

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY



VOLUME XLII
JANUARY 1948 TO DECEMBER 1948

CAMBRIDGE
BOWES AND BOWES
1949

THE CHURCH OF
ST MARY THE GREAT

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH
AT CAMBRIDGE

by

W. D. BUSHELL, M.A.

with a Foreword by

PROFESSOR G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M.

Master of Trinity College, Cambridge

The Church of Saint Mary the Great, in Cambridge, may justly be described as one of the most interesting in the country, deeply associated as it is with the growth and spread of the Reformation in England, with the history of the University of Cambridge and with the great scholars who have preached in it. Mr Bushell has written not merely an architectural history of the church, but has done full justice to the many aspects of its story, social, political and religious.

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From the
FOREWORD

by PROFESSOR G. M. TREVELYAN, O.M.

THIS INTERESTING AND VALUABLE RECORD of the history and antiquities of Great St Mary's, in all aspects architectural and human, should receive a warm welcome both from town and gown. As High Steward of the borough as well as Master of a college, indeed of the college which holds the patronage of St Mary's, I may be allowed to speak for both the two sides of Cambridge life, to whom St Mary's is respectively the University church and the central church of the borough.

The assiduous scholarship of Mr Bushell has been admirably employed in collecting and ordering this large mass of material, all of it interesting in one way or another to Cambridge folk. An old Trinity man, Mr Bushell spent the greater part of his life in arduous and valuable public service, but since his retirement the historical and antiquarian instincts which he has inherited from his father the Reverend W. D. Bushell, F.S.A., of St John's College and of Harrow School, have prompted him to this labour of love, by which he has put Cambridge greatly in his debt.

G. M. TREVELYAN

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BOWES AND BOWES

1949

*Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society
by Bowes & Bowes Publishers Limited
Cambridge*

*Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge
(Brooke Crutchley, University Printer)*

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COMBINED BEAKER AND IRON AGE SITES AT LAKENHEATH, SUFFOLK

GRACE BRISCOE, M.B., B.S.

IN 1934 Mr Angus Graham and Mr Cosmo Gordon discovered sherds of early Iron Age pottery on the surface of the sandy wastes at the foot of Maid's Cross Hill, Lakenheath, just to the north of the ancient trackway which runs from Lakenheath to Wangford (see map, Fig. 1). Excavation of the surrounding area showed patches of blackened or discoloured sand and numerous sherds of roughly made Iron Age pottery. A description of the findings is published in the present issue of this *Journal*.

Shortly after this discovery I found some small sherds of Beaker ware on the surface of an adjoining sandy expanse (called Sahara)¹ enclosed by belts of fir trees and lying to the north of Mr Gordon's site.² Trial digs showed patches of black sand and sherds of Beaker and Iron Age pottery.

The ploughing of an area of rough grass (called No. 1)³ to the north of Sahara brought up traces of black sand to the surface. Excavation at these spots showed black patches containing mainly Iron Age sherds. From the surface of the ploughed area a mixture of sherds was collected, Iron Age, Roman, Medieval, also flint-scrapers and hammers. A few sherds of roughly made Beaker ware were found. Owing to cultivations this area has not been more fully investigated.

All the ground under review had been much disturbed by rabbits, and it was soon clear that the area over which Iron Age sherds could be collected from the surface was much larger than the area over which Beaker sherds could be found. Trial trenches were therefore dug in this smaller area wherever a sherd of Beaker was found on the surface: Although some trial digs were ineffective, many indications of black patches were discovered in this way.

On the O.S. 6 in. map of the neighbourhood it can be seen that a rough quadrilateral is formed, on the south side by the road (and ancient trackway alongside) leading from Brandon to Lakenheath, on the west by Sandy Drove (the boundary between arable and breckland), on the north and east by fenland. At the north-east corner there are springs with abundant water welling up from the edge of the chalk. The ground falls from the 50 ft. contour to the 20 ft. contour and fen-level, and is dominated by the small hill (106 ft.) of Maid's Cross, from whose gravel beds many palaeolithic implements have been removed. At the south-east corner microlithic

¹ O.S. 1071.

² Map reference: 6 in. Ordnance Survey, Suffolk (West), Sheet 12, N.W., 100 yards north of the intersection of lat. 52° 25' with long. 0° 33' E (O.S. 1075).

³ O.S. 1062c.

implements have been found. On the west side of the quadrilateral (in O.S. 1062 and 1021) there is a large area thickly strewn with Roman sherds. The contents of a black patch with a hoard of Samian ware in O.S. 1021 has been described previously.¹

Sandy Plantation, the find-place of the famous Lakenheath dragonesque brooch (now in the Ashmolean Museum), stood on the east side of Sandy Drove. It covered

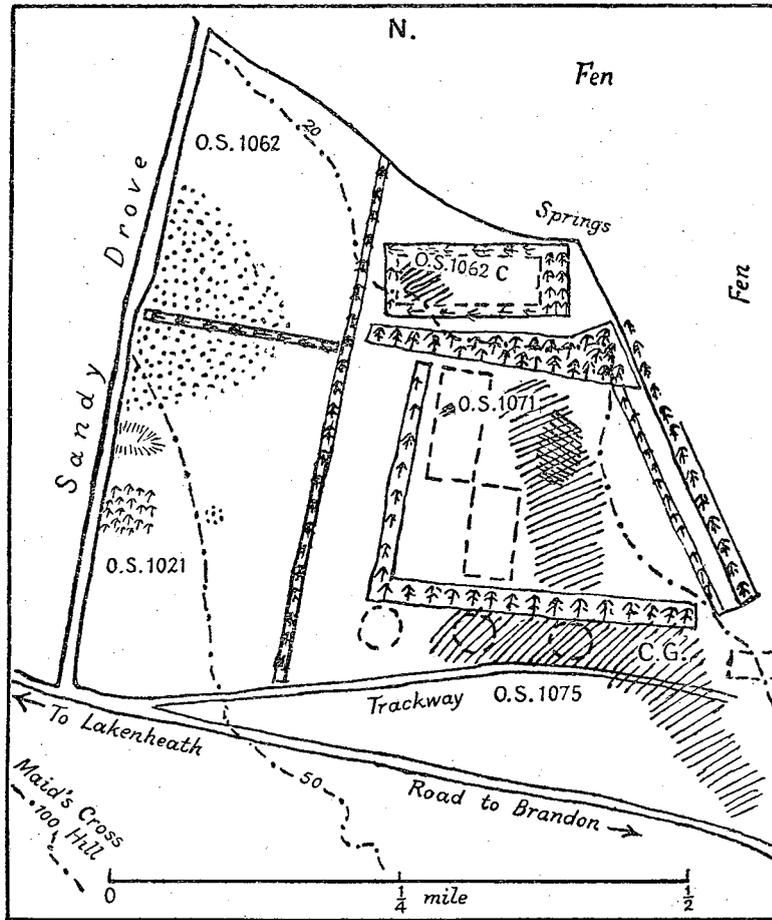


Fig. 1. Single hatching, Iron Age area; Cross hatching, Beaker area; Stippling, Roman area; Broken lines, top-soil clearance or plough; C. G., Mr Gordon's site.

(Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office)

the area now planted with broom and also a rise in the ground, the site of an old cemetery. Over sixty years ago this plantation was removed in order to sift for stones. The digging went some 6 or 7 ft. deep, which reduced the height of the rise. Many skeletons with beads round their necks were found in this rise. According to my informant, whose father worked on the site, no pottery or weapons were found. The

¹ *C.A.S. Proc.* (1948), vol. XLI, p. 67.

beads passed into the possession of Mr Fenton. Mr Gathercole of Lakenheath states that the cemetery was Anglo-Saxon.

The modern village, with its church showing remains of Norman architecture, lies a mile to the west of the ancient settlements.

