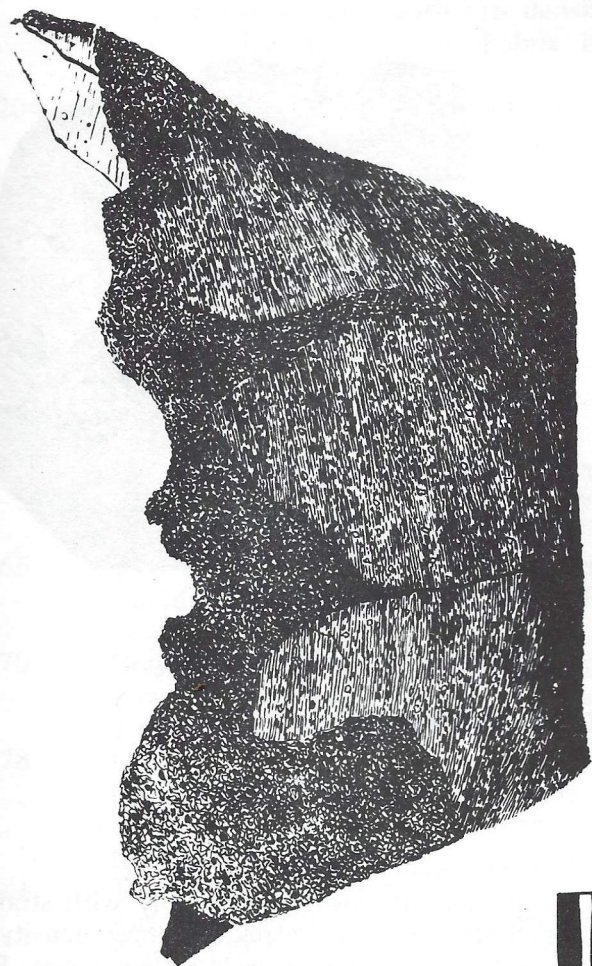


Fig. 14. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery (S.F. 67)

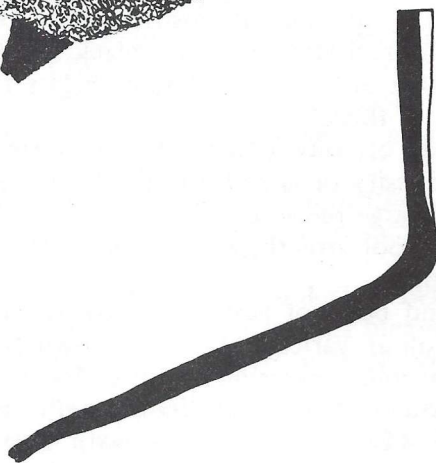




Fig. 15. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery (S.F. 77).

thick, 12–14 cms in diameter. Sides of vessel 5 mm thick.

S.F.82 (XLVI) Sherds of vessel in an upright position, probably with straight diverging sides. Colour dark brown to black. Average density of flint inclusions varying in size from 3 mm to less than 1 mm. Base 9 mm and sides 5 mm thick.

S.F.85 (XLVII) Fragment of body of convex shape. Colour varies from dark red/black to red. High density of large flint inclusions measuring 6 mm to less than 1 mm, and large pieces of grit up to 7 mm. The fabric, made extremely fragile by root growth, varies from 3–8 mm thick. Found in an upright position.

S.F.93 (XLVIII) Part of base and body of vessel with convex sides found in an upright position. Colour varies from dark brown to black. Average density of flint inclusions measuring 6 mm to less than 1 mm. Badly distorted, and squashed almost flat. Fabric badly affected by root growth. Measures 5–12 mm in thickness, with base diameter of 14 cms. Survives to a height of 14 cms.

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

- S.F.101 (XXXV) Body sherds with an unurned cremation. Vary in colour from dark brown to black with low density of flint inclusions measuring 3mm to less than 1mm. Fabric hard and smooth, 4mm thick. Form unknown.
- S.F.204 (C) (Fig. 16) Hard and smooth vesicular fabric with low density of flint inclusions measuring 2 mm to less than 1 mm. Colour varies from pale brown to dark brown. Decorated rim and upper body only, found in an inverted position. Probably a barrel urn.

The following are sherds which were not associated with burials.

- S.F.56 Grey fabric, surface absent on one face, 5 mm thick. Low density of flint inclusions 1 mm and less.
- S.F.65 Body sherd, outer surface dark brown, rest of sherd grey. Low density of flint inclusions measuring 1 mm to less than 1 mm. Fabric smooth and hard. 8 mm thick.
- S.F.66 Two sherds of a smooth hard fabric, outer surface red-brown, remainder grey. Low density of small flint inclusions, measuring 1 mm to less than 1 mm. 9 mm thick.
- S.F.70 Grey-light brown outer surface merging to light brown on inner surface. Low density of small flint inclusions, measuring 1 mm to less than 1 mm. 5-6 mm thick.
- S.F.78 Hard smooth fabric with low density of small flint inclusions measuring 2 mm and less. A convex body sherd broken from an angle between base and sides, 8 mm thick. Colour varies from dark brown to black.
- S.F.84 Thick sherd, probably from base, with linear impression across surface, 1 cm wide, consistent with finger being run across the unfired fabric. Colour, dark brown to black, 15 mm thick, with very low density of flint inclusions measuring 1 mm and less. Fabric hard and smooth. A cross on the base of barrel and bucket urns is a common form of decoration.
- S.F.86 A rough and hard fabric 5 mm thick, surfaces dark brown to black in colour, with a grey core. Low density of flint inclusions, 1 mm and less.
- S.F.87 A sherd 10 mm thick with dark brown surfaces and a black core. Very low density of flint inclusions measuring less than 1 mm. Probably a body sherd. Fabric hard with smooth surfaces.
- S.F.88 Convex body sherd with very low density of flint inclusions measuring less than 1 mm. Hard smooth fabric, dark brown in colour and 8 mm thick.

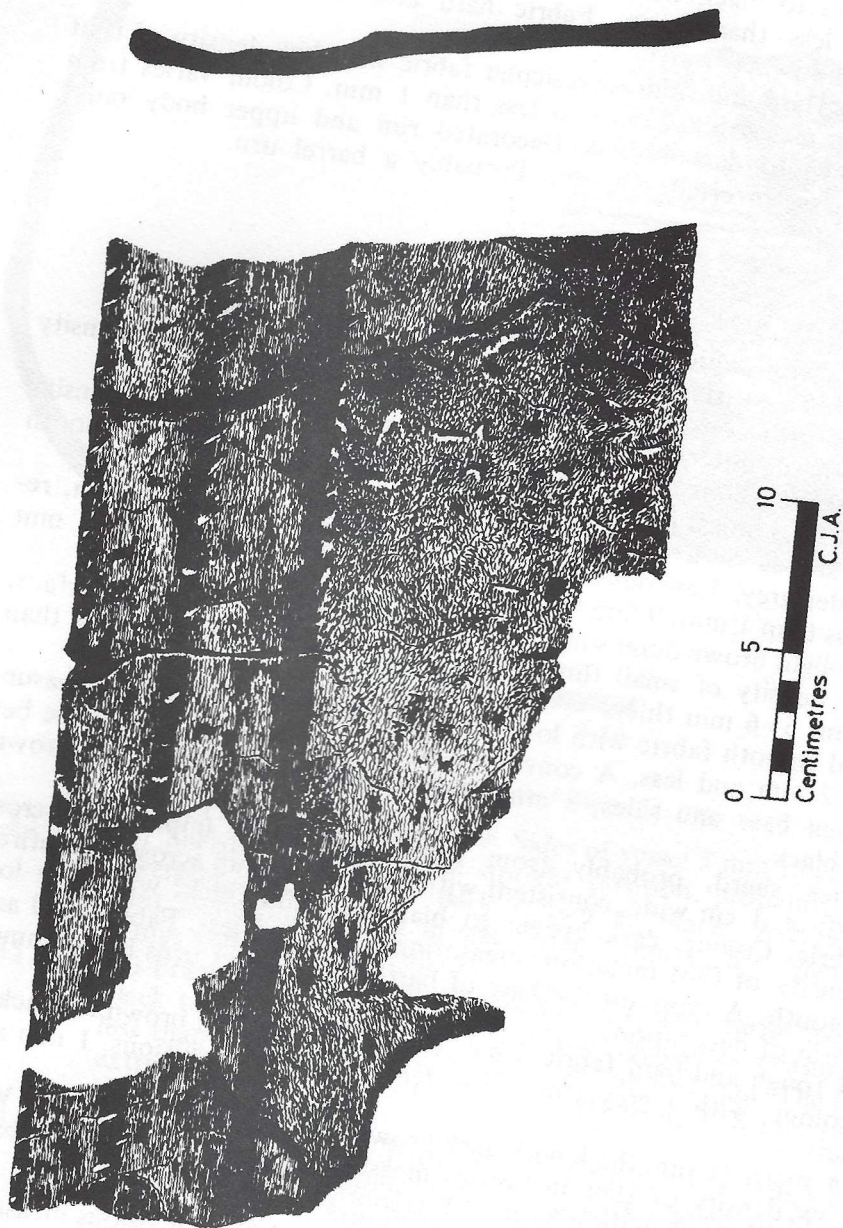


Fig. 16. Fairway Caravan Park: Pottery (S.F. 204).

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

- S.F.89 Varying from dark brown to black in colour with low density of small flint inclusions measuring 1 mm and less. 10 mm thick. Fabric hard, one surface missing, other smooth.
- S.F.90 Dark brown body sherd 9 mm thick with low density of flint inclusions, measuring less than 1 mm. Hard fabric with smooth surface remaining on one side.
- S.F.91 Small dark brown sherd 9 mm thick with low density of small flint inclusions less than 1 mm. Fabric hard with a smooth surface remaining on one side.
- S.F.92 Small dark brown sherd, 9 mm thick with very few flint inclusions less than 1 mm. Hard fabric with smooth surface.
- S.F.94 Convex body sherd, 10 cms thick with very low density of flint inclusions measuring 1mm and less. Outer surface dark brown, darkening through core of sherd to black on inside surface. Hard fabric with smooth surfaces.
- S.F.102 Grey body sherd, 6 mm thick with a very low density of flint inclusions measuring 1 mm and less. Fabric extremely crumbly with smooth surfaces.
- S.F.201 Rough and hard fabric 6 mm thick with a grey core and surfaces varying from dark brown to black. Low density of flint inclusions, 4 mm to less than 1 mm.

DISCUSSION

Before it was destroyed, a barrow existed on the site, the dimensions of which have already been referred to. Excavation has shown that this had a quarry ditch with a causeway on the south-east side. A date cannot be assigned to this phase with any confidence as such features have now been found in middle bronze age as well as early bronze age contexts (White 1969, 81 and 1970, 7-8); the earlier period is suggested however by a barbed and tanged arrowhead (Fig. 4: S.F.2), although this was unstratified.

At a period after the ditch had silted the site became the focus for a middle bronze age urnfield. In making statements about this, the extensive damage it has been recently subjected to must be constantly borne in mind. A total of thirty-five burials were found. Thirty-four of these were inurned — apart from one with both base and rim missing it is possible to say that twenty-nine were deposited upright and four inverted. The remaining feature which we can be certain was a burial

consisted of a few sherds and some cremated bones in a hollow. Three similar hollows, in which nothing was found on excavation, may have been unurned burials, the bones having disintegrated in the acid soil.

The fragile nature of the urns being realised, the burials were, as mentioned, removed in their entirety to be excavated later under laboratory conditions. Up the field it was noted that, with the exception of one which was triangular, they had been placed in circular holes scarcely larger in diameter than the pots themselves. The tops of most of the burials had been removed but in three cases a capping was preserved, two were of large pieces of gravel and one of fragments of sandstone which included part of a quern (S.F.64) and five pieces with grooves (S.Fs. 96–100). The distribution of the burials in relation to the local geology was such as to suggest that this was a contributory factor. Although we cannot be certain that the cemetery originally extended into the barrow itself, as is often the case on such sites, sherds found in a redeposited layer tentatively identified as having originally formed part of the mound would suggest this (Fig. 2).

The main content of the urns was, not unnaturally, sandy soil and gravel similar to that in the immediate vicinity of the site. Some of the gravel however showed definite signs of having been heated and it is likely that it was collected with the cremated bones. The latter were not found in all the urns but this may be conjecturally attributed to the acidity of the soil (Appendix); perhaps the most interesting fact to arise from the bone analysis is the presence of bones from two skeletons in one urn; this could be a double burial but may have resulted from bones of a previous cremation having been left in the ashes on the spot of the pyre. Charcoal was frequently encountered but in view of the burials having been near the surface of what was heathland it could have been intrusive. Fragments of sandstone were also found in five of the urns and in one case six pieces bore grooves (S.F. 205). In one instance a piece of bone and some burnt gravel was found outside an urn, suggesting the latter was filled after it had been placed in the hole. Little care appears to have been taken generally as in two cases the bottom had been broken during deposition and in another there was a sherd in the lower fill of the urn. On one occasion two incomplete vessels were used, one within the other.

