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THE WAR DITCHES, NEAR CHERRYHINTON, CAMBRIDGE.

BY PROFESSOR T. MCKENNY HUGHES, M.A., F.R.S.

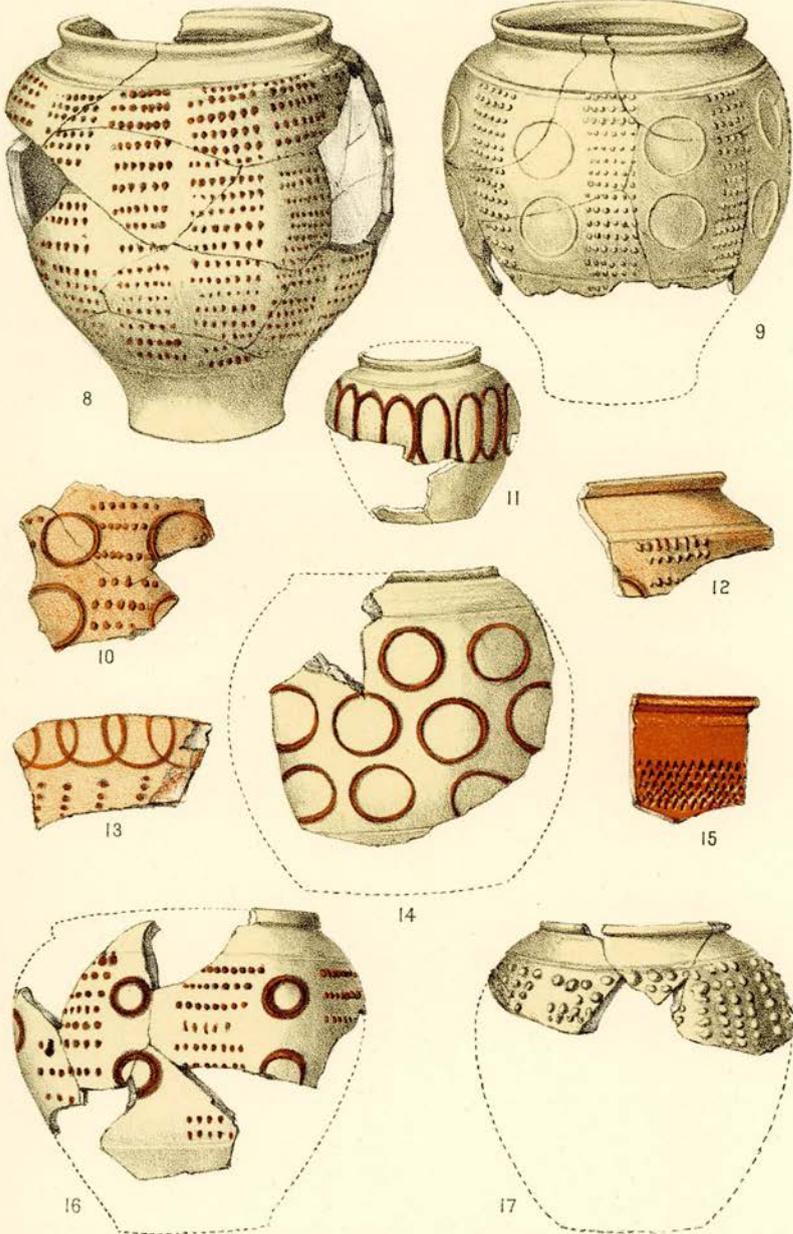
(Several short reports have been presented to the Society during the progress of the work, e.g. on Feb. 12, 1894, Feb. 3, 1902 and Feb. 17, 1902.)

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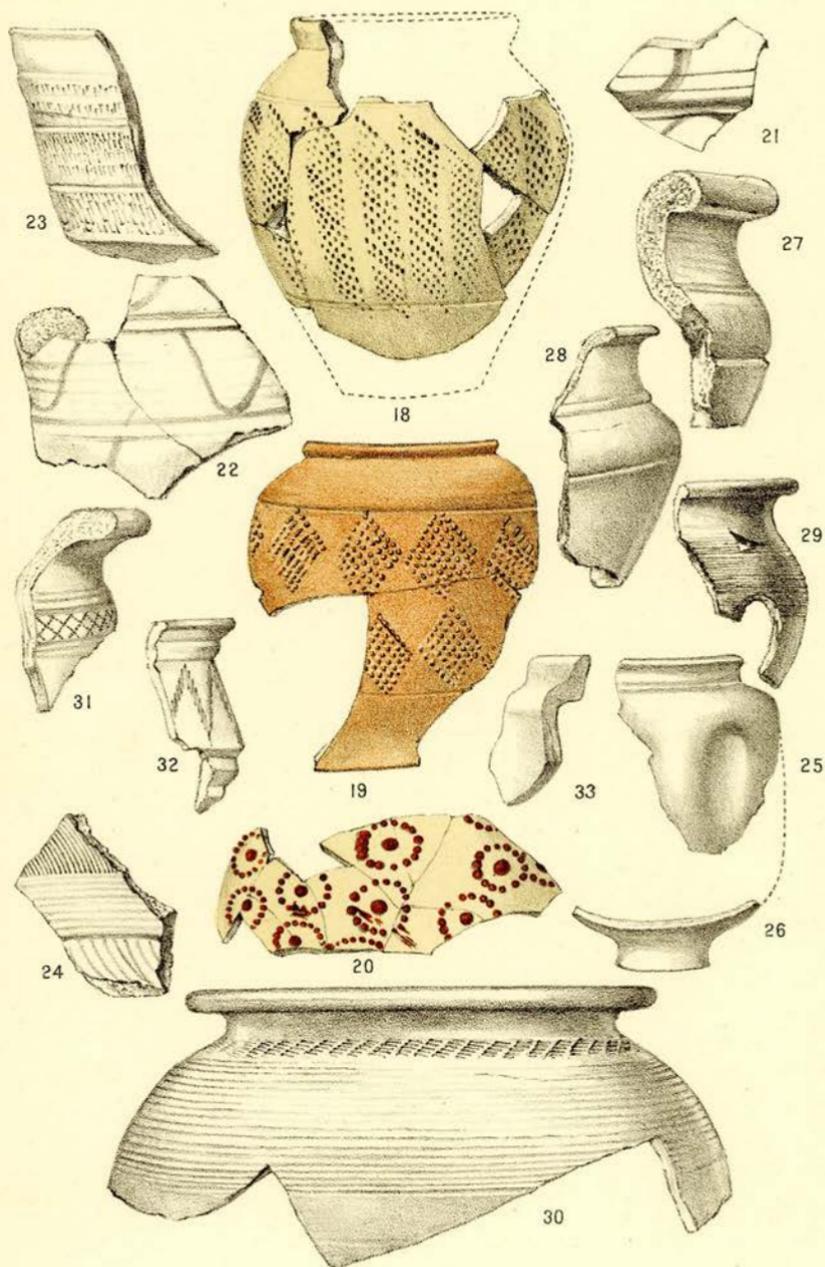
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All reduced to one third Natural Size.

POTTERY FROM WAR DITCHES.

E. Wilson, Cambridge.



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HISTORY OF DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT OF WORK.

This earthwork was brought to light in the course of some excavations made in the spring of 1893 by Messrs Crawley and Louis Tebbutt with a view to opening up a quarry on the east side of the road above the great Cherryhinton chalk-pit. They kindly informed me of the discovery, and offered every facility for carrying on the investigations. The first published notice of the discovery appeared anonymously in the *Cambridgeshire Weekly News* of May 5, 1893. This I afterwards learned was by Mr W. R. Brown, whose pencil and pen have preserved the record of so many other interesting local facts and objects for us¹. In the same year I drew the attention of the Society to the discovery. The name War Ditches was given on the authority of Mr Brown, who said that he had heard it applied to the ancient ditch of which the older inhabitants informed him that they recollected traces still in existence near the Reservoir. I also learned by enquiry that the name was known by the older people, but my information was not of much value as the discovery and the name had been a good deal talked about before I began to make enquiries as to what the place was called.

