



BRONZE-AGE FOOD VESSEL (*b*) USED AS A BURIAL URN

BROWN CANDOVER, HANTS

[*To face page 249*]

## TWO BRONZE AGE DISCOVERIES IN HANTS.

BY S. E. WINBOLT, M.A.

(i.) **Brown Candover.**—East of the road at Brown Candover, where gravel is being dug, three burial urns, probably of the late Bronze Age (c. 1000 B.C.), have been found since January, 1930, about  $1\frac{1}{4}$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. below the surface—shallow burials resembling those of Pokesdown. Two biggish urns and one small one, all containing incinerated human remains, were found disposed at the angles of a rough triangle, about 10 ft. apart. There is no indication of a mound, and the probability is that there is here a Bronze-Age urn field. The workmen have been instructed to keep a sharp eye in future digging and to report. Urns (a) and (c), recovered in many fragments, have been reconstructed, and are in the Winchester Museum; urn (b) is in the Horsham Museum.

(a) Measurements:—Diameter of mouth, 8 in.; greatest bulge, 11 in.; height, 11 in. From a slightly out-turned lip it slopes outwards to a cordon, and then rounds to the base (wanting). It is of poor clay, imperfectly baked, red outside and black inside. The cordon is vertically incised at intervals with a stick or bone. Sir Arthur Keith is of opinion that the cremated remains are those of a young adult, probably a woman.

(b) Measurements:— $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. high;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. across the mouth; diameter of base, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.; and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. of bulge at the cordon, which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the plain lip, at the bottom of a slight outward slope. This collar above the cordon is ornamented with transverse broken lines, composed of long scratches, first right and then left, with vertical lines, on the average  $1\frac{1}{8}$  in. apart, to mark the change. Under the cordon the body is plain, and the base slightly hollowed. The material is coarse clay mixed with chalk particles, and burnt bright red nearly through. Similar pots are at Sheffield (Bateman collection), and in the Devizes and Colchester Museums. The human remains were too slight for identification. (See illustration).

(c) Measurements:—Height about 10 in., base wanting; diameter of mouth, 9 in., the rim being slightly everted; diameter of bulge, 2 in., below the cordon, 12 in.; rim to cordon, 3 in. The ornament above the cordon and below an encircling line under the rim is of chevrons incised in a jagged manner, probably with the broken end of a bone. About half the pot held together round the contents, and the rest was in some 50 fragments. The bone content was very little calcined, but in great quantity. Sir Arthur Keith found the bones to be those of a woman of about middle age, whose ankle bones showed signs of walking either barefoot or on heel-less sandals.

No ornaments were found in these urns, but there were pieces of burnt flint and charcoal. Other Bronze-Age urn fields have

been found at Ashford, Middlesex; Pokesdown, near Bournemouth; and at Oatlands Park, Walton-on-Thames. Urns (a) and (c) are curvilinear pots of globular type, and therefore different from the characteristic Hants "barrel" urns.

(ii) **Hinton Ampner.**—South of the Bramdean-Winchester Road, on the Brookwood and Hinton Ampner estates, and close to a farm road running south of and parallel with the main road, the Rev. A. B. Milner, rector of Hinton Ampner, and I have found twelve unrecorded burial mounds disposed in groups of three. The first group is north of the road on the Brookwood estate, the second south of the road some 600 yards further west, the third south of the road and of Hinton Ampner House, and the fourth in the grounds of the house facing the Bramdean-Winchester road. All these are near the bottom of the slope of dry chalk valleys, a position chosen, it seems, for ease in making the mounds. The most westerly mound of the second group the Rector and I, with two men, dug September 23rd to 27th, 1930. As it is hoped to excavate some of the others, we named it Hinton Ampner Barrow, No. 1. Thanks are due to Mr. H. J. Dutton for permission to investigate. This mound has been much dissipated and flattened by ploughing, and was hardly perceptible except in an evening light. Its centre is about 96 feet from the road hedge, at a point 280 yards, approximately, along the road west of a tree standing in a triangle of grass at the entrance of a lane running south-west to Bere Farm and Beacon Hill. Our trench failed to find a surrounding fosse. Fosseless barrows are comparatively rare, but in this case there was no need to dig a fosse, for earth was easily obtained from the slope above. (I have recently found a similar barrow in an analogous position at the bottom of the west slope of Nore Hill, near Eartham, Sussex.) Under the centre of the mound, and 1 foot 6 inches below the present top, was found the top of a conical cairn of big flints, 1 foot 6 inches high, with an overall measurement of 6 feet. It was built up of clean flints on a floor of clay laid over flints, under which was revealed a neat little grave containing burnt material, bones, and a worked flint. This exceptional cavity, with greatest axis north-west to south-east, was ovoid, except that the sides were nearly straight, the south-east end being the broader. It measured 2 feet 10 inches by 2 feet, and was dug in the clay to the depth of 1 foot, the bottom being laid with flints. The hot embers and bones from the pyre had burnt the sides red, so that it was easy to separate the contents from the sides. The bones were thoroughly burnt, but there were no ornaments or pottery sherds to date the burial: only one worked, but undatable, flint had been thrown into the grave. A small piece of Samian ware, found outside the base of the barrow on the north side, appears to have been casually dropped there at a later period. (Earlier barrows appear to have been used in Roman times for ceremonial purposes).