The finds from the site can be divided into three classes on stratigraphic grounds; there are those which were associated with the silting of the ditch, those connected with the urnfield and ones in the topsoil. Those from the ditch are obviously the earliest and must have been deposited shortly after the building of the barrow, when the sandy nature of the soil is taken into consideration. Some of the burials were cut into this silt and therefore belong to a later phase; how much later cannot be said however and finds from the upper part of the ditch fill may belong to it.

In the topsoil were found a large number of flint flakes some of which were possibly worked, but only dubiously so, a fragment of a sandstone saddle quern

(S.F.95), and sherds (p. 27) which, as mentioned above, are tentatively thought to have come from middle bronze age inurned burials once in the barrow. One interesting find, already alluded to, is a barbed and tanged arrowhead (Fig. 4: S.F. 2) whose fineness of manufacture suggests it to be of beaker or early bronze age date (A. ApSimon, personal communication).

Hundreds more flint flakes were found in the ditch fill, some of which may have been worked (Fig. 4, 2–5). Five fragments of sandstone saddle querns were also recovered (S.Fs. 15, 20, 23, 26, 29: Fig. 5) together with a more or less complete one which had been re-used and bore scored lines on both sides (Fig. 6, S.F. 59). The latter came from the very top of the ditch fill and it is uncertain to which phase it should be attributed. Another sandstone object (Fig. 5, S.F. 37) found well down in the fill is conical in form with an incised design on the flat end (Hedges 1973, 84, Fig. 2).

British examples of bronze age mobiliary art are very rare and until recently were confined to the beaker Folkton drums (Greenwell 1890, 14–15, Pls. I, II). Several carved sandstone chips of a similar date were however recently recovered during the re-excavation of a barrow at Rudston in Yorkshire (Pacito 1972, 8, Fig. 7) and are not dissimilar in character from the conical object found at Fairway. The re-used quern is more easily paralleled. Querns similar to it have been found on many middle bronze age sites in southern England and grooved stones, although smaller, are known from at least three settlements of that date (Hedges 1973, 84, 86, Fig. 3). These are supposed to have been used for sharpening metal implements but the fact that one of the grooves on the Fairway specimen is continuous around the edge of the stone throws some doubt upon this.

Worked sandstone objects were also found associated with the urnfield. A piece of quern formed part of the capping of one burial (S.F. 64) together with five amorphous fragments bearing grooves (S.Fs. 96–100) while six similar objects were in the fill of another urn (S.F. 205).

A discussion of the pottery is impeded by its poor condition. It was frequently crushed, with missing rims or bases, and further damage had been caused to the poorly made fabric by the penetration of roots which had often removed the surface. Where it is possible to identify the forms, using the current terminology (Calkin 1964), the predominant types are Type I globular and barrel urns. This is to be expected considering the position of the site in relation to the general distribution of these types. Rims, rarely present, are simple, rounded or flat. Decoration is rare, usually in the form of applied cordons and impressions on barrel urns, and incised lines on globular forms. All of the pottery contains a certain amount of temper of crushed flint, but it is difficult to see how the relative densities could be expressed in quantitative form, as has been attempted in the past by a visual examination of the surface (Piggott 1938), even if this is relevant. Similarly, no attempt has been made to quantify the colour of the fabric in the form of a code as the variations within an individual vessel are so great as to be no substitute for a visual examination. Parallels for many of the forms and types of

decoration can be found in reports of similar 'Deverel-Rimbury' cemeteries in the area, especially Latch Farm (Piggott 1938). The small low dish (S.F. 46) is without parallel.

Acknowledgements

The excavations were financed by the Department of the Environment, the South Wessex Archaeological Association and generous personal donations, especially that of Mr. L. Blick. Further equipment was kindly supplied by Bournemouth Corporation. We are grateful to Gallifords Construction Company for permission to excavate on their land and for further assistance.

Mr A. ApSimon is to be especially thanked in a personal capacity for his advice and help at every stage connected with the excavation and publication of the site. We would also like to acknowledge the help of Mr F. Aldsworth, Mr R. Hall and all members of the South Wessex Archaeological Association who voluntarily gave their time to excavation and post-excavation work, especially Mr T. Westrap and Miss M. Yonge.

We are extremely grateful to the Department of Archaeology, Southampton University and the Russell-Cotes Museum, Bournemouth for making their facilities available for post-excavation work.

APPENDIX

REPORT ON THE CREMATED BONE

by Mrs P. Sheppard

The weights of samples given below includes hard pan adhering to the bones which could not be removed due to their fragile state. The mass of bones has probably been greatly reduced by the acid soil.

- | | |
|-------|--|
| IX | Colour: brown-grey. Total weight: 122 gms.
Post-cranial bones: only 4 fragments 3.5 cms long; remainder very fragmented and crumbled. Average thickness 4 mm.
Cranial bones: 8 fragments, 3-6 mm thick. Sutures unfused. 1 fragment occipital. 1 fragment frontal.
Teeth: 2 broken roots.
Conclusion: 1 adult represented. |
| XIII | Colour: grey-white. Total weight: 71 gms.
Post-cranial bones: 3-3.5 mm thick, very fragile. Some appear to be 2 mm thick.
Cranial bones: 2 mm thick.
Sample too small for any definite conclusions, but possibly residue of 1 juvenile and 1 adult. |
| XXIII | One scrap long-bone, but could be rib, 1 mm thick. |
| XXVI | One unidentifiable fragment. |

EXCAVATION OF A BARROW AND URNFIELD AT FAIRWAY CARAVAN PARK

- XXVIII Colour: grey-brown. Total weight: 325 gms.
Post-cranial bones: 3.5–5 mm thick. Longest fragment 4.5 cms.
Cranial bones: at least 3.5 mm thick. One mandible fragment.
Teeth: 24 fragments, mostly roots. Slight trace of enamel on one broken molar. Slight trace secondary cementum on root.
Conclusion: thickness of long-bone fragments and teeth roots indicates mature adult.
- XXXV Colour: light brown-grey. Total weight: 233 gms.
Post-cranial bones: some breaks across long axis shafts could be deliberate. Shafts of most long-bones represented including ribs, 1.3 cms wide. 3.5–6 mm thick.
Cranial bones: 28 fragments, 3–6 mm thick. One fragment supra-orbital bone, one petrous bone and one occipital fragment.
Teeth: one doubtful root.
Conclusion: density of bone indicates a mature adult. The supra-orbit is possibly female from sharpness of edge of upper margin of orbit. One skeleton.
- XXXVIII Colour: light grey-white. Total weight: 78 gms.
3 fragments larger than 2 cms.
Post-cranial bones: 4–6 cms thick, no recognisable fragments.
Cranial bones: 2 doubtful fragments.
Conclusion: Thickness indicates mature bones. Fragments present are well preserved, therefore it is possible that limb bones only are present.
- XXXIX Colour: grey-white. Total weight: 11 gms.
Post-cranial bones: some very small fragments.
Cranial bones: 3 fragments, largest 20 x 13 mm, 4 mm thick.
- XLII Colour: brown-grey. Total weight: 99 gms.
Post-cranial bones: 12 between 2–4 cms long, 3–4 mm thick. One phalanx.
Cranial bones: 4 fragments, 3.5 mm thick, with density indicating adult but not aged.
Teeth: 1 root of mature adult.
Conclusion: representative of 1 adult.
- XLV Colour: light grey-brown. Total weight: 36 gms.
Post-cranial bones: 3 fragments only, approx. 2 cms. Remainder 1 cm or less. Long-bone fragments 3–6 mm thick. No recognisable fragments. Cranial bones: adult bone represented.

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Authors: John Hedges, Chris Arnold and Melia Hedges, Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton.

A BRONZE AGE BARROW NEAR CHALTON

by Barry Cunliffe

The purpose of this note is to put on record a hasty rescue excavation undertaken in September 1968 on the site of a ploughed out round barrow in the parish of Clanfield (SU 71521682) 1 mile west of the village of Chalton. (Fig. 1).

The existence of the barrow was unknown until work began on the realignment of a sector of the A3 between Horndean and the Butser cutting. Altogether three archaeological sites were found and excavated; the barrow under discussion (site 83), a Bronze Age settlement (site 78) and an Iron Age settlement (site 50). The last two have been the subjects of separate reports (Cunliffe 1970, and 1975) and need not concern us here.

Description of the Barrow (Fig. 2)

The site of the barrow, on the crest of a col, had been subjected to intensive ploughing both in the Roman period and more recently since the last war. Nothing survived above ground, and all that remained of the original construction was a continuous V-shaped ditch enclosing a roughly circular area averaging some 70 ft (21.3 m) in diameter. Since the time available for excavation was no more than six hours, it was decided to clean the exposed chalk within the ditch to look for burials and to section the ditch in four places. Ploughing had scored into the natural chalk surface and roots and burrowing animals had caused further disturbance, but in spite of this, three internal features were recognized and excavated: the central burial pit and two ? secondary burials close to the periphery of the barrow.

The central burial pit measured 5 ft by 4 ft (1.5 by 1.2 m) with its bottom 10 ins (25.5 cms) below the surviving surface of the chalk. Its filling, of loose chalk, had been thoroughly disturbed, no trace of the burial, not even a fragment of bone, surviving. At some stage a rabbit had burrowed into the soft chalk filling, breaking away the north side of the pit.

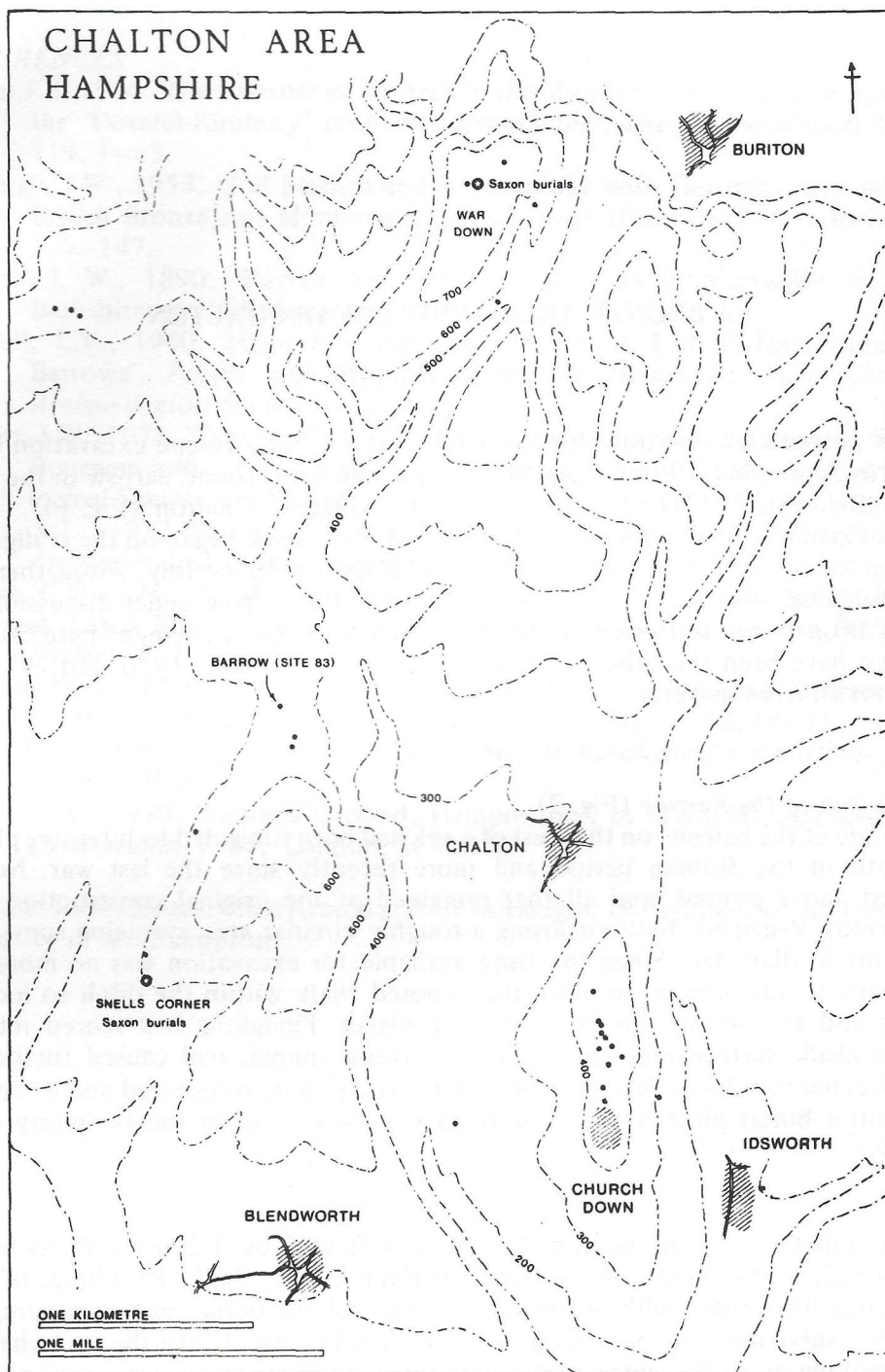


Fig. 1 Chalton area. Barrows are shown as •, the Saxon and medieval villages are cross-hatched. Contours are in feet.