The names Quarry Field and Quarry Hill were probably derived from one or more of the now disused chalk-pits which occur along either side of the road above the great quarry. The picturesque hummocky ground at the foot of the hill is an ancient pit just touching the Burwell Rock at the bottom, where a good well marks that waterbearing stratum. It is therefore on the same horizon as the great pit now worked by Messrs Swan close by. Near the top of the hill on the east of the road from the village to the Reservoir, in that higher part of the chalk which is geologically distinguished as the zone of *Rhynchonella Cuvieri*, there is another old quarry from which I was told material for building the new part of Caius College was procured. I presume that what was meant was that they burnt lime here and perhaps carted some clunch for internal work, but whether this was for the alterations and extension carried out in 1853-4 or those of 1868-70², or for other smaller works of reconstruction, I have not been able to ascertain. This pit is of considerable interest for our present enquiry, as the ancient earth-

¹ *Mems and Gems of Old Cambridge Lore. Leaflets of Local Lore. Cambridgeshire Cameos.*

² Venn, *Caius College*, Vol. III. p. 146.

work known as the War Ditches runs through it for about 100 yards. The pit opened by Messrs Crawley and Tebbutt is on the same geological horizon. Two other old quarries occur close to the Reservoir a little further along the road to the south. At the present time there is nowhere any indication of the War Ditches on the surface of the ground, and we must consider the possibility that the local traditions and names were suggested by what was observed during the construction of the Reservoir and the opening of Caius College Chalk-pit. A careful examination of the surface soil and of the upper layers of the infilling of the ditch makes it apparent that there was, at a comparatively recent time, a levelling of the ground during which a good deal of broken chalk was strewn about on the surface. I shall refer to this again in the detailed description of the sections. Moreover the ground is now quite level around the Reservoir where the chalk must have been excavated to a depth of many feet. Also near the Caius Chalk-pit, around which the "calow" and useless superficial rubble must at one time have been lying in irregular heaps and banks, the ground is now quite even. All this looks as if there had been on the completion of the Reservoir a great levelling of the ground, after which agricultural operations kept filling up any inequalities that were caused by the settling down of the unconsolidated débris in the ditch. I learned from Mr William Beales, who farmed the land near the Reservoir, that the ditch ran through the north side of the Reservoir. I also heard incidentally that "Christians' bones" were found when the pipes were being laid alongside the farm roadway from the Waterworks to the Reservoir, but as the exact spot was not known, the workmen may have crossed some of the graves, which as we shall see are not uncommon here, or may have found human bones in the great ditch. I think we may be satisfied in this case that they must have seen skulls or enough to justify them in determining these to be human remains as all the ground is full of the bones of domestic animals.

Thus it is possible that the local traditions and names may be traced no further back than the construction of the Reservoir or the opening of the Caius College pit.

It might have seemed curious that no record should have been kept of such a remarkable structure as the War Ditches, or of the curious relics that must have been found in it, had we not many more recent examples of important historical records having been accidentally unearthed, but no information given to anybody ac-

quainted with such matters, except where perhaps an intelligent workman had found somebody sufficiently interested in them to repay him for his trouble in carrying the news.

The fences on that part of the hill are all new and cannot therefore by themselves be accepted as indicating the original boundaries. It would be worth while for anyone, who had the time and opportunity, to hunt up any early documents in which the divisions of property are recorded and ancient names mentioned. The deeds in the possession of the Waterworks Company, which by the kindness of Mr W. W. Gray I have had an opportunity of examining, although they furnish much interesting information respecting the common land and proprietors at different times, do not throw any light upon the War Ditches.

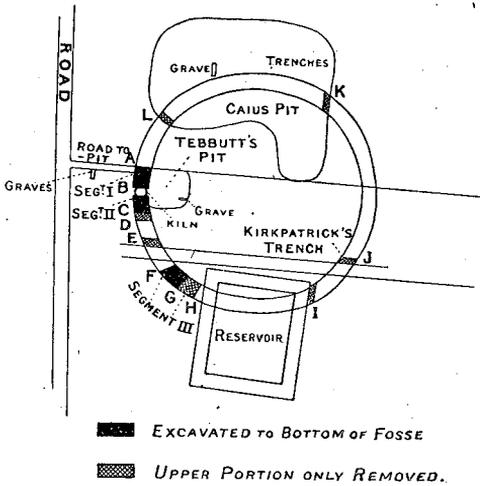


FIG. 1. Plan showing progress of work.

The human remains were submitted to Prof. Macalister and Mr Duckworth, and on Feb. 12, 1894, Professor Macalister and I communicated to the Society¹ the results of our various observations. During all this earlier time we were dependent upon the progress of excavations which were being carried on for other purposes than those of archæological research, and although by the courtesy of Mr Louis Tebbutt every facility was offered and his work often delayed, we could not watch the relative position of everything in the way

¹ R. xxxvi. 24.

which was possible when we were directing the operations entirely with a view to obtaining historical evidence. We were therefore not always sure of the mode of occurrence of the objects found in the first part of the work, namely from the fence (which divides the "Caius pit" field from what we will call "Tebbutt's field") as far as the kiln constructed by Messrs Crawley and Tebbutt,—that is, from A to B on the plan. (Fig. 1.)

The roadway into the quarry passed nearly at right angles through the ditch which was soon traversed. The pit moreover did not answer the expectations of its owners and was given up, so that for eight years no further excavations were carried on either along the ditch or to the east over the area included within it. In the spring of 1901 it was proposed that the Society should undertake systematic excavations on the site, and again by the kindness of Mr Tebbutt efficient workmen were secured and the work was commenced in the autumn. The arrangements and the superintendence of the work were left to me, and I have to acknowledge the co-operation of many friends in watching the excavations, and in many cases giving very effective assistance in the digging.

Among those who helped I must especially mention Mr S. C. Kaines Smith of Magdalene College, Mr Barker and party from Bourn, the Rev. T. D. Gray from Babraham, Mr C. P. Allix of Swaffham Prior, and the Rev. A. C. Yorke of Fowlmere, while, with the luck that undergraduates always have, to discount a little from the effect of youthful vigour and enthusiasm, some of the best results were obtained after the work of this Society was finished by a party who did the whole of the work themselves under my direction in the spring of 1903. The original party consisted of Mr M. S. Cockin of Caius, Mr A. A. McC. Mitchell, Mr A. Blackie, Mr J. Clague and Mr T. P. Wood of Peterhouse, Mr Schön of Trinity and Mr Fletcher of St John's, who were afterwards joined by several others.

A very small part of the site has been explored, as may be seen by reference to the plan (Fig. 1), therefore this report cannot be considered final. It merely gives as accurate an account as may be of what has so far been actually seen, with a statement here and there of impressions, and hearsay information, gained during the progress of the work, which may help future explorers.