The area within which Iron Age sherds can be found stretches along the eastern fen-edge of the quadrilateral, close to the 20 ft. contour line, for a distance of approxi-

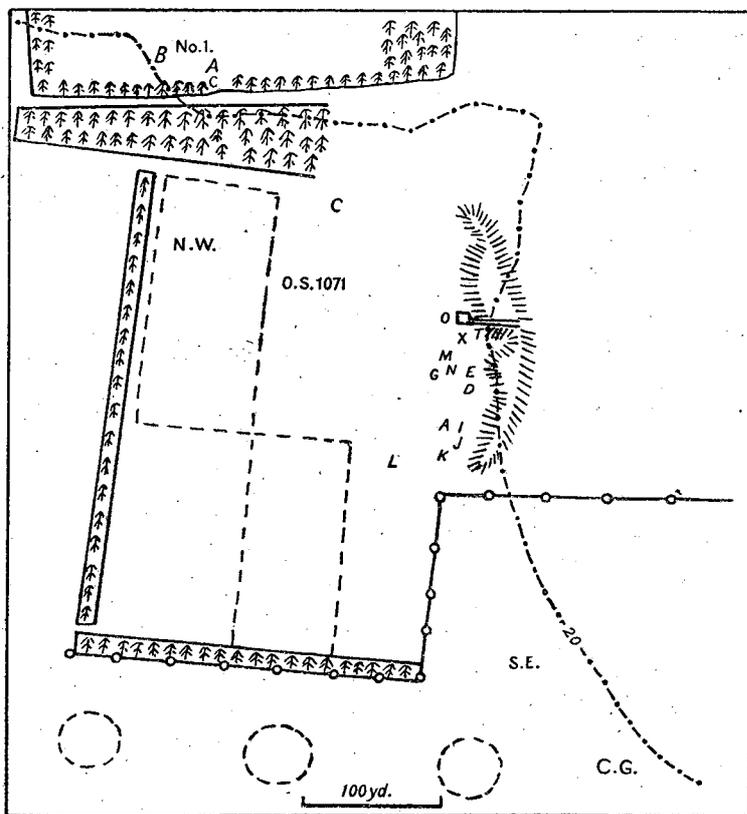


Fig. 2. Location of excavated sites: Broken lines, top-soil clearance or plough; Lines and circles, aerodrome boundary. Post-war condition.

(Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office)

mately half a mile.¹ Aerodrome clearances of top-soil in O.S. 1075 showed that the width of the area, within which numerous black patches were exposed, was just over a quarter of a mile. Ploughing in O.S. 1071 indicated that here the width of settlement was considerably less, while in O.S. 1062c the plough disclosed black patches only in the south-west corner of the enclosure.

The area within which Beaker sherds can be found lies in the middle of the Iron Age area in O.S. 1071 and extends approximately for a distance of 120 yards by 40 yards. Numerous worked flints have been found in this same area.

¹ O.S. 1075, 1071, 1062c.

The cross-hatching on the map (Fig. 1) indicates the position of the Beaker site. The location of excavated areas is shown in Fig. 2. Excavations were continued at intervals until the outbreak of war, when work ceased. Mr Rainbird Clarke kindly inserted a brief preliminary report in his 'Review of the Iron Age in Norfolk and Suffolk'¹ and gave illustrations of two pots and bone implements.

Since the war further evidence of occupation floors has been secured by means of a soil sampler.

DESCRIPTION OF SITES. SAHARA (O.S. 1071)

Site O will be described first, as it has proved the most productive and was explored after some experience had been gained on other sites. A sherd of Beaker having been found on the surface near a rabbit hole, an area measuring 15 ft. by 13 ft. was cleared

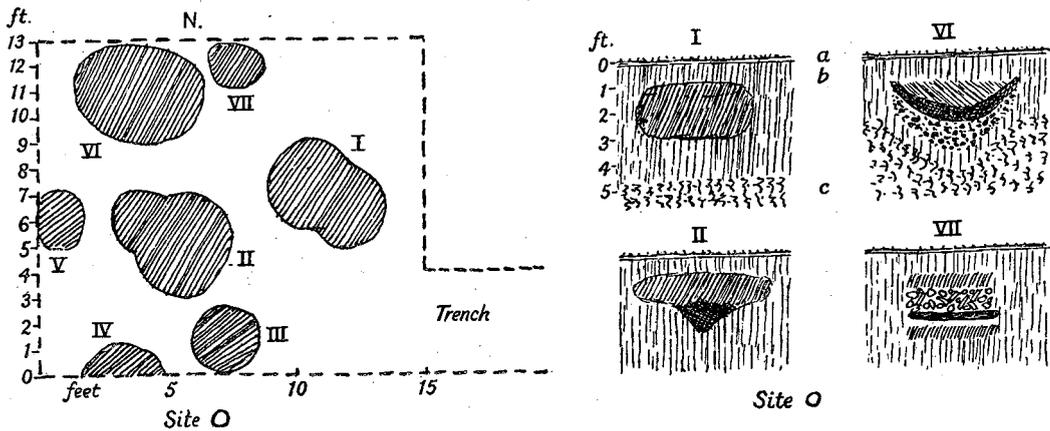


Fig. 3. Left. Horizontal view of black patches at depth of 10-12 in. from surface. Right. Vertical sections of four patches. a, top-soil; b, yellow sand; c, chalk.

of its top-soil to a depth of 9 to 10 in. This disclosed patches of discoloured sand. A further clearance of the clean yellow sand around the discoloured areas showed that there were seven distinct hearths, or occupation floors, or rubbish pits within the exposed site. Each patch was explored by vertical scraping and varied very much both in contour and content (Fig. 3).

Site OI. The coherence of the black sand in the patches was much greater than that of the yellow sand outside. Patch OI stood exposed to the weather for over a year before it was explored and remained practically unchanged (Plate VII). A rabbit tunnelling towards it turned aside and went round rather than go through it. Roughly oval in shape, it measured 4 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft., and 2 ft. 6 in. in depth.

The patch contained numerous sherds of black, grey and reddish hand-made pottery of Iron Age type. Some of the larger sherds, broken in antiquity, were lying in their right relation to each other and eventually formed the pot with 'frilled' rim

¹ Arch. Journ. (1940), vol. xcvi.

(reconstructed at the Cambridge Museum), shown in Fig. 11. A remarkable base with a large, firmly moulded rib close to the base was found at a depth of 18 in. At a depth of 26 in. from the surface a typical Iron Age weaving comb of antler with nine teeth was found, also a needle and a toggle with two perforations, both of bone (Plate VIII, *a* and *b*).

OTHER CONTENTS: Black surfaced rim sherd, reddish paste, with slashed ornament (Fig. 15 *c*). Lower two-thirds of plain black pot (Fig. 12 *a*). Base of dark red ware, surrounded by pot-boilers. Many patches of red clay, lumps of chalk, charcoal, numerous animal bones, sawn and scored, over forty pot-boilers. Three Beaker sherds, one in black patch, one in outlying discoloured sand, one below the patch in clean sand.

Site OII. A patch of dark sand, 5 ft. by 4 ft., appeared at a depth of 8 in. from the surface. This patch was only a few inches deep except in the centre, and here there was a cone-shaped pit of black sand crammed with animal bones, tightly packed together.

OTHER CONTENTS: Lumps of chalk, a little charcoal, pot-boilers, three scrapers, several Iron Age sherds. No Beaker sherd.

Site OIII. A smaller patch, 3 ft. by 2 ft. 6 in., also near the surface.

CONTENTS: Sherds of grey white pottery, scored with rough lines. Sherds of thick brownish pot, also scored. A black rim. Scraper. No Beaker.

Site OIV. This small patch showed discoloration of sand at a depth of 5 in. from the surface.

CONTENTS: A black rim sherd of Iron Age type. Small brownish sherds. Animal teeth and a jaw-bone. No Beaker.

Site OV. This patch was oblong in vertical section, with discoloration starting at a depth of 12 in. Below the centre an elbow of chalk reached to within 22 in. of the surface and the black sand extended to this chalk.

CONTENTS: A few decayed bones and animal teeth. Charcoal. Pot-boilers. Scrapers. No sherds of pottery.