A BRONZE AGE BARROW NEAR CHALTON

Of the two secondary burial pits, both measured c. 14 ins (35 cms) across, all but the lowest 4–5 ins (10–13 cms) having been removed by ploughing. Pit 1 contained a few scraps of cremated bone, while pit 2 produced fragments of an urn, together with a handful of cremated bone. Evidently the plough had all but destroyed the burials. This raises the possibility that other secondary burials may have once existed but have been obliterated by ploughing.

The ditch was between 4 and 6 ft (1.2–1.8m) wide, of V-shaped section and up to 3 ft (c. 1 m) deep. Each of the four sections showed a natural silting profile, the fill grading from coarse chalk in the bottom to soil in the top. Here too the upper layers had been truncated by ploughing.

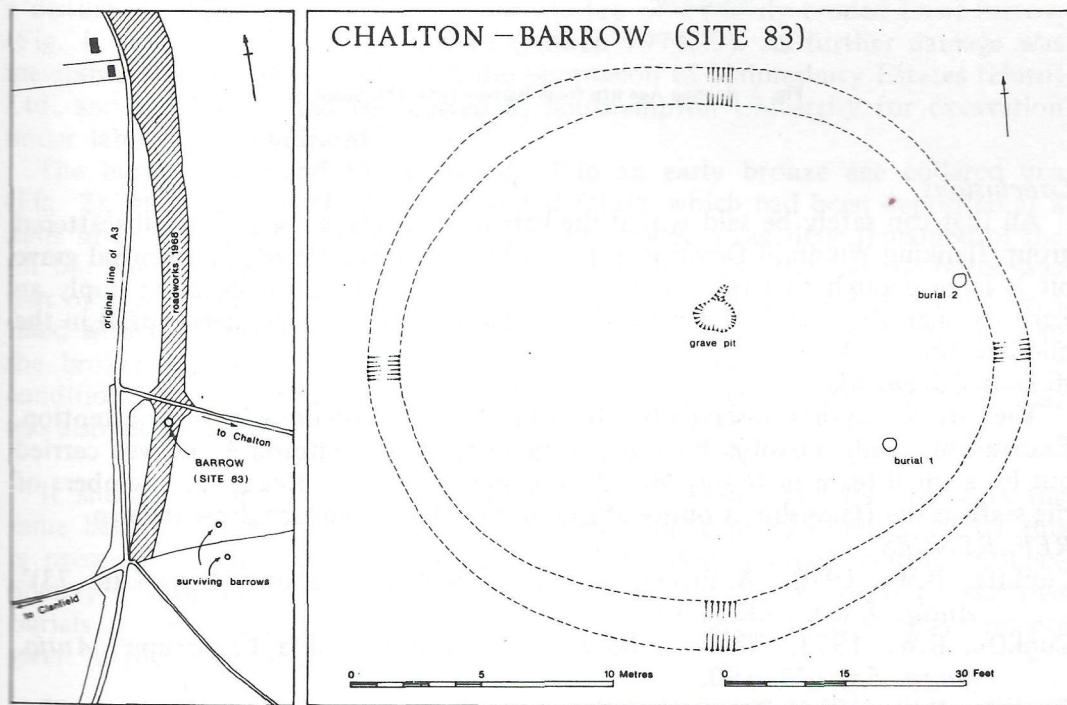


Fig. 2 Barrow (Site 83): detailed plan and location

The cremation urn (Fig. 3)

Altogether, some 60 small sherds weighing a total of 37 gms were recovered. All belonged to one vessel made in an even sandy fabric tempered with crushed flint grits up to 3 mm in length. The vessel had been fired in an oxidising atmosphere, giving the fabric a red colour throughout. The surface was smoothed and of brownish-red colour.

The sherds do not permit reconstruction, but two fragments of rim and several small sherds bearing an applied finger nail impressed cordon show that the vessel was of mid-late bronze age type. In fabric and general form the vessel is broadly similar to those found on the settlement site (site 79) less than a mile to the north (Cunliffe 1970, fig. 4).

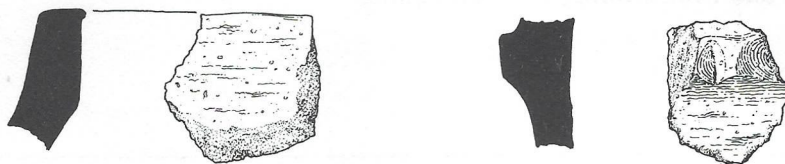


Fig. 3 Bronze Age urn from barrow (site 83). Scale ½.

Conclusions

All that can safely be said is that the barrow (site 83) is one of a small scattered group flanking Windmill Down (Cunliffe 1973, Knocker 1956). The central grave pit is large enough to have taken a crouched inhumation which might imply an Early Bronze Age date. The barrow was clearly used for secondary burial in the mid-late Bronze Age.

Acknowledgements

The barrow was first observed by Mr John Budden, who drew it to my attention. Excavation, made possible by the contractors, Dick Hampton Ltd., was carried out by a small team including Mrs Jo Chaplin, Miss Anne Read, and members of the staff of the Hampshire County Museum. Mr Mike Rouillard drew the urn.

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Author: Barry Cunliffe, Institute of Archaeology, 35 Beaumont Street, Oxford.

A NOTE ON AN INURNED BURIAL FROM A BARROW ON ST. CATHERINE'S HILL, CHRISTCHURCH

by Melia E. Hedges and Paul Aitken
with a note on the cremated remains by Mrs P. Sheppard

In January of 1974, whilst carrying out a survey on St. Catherine's Hill, Christchurch, members of the South Wessex Archaeological Association discovered a disturbed burial urn protruding from the top of a heavily eroded bowl barrow (Fig. 1, no. 2) at NGR SZ14339592 (Aitken 1974, 9). As further damage was inevitable this was taken out, with the permission of Malmesbury Estates (Hurn) Ltd. and the D.o.E., and transferred to Southampton University for excavation under laboratory conditions.

The burial was found to be contained in an early bronze age collared urn (Fig. 2), of hard, smooth, orange-coloured fabric, which had been deposited at a slant in an inverted position. As the base was eroded away little remained of the fill but the fragments of cremated bone (Appendix) indicate that the burial was that of a youth while their position in the section suggested that the urn had been filled with earth before being inverted. Among the bones, and also inverted, were the broken remains of a pigmy cup (Fig. 3) which had been deposited in that condition. A carbonized fragment of the kernel of a hazel-nut (*Corylus avellana*) was also recovered.

It should be mentioned that another inverted collared urn was found in the same barrow during a partial excavation earlier this century (Wallace 1920); this is presently on display, contents intact, in the Bournemouth Natural Science Society's Museum (private). It is difficult to relate the positions of the two burials as the original plan does not correspond exactly to the measurements given in the accompanying text.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank John Hedges of the Department of Archaeology, Southampton University, for his help and advice both during the excavation of the urn and the writing of this note.

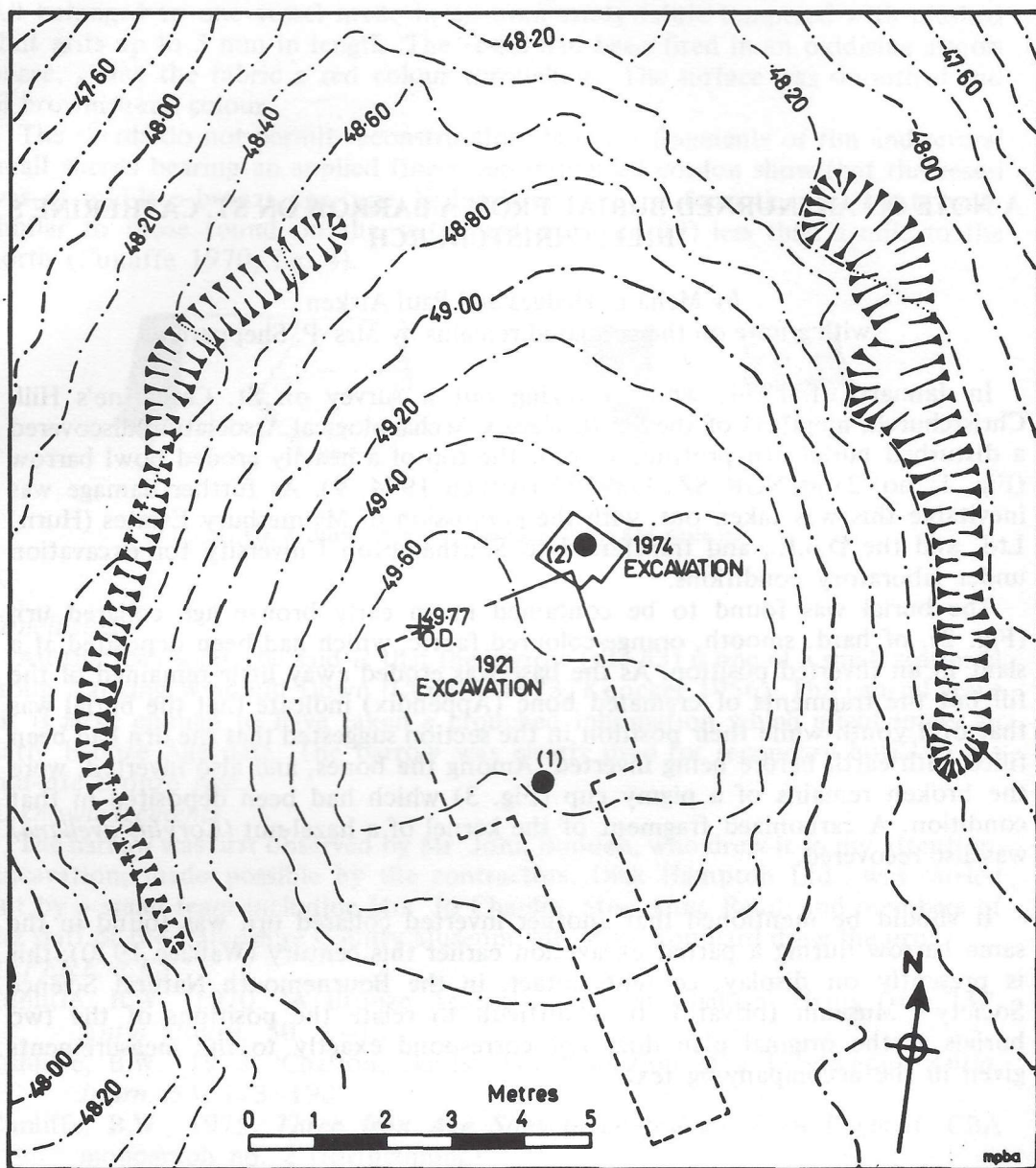


Fig. 1 Plan of the barrow showing the position of the urn and the supposed limits of the 1921 excavation

AN INURNED BURIAL FROM ST. CATHERINE'S HILL, CHRISTCHURCH

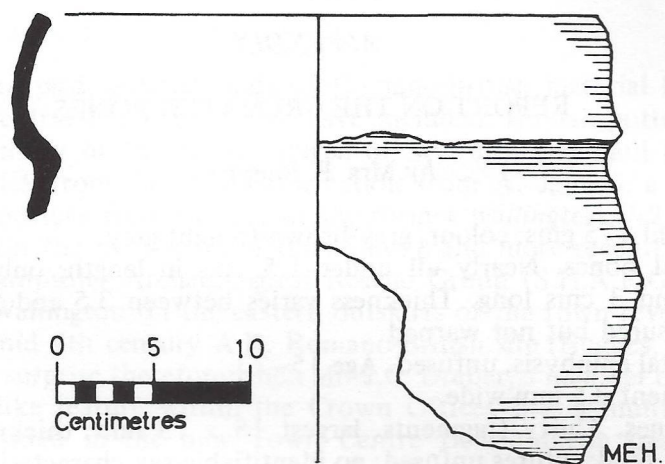


Fig. 2 The collared urn removed during the 1974 excavation

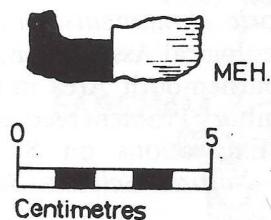


Fig. 3 The pigmy cup found in an inverted position within the collared urn

APPENDIX

REPORT ON THE CREMATED BONES

by Mrs P. Sheppard

Total weight 175 gms; colour, grey-brown to light grey.

Post-cranial bones. Nearly all under 1.5 cms in length; only eight fragments between 2 and 3 cms long. Thickness varies between 3.5 and 5 mm. Long-bone fragments fissured but not warped.