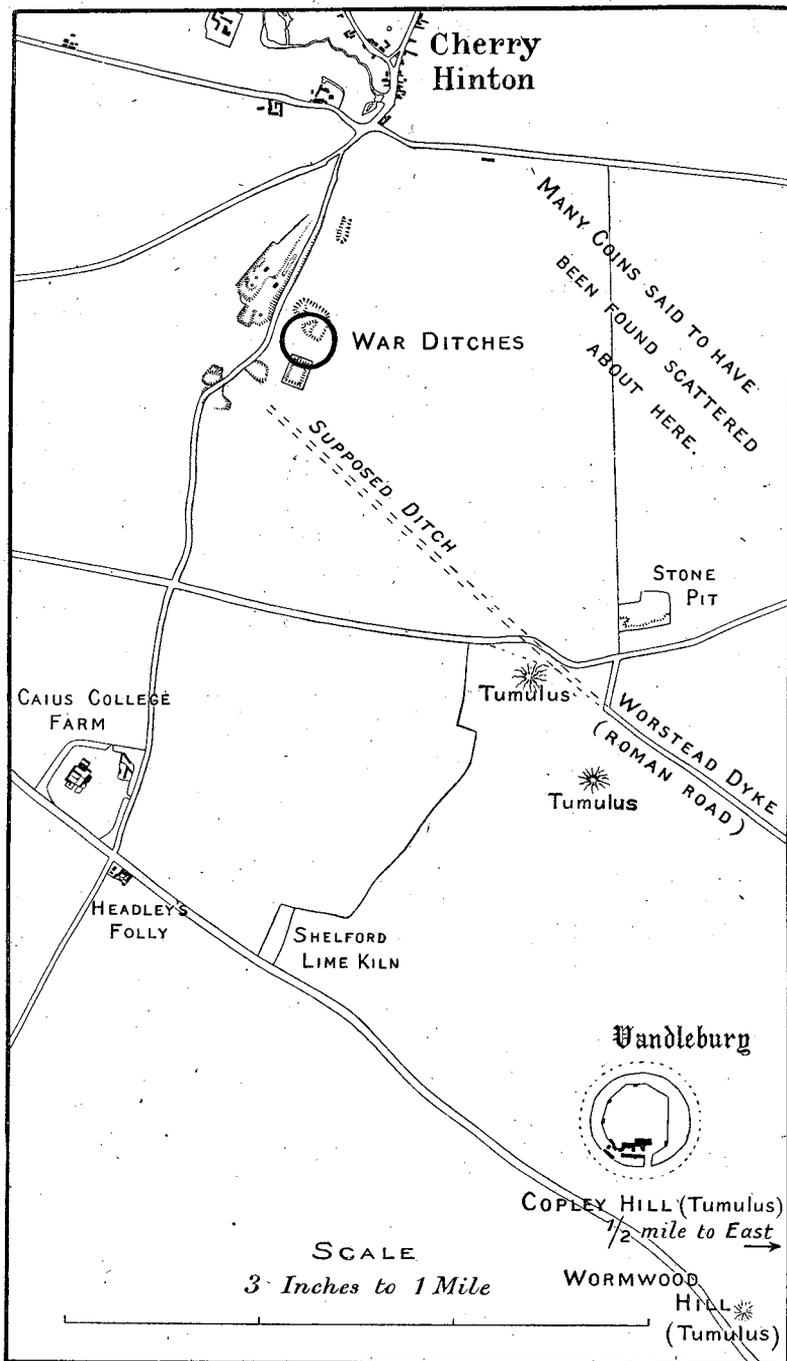


FIG. 2. Map of District.

THE SITE.

By reference to the Ordnance maps it will be seen at once that this is a very important site and one on which some defensive work might be expected to occur. A spur of the Gogmagog Hills runs out from the plateau on which stands Wandlebury and numerous other ancient works, and the high ground suddenly ends here above Cherryhinton in a steep slope, at the foot of which strong, never-failing springs feed an arm of the Fens. Of course we must restore the slope as indicated by the existing shape of the ground to the north and south of the great quarries. It is certain that the Romans quarried the lower part of the chalk in this district, at Reach for example, but the extensive excavations that form such a marked feature on the hillside near Cherryhinton are of much more recent date. Before Roman times we do not know that the chalk was quarried at all for building purposes. It was dug out only in the construction of ramparts or similar works, when it appears to have been broken up into small fragments such as could easily be carried away in baskets.

The great earthwork which runs by Worsted Lodge, north-west to the end of the Worts' causeway, leaving Wandlebury half a mile to the south-west, would if produced nearly touch the Reservoir. Whether or not this bank and fosse represent an ancient road or, as is most probable, was one of our East Anglian dykes afterwards modified somewhat and used as a road, its occurrence increases the importance of the earthwork recently discovered on the top of the bluff above Cherryhinton.

A workman informed us that his father had spoken to him of a narrow belt upon which the crops indicated a deeper moister soil running from the south side of the Reservoir across the fields in the direction of the Worsted Lodge earthwork. He added that in certain conditions of crops and seasons he had himself frequently seen it clearly marked across the hollow, pointing out to us the exact line. I have thought it might be useful to show this upon the map in case it should some day be possible to enquire whether there was any connection between the War Ditches and the Worsted Lodge earthwork.

The length of ditch opened by Messrs Crawley and Tebbutt, between the north fence of the roadway into the quarry and the new lime-kiln, Segment I. of Plan (Fig. 1), was not sufficient to indicate

the form and extent of the earthwork, but the investigation entered upon a new phase when in 1901 it was proposed that the Society should undertake systematic excavations in the district and the War Ditches were selected as one of the first sites to be explored.

I decided to open the fosse to the very bottom on the south side of the kiln Segment II. and to keep a clear face in front of us as we proceeded, so as to be able at any rate to settle some of the difficult questions raised in the more hurried excavations previously carried on.

For instance, we wanted to find out whether or not the layers were continuous above the skeletons and whether from that or other evidence we could make out that the bodies had been buried or only thrown into the ditch; whether the infilling of the ditch was due to the crumbling down of the sides; the growth of vegetation, and the gradual accumulation of soil by wind, rain, and other accidents, or whether the material appeared to have been deliberately thrown in with a view to filling it up; whether the various groups of objects which from previous experience we were inclined to assign to different ages occurred in distinct layers or were mixed up all through. In fact we wanted not only to make a collection of interesting objects but to learn what episodes of our early history were illustrated here.

We found that the fosse curved steadily round as if to pass under the Reservoir, and this worked up the slow memories of some of the oldest inhabitants and produced further information more or less trustworthy. It also enabled us to estimate the size and position of our earthwork on the assumption that it was circular, like Ring Hill, Wandlebury, and Arbury. This assumption proved to be correct, and even with my spud I verified the line of the fosse through the Caius Chalk-pit. This point was settled by one more deep section, which we call "Kirkpatrick's Pit" because in it the Master of Selwyn in one short afternoon's dig collected all the best specimens that have been obtained from the east side of the earthwork. The diameter of this circle measured from the outside of the fosse is 500 feet. That of Belsar's Hill is 880' x 750', of Arbury is 900', Wandlebury 1000', Ring Hill 1700' x 1300', Wallbury Camp 1970' x 1450'.

THE FOSSE.

First Segment.

I have called each continuously excavated portion, with unexplored ground between, a segment; other subdivisions I have referred to by capital letters. On the plan (Fig. 1) I have indicated in black the portions entirely cleared out to the bottom, and by cross-hatching the portions over which only the upper layers have been removed.

The section first seen in May and June 1893 varied from day to day in some small details but in general character and contents there

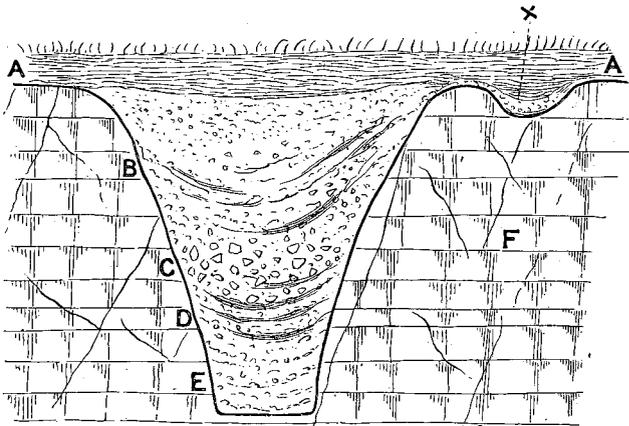


FIG. 3. Section across fosse in First Segment.

was not much difference between one part and another, from the north fence of the roadway into the quarry as far as the kiln, i.e. in the first segment A to B, which is all that was then opened. The section Figure 3 gives the general sequence and the position of the skeletons.

