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Chap 5 cont
(this is the 5th file in sequence making up Chap 5)

DISCUSSION

(this first section is a much shortened version in our own words of Finds Reports from TWA to offer an alternative to publishing TWA's Rpt. for publication as distinct from their Archive Rpt.. Most of the queries in this text have been answered by now by TWA, I guess, but I have not had time to check and insert new info. in this text yet. pjf)

The Small Finds: a commentary

Copper alloy objects

Small numbers of copper alloy objects are typical of Wessex EIA settlements e.g. All Cannings Cross and Gussage All Saints (Cunnington and Goddard 1934; Wainwright 1979, 110), so the six items recovered from ODXI are both a minor pointer to date and a techno-cultural indicator. The pattern of scarcity suggests that such material was neither common within comparable communities nor readily parted with by their members

A fragment of LBA socketed axe (SF 49) may represent part of a ploughed-out hoard; though not helpfully stratified, it was found in an area with other early (LBA/very early EIA) material. The Type D penannular brooch (Fowler 1960), formed from wire not cast, is paralleled by two found at All Cannings Cross and, though conventionally dated in its cast form from C3 BC, is here likely to be significantly earlier.

Iron objects

The assemblage is also modest for an excavation almost entirely concerned, in areal terms, with occupation areas, especially if the four buildings and their immediate environs were the whole or the core of the living zone. There must, therefore, be a doubt about the prosperity of the site or at least its ability to acquire iron. Or even, despite appearances, was domestic occupation its primary purpose? - there must be a suspicion that `ritual` was a major if not a sole activity, so socio-economic inferences of that sort may not be appropriate.

That said, the material forms a typical collection for an EIA site in Wessex, comparable in range and quantity with the contemporary Gussage All Saints. There is a relative absence of well stratified diagnostic objects, but a few points can be noted. Stratified objects derive almost entirely from the structural complex in cutting East 2 and 3. Knives were recovered from PIT 19 and PIT 20 and a brooch was found in GULLY 8. This area also produced the greatest concentration of worked bone objects. The awls, knives and chisel, each with a fairly specific functional significance, suggest normal craft activity, but the domestic or other nature of their context is uncertain.

The ard-tip fragment (Rees 1979, Type 1a) is of particular interest given that the area in which it was lost was converted to arable use after the abandonment of the settlement. Similar shares found at Danebury have been dated to 400-300 BC, precisely the MIA period in which interpretation of this site envisages no arable or occupation activity (see below, Phase 4). Here it is likely to belong to either a time some two centuries earlier (Phase 3c) or to the C1 BC/AD (Phase 5 *below*). Its broken state suggests use and discard. The temptation to see it as having made, and indeed to have broken while making, some of the ard-marks etched into the Chalk around its find-spot cannot be resisted; nor is there any good reason why it should be. The close parallel, interpretatively though a millennium earlier, is the stone ard-tip found actually in an ard-mark at Gwithian, Cornwall (Megaw 1999, 000; discussed in Fowler 1983, 152).

Two brooches recovered (Hull's Type 1Cb) have been dated on stylistic grounds to the C3 BC. This type is specifically British and more common in iron than bronze. Similar objects to the second brooch were found at Cold Kitchen Hill and Gussage All Saints'; at the latter the calibrated C14 date range for the relevant phase is 730-420 BC, i.e. significantly earlier than Hull's date range but, particularly in the earlier part of that range, attractively appropriate to OD XI.

(Queries: Pit 5: Latest feature ? has it any parallels with Gully 8 bldg.? are they contemporary?)

GF504/SF70 two fibula brooches, same type as East 2, Gully 8, Layer 1 (**GF362/SF16**). Layer 1 of Gully 8 is top fill, but **SF70** is layer 5 of Gully 1!! Does this indicate South 1 & East 2 Gully 8 building (the latest of the three) are contemporary, C3rd BC?

Why is **SF16** only 2" from surface, whilst **SF70** is 7" from chalk?

What has been going on on the surface; nothing for bldg Gully 8, or bank 'protecting' it, but a lot over South 1?

A cleat, 4 hobnails, and 17 nails were recovered from topsoil, layer 1 or 2, which also produced Romano-British pottery (see specialist report). Four hobnails (GF347) were recovered from the top fill (layer 1) of PIT 20 (East 2), and a nail (GF344) from the topsoil over PIT 7 (cutting East). Neither context is significant other than to demonstrate post-pit activity, but the material is crucial in demonstrating so clearly the presence of RB activity in a stratigraphical context. The nature of this material is also suggestive, firstly in reinforcing interpretation of all the RB material on OD X/XI as the by-product of manuring and, secondly, in allowing a fleeting thought that some of these items might actually have dropped off the footwear worn by workers - a ploughman? - in the field. Though 'domestic', neither this iron debris nor any of the RB material was found on OD XI in a domestic context: it had all been brought from elsewhere, a settlement or settlements presumably where a marked degree of 'Romanisation', at least in everyday working kit, can be inferred. This may have been so by c 100 AD.