Site OVI. In horizontal section this patch measured 5 ft. by 4 ft. In vertical section it showed a saucer-shaped bow of black sand, with dark grey sand inside the saucer and below several inches of mottled sand (Fig. 3, VI). It lay in a hollow in the chalk which showed a cone-shaped depression, varying from 2 ft. to 4 ft. 6 in. below the surface. Whether the hearth was bow-shaped because it happened to be started over a depression in the chalk, or whether a pit was cut beforehand, it is hard to say.

CONTENTS:

Grey layer. Thirty dark grey plain sherds of Iron Age type. Thick reddish scored sherd. Thin black rim, slightly burnished. Six rusticated and two small Beaker sherds.

Black layer. Pot-boilers. Lumps of chalk. Yellowish greasy masses. Flints crackled by fire. Animal bones, some cheesy in consistency.

Mottled layer. One Beaker sherd, highly decorated with burnished surface (Fig. 8 *c*).

Site OVII. In vertical section this hearth gave a very distinct stratification. The top layer was of dark sand, then a few inches of chalk rubble and pottery, below this a thin layer of black sand with charcoal, next about 3 in. of clean sand and finally 6 in. of dark grey sand.

CONTENTS:

Chalky layer. Fifty-one sherds of pot with 'pinched' rim (Fig. 13). Rim sherds of six pots, one decorated with stab marks. Two sherds with finger-nail marks. Dark grey sherd with double furrows. One Beaker rim.

Lower grey layer. Animal bones, chiefly large ribs.

It will be clear from the foregoing that Beaker sherds occurred only occasionally among the large number of Iron Age sherds found in the occupation floors. On the other hand, the sherds found in the clean sand above and around the patches were predominantly Bronze Age in type. Nearly fifty Beaker sherds, part of a decorated Beaker handle, a few grey sherds, an arrow-head, scrapers and numerous flint chips were collected from the soil surrounding the seven black patches in Site O.

Trench Site. The area within which Beaker sherds are found lies bounded on the east by a quarter-moon of low sand dunes, rising 5 to 6 ft. above the plain level. From the south-east corner of site O (Fig. 2) a 4 ft. trench was dug across the dune to the further side (in the direction of the fen) to see if it contained any structure. The dune consisted of blown sand only. A change in the character of the subsoil was noted. In O site dry yellow sand extends to the chalk without any wet stratum. A gravelly marl, an inch or two thick, covers the surface of the chalk. In the trench at the mid-point of the dune (26 yards east of Site O), the soil is mottled dark grey and wet at about the level of the general surface of the field. Seven yards east of O there was a shelf in the chalk dropping from 2 ft. to 4 ft. below the surface, and at 12 yards' distance the chalk was not reached at a depth of 6 ft. and the soil was changing in colour.

It may be inferred that the junction between fen and chalk is closer to the Beaker site than appears on the surface, being disguised by the dunes of blown sand.

The trench disclosed two patches of black sand or hearths which contained small sherds of grey-black pottery, charcoal, little masses of greasy clay, many animal bones, and one sherd of buff pottery. From the spoil of the trench small sherds of black ware, a few scraps of Beaker, a sherd of Castor ware, one straight-sided brown-grey rim and five scrapers were collected.

Site A. This was the first site to be excavated. Sherds of black and red flinty pottery had been brought to the surface by rabbits. An area, 2 yards square, was cleared of top-soil to a depth of 10 in. and disclosed a patch of dark sand, roughly circular, about 4 ft. across and reaching to a depth of 16 in.

CONTENTS: Rough hand-made flinty sherds, dark grey or reddish. Four different rim sherds. Black sherd with burnished surface. Nail and ring, heavily rusted. No Beaker.

Site B. Decorated Beaker sherd on the surface. On excavation no sign of black sand. At a depth of 9 in. there was a round green piece of metal (? coin), 1 in. in diameter, surrounded by greyish sand. A buff rim and a rusticated sherd also found.

Site C (outside Beaker area). A sherd of buff rusticated ware was found on rabbit spoil. No sign of underlying black sand. Other finds: buff wheel-made rim (Roman), black hand-made base sherd, a few scraps of black and red ware.

Site D. A Beaker sherd having been found on the surface, clearance of the top-soil to a depth of 10 in. showed a large kidney-shaped patch of discoloured sand, which measured 5 ft. 6 in. by 4 ft. In the northern half the black sand extended to a depth of 2 ft., and near the base, almost touching clean sand, there was a layer of chalk with pieces of burnt clay and burnt pot-boilers and flint. In the southern half the sand was mottled in colour and the discoloration did not go so deep. Just outside the dark area, at a depth of 6 in. from the surface, there were a bronze strip, 5 in. long, part of a bronze hook and a small piece of perforated bronze, evidently part of another strip. The sand was discoloured round the metal. In the sand above the hearth a buff rim decorated with arrows was found. In the black sand of the hearth there was another rim sherd with similar contour and decoration, but completely black.

Puzzling finds in the southern half of the patch were a portion of red tile and a light grey base, both apparently of Roman origin and two small sherds of Anglo-Saxon ware (Fig. 16*d*). The curious shape and varying depth of the patch suggest that the two halves may have been formed at different periods.

OTHER CONTENTS: Little scraps of bronze. Rusted iron nail. Piece of sawn antler. Lumps of red clay or daub. Greasy masses. Lumps of charcoal. Sherds of plain black and grey ware. Two rusticated sherds. Many broken animal bones and teeth. Two scrapers.

Site E. On the surface a small sherd of buff ware, with a crossed pattern of vertical and horizontal lines. Underneath a patch of darkish sand, but nothing definite. Other finds: sherds of rough flinty pottery, a dark grey sherd with grooves and indentations, a piece of cut bone, transversely sawn.

Site F (outside Beaker area). A sherd of dark grey ware with impressed rosette lay on rabbit spoil (Fig. 16*b*). No black sand found. A small brown-grey sherd found in the course of excavation had furrows and circles of impressed dots. Both sherds Anglo-Saxon.

Site G. A sherd of thick heavily rusticated ware lay on the surface close to some rabbit spoil (Fig. 9*b*). In the spoil there were a thick red sherd with all-over fingertip decoration (Fig. 9*a*) and a thin red sherd with finger-nail decoration. The rabbit run, several yards long, was explored to its end. It passed through a patch of black sand, 3 ft. across and a few inches deep. This contained six sherds of black wheel-made ware, probably Roman, which fitted together, and a little charcoal.

Site H (outside Beaker area). On the surface a sherd of Anglo-Saxon ware, decorated with circles (Fig. 16*e*). On exploration, no sign of black sand or other ware.

Site I (close to site Ƴ). Beaker sherd on the surface. On exploration: small sherds of Beaker, two pieces of rusticated and a plain buff rim. No black sand.

Site Ƴ. On the surface, within a yard of each other, there lay a well-made scraper, a sherd of decorated Beaker and a blue glass bead with zigzag white inlay. On removing

the top-soil nine Beaker sherds were found. At a depth of 10 to 12 in. there was a dark patch (6 ft. by 5 ft.) which contained burnt chalk, charcoal and greasy masses. There were many Beaker sherds, mainly outside the dark area and in the south-east corner of the clearance. The patch contained, on the north, a heap of bones, on the south a chalky mass which covered the base of a roughly made badly fired Iron Age pot, lying at a depth of 16 in. from the surface. After removal of the chalky mass and base, there were underneath 6 to 7 in. of black sand with charcoal, clayey masses and chalk lumps. In the clean sand just below the patch there was a rusticated sherd. Fifty Beaker, eighteen rusticated and a few plain black sherds, a tanged arrow-head and scrapers were recovered from this site.

Site K. Two small Beaker sherds on the surface. Discoloration of sand at a depth of 6 to 7 in. On clearance there were two small patches of blackish sand, each about 2 ft. across and the centres 5 ft. apart. The dark sand was not deep, 5 to 6 in. thick. The patches contained a little charcoal, but no bones or chalk or greasy masses or Iron Age sherds. Twenty Beaker sherds, which practically all belonged to two pots (Figs. 4 and 5), and twelve rusticated sherds were found, partly in the dark sand but mainly outside in clean sand.