The surface soil passed quite evenly over the fosse. The chalk was somewhat rubbly on top but soon became solid and hard, though strongly jointed. It was of such a character as would be quite easy to remove with rude appliances. The fosse was about 15 feet broad across the top. The sides curved downwards so as to be nearly vertical for the last 4 feet, which indicated that they had been long exposed to the action of the weather, the part which was

covered from time to time by the talus being protected and the part above the talus being longest exposed and therefore most cut back.

The lowest 4 feet consisted of chalk rubble such as might have crumbled down from the sides when the fosse was first made and the sides of bare chalk were exposed to frost and sun and rain. In this division a few bones of ox, sheep, and pig were found but no pottery nor worked flints. This part however was not carefully examined and the negative evidence is not of much value. At about 9 or 10 feet from the surface there were layers of humus and of pieces of chalk so arranged as to indicate that there had been a growth of vegetation, a washing down of the surface soil alternating with an artificial throwing in of broken chalk chiefly from the east side. It looked as if the chalk which had been dug out of the fosse had been heaped up on the east side to form a vallum and that some of this had every now and then been thrown back into the fosse.

Here and there were scattered fragments or layers of charcoal. The explanation of this became more clear in later excavations, for the pieces of charcoal became larger as we followed the fosse towards the Reservoir, being sometimes 6 inches long and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. They were also more distinctly associated with burnt earth and stones and more or less carefully constructed fireplaces.

At a depth of about 8 feet a number of skeletons were found lying stretched out in the length of the fosse. Our first impression was that they had been laid out at the bottom of the ditch and covered by throwing débris over them from above. By and by we had reasons for questioning this inference. In the earth associated with these skeletons there were many fragments of common domestic ware such as I have referred to as a survival of Roman types through post-Roman times. Below the skeletons there was no pottery found here, but only a few bones of domestic animals.

In all this part of the excavation there was no essential difference in the character of the fosse or of the materials with which it was filled or of the objects found in the deposit.

Second Segment.

In the next segment (see section, Fig. 4), which extended from the kiln to within 30 feet of the hedge of the farm road which runs along the north side of the Reservoir, the general appearance of the section was much the same; but the details varied a good deal and several

doubts and difficulties which had presented themselves to us in the earlier part of the excavations were cleared up. The form and depth of the fosse in the second segment grew slightly shallower as we advanced. The various layers were still quite distinct: The chalk rubble evenly crumbled from either side filled the bottom; the middle part consisted of alternations of humus and fragments of chalk which looked as if they were the material thrown out when the fosse was originally made; and above this came a layer of fragments of chalk often resting on an old surface soil and apparently the result of levelling the ground at some time quite recent compared with that of the underlying deposits. Over all came the modern surface soil.

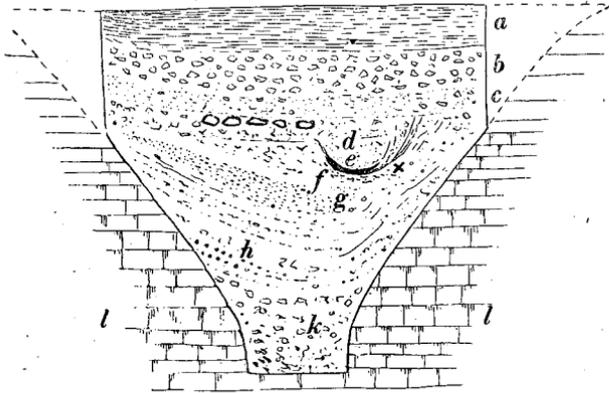


FIG. 4. Section across fosse in Second Segment.

Now we began to find in the lowest deposit, besides the bones of domestic animals, dressed flints and fragments of a coarse rough ware made of a clay full of calcined flint chips which showed as white angular specks throughout.

The middle deposits were however the most interesting, as they now showed distinct traces of fire, not merely scattered charcoal or even layers of charcoal, but pits dug in the layers of earth and chalk at the bottom of the half-filled ditch, and evidence of fires having been lighted at the bottom of these pits as if in a sunk fireplace. There were also great quantities of burnt earth, burnt stones, and sometimes large stones built into a kind of oven with the charcoal at the bottom and the soot in the interstices. Sometimes the fire appears to have been lighted all along the bottom of the fosse for 12 feet or more, a

custom which we were told by Mr Barker of Bourn, who greatly helped us in all this part of the excavation, was still common when troops are camping out, as it is easier to keep the fire alight in this way and more convenient to make use of it for cooking purposes. At any rate here we had come upon the contemporary fires which furnished the charcoal which we found in layers or scattered along the bottom of the fosse elsewhere. These fires were not all at one level but evidence of successive fires one above the other was often seen. These point to either continuous or intermittent occupations throughout a long period. In one case we found the large stones laid out to form a floor. These stones consist of large nodules and slabs of light grey mottled tuberous flint, boulders of quartzite, such as occur in the drift, and, occasionally, of such exceptional fragments as the broken pieces of a quern of Niedermendig lava.

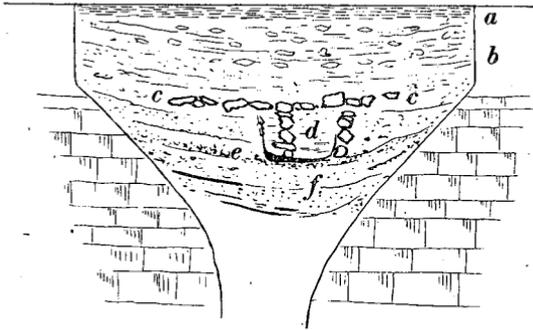


FIG. 5. Another section across fosse in Second Segment.

A little further on the fireplaces were modified by having a wall built of single stones, chiefly flint, placed one above the other on either side, but in one case not extending as far as the fire in the original pit, so that the wall of stones on the inner side rose out of the ashes of the older fireplace. The layer or pavement of stones which came up to the older fireplace in the former section now extended right across the top of the new walled fireplace in a manner that would have been impossible when it was in use. Some of the flat slabs of flint were as much as 10 inches across. The thick masses of burnt earth and stones often appeared to be rather of the nature of ash-pits into which the sweepings of the fireplaces were thrown from time to time, because the earth was uniformly burnt all

through and had no stones in it. Where the fire had been lighted on the earthen floor the soil and included fragments showed less and less marks of fire at increasing depths from the fire, and its effect did not penetrate far downward.

Skeletons were not so numerous here as they were in the first segment, nor did they show that general regularity of deposition which appeared to prevail there. But as we did not see them all taken out in the earlier excavations we cannot lay too much stress on this point, but we certainly did remark that there were missing portions there the absence of which we were unable to explain. Now however where we were able to carry on operations our own way we clearly established the fact that some of the bodies had been dismembered before the ligaments had so far perished as to allow the separate bones to get scattered. They also occurred somewhat nearer the bottom of the fosse in this segment than where first found. This may only mean that the fosse had not been filled up to the same extent here, and the skeletons may still belong to the same time. About the middle of this segment in the part of the section marked X (Fig. 4) the bones of a baby were found just below the fireplace described above, and one fire deeper down had been lighted immediately above where a body had been previously thrown in so that the upper part of the skull was charred. A little further on the bones of a child perhaps 7 or 8 years old were found at about the same depth as those of the baby. The skeletons of adults were all much deeper down, and the occupation of the fosse by the people who lighted the fires and threw in such large quantities of broken pottery was later, and must have lasted over a considerable period, as there were successive accumulations of humus, burnt earth, charcoal, and layers of chalk fragments thrown in, here as everywhere chiefly from the inner side of the fosse.

The quantity of pottery in the top layers increased considerably as we followed the fosse round in the direction of the Reservoir.