1 ulna, distal epiphysis, unfused. Age 15–23.

1 rib fragment 8.5 mm wide.

Cranial bones. Thirty fragments, largest 18 x 13 mm; thickness 2–3 mm. All from vault of skull; sutures unfused; no identifiable sex characteristics.

22 teeth fragments. No enamel present; most broken at neck except one canine; no wear on dentine; roots fully formed but with no secondary dentine.

Conclusion

The unfused epiphysis and sutures together with the lack of secondary dentine and absence of wear on the primary suggest the bones to have belonged to a youth or young adult of unknown sex.

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Authors: Melia Hedges, Southampton University. Paul Aitken, South Wessex Archaeological Association.

EVIDENCE OF ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN FAREHAM

by A. G. Holmes

Introduction

For some time past isolated finds of Romano-British material have occurred in and around central Fareham. These have included; Roman pottery, brick and tile from the vicinity of the parish church of St. Peter and Paul (Privett 1949, 101); Roman brick from Salterns (information from A. James); a few sherds of Romano-British pottery from the site of the former *Wallington Hill Guest House*, 44 High Street (in the possession of the author); and more recently, excavations by the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group (S.H.A.R.G.) at Paradise Lane near Fort Wallington on the eastern outskirts of the town revealed evidence of a late 1st to mid 4th century A.D. Romano-British site (Hughes, forthcoming).

It came as no surprise therefore when Mr J.C. Draper, a member of S.H.A.R.G., noticed a ditch-like feature within the Crown Offices site; a multi-storey office block being provided in the new Town Centre Development area, to house a number of central government departmental offices presently located throughout the district. Closer inspection of the feature yielded evidence of Romano-British occupation in the form of pottery, brick, tile and metalwork. Unfortunately the

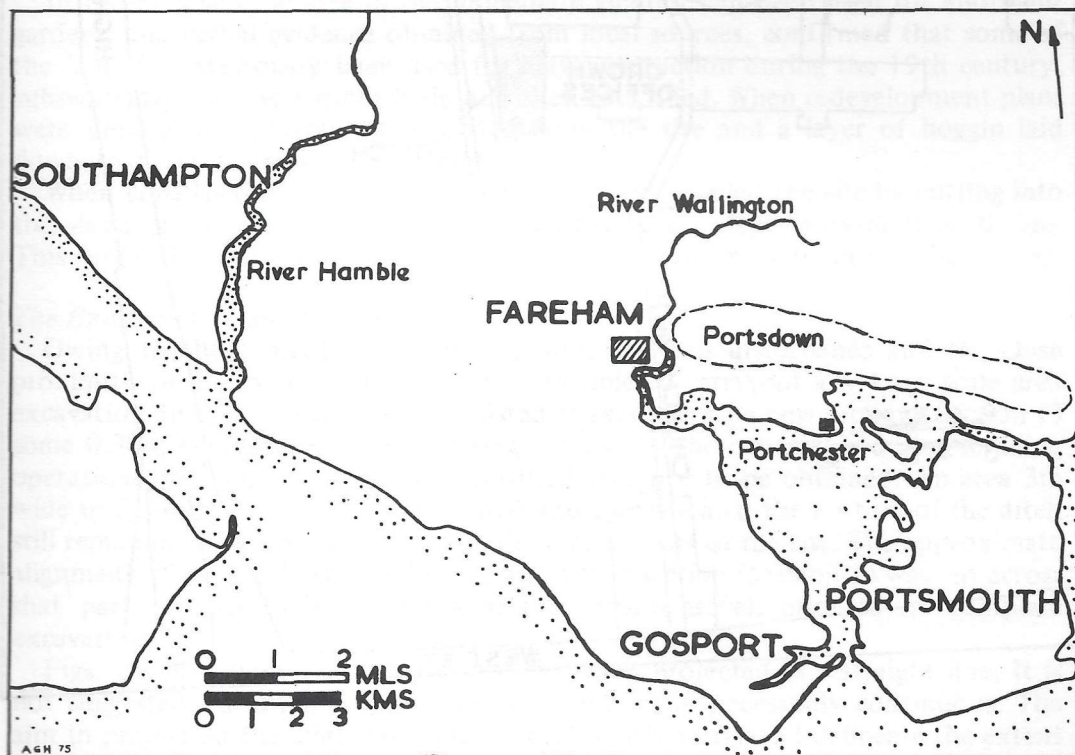


Fig. 1 Fareham Central Development Area, General Location.

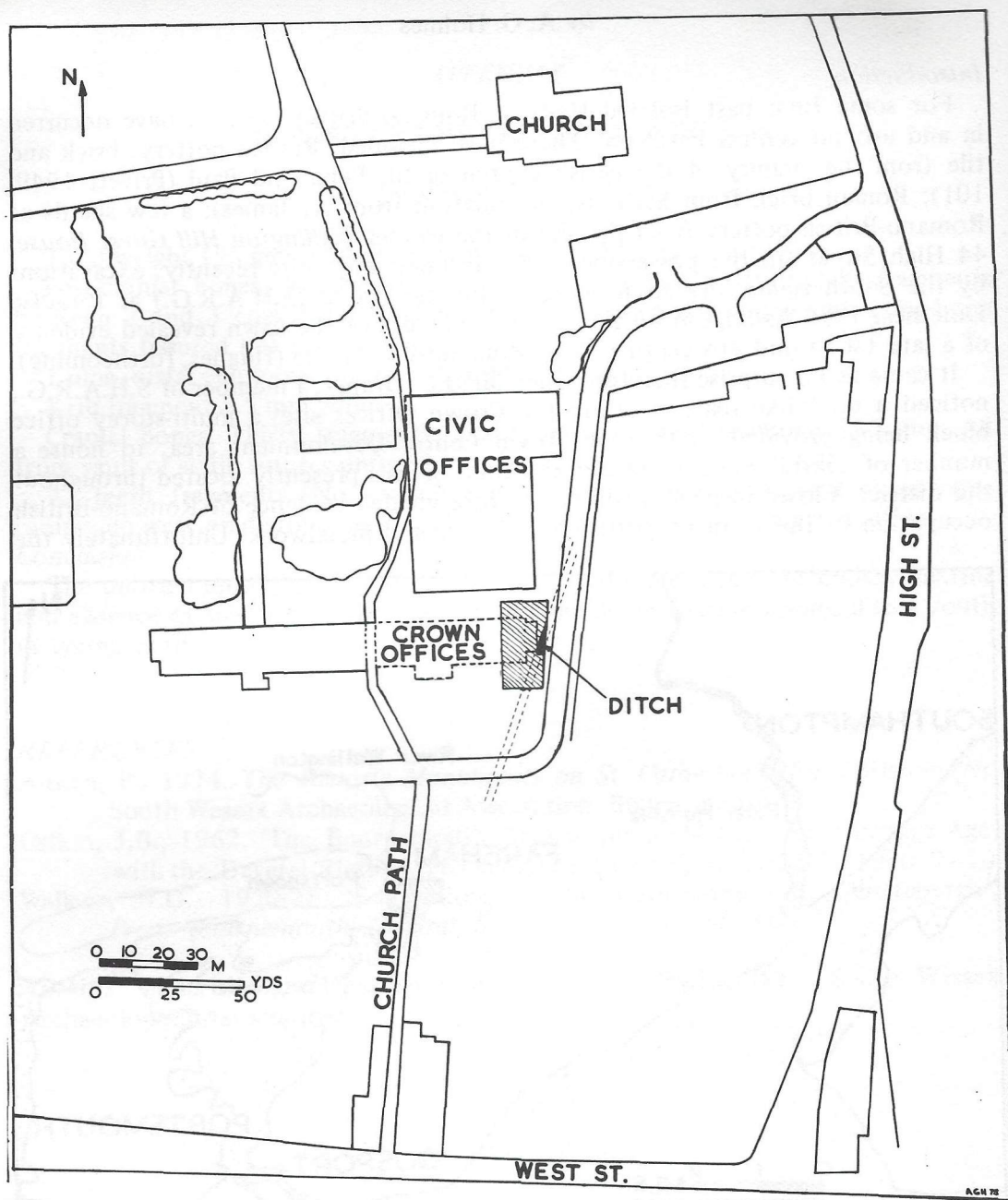


Fig. 2 Fareham, 'Crown Offices' Site, Detailed Location.

site occupies part of an area in which some development had already taken place and the area in the immediate vicinity was already in use as a temporary car park. However, with the co-operation of the contractors, Fareham Borough Council and the Department of the Environment, a rescue excavation was carried out by S.H.A.R.G. over several weekends in October 1973 under the direction of the author.

In view of the limited nature of the excavations, it has been impossible to draw definite conclusions. However, where it was felt that comment on the evidence could and should be made, this has been done, on the understanding that responsibility for such comment is entirely the author's.

The Site (Figs. 1 and 2)

The site (SU 58160635, 15.425mOD) is situated approximately 150m south of the parish church of St. Peter and Paul and adjacent to the eastern end of the new Crown Offices building. It lies near the highest point of a south facing slope which extends down to the estuary of the River Wallington and the upper reaches of Fareham Creek.

In recent years the area in the immediate vicinity had been used for allotment gardens, and verbal evidence obtained from local sources, confirmed that some of the land had previously been used for gravel extraction during the 19th century, subsequently used as a rubbish tip and then backfilled. When redevelopment plans were announced, topsoil was removed from the site and a layer of hoggin laid down to form a temporary car park.

When construction commenced, the contractors levelled the site by cutting into the slope of the natural River and Valley gravels to a depth varying from 0–2m. This revealed a truncated 'V' shaped ditch in the eastern extremity of the cutting.

The Excavation (Figs. 3 and 4)

Owing to the limited extent of the site, previous disturbance and the close proximity of a service road, it was not possible to carry out any large scale area excavation. In the main the work consisted of establishing a new section (Section 1) some 0.30m behind the original cutting created by the contractor during levelling operations; thus enabling properly stratified evidence to be obtained. An area 3m wide in front of the section was cleared and this revealed the bottom of the ditch still remaining in the natural gravel on the levelled part of the site. The approximate alignment of the ditch was established and a true section (Section 2) was cut across that part of the ditch remaining in the natural gravel, prior to its complete excavation.

Figs. 2 and 4 show the alignment of the ditch projected as a straight line. It is not suggested the ditch would have been straight or necessarily continuous. The aim in projecting the alignment was twofold; firstly to try and delineate the extent of possible settlement and secondly, to indicate, if possible, where excavation of other available sites in the area might yield further evidence.