Site L. This site lay a few yards outside the area in which Beaker sherds were commonly found. Sherds of rough grey ware lay on rabbit spoil. In the spread of blackish sand underneath were found about two dozen sherds, including two roughly made rim portions, of plain dark grey or reddish ware. No Beaker.

Site M. Beaker sherd on surface. Underneath thin spread of darkish sand, 4 ft. across from west to east. No bones, chalk or cooking-stones. Four sherds of Beaker, one thick rusticated sherd and a grey rim.

Site N. Beaker sherd on the surface. The surrounding area was cleared and twenty-five Beaker sherds were found in the top 10 in. of soil. There was some darkish sand, but no definite hearth near the sherds. At the northern end of the cleared area there was a patch of dark sand containing some charcoal, but no bones or pottery.

Site X. Recently a small area, 7 ft. by 8 ft., 5 yards south of Site O, where there was no surface indication, was cleared of its top-soil. At a depth of 10 to 12 in. there was a stretch of blackish sand, extending diagonally across the site. Vertical scraping showed two cone-shaped patches of black sand, the points of the cones resting on the underlying chalk at a depth of 4 ft. 6 in. from the surface. The lower parts of the patches were 3 ft. apart and were separate except at the top, where the discolorations overlapped to form a continuous layer of dark sand. The patches (partly excavated) contained a few Iron Age sherds, a Beaker sherd, decayed bones and pot-boilers.

Site N.W. Ploughing exposed black soil in the north-west corner of Sahara¹ in an area where sherds of any kind were found infrequently. Below was a patch of black sand, 3 ft. across, which contained charcoal and thirty sherds of roughly made Iron

¹ O.S. 1071.

Age grey or reddish pottery, including six different rim sherds, one of which had a slashed decoration. One scraper.

Site S.E. A military right-angle trench on the edge of the wood which bounds Sahara on the south showed black sand in the walls and spoil. In the spoil there were animal bones and a sherd of dark grey flinty pottery with 'pinched out' base.

A wood intervenes between the north side of Sahara and No. 1, so it is not possible to say if signs of settlement are continuous. Ploughing of No. 1 to a depth of 9 in. brought up a mixed collection of objects and some patches of black soil. Two of these patches were explored.

NO. 1 ENCLOSURE¹

Site No. 1 A. A large patch of black sand reached down to a depth of 22 in. from the surface. It contained animal bones, charcoal and sherds of rough grey and reddish pottery, including five different rim sherds. No Beaker. Two scrapers.

Site No. 1 B. This patch was smaller and contained rough drab-coloured and grey sherds, a scraper and a lump of slag.

Site No. 1 C. The walls of a small chalk pit, close to No. 1 A, showed that here the underlying chalk came within 6 in. of the surface, and a small black patch was exposed lying in a hollow of the chalk. This hollow, whether natural or artificial, was cone-shaped, extended 18 in. below the general level of the chalk and was 22 in. across at the top. The lower 10 in. of the cone held gravel and the upper 8 in. were filled with blackish sand containing charcoal, a few small sherds of dark grey pottery and portions of bone knives. This site is interesting, as it suggests a deliberately dug pit, but the natural surface of the chalk is so irregular that it is difficult to be certain of this.

Objects collected from surface. Scrapers, many flint flakes and hammerstones. Five Beaker sherds with stab pattern. Small scraps of rusticated ware. Rims and bases of Iron Age pottery. Roman sherds, portion of tile, part of amphora handle. Two decorated Anglo-Saxon sherds. Two portions of wide jug handles with perforated and stab decorations. Sherds of green glazed medieval ware and of bellarmine. Spindle whorl of baked clay. Larger bone spindle whorl with circular lines.

AERODROME SITE

O.S. 1075 (to the south of Sahara and separated from it by a belt of trees). After Mr Gordon had completed his excavations in O.S. 1075, clearances for aerodrome construction disclosed that signs of Iron Age occupation were extensive. Three circles (40 yards in diameter) to the west of Mr Gordon's site (see Fig. 1) were cleared of top-soil to make concrete dispersal sites. Two of these showed numerous patches of black sand, while the third, the most westerly, showed no trace of discoloration. To the east of Mr Gordon's site another stripping showed clean soil, so the extent of the occupation site can be measured here with considerable accuracy.

From one of the dispersal sites a half pot of rough black ware with an almost rounded base (Fig. 12*b*) was removed from a black patch. There was no time for further exploration, as the bared surfaces were quickly covered with concrete.

¹ O.S. 1062c.

Sherds of Iron Age pottery were collected from the surface and from black patches in a denuded area between Mr Gordon's excavation and the roadway leading to Brandon from Lakenheath.

All the easterly half of O.S. 1075, including part of the ancient trackway with its double banks and the sand dunes with the microlithic floor, has been changed beyond recognition by levelling operations for the aerodrome. Present conditions are shown in the map (Fig. 2).

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS FOUND

POTTERY

EARLY BRONZE AGE

Over 400 sherds of Beaker pottery have been found, not counting scraps and weather-worns. Of these, three-quarters are decorated with some variant of notched or incised linear ornament, the remaining quarter have finger-nail, finger-tip, or stab ornament.

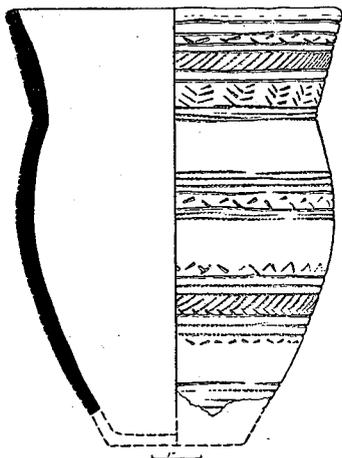


Fig. 4. Quarter natural size.

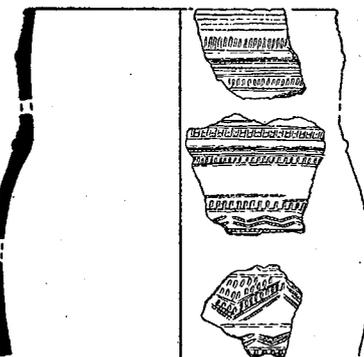


Fig. 5. Quarter natural size.

In a few sherds the two types are combined. The 'maggoty' type of decoration is common. At least twenty-five different Beakers are represented by their rim sherds.

The profile of one of the best reconstructions is seen in Fig. 4. Seven large sherds were found (Site K) lying close together. The colour of the beaker is reddish and the walls (8 mm.) are thicker than those of the other pots. The paste is coarse, with numerous flint chips. The decoration, which is rather carelessly done, consists of bands of notched and incised lines, with diagonal short runs of notches between the lines alternating with plain bands. In the pot shown in Fig. 5 (eight sherds) ribs are a prominent feature and these are also seen in Figs. 8*c* and 10*a*. In Fig. 6 there are several examples of the 'maggoty' type of decoration and one sherd (Fig. 6*d*) shows a mixture of notched and finger-tip ornament. The sherd, shown in Fig. 6*a*, is unusual in having decoration on the inner surface of the rim. Rows of shallow oblong

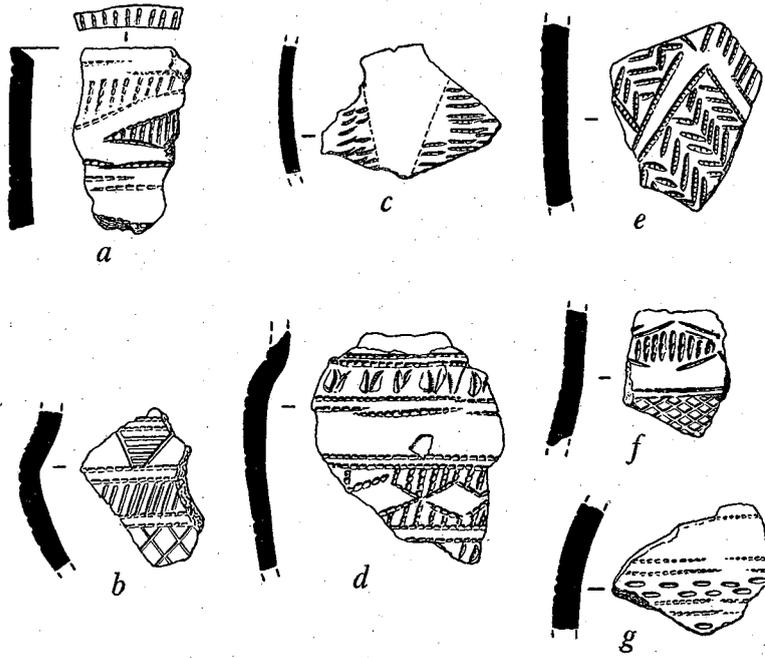


Fig. 6. Half natural size.