In this part of the fosse the fine biscuit ware with slip ornament (Figs. 8 to 20), of which a few fragments occurred everywhere in the upper layers, became much more common, and in one of our latest diggings between C and D in the Second Segment the large earthen grain-pan (Fig. 43) was found so close to the original surface that it could hardly have escaped deep cultivators. As it was it was found broken in pieces, the upper part lying near the lower as if it had been caught and torn out by a plough and been reburied to get

it out of the way. Pieces of at least one other similar vessel were also found close by.

For the last 10 feet of the Second Segment we dug out only the upper half of the deposits and verified the continuation of the fosse up to the farm road by a trench E which we cut across it close under the hedge. See plan, Fig. 1. The rest of this part of the fosse from D to E and the part which is under the road is untouched; we also left 10 feet on the south side of the road, as we were informed that pipes connected with the waterworks ran alongside this hedge.

Third Segment.

In this Segment (F to H) we cleared out the fosse to the bottom as we had done on the north side of the road, and turned over the lowest deposits, which yielded very little, to about half way to the Reservoir (F to G); beyond that (G to H) we removed only the upper deposits, which were of the same general character as in the previous parts of the excavation but far more rich both in the quantity and quality of the remains found. The fireplaces were constructed with bricks in clay-lined cavities with brick supports for cooking utensils. There was a large proportion of the fine ware with slip ornament, and here the bronze fibula was found.

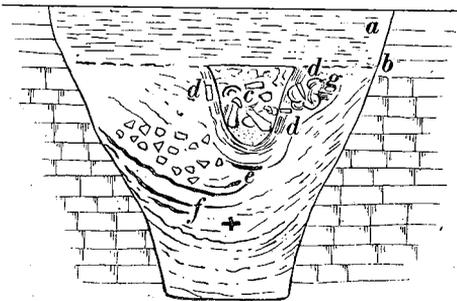


FIG. 6. Section across fosse in Third Segment.

If the fosse was filled up by throwing back the material which had been dug out of it and that material had been heaped up to form a vallum on the inner side, then it is clear that the deepest part would as time went on work out towards the outer margin, and we did find that the fireplaces, which appear to have been constructed in what was from time to time the lowest part, were nearer the

outside edge of the fosse. The character of the deposits in this segment is shown in Figure 6.

Our excavation was here stopped by the Reservoir and the only knowledge we have at present as to the extension of the fosse in that direction is that obtained from the late Mr Wm. Beales, who informed us that when the reservoir was being made a ditch similar to that which we had been following had been traced right across it and that the impression of those who saw it was that it was striking for and had something to do with the great Balsham Dyke. We cut a trench close to the palings in the east side of the Reservoir and found some pottery.

We now returned to follow it northwards from A where it was first touched in the entrance to Tebbutt's Pit. Here there was a slight but very suggestive feature running in the direction of Cherryhinton. This however proved to have nothing to do with the fosse, being entirely superficial and due to agricultural operations. The line of the fosse was made out by calculating where it was likely to be found from the segments which we had opened. We first traced it into the Caius Pit at the point marked L on the plan. It then appeared to have run entirely within the area excavated for the quarry, but we hit it off at the first trial close to the bush marked K on the plan. There was no longer any doubt as to its form and position and we completed the evidence by a small excavation close to the farm road north-east of the Reservoir in what we have named Kirkpatrick's Pit.

The "War Ditches" are thus proved to be a circular entrenchment 1666 feet in circumference, constructed upon the flat top of the spur of the Gogmagogs above Cherryhinton. There is evidence that the whole hill top was occupied by settlements the household refuse from which is scattered through the soil all over the ground and occurs also in the débris which fills the fosse.

We must now make a more detailed comparative study of the objects found in order to attempt an historical correlation of these with other discoveries in the district.

THE OBJECTS FOUND IN THE LOWEST STRATA.

When first a great work such as the War Ditches was constructed the bare chalk on either side would crumble down under the influence of weather, and the talus so produced would fill the bottom of the fosse. A few common instruments such as flint scrapers or strike-

a-lights would occasionally fall in and be lost; a few bones when picked might be thrown away into it or carried there by dogs and other animals, and a few potsherds on the surface of the ground might finally come to rest at the bottom of the ditch. But there would be no deliberate shooting of rubbish on a large scale into it as long as it was looked upon as a protection against sudden attack. Thus we might expect to find in the lower strata but few traces of the domestic appliances of the people who made it and were of course interested in keeping it deep and steep.

That agrees exactly with what we find to be the case in the lowest division of this fosse (Figs. 4 & 6). There are a few flint chips and occasionally a more finished instrument, such as one of those discoidal flakes evenly dressed along one edge, either with a view to make a more efficient scraper or for use as a strike-a-light, or for both purposes.

There were bones, evidently by their condition and mode of fracture the remains of cooked food as the limbs were always separated at the joints and no gristle or cartilage remained to hold them together. Many of the bones were broken as if to get at the marrow. They must have been cooked elsewhere for there were in this part no signs of fires except some isolated bits of charcoal, nor any other traces of organic matter or growth of vegetation except where some of the surface soil had crumbled down with the chalk rubble. The animals of which bones were found were ox, pig, sheep. One would infer from their condition as indicated by their remains that they were roughly kept and poorly fed.

The pottery was all of a coarse kind, fired on the inside and on the outside and of a black or red colour with white chips of calcined flint all through, but the red colour seemed sometimes to have been produced by the fire on which the vessel was used for cooking purposes and not in the original manufacture. It was not clear whether it was made upon a lathe or not. This kind of ware occurs, but is not common, in the overlying deposits. It was not uncommon at *Horningsea*¹ and is found down to mediæval times in the Cambridge ditches and elsewhere². The texture is therefore not a sufficient indication of its age and unfortunately we have not found enough to make out the form of any of the vessels.

On the whole however the probability is that we have here relics

¹ *C. A. S.*, Vol. x. *Horningsea*, p. 174.

² *C. A. S.*, 'C. Ditches,' Vol. viii. pp. 32, 255.

of the same age as those found by Mr Allix near West Hill Plantation on the hill east of Swaffham Prior, when flint flakes were still used for many purposes, but polished celts were no longer made or used to any great extent. We have no evidence as to the race to which the constructors of the War Ditches belonged unless it was the same as that of the skeletons next to be described.

THE OBJECTS FOUND IN THE UPPER STRATA.

The objects found in the upper part of the fosse are of extraordinary interest. I know of no other recorded find in which the *facies* of the remains is the same as here.

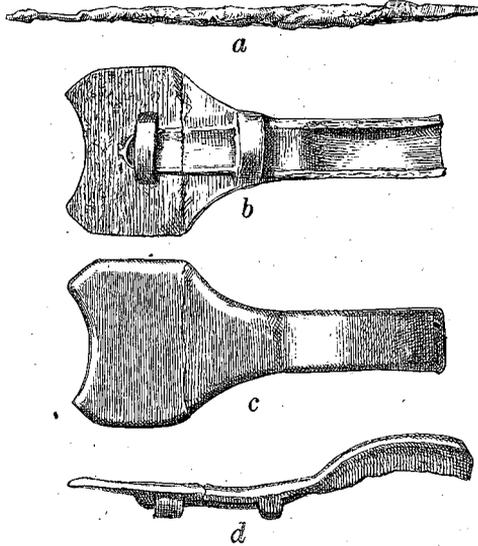


FIG. 7. Bronze fibula and pin.

Metal. Metal was very scarce. A few nails and fragments of iron were found, generally in connection with the burnt wood. One bronze fibula (see Fig. 7) with an iron pin were found in the Third Segment, i.e. the most southerly part of the fosse. This is unfortunately not whole, the piece found is 3 inches long but the portion below the bow, which must have measured about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches more, is lost, having been apparently cut off, while the edge of the bow shows a rough fractured surface. The lunette-shaped front of

the broad upper end and the two strong bands of metal to hold the end of the pin are peculiar.