Worked and utilised stone

Stone recovered from ODXI includes sarsen, limestone, and sandstone; some of it is worked. 17 flint pebbles also recovered have been interpreted as possible sling stones. None of the objects are closely datable though broad parallels can be found within late prehistoric sites in Wessex. The querns, whetstones and spindle whorl all have obvious functional significance. Hammerstones are usually interpreted as being used in flint -knapping, but the occurrence of the hammerstone in Pit 5 (South1) would suggest an alternative use, perhaps sarsen working, as has been suggested for similar objects from the Marlborough Downs (by whom? where?). Some level of sarsen working is indicated by the two waste flakes. No patterning was observed in the distribution of the stone objects, apart from the fact that the spindle whorl was recovered from Hearth 2 within the structural complex of cutting East 2/3 where a cluster of bone implements possibly connected with textile working were also found.

The glass bead

One glass bead was recovered from the top of PIT21A (East 3). It falls within Guido's Class 11 IA beads, described as 'Meare variants'. The only example of the trellis design, it is dated C2-1 BC, and is one of the key objects in postulating a Phase 5 beginning before rather than after the mid-C1 AD.

The pottery

The pottery assemblage consists of 4279 sherds, most of them small and heavily abraded. Less than 6% by number shows any diagnostic traits; only c 4% of sherds show any evidence of form. It is therefore only possible to assign broad date ranges for much of the material.

Fabric

A total of 34 fabric types were identified, and grouped into 8 dominant inclusion types. In general, the fabrics represent standard EIA types which have been recovered from other EIA sites in Wiltshire; but their wide range, echoed within the contemporary assemblage from Potterne, indicates that a number of different local and non-local resources were being exploited.

The presence of probable glauconite in most of the fabrics would suggest that local clay resource were being used, probably from the Greensand and Gault deposits which surround Overton Down a few miles away to W and S. The presence of differing amounts of sand within the fabrics would suggest that a number of different sources was being used. The oolitic fabrics do not have a local source, the nearest being 25km to the west of the site in the Bradford-upon-Avon area. The calcitic fabric probably came from the Purbeck area of south Dorset.

Forms

Several finds can be dated on stylistic grounds to the Middle to Late Bronze Age. The presence of more standard EIA fabrics alongside these sherds suggests continual, perhaps periodic but not necessarily continuous, activity from the BA into the EIA on the site. While some of the small number of LBA sherds were *in situ*, allowing in particular the suggestion of a contemporary round structure (*above* p. 00), the majority of distinctive sherds, both EIA and BA, were contextually disturbed and mixed up.

The forms present are mostly suggestive of standard EIA types, but the presence of more typically BA surface treatments and decoration would suggest a slightly earlier date to some of the typical forms. Some of these forms may represent a transitional period where a mix of LBA and EIA pottery trends are blended together. Of particular interest is the presence of two distinct forms of furrowed bowl. The first has a short neck and is generally a more squat vessel, usually dated from c C9 BC onwards. The second has a long flared neck which gives the appearance of a taller slimmer vessel, which is thought to have gradually superceded the short necked vessel around C7. The presence of both types of vessel in ODXI with apparently indistinct assemblages of EIA pottery would suggest that the flared neck variety has an earlier date than was previously assumed. An interesting sherd was recovered from beneath the lynchet, which is similar to those from a short-necked furrowed bowl, but the fabric is coarse and the technology of the vessel is crude. The sherd appears to be an attempt to copy the fine ware furrowed bowl tradition typical of the All Cannings Cross assemblage.

Surface treatments

A range of surface treatments has been recognised, but due to the abraded nature of many of the sherds it is not possible to say how much of the assemblage would have originally showed such treatments. Finger smoothing, grass wiping, burnishing and the application of a red 'coating' were all noted. Only a few sherds showed evidence of residues. Sooting can be seen on a few sherds from GF226, and GF340 and an internal 'limescale' residue could be seen on a few sherds from GF454, and GF464.

Decoration

Decorated sherds account for approx 1.5% of the total assemblage by number of sherds and many of the decorated sherds are illustrated. The majority of dating evidence can be found in the decorated sherds (which are best paralleled at Potterne and All Cannings Cross). Most would appear to date from C8-7, with a few earlier and later pieces. The decoration of the vessels can be divided into five distinct techniques, and within each technique are a number of different motifs or styles of decoration. The most commonly occurring technique is the horizontal grooving visible on the shoulders of furrowed ware bowls (30 examples). The single example of applied decoration comes from a Deverel-Rimbury type vessel with an applied cordon; finger tip impressions on the shoulders and below the rims also refer back to LBA decorative techniques.