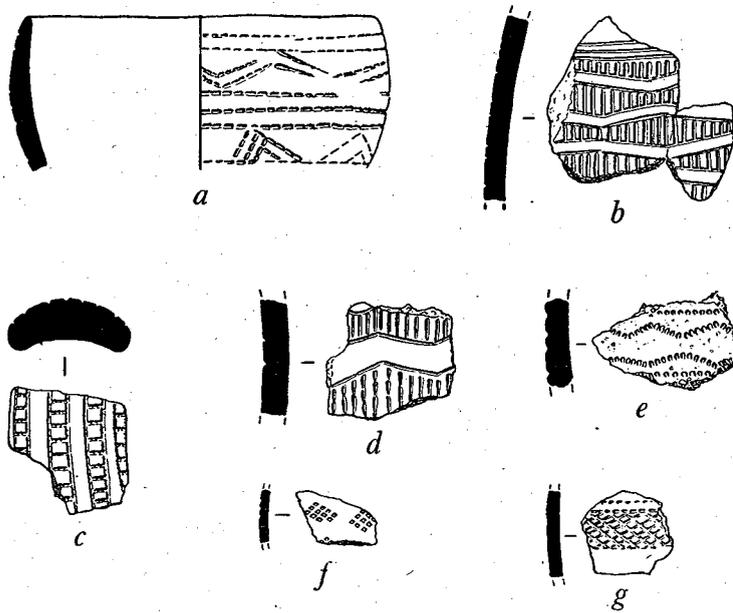


Fig. 7. Half natural size.

depressions, as in Fig. 6g, are uncommon in Abercromby's *Study of the Bronze Age Pottery*; one example is shown in vol. I, Plate VII, no. 42, from Somerset. They are more common in Scotch Beakers, e.g. vol. I, Plate XVI, no. 198 from Argyll, and Plate XVIII, no. 238 from Aberdeen.

In Fig. 7, sherd *b* is of interest, as its decoration is similar to that on the upper half of an intact beaker excavated by Canon Greenwell from a barrow at Undley, Lakenheath (Undley is an outlying hamlet on the fen-level). This beaker, now in the British Museum, is illustrated in Abercromby's *Bronze Age Pottery*, vol. I, Plate VIII, no. 61, and also in the *Victoria County History of Suffolk*, p. 266. Sherd *g* of Fig. 7 has a simple criss-cross pattern similar to that of the lower half of the British Museum

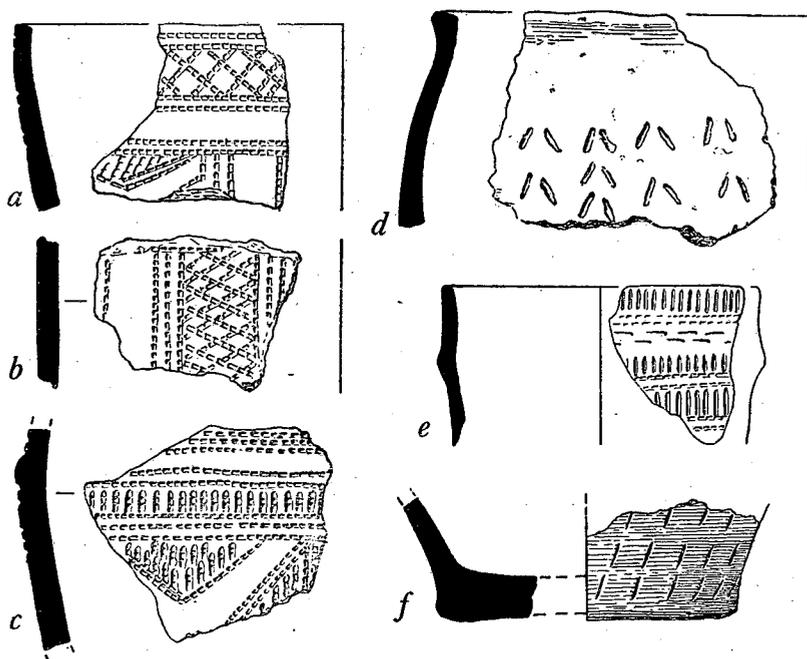


Fig. 8. Half natural size.

pot, though obviously it belongs to a smaller, thinner vessel and is different in colour and paste from sherd *b*. No closer match to patterns in Abercromby's illustrations has been found than that on sherd *b*. This suggests that the potter working on the heathland site provided the beaker for the interment at Undley, and that she was not averse from repeating a scheme of decoration. Sherd *c* in the same figure shows the only example of beaker-handle found. I have not found any close parallel for the irregular type of decoration shown in Fig. 7e and Fig. 9j.

The sherd shown in Fig. 8c has a hard paste and a highly burnished surface. Sherd *d* of Fig. 8 is black in colour. It was found inside a black patch of sand (Site D), and outside in clean sand there was a buff-coloured sherd with similar contour and decoration. On the whole it seems more probable that both the sherds belong to the Beaker period.

Fig. 9 shows several types of 'rusticated ware'. A sherd of thick hard paste, *b*, brownish in colour, has deep indentations in vertical and horizontal lines. It resembles closely the 'thumb-nail' ware found by Mr C. S. Leaf on a Beaker habitation site in Mildenhall Fen.¹ He suggested that this type of sherd, with others bearing