It is curious in the course of such extensive diggings that if we found one we should find only one example of an object so common in Roman and Saxon times and that the only one found should be of unusual type.

Not a single coin has been picked up over the whole of the area, a remarkable circumstance considering how common they are in the district associated with early and late Roman remains. I learned from labourers that a great number had been found on a field a short distance to the east.

Pottery. Throughout all the earlier diggings the greater part of the pottery was of the common black type which is found with Roman remains everywhere, whether we are examining the household refuse round a camp or town or villa, or cemetery (Pl. XXI. figs. 27 to 30). I have elsewhere¹ shown that although this ware can be distinguished from British pottery or Saxon urns or from most of the mediæval ware, it occurs in all Roman, Romano-English and early mediæval refuse heaps, and is therefore by itself no indication of the age of the deposit within those limits. The criss-cross burnished ornament and the various wavy incised lines (Pl. XXI. figs. 31 & 32) are common, but here and there we find a less usual ornamentation such as concentric semicircles described on a central dot. This pattern we found also in the earth covering the grave west of Tebbutt's pit and therefore outside the fosse, and fragments similarly ornamented occur in the waste heaps of the kilns at Horningsea, our one local potter's field² still available for reference. Pieces of colanders occurred here and there, and one fragment of black ware had a hole bored through it near the rim after firing, as if to pass a cord through. A sort of brush ornament such as might be produced with a stick broken so as to give a feather edge, was common here as at Horningsea. And many pieces of vessels occurred on which banded ornamentation was produced by a burnisher either on the lathe or with a free hand. Various flat handles with unsymmetrical flutings (Figs. 34 a, b, c, d, e) and the strong ring-like handle as if for a cord (f), illustrate the passage from Roman to Mediæval patterns. The flat-bottomed vessels tell the same tale.

In the earlier part of the diggings, that is at the northern end of

¹ *Archæol. Journ.* Vol. LIX. p. 219.

² *Camb. Ant. Soc.* Vol. x. (Oct. 28, 1901), p. 174.

the First Segment in Tebbutt's pit (A to B), there were a few scattered bits of an entirely different kind of ware—a fine thin biscuit ware of a white or yellow or red colour with patterns put on with a pipette (see Pls. xx. & xxi. figs. 8 to 20) or painted on Pl. xxi. figs. 21 & 22. These vessels were small cups or pots with a rim and swelling sides, or bottles with or without handles. The patterns were sometimes produced by dots arranged in triangular groups quincunx fashion, or loops or circles with central dots in slip, or all combined. From the nipple-like swelling in the centre of some of the dots, e.g. Pl. xxi. fig. 20, and the way in which the colour is often blotted and smeared it would appear that the slip was very liquid when put on. We found more and more of this highly ornamented pottery

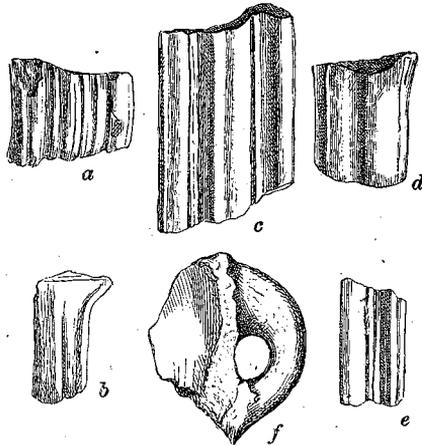


FIG. 34. Various handles.

as we followed the fosse to the south, and in the Third Segment from G to H it formed a large proportion of all the pottery found. Elsewhere in this district it is exceedingly rare. A few fragments of similar ware were found at a depth of 42 feet below the Royal Exchange in London, and Miln¹ describes and figures portions of a vase of similar ware found by him in the mounds of the Bosseno in Brittany.

There were also some pieces of coloured ware with fine lines put on with a pointed instrument when the clay was soft (Pl. xxi. figs. 23 & 24). The drinking cup of thin ware with pinched sides and

¹ James Miln, *Excavations at Carnac (Brittany)*,¹ Edinb. 1877, pp. 22, 67, Pl. i. A, Pl. iv.

brown metallic lustre on the surface (Pl. xxi. figs. 25 & 26) was here very rare.

Later on in the present year 1903 I organized the digging party of undergraduates mentioned above p. 456. We met with great success and very largely increased the collection of pottery, bones, &c. which had been found when the fosse was first discovered and during the later excavations carried on by the Society. The most notable addition was the large earthen vessel (Fig. 35) which was found lying on its side very near what was the surface before the last levelling of the ground described above p. 454. Indeed the upper half appeared to have been broken off and laid close by at right angles to its former position. It rested upon a mass of puddled clay in which it may have been originally set to prevent damp from getting in or

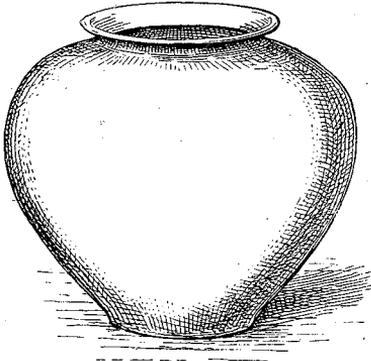


Fig. 35. Large earthenware vessel.

liquid from getting out. It has been admirably restored by Mr Cowles of our Museum of Archæology, so that the form and size can be observed. It stands 2 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and measures 7 feet 4 inches round the body of the vessel and 1 foot 8 inches across the rim which is 3 inches broad and well recurved so as to give a good hold, thus adapting it for being lowered into or lifted out of the ground. It was marked by groups of parallel scorings such as might have been made by a toothed instrument used to reduce the thickness by scraping the surface, now in one direction now in another, all over both the outside and the inside of the vessel. There were fragments of at least two other similar vessels close by, and the exact counterpart of all of these was common among the

fragments abundantly strewn about in the waste heaps of the potter's field at Horningsea.

Scattered fragments of Samian ware occurred throughout, but very rarely, and larger pieces of an inferior kind of Samian were found which shows on the fractured surface an irregularity of colouring and a dragged structure in the material very unlike the clean and uniform red paste of the best Samian, which more resembles sealing-wax.

Samian was not made in Britain but was imported by the Romans. These fragments therefore show that the deposit is later than the commencement of the Roman occupation. Its scarcity cannot be explained by the poverty of the people who then lived here seeing that they had an abundance of the highly decorated slip ware described above, but must mean that Samian was no longer in the market. This is quite consistent with the view that at the period of the later occupation of the fosse the Roman troops had been withdrawn and commercial relations with southern Europe had practically ceased.

A spindle whorl fashioned in earthenware was found in the upper strata in the Third Segment.

Millstones. Among the various instruments and appliances in common use at all times there are perhaps none more important for the archæologist than querns or handmills. The oblong slab of grit or basic igneous rock found in the Cyttiau'r Gweddelod in North Wales, with the rubbing stone flattened on one side, has its exact counterpart in the blocks of lava of which I have seen four side by side in the dwelling of a Pueblo-Indian. In both cases they are made of rocks which can be procured near by. The Roman circular handmill survived till the present generation in the pot quern of Ireland or the breuan melin of a few generations ago in Wales.

The stone required for grinding should either have included fragments of harder material which will stand out and give a rough surface as the softer matrix is worn away or it must be a stone with cavities of which new ones continue to be exposed as the surface is worn down.

The millstone grit, puddingstone and granite are common examples of the first kind and vesicular lava of the second. Now these rocks cannot be obtained everywhere, and therefore their use for millstones at any time or place gives a hint as to trade routes or lines of migration.

Millstone grit is found in places far north and west of our district, but in East Anglia occurs only in the drift. Granite also and rocks of a granitic character are not found near. Boulders of either may occur in the drift. I have a large quern from Ireland made out of a granite boulder in quite recent times.