On-site Distribution

Pottery was discovered over much of the site but several areas were of particular importance: the gullies of the huts, the N-S lynchet and the features beneath it, and various pits.

The gullies

Gully 1, cutting East, contained a standard EIA assemblage. Similar types and proportions of fabrics were found in gully 2 and these two features were probably therefore contemporary, within Phase 3b (see below for phasing). Gully 1, South 1, cut several 'working hollows' which also contained a 'standard EIA' assemblage. These hollows were most probably, therefore, also of Phase 3b, and were then later cut by the southerly Gully 1 in Phase 3c.

Gully 5, with standard EIA pottery, related to pit 19 which contained similar standard fabrics, also a sherd of a slack-shouldered jar with everted, rounded rim (fig. 5.00??). Gully 4, structurally associated with G5, contained Pit 13 which contained standard EIA fabrics and also two decorated sherds of EIA type. It would seem, therefore, that these four features - G5, P19, G4, P13 - probably relate to the earliest phase of EIA occupation on the site, Phase 3a. Material from Gully 6 was similar to that from G4/5, but material from Gully 8 appeared to be of slightly later date representing Phase 3b.

Alternatively, all three layers in the top of the ditch in X/15 might be entirely post-Roman, with layer 3 being an early medieval ploughsoil. There is no direct evidence to support such a thought but, if the occupants of ODXII in the C5 or pagan Saxons such as those buried by the Ridgeway (Eagles 19.??) were cultivating hereabouts in the C5-6, then they could have produced layer 3. The same argument could be advanced for the more obvious, documented farmers defining their lands, including arable on the Downs, in the C10 (*below* p. 00). On either suggestion, layers 1/2 might therefore be C12-13.

[POST HOLES IN AREA B CUTTING WEST MORE DETAIL REQD

PH's 63, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, and 73, contained standard EIA fabrics. PH's 67-73 also contained sherds more typical of the Deverel-Rimbury tradition. These PH's would therefore seem to represent a Later BA tradition and probably represent the earliest phase of STRUCTURAL activity on the site.]

THE FIRED CLAY

A total of 77 fragments of fired clay (266g) was recovered. Only three showed any degree of shaping; the remainder were featureless and undiagnostic. The three objects comprise two slingstones and one bead. The slingstones were recovered from the working hollow in cutting South 1, and from PIT 11 cutting South 1; neither location coincided with any of the flint pebbles interpreted as possible slingstones. Parallels for these objects come from IA contexts at Danebury, Maiden Castle, and Gussage All Saints. The spherical bead, from the base of the topsoil in cutting East 2, can be paralleled at Danebury.

WORKED BONE AND ANTLER

A total of 17 worked bone objects and one worked antler object have been examined. None of the objects is closely datable, but the range of pointed tools and implements finds general parallels on other IA sites such as Maiden Castle and Danebury. A similar range of artefacts is illustrated for the LBA site at Burderop Down (Gingell 1992, fig.83). Many of the implements could have been used in textile working, and a few objects appear to represent bone or antler working waste. Of the identifiable bones, those of sheep/goat form the largest single group followed by horse, with fallow and roe deer bones as isolated examples.

The **distribution** of the objects reveals some interesting patterning. Many of the objects were found in pit fills, and there is a marked concentration within the structural complex of cuttings **East 2 & 3** where five objects were found in **PIT 20**, an awl in **PIT 19**, and a needle from **GULLY 5**. A point was also recovered from the outlying **PIT 23**. This might suggest that textile working activities were concentrated in this area, a suggestion supported by the stone spindlewhorl in **Hearth 2** within the inner structure. If so at least some of the activity must post-date the use of the innermost structure represented by **Gully 8**, since this is cut by **PIT 20**. The distribution of PHs also tends to concentrate in this area (*above* p. 00).