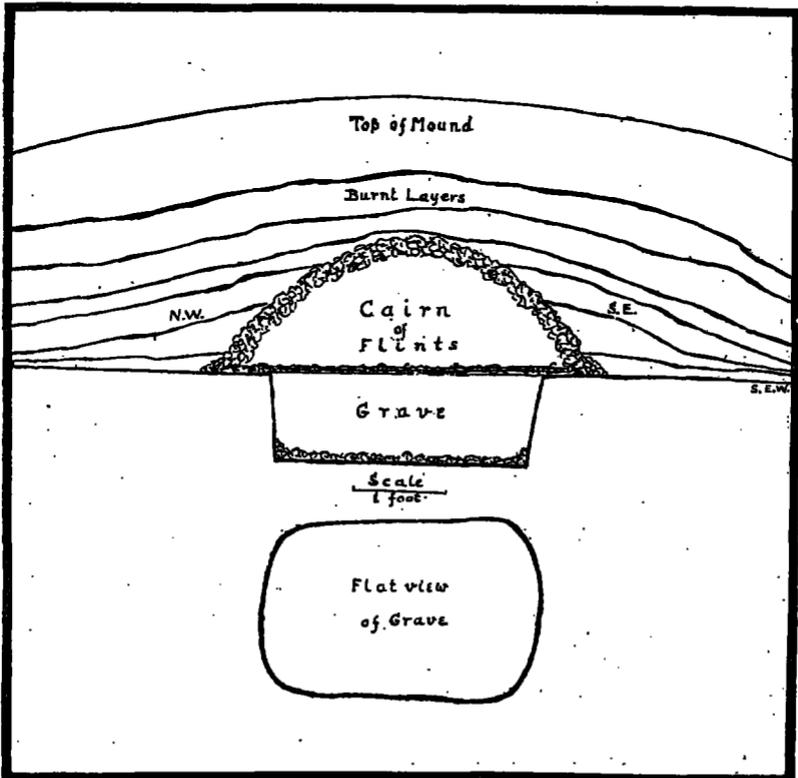


THE CAIRN OF FLINTS      HINTON AMPNER BARROW, NO. 1

[To face page 251]

For dating, we must have recourse to the general style of the burial—a round mound without fosse, measuring about 50 feet over the centre, and burnt bones and flint in a burial pit covered with a cairn of flints. Analogy and the process of exclusion suggest the late Bronze Age. This burial bears a striking resemblance to one opened at Roundwood by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, in 1920, in which there was a cairn of flints with no admixture of earth, a burnt interment, no grave-goods, and nothing by which the mound could be dated. (See illustration).

The accompanying diagram, showing the mound in section with burnt layers, suggests that the mound was formed by shovelling alternate layers of earth from the slope above and of embers from the pyre. Sir Arthur Keith, who kindly examined the bones, formed the opinion that they were those of a child of about eighteen months, who had suffered from rickets, and also part of the skull of a much older person.



HINTON AMPNER BARROW, NO. I. CAIRN AND BURNT LAYERS