Puddingstone is not found in the north and west but is a Tertiary rock found in Hertfordshire and the north of France. Vesicular lavas occur nowhere near our district, but have been carried since Roman times and are still largely exported from Niedermendig near Andernach on the Rhine.

At various places along the fosse we came upon broken querns of puddingstone and of lava which indicate a southern origin while every here and there we found flattened pieces of quartzite or grit which might be procured from the drift of the neighbourhood. The best preserved fragments of a lava quern were found in our latest excavation near the large earthenware vessels described above p. 471, Fig. 35.

Bone. There were very few objects in bone. No combs or whorls, or any highly finished instrument. There were a few rough bone skewers such as are found in all rubbish heaps from British to Mediæval times¹. Two pieces of limb bone appear to have been worked into a sort of shuttle or stump for winding thread on or perhaps for netting. Net making is not improbable as the bones of a large pike were found in one of the small trenches.

Animals. The bones of domestic animals were chiefly the remains of food. Those of ox were the most common, and these were shown by the teeth and unanchylosed sutures to be mostly those of young animals. The remains of horse occurred in exactly the same circumstances and condition and indicated that the horse too was used for food. Sheep appear to have been more common than goats but it has not yet been clearly made out when sheep were first introduced into this country. The pig also was common. We found no traces of poultry, nor of wild animals, except those of burrowing animals such as fox, rabbit, mice, which may have got in at any subsequent period. Bones of dog occurred here and there. Wolves must have existed in the neighbourhood, but we saw no remains that we could definitely refer to them². In the shallow

¹ *Archæol. Journ.* Vol. LVIII. p. 201, Pl. I.

² *Camb. Ant. Soc. Proceedings*, Ap. 28, 1902, p. 245.

trench at the N.E. corner of the Caius Pit the jaws of a pike were found, but this was altogether outside the fosse.

Shells. A few single shells of oyster were turned out here and there which might have been carried there from some early deposit, but no layers of oyster shells occurred such as are always found round Roman stations with both right and left valves and all the usual evidence that they were opened and eaten on the spot.

The shells of *Helix aspersa* and *H. nemoralis* which are both commonly used as food in the south of Europe seem to have got in among the loose fragments to feed on the organic matter or hibernate, and did not occur as if they had been thrown out with the other kitchen refuse.

The Fireplaces. In describing the sections seen at successive stages in our work I have had to notice the occurrence of charcoal, layers of ash and traces of fireplaces roughly constructed by digging holes and building up walls of stone. The more finished structures which we found in the last segment call for more detailed description. We first came upon a large quantity of whole and broken bricks, some apparently only sun-dried, some partially burnt, many of them were remarkable for their green colour. In form they varied from rectangular blocks $11 \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ inches to roughly squared pyramids 10" in height on a base $5'' \times 5''$ with a top $3'' \times 3''$. The brick-shaped ones were found scattered through the deposit down to a depth of 6 or 7 feet. They occurred also quite irregularly in the clay packing of the fireplaces; not laid to form a floor or built into the sides, but as if rammed in with the clay. Some of them were perforated with holes $\frac{3}{4}''$ across. These seemed as if intended to let heat pass through rather than to let water pass away. Some of the tapering bricks were flat instead of square.

Circular lumps of clay about 7 inches in diameter, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches thick, round on one side and slightly hollowed out on the other, occurred throughout the upper layers, in this segment. There were also discs of baked clay about half an inch thick, and, as well as we could infer from the fragments of the irregular outside margin, some 10 or 12 inches in diameter. These seem to have been made up with grass to hold the clay together when wet, that is previous to being fired. Many fragments of a similar kind were found at Horningsea¹.

¹ *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.* Vol. x. Pl. xi. Fig. 8.

Sometimes we found a large lump of clay up to 8 inches in diameter black on the inside and burnt red and yellow on the outside to a depth of from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches.

Everything pointed to some connection between all these clay objects and the fires; and in the two or three instances in which we came upon the remains of the broken-down fireplaces we found them in such association as to indicate that they had been used there.

In the best preserved fireplace four of the pyramidal blocks were found apparently almost in their original relative position (Fig. 36, p. 475). Two were standing, the other two thrown inward. On top of one of the standing ones, and close by each of the others, was one of the bun-shaped lumps of baked clay, and broken up in the débris were the remains of a large black cooking-pot covered, as was much of the interior of the fireplace, with soot. Fragments of one

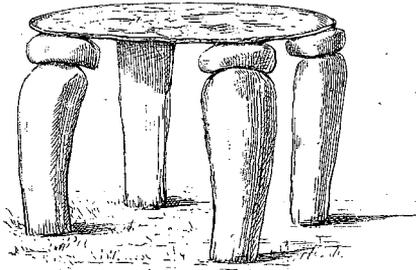


FIG. 36. Brandreth and griddle.

or more of the large flat earthen discs also were found in the débris. When we examine the various objects found in that ancient fireplace we can see a reason for the use of many of them, but others are hard to explain. The sunken hearth would keep together the hot embers when the flame had died down, and the addition of a little fresh fuel now and then would keep up the fire. It would not however do to put the cooking-pot upon the fire, for fear that, as the smouldering wood got consumed and sunk the vessel might topple over. Therefore bricks were placed in the fire-pit and the fire lighted between and all round them, as on a larger scale had been done in the Roman hypocaust. A large flat plank or girdle or griddle of earthenware (not as nowadays of iron) was when required placed on the top of these four clay pedestals, which therefore

corresponded to the brandreth of recent times, and cakes were baked on it or perhaps various stews were cooked in earthen vessels placed on it or on the pedestals. If it should be desired to cook more slowly, to leave the pots to simmer, or merely to keep the food warm, the griddle could be raised higher above the fire by placing one of the clay cushions on each pedestal.

It did occur to us that some of the delicate ware was made here and that the lumps of clay were the material brought from a distance to be worked up, and that the fireplaces were the kilns in which the vessels were fired. But this is a very improbable explanation, because the other evidence of cooking is so clear in the large soot-covered pot left broken in the fireplace and the remains of food lying about. The lumps of clay also are invariably dried and generally burnt. Lumps of baked clay similar to our bun-shaped capstones and pieces of thin flat earthen discs like our griddles are found commonly at Horningsea in association with other rubbish from the potters' dwelling houses rather than with the wasters and débris from the kilns.

What an immense help it would be if the relics of this interesting locality, where we find remains of interesting and exceptional objects *where they were used*, could be exhibited alongside of the collections from Horningsea, where we find the remains of similar objects *where they were made*.

A piece of hard chalk had a tapering perforation on each side such as would be made by boring into it with a roughly pointed instrument. The holes were about half an inch across and half an inch deep. They were not exactly opposite, but reminded one of the mode of drilling a hole for the haft of perforated stone implements, which often show that the workers in stone found it difficult to hit off and continue to bore from exactly opposite points on either surface of the stone, or maybe as the hole had to be considerably enlarged afterwards they did not think it necessary to obtain great accuracy at first.

There has been much evidence accumulated of late years to show that toys and imitations were manufactured by such primæval races; perhaps the implements in soft stone and our perforated chalk were intended to teach children the methods by which the real instruments were manufactured.

There were several pieces of earthenware with a hole about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch across bored into the bottom, the object of which is a matter

of conjecture. It may be that in the absence of a spout this was a method of dealing out small quantities of water. I have seen in Mr Ransom's collection at Hitchin large earthen vessels of late mediæval date about the size and form of a magnum with the bottom perforated like the rose of a watering-pot.

THE GRAVES.