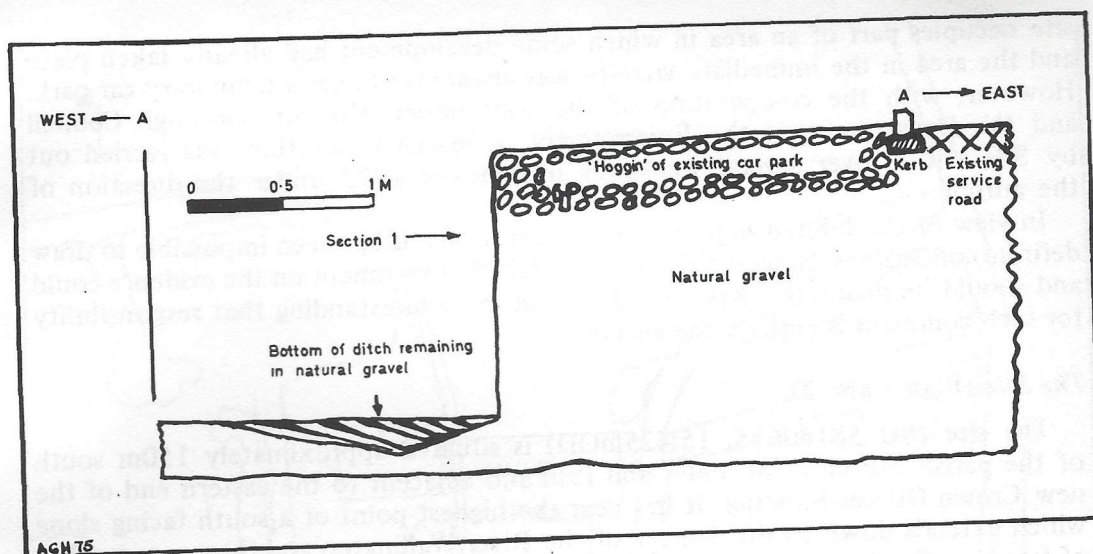


Fig. 3 Fareham, 'Crown Offices', Romano-British Site, Profile on AA

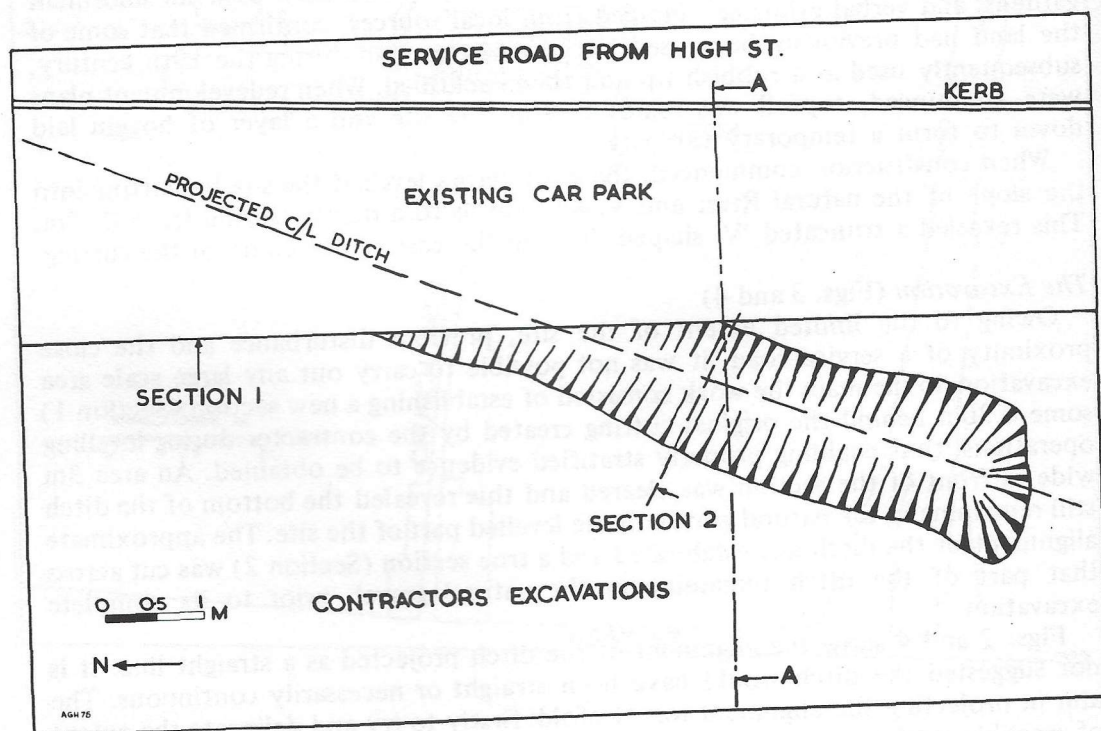


Fig. 4 Fareham, 'Crown Offices', Romano-British Site, Plan.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECTIONS AND EXCAVATED DITCH

Section 1 (Fig. 5)

Because the section intersects the ditch at an acute angle (approx. 20°) the view is elongated. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the ditch is typically 'V' shaped, albeit truncated. Using measurements taken from the section drawing, the calculated dimensions of a true ditch section would be 3–4m wide and 1.0m deep.

No evidence of an associated bank was obtained.

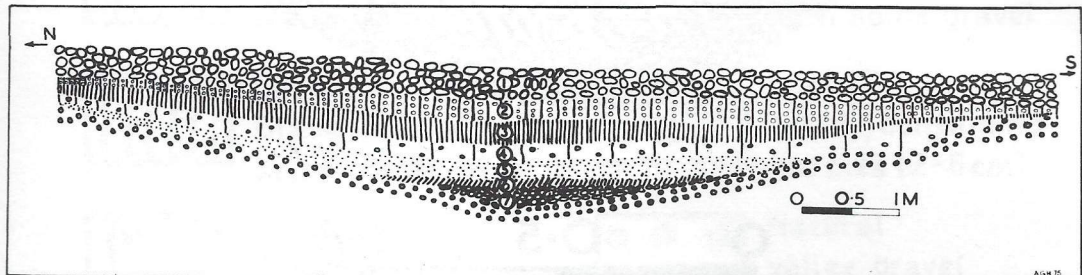


Fig. 5 Ditch Section 1

Seven discrete layers were identified in the section and these are described as follows:—

Layer 1 A layer of hoggin deposited over the site to form the car park after topsoil removal. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Layer 2 A compacted black, sandy, gravelly layer. Finds included wares of fabric types A, B and C, small fragments of quernstones, whetstones, brick and tile (including *tegulae*). Iron objects included a chisel, a number of unidentified 'lumps' and some nails. (*For explanation of fabric types, see Description of Finds — Pottery*)

Layer 3 A soft black, sandy layer with some gravel. Finds included wares of fabric types A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and K, fragments of quernstones, brick and tile (including *tegulae*), and a small fragment of pale green dimpled glass. Iron objects included nails, a broken blade, a broken ring, and a horse bit.

Layer 4 A soft brown, sandy, gravelly layer. Finds included wares of fabric types A, B, C and D, and a single iron nail.

Layer 5 A soft, grey, silty layer. Finds included wares of fabric types A, B and C.

Layer 6 A soft, brown, sandy layer with some gravel, similar in texture to that of Layer 3. Finds included wares of fabric types A, B, C, D, F, G and J, a single iron nail and several sherds of amphora (probably from the same vessel).

Layer 7 A soft, clean, sandy layer containing a significant quantity of pebbles (30–60mm long). No finds were recovered from this layer.

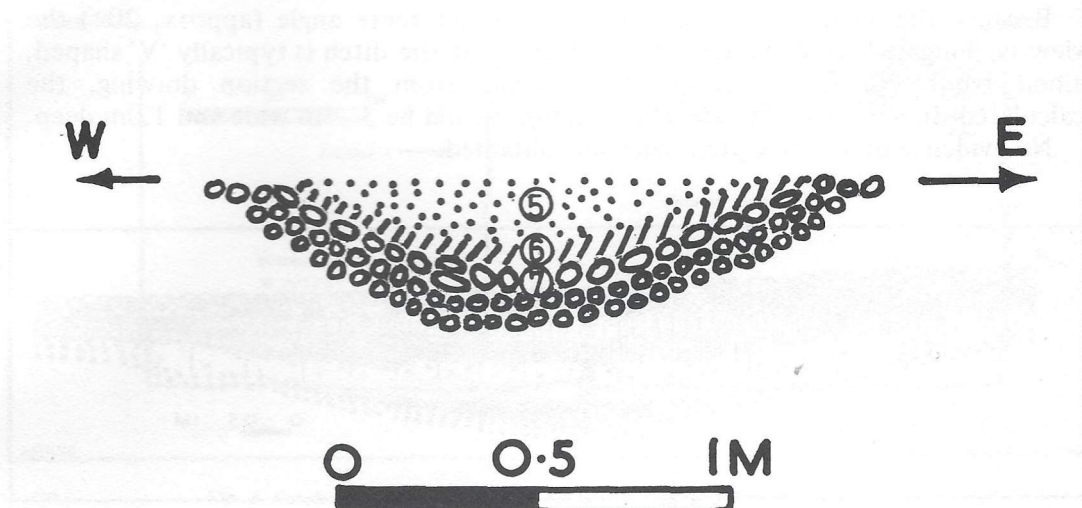


Fig. 6 Ditch Section 2

Section 2 (Fig. 6)

This is a true section, showing only that part of the ditch remaining in the natural gravel after the contractors levelling operation. Layers 5, 6 and 7 and associated finds correspond with those previously described for Section 1.

The Excavated Ditch (Fig. 4)

After sectioning, the remaining ditchfill was removed, whereupon it became apparent that the ditch was not continuous but terminated some 5m southwest of Section 1. A significant amount of charcoal was found in Layer 6 adjacent to the termination. Building operations precluded further excavation to the southwest, thus preventing any investigation to determine whether any of the ditch remained in that direction.

Discussion

The lack of evidence for an associated bank, and more accurate information as to the extent of the ditch, is disappointing. More positive evidence might have allowed its true purpose (i.e. defence or enclosure) and the probable enclosed settlement area to be defined. In the author's view the most likely area for settlement would have been on the high ground to the north and to the east; an area which to this day contains the church and some of the oldest buildings in the town.

ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN FAREHAM

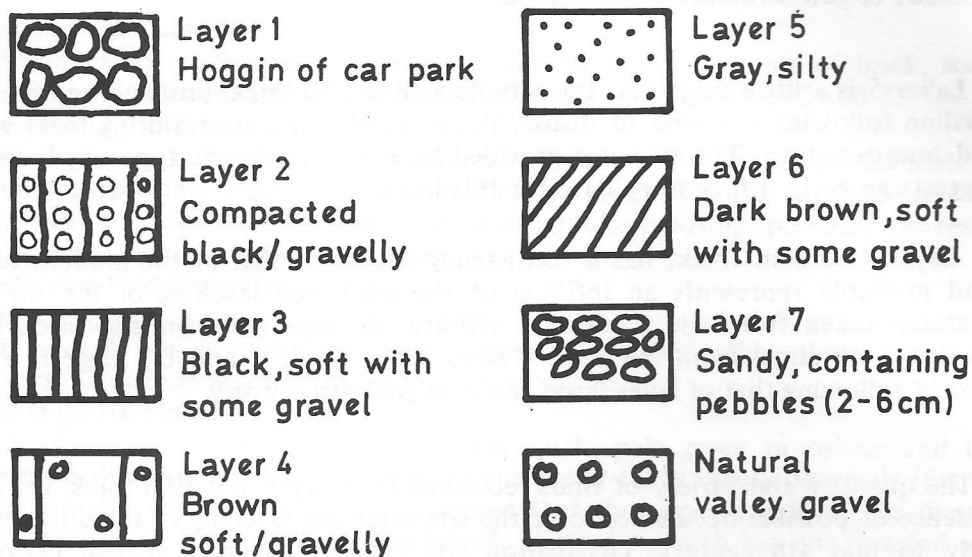


Fig. 7 Symbols used in section drawings

An entrance through the ditch is suggested by the fact that it is discontinuous, and it is all the more disappointing that an excavation to trace the ditch on the other side of the supposed entrance could not take place as this might have allowed a more positive conclusion to be reached.

The stratigraphy of Sections 1 and 2, together with the general dating evidence provided by the finds, suggest the following chronology.

It is probable that the sand and pebbles of layer 7 represent the accumulation of silted material immediately following the original cutting of the ditch. There was no evidence from this layer to suggest that the ditch pre-dated the Roman conquest, but lack of evidence does not preclude the possibility that it could have been in use during the late Iron-Age.

However, based upon the evidence obtained from layer 6 (early fabric types G and J, and Dressel type 1 or 2-4 amphora), it is possible to suggest a late 1st to mid 2nd century A.D. date for the establishment of the ditch. The apparent contradiction to this view, in that this layer also contained sherds of later fabric types, is best explained by the fact that the layer is only 0.10m thick and probably represents a conglomeration of residual material after successive re-cutting operations, although none were visible from the stratigraphy. No evidence relating to substantial structures (brick and tile) was obtained from this layer. The charcoal

found near the termination of the ditch may represent the remains of a destroyed pallisade or gate structure of some kind.

Layer 5 is a little enigmatic, the silty deposit 0.25m thick, probably represents a turfline following a period of disuse, the grey, silty texture resulting from worm and humus action. The evidence provided by the finds (fabric types A, B and C) suggests an early 4th century date for this layer.

Layer 4, 0.20m thick, has a consistency similar to that of the modern topsoil and probably represents an infilling of the ditch and levelling of the site with material taken from the immediate vicinity, perhaps from an associated bank. Evidence obtained from the finds (fabric types A, B, C and D) suggests a date closely following that of layer 5, say, early to mid 4th century.

The quantity and variety of finds recovered from layer 3, 0.30m thick, provides evidence of possible occupation over the site after the levelling of the ditch in the early to mid 4th century. Occupation late into the Romano-British period is attested by the finds of typical 4th century wares e.g. Oxford ware mortaria and pseudo Samian, and New Forest colour coated wares. What is of interest, is that this layer contained a relatively large amount of building material in the form of brick, tile and iron nails which was not present in the lower levels, even though they contained fabric types contemporary with those recovered from layer 3. This would seem to indicate that substantial structures (i.e. timber framed, incorporating brick and with tiled roofs) were not constructed until after the ditch had been levelled sometime in the 4th century.

Alternatively, it could be argued, on the evidence that the majority of fabrics recovered were late 3rd–4th century that the ditch was not cut until after the late 4th century, perhaps as a result of the unsettled conditions that prevailed during the period preceding the Theodosian re-organisation of 369 A.D. and that the early pottery and amphora sherds recovered from the bottom of the ditch were probably chance incursions from surrounding occupation material.

In the absence of positive dating evidence neither argument can be proved conclusively. However, one fact clearly emerges; late 1st to early 2nd century occupation material is in evidence, and this supports the argument that occupation of the area dates from this time, even though the ditch may not have been cut until much later in the Romano-British period.

Layer 2 probably represents the remains of the modern sub-soil.

No evidence of occupation after the Romano-British period was obtained.

DESCRIPTION OF FINDS

Brick and Tile (not illustrated)

Fragments of roof tiles (*tegulae*) and several large fragments of brick, some 30–40mm thick, were amongst the material recovered from layers 2 and 3.