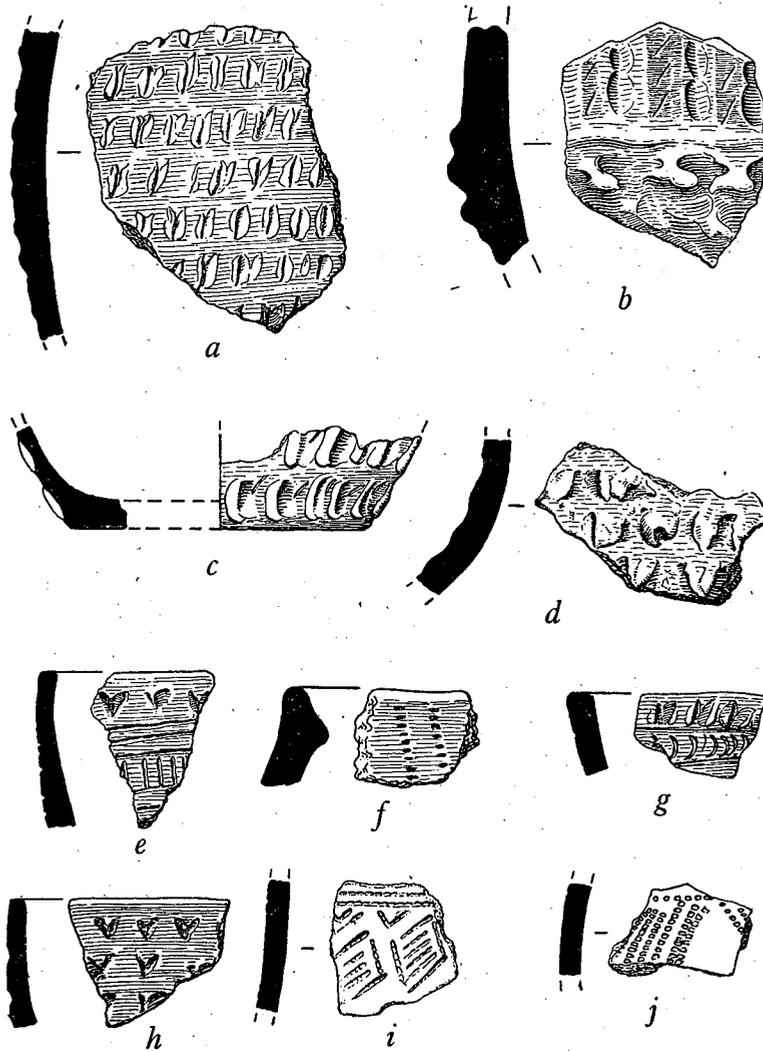


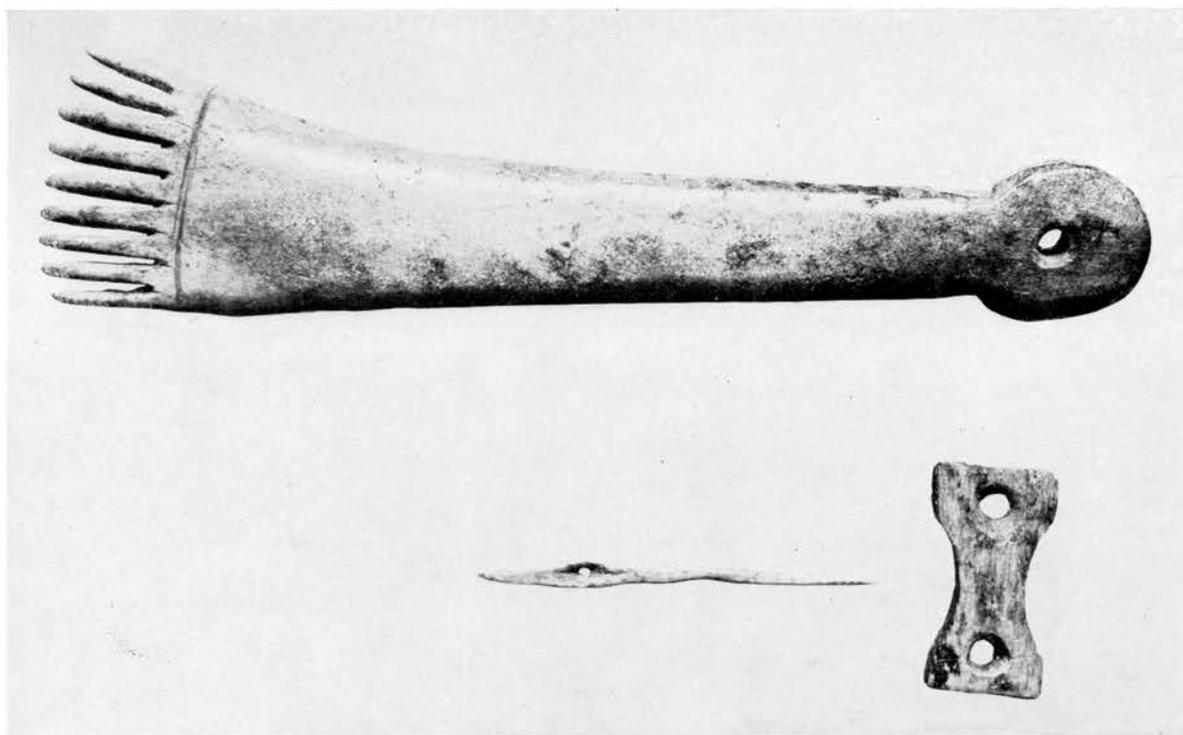
Fig. 9. Half natural size.

finger-tip (Fig. 9*a*) and nail (Fig. 8*f*) impressions, is akin to the 'little understood Dutch megalithic pottery'. A recent visit to the Rijksmuseum at Leiden, Holland, where there are numerous exhibits of megalithic ware, has convinced me that the heavily rusticated sherds found at Chippenham and Lakenheath do not belong to that culture (*Klokbeker*). Sherds very similar to that shown in Fig. 9*b* are also exhibited. They were found in association with Beaker pottery, but not with megalithic ware.

¹ *C.A.S. Proc.* vol. xxxv, 1933-34, p. 125.



a. Ribbed base from Site O I



b. Weaving tools from Site O I



Site O. Patch 1 exposed by clearance of top-soil

Fig. 9g shows a band of crescents below a band of finger-tip markings. Decoration with bands of crescents has been described by Mr Leaf in his report on the Bronze Age barrows at Chippenham, and he remarks on the rarity of this detail.¹ In the same report he notes the rarity of a combination of bands of finger-tip markings and notched lines, such as is shown here in Fig. 6d. In addition to his own finds, he was able to trace only three other examples of this combined type of decoration.

Another uncommon sherd is shown in Fig. 9f. It is a rim fragment of a thick-walled pot, with an inward sloping curve and decorated with vertical rows of stabs. Its thickness, shape and decoration suggest a food vessel rather than a beaker.

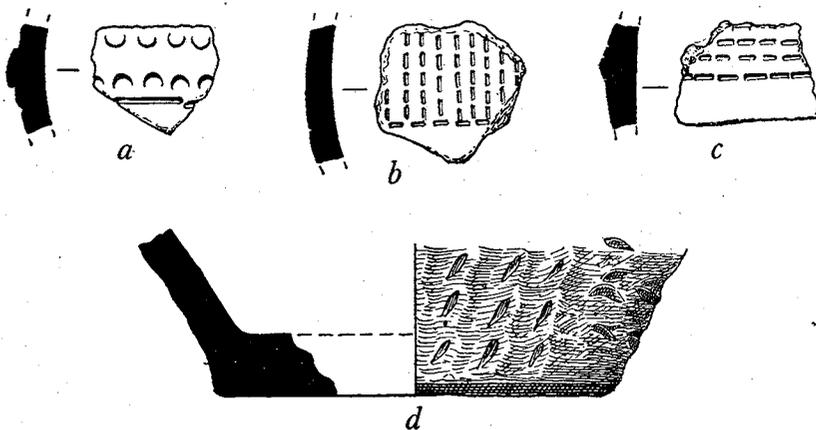


Fig. 10. Two-fifths natural size.

Fig. 10 illustrates three of the five Beaker sherds found on the surface of No. 1 Enclosure, some 300 yards distant from the main site. Both in texture and decoration they differ from the sherds on that site. The outer surface of the ware has a dull finish; the paste is soft and chalky and there is little admixture of flint particles. Fig. 10a shows the only sherd with circular ornament: the circles are rounded depressions, and not concentric lines as in Mr Leaf's example from Chippenham.² Circular ornament is rare in Abercromby's illustrations of beakers, though it is seen on food vessels.³ Possibly this sherd is part of a food vessel. The other sherds from No. 1 Enclosure show stabs arranged in a linear pattern.

Recently a portion of a large base (4 in. diameter) has been found in the wall of Site G (Fig. 10d). With its vertical ribs and thumb-nail markings it resembles a beaker found at Great Barton, near Bury, and figured in Fox's *Archaeology of the Cambridge Area*.⁴ Fox remarks that this pot is probably unique.

¹ *C.A.S. Proc.* (1940), vol. xxxix, p. 49.

³ E.g. vol. 1, plate XLVI, nos. 273 and 274.

² *Ibid.* p. 59.

⁴ P. 26.

EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY

Fig. 11 shows the pot (reconstructed) with 'frilled' rim found in Hearth 1, Site O. This pot and the ribbed base (Plate VIII *a*) have been illustrated in Rainbird Clarke's *Review of the Iron Age in Norfolk and Suffolk*. In this *Review* he remarks that the frilled rim is in the Iron Age A1 tradition, while the rounded shoulder shows that the A2 phase has arrived. The pot is 10 in. high, and has a smeary surface, reddish brown in colour; the paste is coarse and hard, containing small flinty particles. The unusual rib near the base, shown in Plate VIII *a*, is clearly intentional and is not due to collapse in firing, as it is firmly moulded and there is no sign of irregularity on the inner surface. The outer surface is smooth, and in colour an even greyish brown. Fig. 12 *a* shows the lower two-thirds of a small blackish pot with smooth surface found in the same hearth.