So far I have not seen any grave in the fosse. I do not consider that the two infants at 4 feet from the surface or the skeletons at about 8 or 9 feet were buried in graves. But there were a good many graves found both inside and outside the earthwork. There was one skeleton found lying north and south on the west of the road above the great quarry. It was placed in a shallow grave sunk some 8 inches or so into the chalk and covered with 8 or 9 inches of soil. The skull was crushed and the bones much decomposed. I am not aware that any objects which would fix the date were found with it. The grave discovered by Messrs Crawley and Tebbutt also lay north and south about 20 yards east of the road but outside the earthwork. It was six feet long and three feet deep, one foot of which was in solid chalk. With this skeleton there were found, but in what manner associated I do not know, fragments of a number of basins about six inches in diameter and three and a half inches in height, in a lead-coloured ware, light and porous inside but outside darker grey burnished, and apparently baked in a not very hot smother kiln.

The best preserved specimen was ornamented on the outside with sets of dots and half rings, which look as if they had been described with a pair of compasses on the dot as a centre and a radius of about half an inch.

Another grave was found close to the east entrance to the kiln, but this seems to have been disturbed.

Another occurred within the fosse on the east of the new quarry (Tebbutt's Pit). It was sunk some 10 inches into the chalk which was covered by about 18 inches of soil. It lay north-west and south-east. I found a considerable quantity of Roman pottery in the adjacent soil but I do not know that anything occurred distinctly associated with the body.

Another skeleton was found close to the north edge of Caius Pit. It lay north and south but nothing was found associated with it.

The skull was removed to the Archæological Museum, and the rest of the bones left in the grave.

Very little of the surface soil beyond the ditch or the quarry has been recently removed so that the number of skeletons is large in proportion to the area exposed, and their distribution suggests that there may be a considerable cemetery spread over the top of the hill.

THE SHALLOW TRENCHES.

It is clear, from the great quantity of household rubbish, of potsherds, and other traces of every-day life, that this area was long occupied and therefore we might expect to find remains of dwellings, but our excavations have been confined almost entirely to the line of the fosse. Here and there, however, previous to the determination of the position of the circular entrenchment some small tentative excavations were made along the north and north-east side of the Caius Pit, and here we found shallow ditches sunk to a depth of 3 feet 8 inches below the existing surface, 10 inches being in the chalk. One ran nearly parallel to the north side of the pit; another was traced for some distance at the north-east corner where a ditch running west was cut off at its east end by another ditch running north-east and south-west. We always came upon bones of domestic animals and fragments of pottery of Roman type in connection with them. In one we found the jaw of a pike. There were several such ditches cut across during the earlier excavations along the sides of the road to Mr Tebbutt's chalk-pit and near the kiln. See X, Fig. 3.

These are like the ditches found round the several dwellings in all the rude agricultural settlements of this district, from the bronze age to that of the Romanized Britons and Teutons, who frequently seem to have followed their ancient habits of life long after they had adopted all the domestic appliances of the Romans.

THE SKELETONS.

We have three distinct groups of skeletons to deal with.

1. The skeletons found low down in the fosse below the layers with the traces of late Roman or Romano-English occupation.
2. The skeletons in the shallow graves all over the area within and without the fosse.

3. The skeletons of young children in the upper part of the fosse.

When it was announced by Professor Macalister and Mr Duckworth that the skeletons found just on top of the lower layers in the fosse were Anglian, we had already seen enough to assure us that the deposit full of pottery which we assigned to Roman type distinctly overlay the stratum in which the skeletons occurred, and we started a working hypothesis that these skeletons though of post-Roman date were covered with earth which was already full of Romano-English refuse and the contents of Roman or Romano-English graves, before it was carried to fill the fosse, and with this working hypothesis in our minds we prosecuted the later work. But the distribution of the overlying deposits and mode of occurrence of the successive fires associated with them entirely convinced us that this theory would not hold—and so we have now to fall back on the far more interesting hypothesis that these Anglians are pre-Roman Teutonic settlers, whether more Scandinavian or more German must be left for further enquiry. It is known from ancient history that there were many tribes in Britain when the Romans arrived, that they differed in physical character and origin, and that some of them were of Teutonic race. Suspicions have been raised by the remains found at Hauxton and elsewhere that this district was occupied by some of them, but this is the first time as far as I know that we have anything amounting to a proof of pre-Roman Teutonic settlements in East Anglia.

The only doubt that remains arises from the peculiar character of the overlying Romano-English remains, to which we are at present unable to assign an exact date.

To return to the character and mode of occurrence of the skeletons found at the lower level No. 1. They may be seen in the Museum of Human Anatomy and a full description of them by Mr Duckworth is given in the Society's *Proceedings*¹. Dr Macalister and Mr Duckworth agree that they are of Anglian type. They occurred in considerable numbers in the earlier part of the excavations, that is in the north half of Tebbutt's pit. But it was difficult to make out their exact mode of occurrence there. In the southern part of the same field the remains were taken out by our own workmen, as I have said, under more constant supervision, and it was quite clearly proved that the parts of the body were separated before the ligaments

¹ *Op. cit.* R. xxxvi. 24.

had altogether perished; that the bodies were not buried in graves dug to receive them; that generally if not always the material lying on the adjoining ground was thrown over them; and that the fosse was after that periodically if not continuously occupied.

The next group of skeletons occurred in graves all over the area. These were shallow excavations dug some 8 inches to a foot into the chalk and covered by surface soil which varied from one to three feet in depth. The bodies were not oriented but carefully laid out at full length in the grave. There were almost always fragments of Roman or Romano-English pottery in or near the graves but no relics of any kind so associated with the interment as to furnish a clue to its age. They probably belonged to the Settlement of Romanized British of which we found traces in the shallow trenches here and there over the top of the hill, and the character of the skulls is not inconsistent with this view.

The third group of skeletons belonged to quite young children, and occurred in the fosse at a much higher level than that at which the skeletons of the first group were found. They were clearly disposed of during the period of the occupation of the fosse, as the fireplaces occurred above and below them. They were placed without much care in shallow depressions and covered over with the soil and chalk débris.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

It would appear therefore that we had a deep circular fosse excavated in the chalk by a pre-Roman people who had little pottery, and that of a coarse quality and no great variety; who had hardly any other domestic appliances and left only a few flint scrapers and flakes, bones of domestic animals and perhaps some results of the chase. The material thrown out of the fosse was heaped up on the inside to form a vallum. The crumble from the sides of the neglected ditch filled the bottom to a depth of four feet more or less.

Then followed an episode during which bodies of young and old of both sexes were thrown into the fosse and not sufficiently covered to prevent the bodies from being dragged about and disintegrated, the head and legs being sometimes separated from the trunk. No relics indicate the age, race or condition of these people, and whether we have traces of a massacre or of a time when the residents used the neglected fosse to throw their dead into, we have no evidence. The

skeletons are pronounced to be of Anglian type, which may well be explained by referring them to the pre-Roman Teutonic invaders of Britain.

After this the fosse was gradually filled up by the accumulation of vegetable mould, by débris purposely thrown in and accidentally crumbling down the sides, by the refuse of people who occupied the fosse from time to time, constructed fireplaces in it, cooked food, and left a great quantity of pottery and kitchen remains in successive layers, which there is reason to believe it took a long time to accumulate.

When we try to assign any date to this part of the history of the earthwork we find that almost every group of objects is in some respect exceptional. The one fibula is of a type that cannot be identified with anything found elsewhere in our district. The fragments of Samian do not point to use of that foreign ware by people who lived here but look as if samples had sunk into the soil or been brought from some Roman station where it may have been common. So also the single oyster-shells which turned up here and there must have had some accidental origin. The thin biscuit ware with red and yellow ornament in slip which is abundant here is hardly known elsewhere except in the Gallo-Roman mounds of the Bosseno and in London, in both which localities it is rare and of doubtful age. The coarse pottery is identical with that made at Horningsea, where we have reason to believe the work was carried on down to Romano-English times. The last occupation of the War Ditches seems therefore to be later than the distinctively Roman period, but earlier than anything we can refer to the Saxon or the Dane, that is to say we should refer it to the Romanized natives who were in this district largely of Teutonic origin.

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