Quernstones (not illustrated)

No complete examples were recovered. A number of shattered fragments of Greensand (possibly from the same quern) from layers 2 and 3, exhibited smooth worn surfaces, whilst others showed signs of annular grooving (probably the result of a tooling effect during manufacture).

Whetstones (not illustrated)

No complete examples were recovered. One fragment of fine grey sandstone, from layer 2, was worn on three sides, and an unstratified pebble shaped fragment of coarse sandstone was worn over most of its surface.

Glass (Fig. 10, No. 40)

The fragment, from layer 3, is 1.5mm thick, pale green in colour and has impressed dimples (3mm diam.) over its surface at fairly regular intervals (5mm), both laterally and vertically. It is assumed that the concave side of the dimple impression is on the outside of the vessel. Limited research has not revealed any parallels.

Iron Objects

Nails (not illustrated)

A number of fragments and several complete nails were recovered, all with square section. Generally they fell into two sizes; size A, 30–40mm, size B, 50–60mm. The provenance, quantity and size of the complete nails was as follows:—

Layer 2, two size A, one size B.

Layer 3, four size B.

Layer 6, one size B.

Unstratified, one size B.

Unidentified Objects (not illustrated)

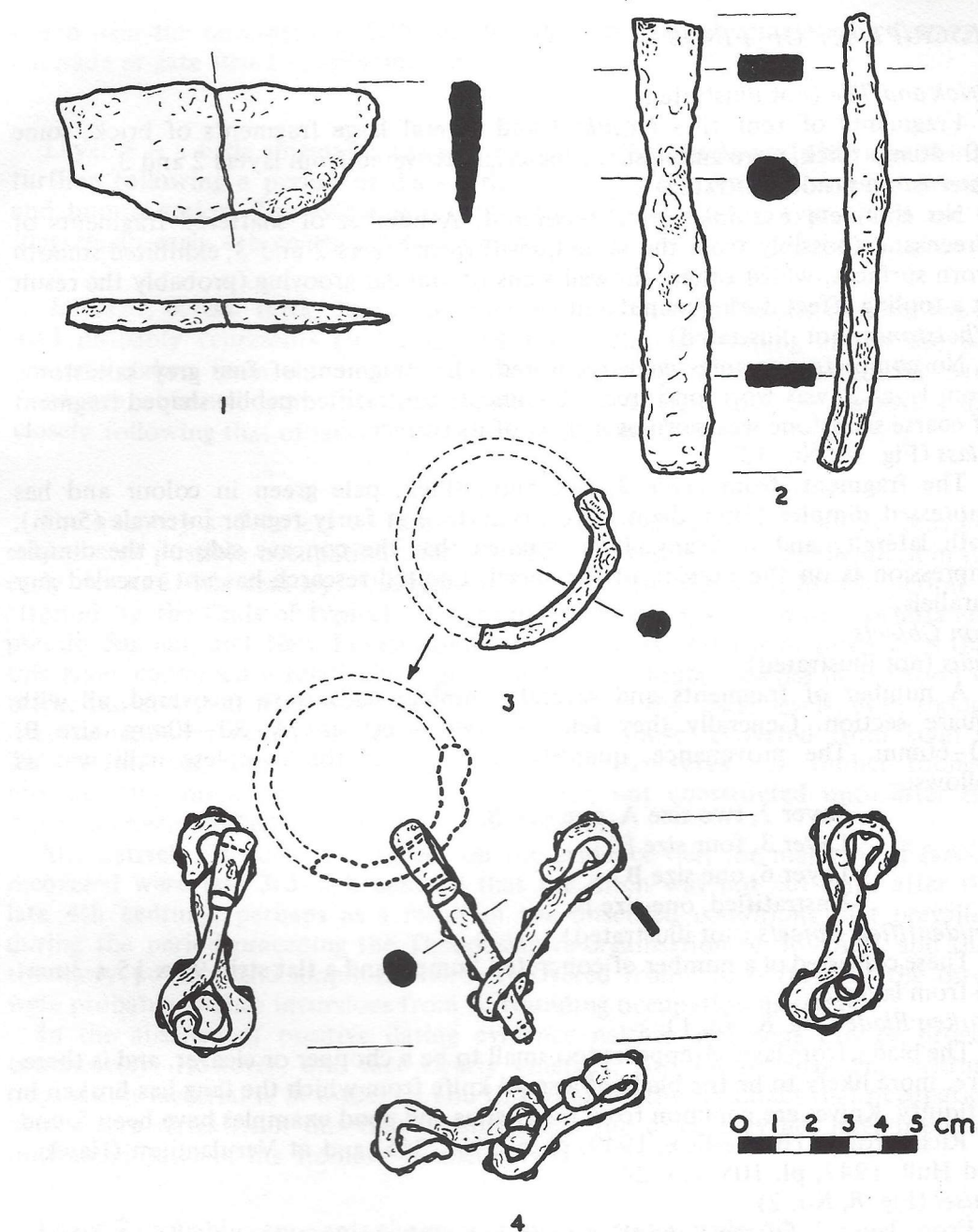
These consisted of a number of concreted 'lumps' and a flat strip 90 x 15 x 3mm, all from layer 2.

Broken Blade (Fig. 8, No. 1)

The blade, from layer 3, appears too small to be a chopper or cleaver, and is therefore, more likely to be the blade of a small knife from which the tang has broken in antiquity. Knives are common from many sites and good examples have been found at Richborough (Bushe-Fox, 1949, pl. 60, No. 325) and at Verulamium (Hawkes and Hull, 1947, pl. 105, No. 24).

Chisel (Fig. 8, No. 2)

From layer 2. Of the 'tanged' variety, but with the tang having a similar cross-section to the blade. The round cross-section separating the tang from the blade presumably acted as a stop and caused the handle to be forced on more tightly with continuing use. The blade has apparently been bent in use, although it is possible



AGH. HTS.

Fig. 8 Objects of Iron

that the curvature is intentional as the fresco from the *House of the Vettii* at Pompeii shows. (Goodman, 1964, 195–197 and Fig. 189).

Broken Ring (Fig. 8, No. 3)

The broken ring (48mm diam.) was found in layer 3 in close proximity to the snaffle bit described in the next paragraph. It may have formed part of an associated harness, possibly a terret, but it is more likely to have come from the end of the bit and for this reason it has also been included (in dotted outline) with the drawing of the bit in Fig. 8, No. 4.

Snaffle or Chain Bit (Fig. 8, No. 4)

When recovered from layer 3 the bit was extremely corroded and the joint was welded with concretion. During cleaning most of the surface corrosion was removed but it was not possible to free the joint without causing irreparable damage, therefore, for the sake of clarity, the illustration shows the outline of the joint without the surrounding concretion, it also shows the broken ring described in the preceding paragraph in the position it might have occupied. A similar bit with several links is paralleled from London (Liversidge 1968, Fig. 153a).

The Pottery

Fabric descriptions

For the purposes of this report the fabrics have been classified as follows, using the Munsell Soil Colour Chart for describing colours.

Fabric A Very pale brown to grey (10YR 8/3; 10YR 6/1), sandy fabric sometimes with a light grey core. Tempering is translucent quartz grains (0.5–1mm across) which show at random through the surface. Some sherds exhibit traces of a possible light grey slip whilst others have been heavily reduced. The fabric is wheelturned and the surfaces of most sherds have been rilled (2–3mm between ridges). As yet the production centre of this fabric is unknown. It is believed to be an early to mid 4th century product (see following discussion).

Fabric B Grey to dark grey (10YR 4.5/1), sandy fabric with no evidence of additional tempering. Wheelturned with smooth surface. Similar to New Forest grey ware, 3rd–4th century (cf. Fulford 1973, 15).

Fabric C Brown through very dark grey to black (7.5YR 4.5/4; 7.5YR 4/1; 7.5YR 2/1), sandy fabric with no evidence of additional tempering. Wheelturned with smooth surface; some sherds show signs of burnishing. Similar to Alice Holt ware, 3rd–4th century (cf. Lowther 1949, 33–47).

Fabric D Brown to black (7.5YR 4.5/4; 10YR 2/1), clayey fabric with grog tempering (1–3mm across), Handmade. A similar fabric has been described as a late 3rd to early 4th century local Hampshire product (Cunliffe 1970, 67–68).

Fabric E Yellowish red (5YR 5/8), some with a light grey core. Sandy fabric with smooth surface, some with a red slip (2.5YR 4/8). Mortaria inlaid with coarse quartz grains, and decorated pseudo Samian. Typical Oxford ware, late 3rd–4th C.

Fabric F Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2). Flint tempered (1–2mm). Handmade. (cf Cunliffe 1970, 67–68).

Fabric G Reddish brown (5YR 4.5/4), clayey fabric with grey to black core. Tempering of coarse flint grit (1–5mm across). Handmade. This is a similar fabric to that found in a 1st century context at the Romano-British site at Paradise Lane, Fareham, in 1973. (Hughes, forthcoming).

Fabric H Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6), clayey fabric with grog tempering (2–5mm across). Handmade. Comparison can again be made with the 1st century Paradise Lane material.

Fabric J Very dark grey (10YR 2.5/1), sandy fabric tempered with finely crushed grog (1mm across). Handmade. The distinguishing feature is several bands of continuous finger nail impressions. Probably a late 1st century Rusticated ware (cf. Webster 1969, Fig. 1, No. 4).

Fabric K Light grey (2.5Y 7/2) with reddish brown colour coat (5YR 4/4). Typical late 3rd century New Forest colour coated ware (cf. Fulford 1973, 12).

Amphora (not illustrated)

Reddish yellow (5YR 5.5/8), sandy fabric. The six body sherds have been classified by Dr. D.P.S. Peacock as Dressel type 1 or 2–4, provenance Italy. Overall date ranges for these types up to mid second century A.D., but if the form is Dressel type 1, then a first century B.C. date is more appropriate.

Illustrated Pottery

Fabric A

Fig. 9 illustrates the distinguishing features of vessels made in this fabric. The everted rim jars (nos. 1–10) have a distinctive 'squared off' profile with varying degrees of undercut, whilst some of the rims have a shallow groove on the outer face. Most sherds are rilled.

Fabric B Fig. 10, nos. 16, 17.

Fabric C Fig. 10, nos. 18–25.

No 19 has slight traces of rilling on the neck.

Fabric D Fig. 10, nos. 26–28.

Fabric E Fig. 10, nos. 29–33.

Nos. 29, 30 and 31 are mortaria. No. 32 is pseudo Samian probably imitating Dr 35. No. 33 is decorated with a finger tip dimple surrounded by an 'S' shaped scroll, again pseudo Samian probably imitating Dr 37.

Fabric F Fig. 10, no. 34.

Fabric G Not illustrated.

Fabric H Fig. 10, nos. 35, 36.

Both have coarse rolled rims with cable-like finger impressions over the edge.

Fabric J Fig. 10, nos. 37, 38.

Non-joining sherds from the same vessel. At least three parallel rows of impressions surmounted by a double grooved band.

ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT IN FAREHAM

Fabric K Fig. 10, no. 39.
Jug, triple bead rim with handle attached (cf Fulford 1973, Fig. 6, type 1.1).