The reconstruction of a very large pot (rim diameter 12 in.) found in a neighbouring hearth (Hearth VII, Site O) is shown in Fig. 13. The outer surface varies in colour from dark grey to light red, and the surface inside is granular and reddish. The paste is dark and flaky in fracture. The rim is pinched, evidently between finger and thumb, to form a median ridge along the top. These sherds are stained by the chalk in which they were embedded. The shoulder is rounded.

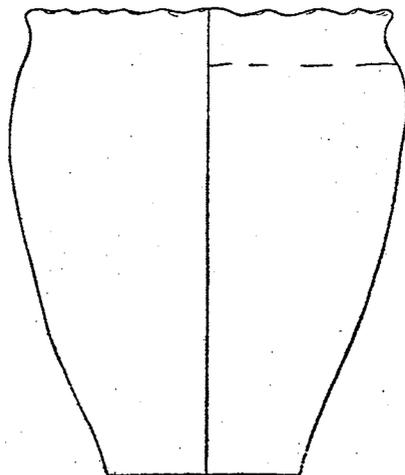


Fig. 11. Quarter natural size.

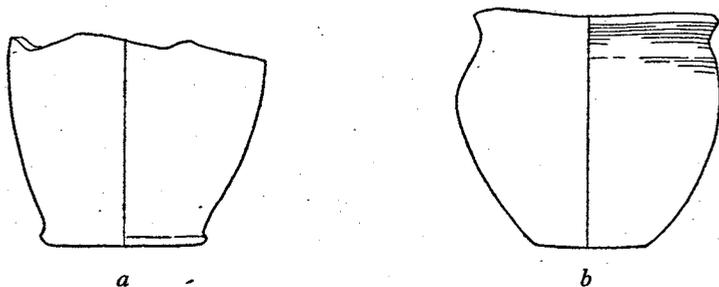


Fig. 12. Quarter natural size.

The half of a blackish pot (Fig. 12 *b*), rescued from the aerodrome dispersal site, is thick-walled. The surface is smeared, and there is little indication either of shoulder curve or base ridge.

Rim sherds of at least seventy-two pots have been found. Of these, fifteen have some form of primitive adornment; diagonal slashing, pinching, or stabs. Sherds of one pot with shoulder decoration have been found (Fig. 15 *g*). Shoulders have been non-angular. Figs. 14 and 15 show different types of rim and decoration. Other sherds,

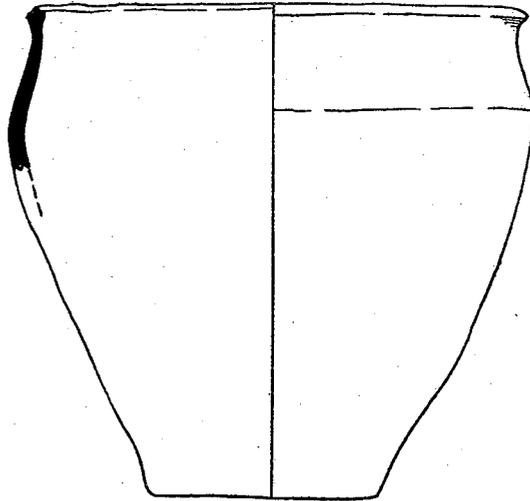


Fig. 13. Quarter natural size.

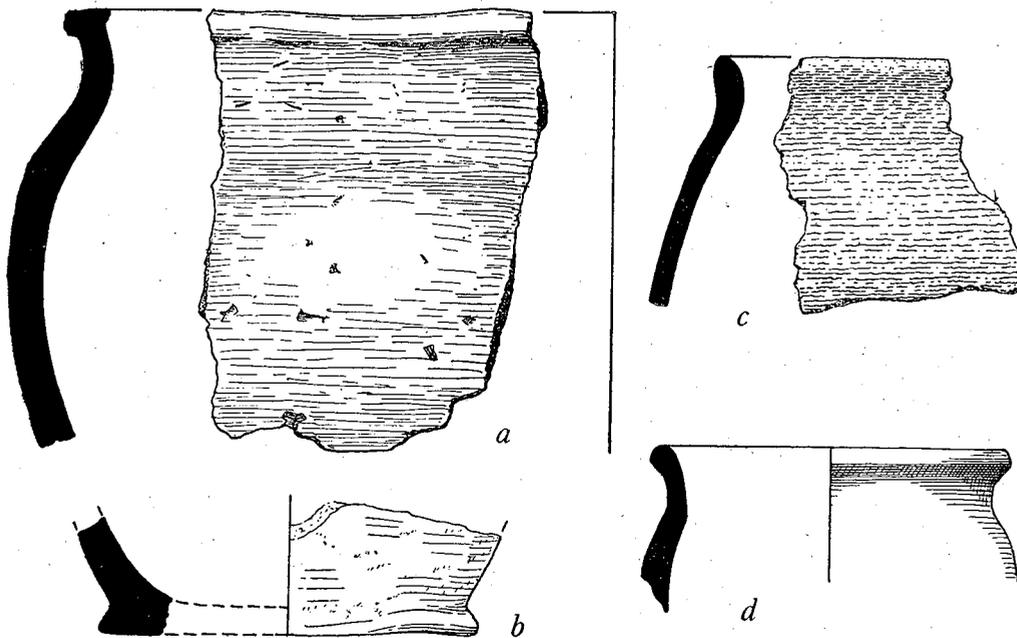


Fig. 14. One-third natural size.

not illustrated, have rather artless decoration consisting of rough scorings with no definite pattern.

Although none of the sherds have elaborate designs, they resemble the simpler forms of decoration found at All Canning's Cross.¹ Stabs, diagonal slashings and

¹ M. E. Cunnington, 1923.

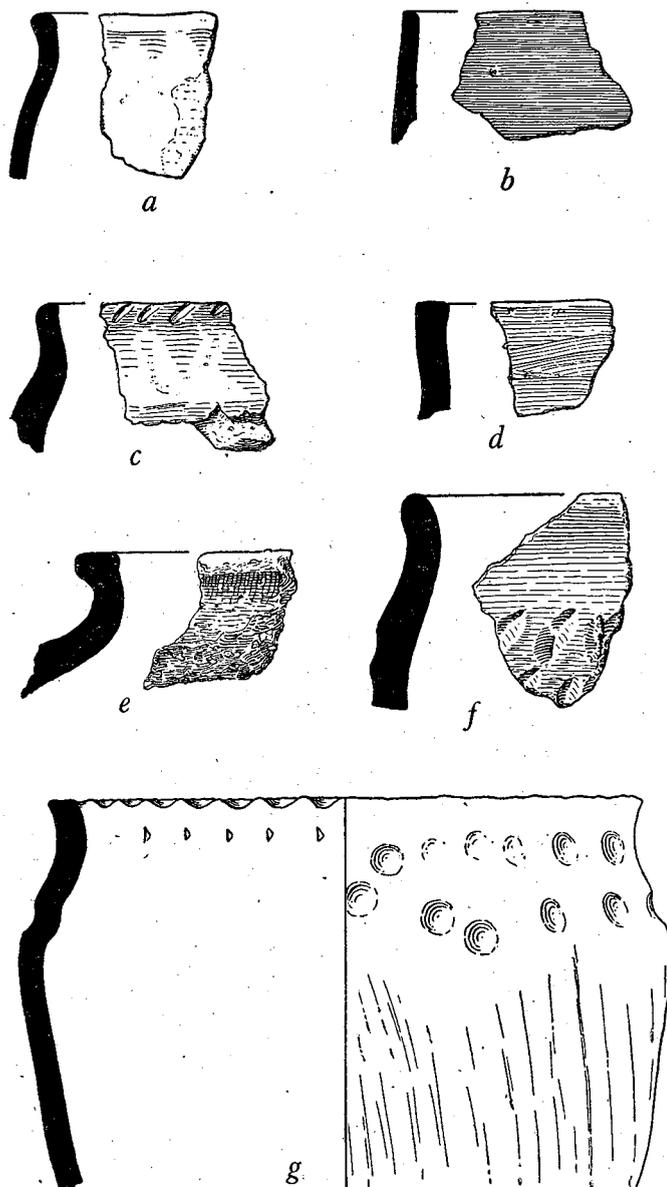


Fig. 15. Half natural size.

finger-tip impressions on rims are found on both sites. Finger-tip impressions occur very frequently at All Canning's Cross, but appear to be unknown at Glastonbury.

Fig. 14 *a* shows a sherd of a very large pot, the diameter of the flat topped rim being 13 in. It is light drab in colour, with a surface which is almost 'corky'.

Most of the bases are flat, two are markedly pinched out at the angle, another is nearly round. I have not found any parallel for the unusual ribbed base shown in Plate VIII *a*.

Other types of pottery

There is a small scatter of Roman sherds throughout the area examined. In addition, six small sherds of Anglo-Saxon ware, ornamented with circles, lines and rosettes, have been found (Fig. 16).

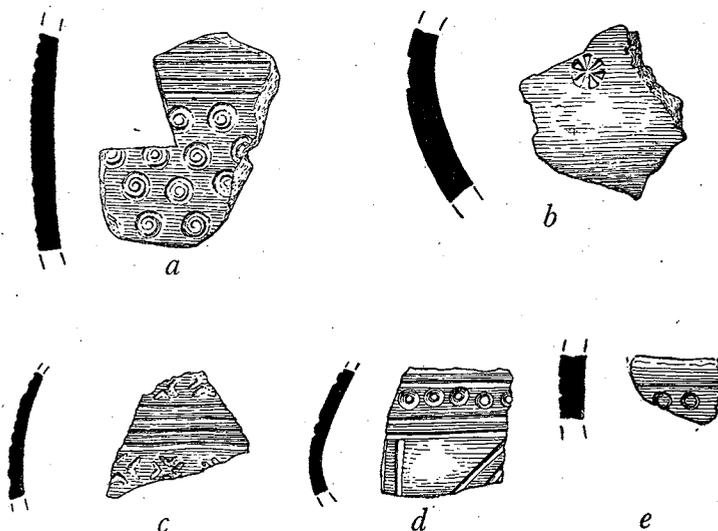


Fig. 16. Half natural size.

OBJECTS OF BONE AND ANTLER

The implements shown in Plate VIII *b* were all found in the same black patch (Hearth 1, Site O). The comb is made from antler, is $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, has a transverse incised line near the teeth and a perforation through the circular butt. On the underside cancellous tissue is exposed. The surface is polished. There are small ridges on the undersurfaces of the smaller teeth, which may be meant to suggest the joints of the fingers.¹ The shape of the butt closely resembles that of one of the combs found at All Canning's Cross.² Combs of this type are rare in this district. R. R. Clarke records the finding of only three others in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

The bone needle also resembles the numerous examples found at All Canning's Cross, but there is no close parallel in the illustrations of that *Report* to the toggle, made from a rib, with double countersunk perforations.

Large numbers of bone-rib knives were found at All Canning's Cross,³ though rare elsewhere. Fig. 17*a* shows a portion of a knife with part of the handle (? antler), found in a small pit in the chalk. Other broken portions of knife blades have been found. A bone spindle whorl, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter, with incised circular decoration was found on the surface of No. 1 Enclosure (Fig. 17*i*).

¹ Noticed at All Canning's Cross (p. 95) and Glastonbury, no. 1, p. 266.

³ P. 80.

² P. 72.

OBJECTS OF STONE

Two arrow-heads, both of the tanged and barbed variety, have been found on the Beaker site (Fig. 17*e* and *f*). Scrapers number 129, of which just under half come into the 2-3 cm. class, measuring from base to cutting edge. The largest scraper measures over 6 cm. and five may be described as 'thumb' scrapers, measuring under 2 cm. Numerous fabricators, flakes and cores have been found mainly on the Beaker site. Smooth red pebbles; 'pot-boilers', some fractured by fire, occur in abundance in the black patches, associated with Iron Age pottery.

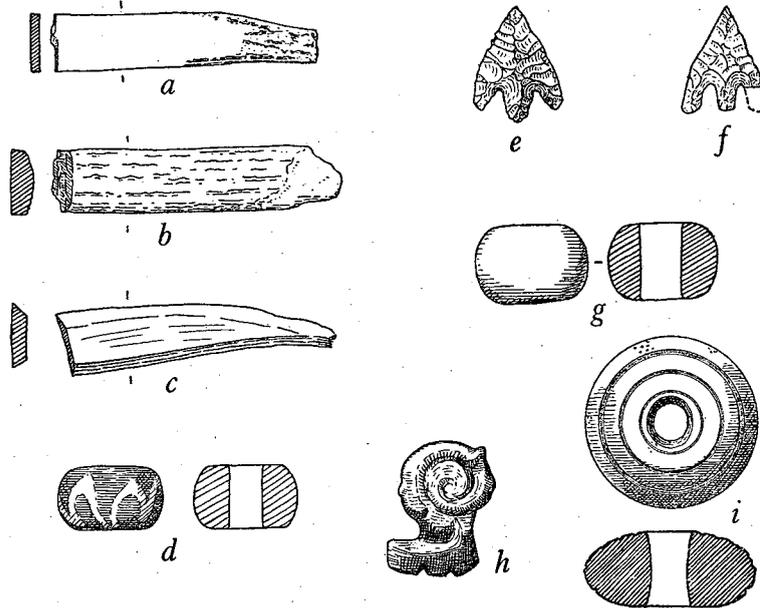


Fig. 17. All half size, except (*d*) and (*h*), natural size.

Portions of quern stones are scattered over a wide area, including the Roman site in O.S. 1062 and 1021. One portion, analysed by Professor Gordon, was derived from Niederdiemig lava.

Flint hammer-stones, much abraded, have been collected from the surface of No. 1 Enclosure. Their association with numerous flint chips and flakes, scrapers and a few primitive Beaker sherds, well outside the main Beaker site, suggests that a Bronze Age flint-knapper may have had an outlying working floor on No. 1.

Other small objects included a spindle whorl of baked clay (Fig. 17*g*) 30 mm. in diameter, a piece of baked clay with finger marks, a portion of a metal ornament (Fig. 17*h*), small strips of bronze, one with rivet-hole, and a bead. The bead (Fig. 17*d*) is of blue glass with white zigzag ornament. It resembles almost exactly the beads of a necklace excavated by Canon Greenwell from an Iron Age barrow in Yorkshire and exhibited in the British Museum.

Lumps of chalk

Lumps of chalk have been found frequently in the hearths. In at least two cases (Sites O, Hearth VII and Site J) the chalk covered or was packed round pottery in a way which suggested some form of primitive kiln. Chalk lumps in hearths have been described by Mr C. S. Leaf at Chippenham and Dr Grahame Clark at Plantation Farm, Burnt, Fen.¹

DISCUSSION

There is little doubt that physical conditions, abundant water supply and dry open country on the very edge of the fen, have caused the area described to be chosen repeatedly in different millennia as a habitation site. The presence of sherds showing the influence of neolithic design (maggots and bird-bone markings), of 'thumb-nail' pottery, of the more usual rouletted Beaker ware and the abundance of flint-scrapers, all indicate an occupation very early in the Bronze Age, probably in the Transitional Period.

The much larger area occupied by the Iron Age folk shows two distinct periods. In the Sahara portion of the site, described in this paper, the pottery can be assigned to the third century B.C., at the junction of A 1 and A 2. In Mr Gordon's site, described in the following paper, the pottery has been assigned to the end of the first century B.C. on the ground of design and the presence of pedestal pots, of which no trace has been found in my excavation.

No post-holes have been discovered to indicate the layout of huts, but the way occupation floors are jumbled together, some even overlapping, suggests that the site must have been occupied by Iron Age folk on more than one occasion.

I am greatly indebted to Mrs J. H. Hutton and Mr T. Lethbridge for their help and advice throughout the course of this investigation; also to Mrs Albinia Gell for her skilful drawings.

¹ *Antiq. Journ.* (April 1933), p. 268.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

VOLUME XLII
JANUARY 1948 TO DECEMBER 1948

21s. net.

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