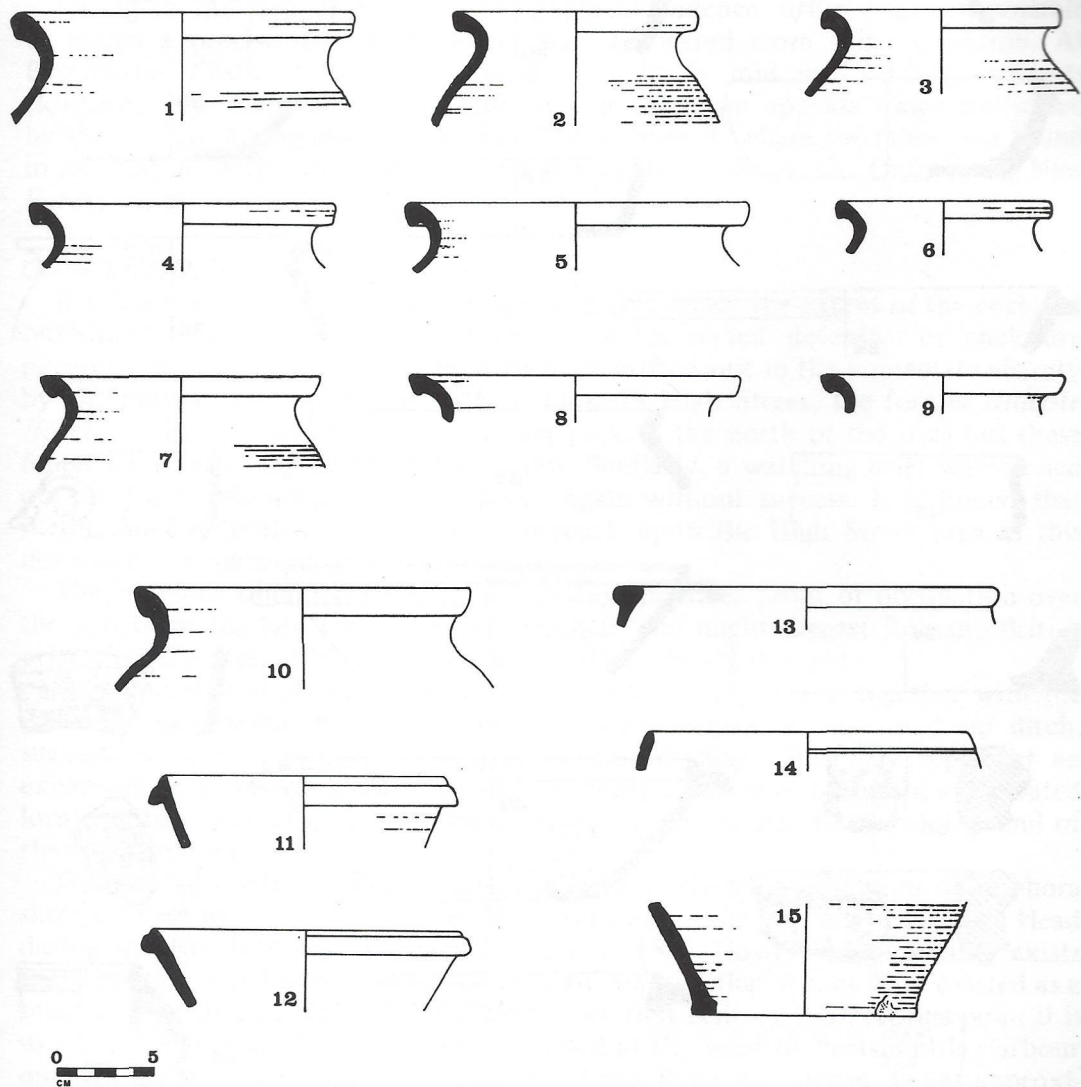


Fig. 9 Romano-British Pottery, Fareham (scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

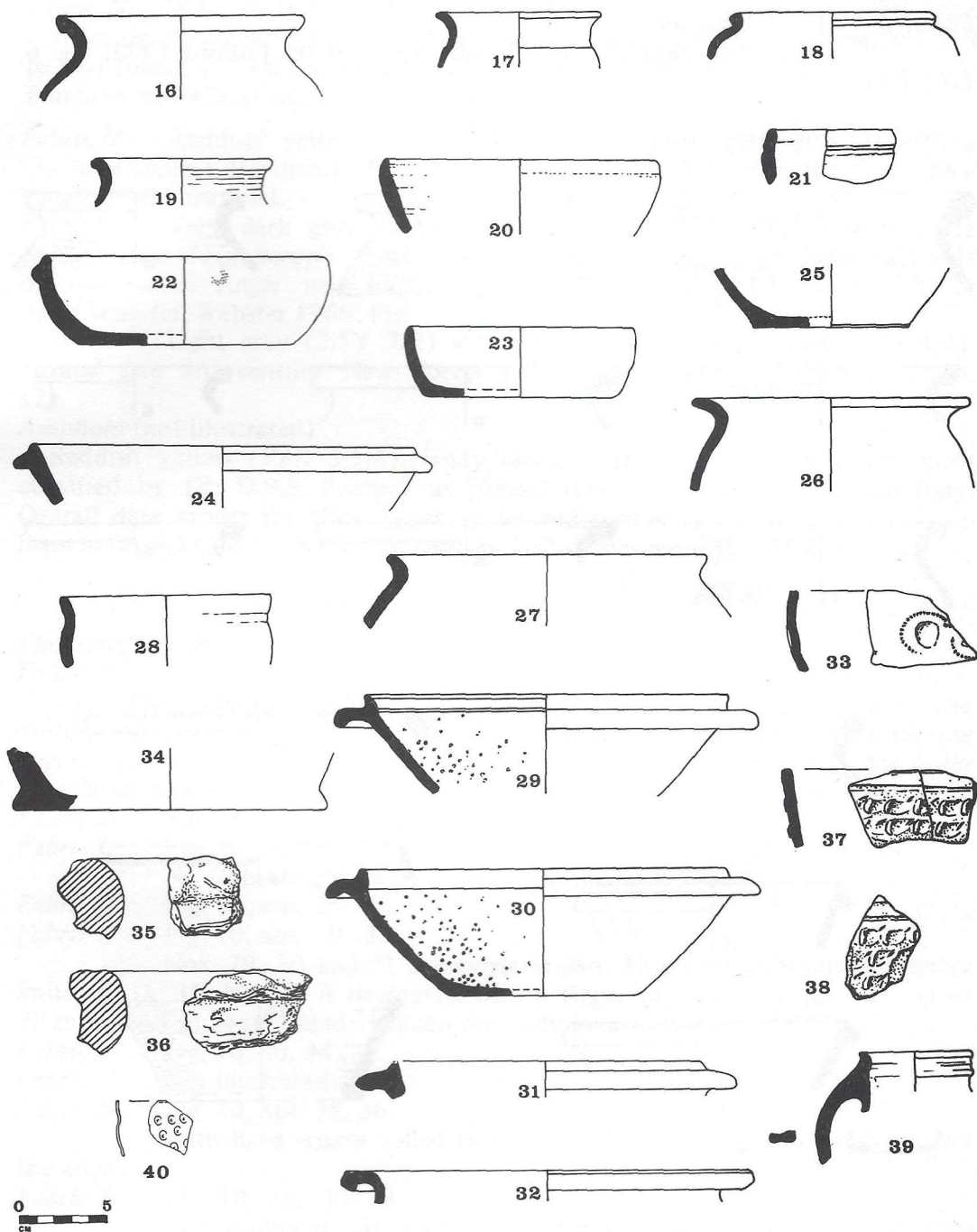


Fig. 10 Romano-British Pottery and Glass, Fareham (scale $\frac{1}{4}$)

Fabric A, Discussion

The known distribution of this fabric appears to be centred on the Fareham–Portchester area, and its predominance within this assemblage (approx. 25% of the total number of sherds recovered) may indicate the existence of a local production centre as yet undiscovered. For this reason and because of its distinctive fabric and features it is proposed to call it *Fareham ware*.

Owing to the lack of positive stratigraphical evidence, it has not been possible to assign a precise date to Fareham ware recovered from this excavation. At Portchester Castle it has been found in early to mid 4th century contexts (Fulford 1975, Fabric D). This date range at Fareham appears to be confirmed by the relative dating evidence obtained from layer 3, where the fabric was found in association with other late 3rd and 4th century fabrics, viz. Oxford and New Forest wares.

CONCLUSIONS

It has not been possible at this stage to define either the extent of the enclosed settlement area or to show whether the ditch served defensive or enclosure purposes. Several trial excavations have been carried out in the immediate vicinity by the author (gardens of the *Golden Lion* 28 High Street, the former *Hillcote Hotel* 21 High Street and the former car park to the north of the site) but these failed to provide any additional evidence. Similarly, a watching brief was carried out on all development in the vicinity, again without success. It is hoped that further major development will not encroach upon the High Street area as this lies within a designated conservation area.

The evidence obtained from the excavation provides proof of occupation over the site from the late 1st to 4th century A.D. and might suggest Romano-British origins for the present town and not Saxon as previously thought.

The volume and variety of late 3rd and 4th century wares, together with the evidence of possible buildings, from just one section of the silted up ditch, suggests a fairly intensive occupation in the vicinity. This may represent an expansion in terms of population and economy, both due to the newly created local military market following the building of Portchester Castle at the end of the third century.

Trading links with the Mediterranean world are attested by the finds of amphora sherds. These may have reached the Fareham area via the port at Hengistbury Head during the late Iron-Age (Peacock 1971, 161–188). However, a possibility exists that Fareham was being supplied directly by sea and that it may have existed as a small port in its own right as early as the late first century A.D. At this point it is worth remembering that Fareham is situated at the head of Portsmouth Harbour on high ground overlooking the estuary of the River Wallington. It lies approximately 3 miles west of Portchester Castle (*Portus Adurni*) and about the same distance south of the supposed junction of Roman road routes 420 and 421 at Wickham, which link Bitterne (*Clausentum*) and Winchester (*Venta Belgarum*) with Chichester (*Noviomagus*), (Soffe and Johnston 1974, 99–120). Its position

in relation to the former may have influenced its development or establishment as a small port and/or local trading centre during the Roman period.

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to those members of S.H.A.R.G. who assisted at the excavation and afterwards. The co-operation of Fareham Borough Council, the Department of the Environment, and the site contractors Messrs. Barnes and Elliot Ltd. for permitting the excavation, is acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Sylvia Bremner for drawing the pottery, to Mike Hughes for his general help, to Dr. D.P.S. Peacock of Southampton University for assistance with amphora and pottery identification and to D. Rudkin of Portsmouth City Museum for allowing me to view the pottery in his custody.

I am grateful to Dr. M.G. Fulford of Reading University for discussing his pottery report in advance of publication and for allowing me to draw upon his original material.

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Author: A.G. Holmes, 9 Greenwood Close, Fareham, PO16 7UF.

A PAGAN SAXON CEMETERY ON WAR DOWN, BURITON

by Barry Cunliffe

War Down is the name given to one of the summits of the South Downs immediately to the east of Butser Hill about 1 mile west of the village of Buriton (See Fig. 1, p 36). Up to this century the crest of War Down appears to have remained as an open unploughed down, but the land was acquired by the Forestry Commission in the early 1920's and thereafter was planted with conifers and beech.

Four barrows, presumably of Bronze Age date, are the sole visible archaeological traces. One barrow which occupies the actual summit at 800 ft OD (SU 72631988), became the site of a fire-watching tower constructed in 1932. When the post-holes for the tower base were being dug the workman in charge, Mr Pretty, observed a group of human bones, which were immediately re-buried. The post would appear to have been close to the centre of the barrow mound. A few years later, in 1938, Mr Paddy Cronin was digging a narrow trench from this post towards the edge of the mound (south-east of the centre) to take the earth of a lightning conductor, when he came upon an iron spearhead some 12 feet (3.7m) or so from the corner post and at a depth of about 2 ft (0.6m). Nothing else was found. Mr Cronin took the spear home for safe keeping, where it remained until it was recognized by Mr John Budden in 1963 and immediately given to Portsmouth City Museum.

More recently, in 1973, when the area was being cleared of scrub and the ground lightly ploughed in preparation for developing the forest as a country park, a sherd of pottery was discovered about 60 ft (18m) south of the barrow. It was handed to the Head Forester, Mr A. Catchpole, who, through the good offices of Mr Budden, allowed the present writer to examine it.

The Spearhead (Fig. 1)

Iron, 7¼ ins (18.7cm) long, with fragments of mineralized wood still preserved in the socket. The blade, of lozenge-shaped section, is parallel sided with an angular butt. The spear broadly conforms to Swanton's Series E type 2 (1974, 13). It is now preserved in Portsmouth City Museum (acc. no. 99/63).

The Pottery Vessel (Fig. 1)

Body sherds of a shouldered urn with bosses pushed out from inside the vessel at intervals along the shoulder. The fabric is fine and sandy and is tempered with chopped straw or grass and occasional fragments of flint grit. The core has been fired grey but the outer surface has been oxidised to a reddish ochre.

Decoration consists of three horizontal rows of neatly applied stamps, each row divided from the next by three horizontal shallow tooled lines.

The urn is without close local parallel, but may safely be placed in the sixth century (Myres, *pers. comm*). The sherd is at present retained by the Forestry Commission.

The Nature of the Site

The use of old barrows as Saxon burial grounds is well known: it is presumably to this context that the War Down burial(s) belongs. The dispersed nature of the

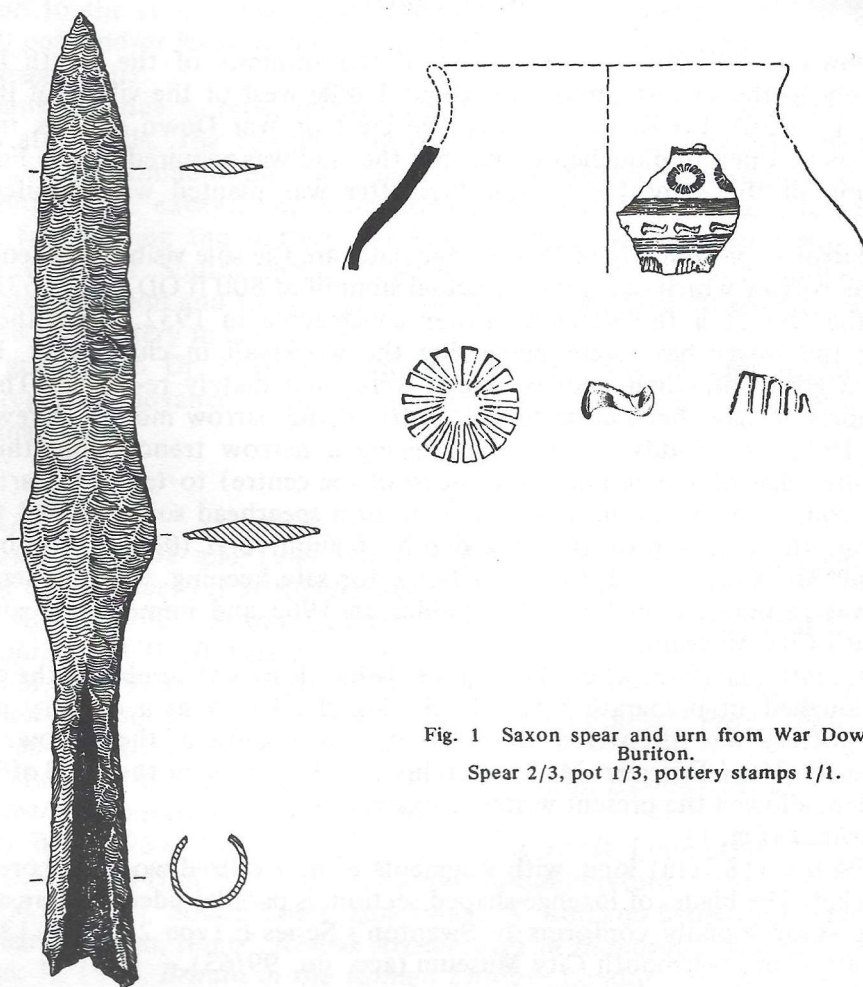


Fig. 1 Saxon spear and urn from War Down,
Buriton.
Spear 2/3, pot 1/3, pottery stamps 1/1.

bones, pot and spear would suggest that more than one burial had been disturbed. If the cemetery proves to be a large one, then it might conceivably have served one of the neighbouring settlements sited along the greensand bench, possibly even the predecessor of modern Buriton. Whatever the interpretation, the War Down find provides a useful addition to the list of Hampshire Saxon cemeteries.

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Author: Barry Cunliffe, Institute of Archaeology, 35 Beaumont Street, Oxford.

INDEX

to

RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY IN HAMPSHIRE

Number 1, (1973): Number 2 (1974) & Number 3, (1975)

Volume numbers appear in **bold type**

- Alice Holt Potteries, 2, 115
All Cannings, 2, 61, 78, 79, 83
Alverstoke, 1, 38
Balksbury Camp, Andover, 2, 87
Barbury Castle, Wilts, 2, 83, 84
Barrows — Bowl, 2, 103; 3, 5–34, 39
 Round, 2, 19–28; 3, 35–38
Belmont Park, Bedhampton, 2, 109
Biddenfield, 2, 104
Billericay, Essex, 2, 86
Bishop's Waltham, 2, 16
Bitterne, 2, 99, 117, 118; 3, 57
Bone Implements, 1, 37, 46; 2, 79–81
Bones— Animal, 1, 23–24, 37, 46–47;
 2, 91–92
 — Cremated, 2, 23–24, 27, 28;
 3, 32–33, 37, 42
Bosham, 2, 110
Botley, 2, 103
Bradley R. *on*
 — Late Saxon site at Emsworth
 and Lewis E., 1, 29–37
 — Mesolithic site at Wakeford's Copse,
 Havant, 2, 5–18
Bronze Age — Barrows, 3, 5–34, 35–38
 — Cremation, 2, 23–24, 27–28;
 3, 7–11, 36, 39
 — Flints, 2, 26–27
 — Knife, 2, 25
 — Pottery, 2, 15, 26; 3, 16–31
 — Urns, 2, 32; 3, 16–31, 37–38,
 39
Brownwich Farm Excavations, 1, 5–28
Buriton, 3, 59–60
Bury Hill, 2, 61
Caburn, Sussex, 2, 79, 83
Cadnam, 2, 111
Caesar's Camp, 2, 78
Canford Heath, Bournemouth, 3, 5
Casterhill Camp, 2, 61
Chalton, 2, 65, 78; 3, 35
Chichester, 2, 110, 114, 116, 117; 3, 57
Clausentum, 2, 99; 3, 57
Collis J. R. *on* — Pottery from Fair Oak,
 2, 97–98
Credenhill Camp, 2, 59
Crookhorn, 2, 108, 109
Cunliffe B. W. *on*
 — Bronze Age Barrow near Chalton,
 3, 35–38
 — Pagan Saxon Cemetery on War Down,
 Buriton, 3, 59–60
Curdridge, 2, 103, 117
Danebury, 2, 59, 79
Downton, 2, 16, 17
East Pallant, 1, 34
Elson, 1, 38
Emsworth, 2, 110
Emsworth, Late Saxon site, 1, 29–37
Fair Oak, Pottery, 2, 97–98
Fairway Caravan Park, Bournemouth,
 — Barrow and Urnfield, 3, 5–34
Fareham, 2, 31; 3, 43–45, 57–58
Fishbourne, 2, 110, 117
Flints, 1, 26–28, 37; 2, 11–14, 26–27,
 61–62; 3, 13
Freemantle Common, 2, 99, 101
Glastonbury, 2, 79, 83
Gomer, Gosport, 1, 38
Goodland, Co. Antrim, 2, 25
Grains, Cereal, 2, 90
Grange, Gosport, 1, 40, 45
Gussage All Saints, 2, 59, 79, 84
Hammersmith, 2, 81
Hamwih, 1, 51
Havant, 2, 110, 114, 115
Hawks Hill, Surrey, 2, 65
Hayling, 2, 114, 115, 116
Hedges J., Hedges M., & Arnold A. *on*
 — Barrow and Urnfield at Canford Heath,
 3, 5–34

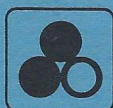
INDEX

- Hedges M. & Aitken P. *on*
 — Burial on St. Catherine's Hill,
 Christchurch, 3, 39–42
 Hengistbury Head, 2, 65; 3, 57
 High Rocks, Tunbridge Wells, 2, 16
 Holmes A. G. *on* — Romano-British
 Settlement in Fareham, 3, 43–58
 Hook, Warsash, 1, 8, 19, 20; 2, 63
 Hughes M. *on*
 — Excavations at Brownwich Farm,
 Titchfield, 1, 5–28
 — Iron Age site, Wallington, 2, 29–96
 Hunsbury, Northants, 2, 79, 84
 Iron Age — Bronze Objects, 2, 81
 — Iron Objects, 2, 81–87
 — Pits, 2, 54–55
 — Pottery, 1, 10–16; 2, 65–79
 — Salt Working, 1, 8–20
 — Site at Wallington, 2, 29–96
 Itford Hill, 2, 65
 Kingsholm, Gloucestershire, 2, 86
 Ladle Hill, 2, 58
 Langstone, 2, 110, 115
 Latch Farm Cemetery, Christchurch, 3, 32
 Leigh Park, 2, 114
 Lewis E. and Martin J. *on* — Saxon
 Settlement site at Rowner, 1, 38–51
 Little Woodbury, 2, 55, 59, 65
 Llyn Cerrig, 2, 86
 London, 2, 116, 118
 Loom Weights, 1, 17, 29, 37; 2, 63–65
 Lye Heath, 2, 107
 Maiden Castle, 2, 59, 78, 79, 81, 83
 Martin Down, 2, 92
 Meare, 2, 63, 79, 81, 83, 84
 Medieval — Iron Work, 1, 23
 — Pottery, 1, 23
 — Ringwork and Bailey, 2, 107
 — Shell midden, 1, 21–25
 Medmerry, 1, 34, 44
 Meon Hill, 2, 58, 65, 78, 79
 Mesolithic — Flints, 1, 26–28; 2, 11–14,
 61–62
 — Site at Wakeford's Copse,
 2, 5–18
 Metalwork — Bronze, 2, 25, 81
 — Iron, 1, 23, 36–37; 2, 81–87;
 3, 51–53
 Milestones, Roman, 2, 99
 Mollusca, 1, 24, 47–48; 2, 93–94
 Morestead, 2, 112
 Morton, Fife, 2, 16, 17
 Motte, 1, 45; 2, 32, 115
 Munsingen, 2, 81
 Neolithic Pottery, 2, 14
 Netley Hill, 2, 103
 Newtimber, 1, 34
 Norman Motte, 1, 45; 2, 32, 115
 Noviomagno, 2, 111
 Noviomagus, 2, 99; 3, 57
 Nursling, 2, 111
 Old Warden, Bedfordshire, 2, 86
 Old Winchester Hill, Meonstoke, 2, 114
 Otterbourne, 2, 111
 Overton, 2, 43
 Owslebury, 2, 59, 98, 112, 114
 Page A. B. *on* — A Round Barrow, West
 Meon Hut, 2, 19–28
 Park Brow, 2, 65
 Paulsgrove, 1, 19; 2, 63
 Pinsley, 2, 32
 Pits, Iron Age, 2, 54–55
 Polden Hill, Somerset, 2, 82
 Portchester, 1, 34, 51, 114
 Portchester Castle, 3, 57
 Portsdown, 2, 31, 58, 92, 93, 108
 Pottery — Briquetage, 1, 17–18; 2, 62–63
 — Bronze Age, 2, 15, 26; 3, 16–31
 — Iron Age, 1, 10–16; 2, 65–79
 — Medieval, 1, 23
 — Neolithic, 2, 14
 — Roman, 2, 97–98, 104; 3, 51–57
 — Saxon, 1, 34–36, 48–51
 Purbrook, 2, 108
 Quarley Hill, 2, 58, 92
 Querns, 1, 23, 26; 2, 60–61; 3, 31
 Radley, Berks., 2, 26
 Rainsborough, Northants, 2, 63, 81–82
 Ratham Hill, 2, 110
 River — Hamble, 2, 104
 — Meon, 2, 106
 — Test, 2, 111
 — Wallington, 2, 107; 3, 45
 Roman — Amphora, 3, 54
 — Ditch, 3, 47–50
 — Glass, 3, 51
 — Ironwork, 3, 51–53
 — Mansio, 2, 106, 107
 — Milestone, 2, 99
 — Pottery, 2, 97–98, 104; 3, 53–57
 — Roads — Route 421 & Other, 2,
 99–120
 — Route 420, 2, 112–114;
 3, 57

INDEX

- Route 421, 2, 99–110; 3, 57
 - Route 422, 2, 111–112
 - Route 425, 2, 114–116
- Rowlands Castle, 2, 17, 114
- Rowlands Castle Kilns, 2, 116
- Rowner Saxon Settlement, 1, 38–51
- Rudston, Yorks, 3, 31
- St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester, 2, 60, 61, 62, 78, 92
- Salt Working, 1, 5, 19
- Santon Downham, Suffolk, 2, 82
- Sawdon, North Riding, 2, 81
- Saxon– Cemetery, 3, 59
 - Ironwork, 1, 36–37; 3, 59
 - Pottery, 1, 34–36, 48–51; 3, 59
 - Settlement at Emsworth, 1, 29–37
 - Settlement at Rowner, 1, 38–51
- Shearplace Hill, 2, 65, 79
- Shedfield, 2, 113–114
- Shell Midden, 1, 21–25
- Sholing, 2, 99, 101
- Silchester, 2, 118
- Snoddington Down, 2, 79
- Soberton, 2, 106
- Soffe G. and Johnston D. *on* – Route 421 and Other Roman Roads, 2, 99–120
- S.H.A.R.G.
 - Rescue Excavations 1971–72, 1, 52–53
 - Rescue Excavations 1972–73, 2, 4
- Standlake, Oxfordshire, 2, 81
- Stanwick, Yorkshire, 2, 87
- Stockbridge Down, 2, 16
- Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, 2, 24
- Swanwick, 2, 65
- Tatchbury, Nursling, 2, 79
- Thorny Down, 2, 65
- Tichborne Down House, 2, 79
- Tile Kilns, Roman, 2, 104
- Tre Ceiri, Caernarvonshire, 2, 86
- Twyford Down, 2, 59, 61
- Upham, 2, 112
- Venta Belgarum, 2, 112
- Verulamium, 2, 86
- Wakeford's Copse, 2, 115, 116
- Wakeford's Copse Mesolithic Site, 2, 5–18
- Wallington Iron Age site, 2, 29–96
- Walton Heath, 2, 106, 107
- Warblington, 2, 110
- Wareham, 2, 43
- Warsash, 1, 8
- Wawcott, Berkshire, 2, 17
- West Meon Hut Round Barrow, 2, 19–28
- Whetstones, 1, 46; 2, 61; 3, 51
- Wickham, 2, 106, 114, 117, 118
- Wilsford Down, Wiltshire, 2, 61, 83
- Winchester, 2, 59, 106, 112, 113, 116, 117, 118; 3, 57
- Windmill Down, Clanfield, 3, 38
- Winnall, Winchester, 2, 61
- Wintershill, 2, 112
- Worthy Down, 2, 58, 78, 84

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