INTERPRETATIONS

A discussion of four models

These are the diagrams existing in rough which will go to TWA for artwork

List of illustrations:

(the numbers will of course be changed since this comes right at the end of Chap. 5)

Figs. 1-5 relate to Model 3 only

Fig. 1: diagrammatic representation of present earthworks, with Phase 1 (Beaker graves)

Fig. 2: Phase 2: ?BA fields

Fig. 3a: Phase 3A: ?LBA settlement

Fig. 3b: Phase 3B: ?very early EIA enclosed settlement

Fig. 3c: Phase 3C: ?late EIA enclosed settlement

Fig. 4: Phase 4: late EIA or RB reversion to fields

Fig. 5: Phase 5: C13 arable fields

Fig. 6: annotated plan of excavated areas ODXI/A, East 2 and 3, showing Gullies, ard-marks etc

Figs. 7-10 relate to Model 4 only:

Fig. 7: Phase 3a/ ii

Fig. 8: Phase 3b

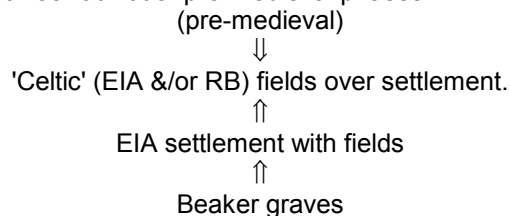
Fig. 9: Phase 3c/ i

Fig. 10: Phase 3c/ ii

The place and significance of ODX/XI in the FYFOD Project: a summary
(to be picked up in Chap 10)

The most attractive interpretation of this site overall is of major changes occurring quite suddenly over quite short periods within a long history of land-use change. Within that sort of framework, then clearly many of the details can be differently interpreted and such differences can affect the story, though perhaps not the succession. The sort of framework that seems to represent the scale, pace and nature of change on this small area, some 200 m square, may well be reasonably expressed by the following interpretive model(s):

Model 1 is the interpretation on which the excavation was based and which essentially the excavation seemed to re-inforce. It underlay the various interim reports and has been there in countless lectures over the last thirty years. It was very simple. Essentially it saw the on-site sequence as consisting of three 'obvious' pre-medieval phases:



The horizon of 'pre-medieval' was important to the model for, contradicting Crawford (1928, 000), it was believed from the start that the ridge-and-furrow overlying the site and those three main phases was medieval, not Roman.

The Beaker graves were unexpected but otherwise the sequence was (believed to be) more-or-less as predicted. Excavation showed sub-phases within the settlement phase, itself consistently early in the IA; and it indicated a late-pre-Roman/RB period of activity apparently without structural evidence and not immediately represented in the site's suite of earthworks (unless Crawford was right after all). Nevertheless, the predictive and interpretive framework remained essentially unchanged, simple and conceptually static around the idea of a core period of major activity centred about the 4th century BC (following Little Woodbury, Bersu 193X) with chronologically outlying episodes about 1500 years earlier and about 400 and 900 years later. Thus Model 1 could be expressed like this:

Phase 1: Beaker burials

Phase 2: EIA settlement with fields

Phase 3: EIA settlement area incorporated into field system with ard-marks

Phase 4: activity, including cultivation, around C1 BC/AD and possibly later

Phase 5: recultivation in strips, probably in C13

Model 2 follows from a realisation, early in the analytical work in 1995, that the ard-marks could be of more than one chronological phase (as distinct from being the result of different 'ploughings' within the same phase of activity cf Fowler 1967, 00; Fowler and Evans 1967, 00). They could therefore be of any phase before the 'last ploughing', whenever that was; including even before, not merely after, the enclosed settlement. Many other developments, intellectual and scientific as well as specifically archaeological, had of course meanwhile occurred in the 1970s and 1980s and were silently feeding into interpretative thoughts. Dating in later British prehistory, for example, had shifted (see generally Cunliffe 1991) and settlement studies in Wessex were radically different following excavations such as Gussage All Saints, Potterne and Baulksbury (Wainright >>>>, Lawson <<<<, //// ****). Probably, however, the biggest conceptual change working through renewed early thoughts about interpreting OD X/XI related to the development of environmental archaeology and, more fundamentally, the incorporation of ecological concepts into thinking about 'meaning(s)' arising from archaeological evidence. Here it readily led to a recognition of the dynamics lying within, and probably driving, the changes from one phase to another in the rather static Model 1. In practice this meant, chronometrically, the beginnings of appreciation of the significances of the hitherto non-phases existing in time between the labelled phases of Model 1; and spatially, a return to the original idea of the site as a component of a landscape rather than a self-centred excavation. Nevertheless, continuing analysis of the excavated data during 1995 was both expanding and filling in the framework of an emergent **Model 2** which developed along these lines:

Phase 1: Beaker graves

Phase 2: Field system (from here on, any of the phases could contain some or

none of the considerable number of pits, PHs or stakeholes etc which puncture the site and in most cases are stratigraphically unrelated to anything else except, always, underlying layer 2, now dated to the early Roman period, and, sometimes, being cut by ard-marks)

Phase 3: Unenclosed occupation within one specific but hypothetical field

Phase 4: Enclosed EIA settlement within bank and ditch, roughly tripling the settlement area compared to that of the field in Phase 3

Phase 5: Bank shoved into ditch; some `late` EIA occupation; fields re-occupied settlement area

Phase 6: Area re-cultivated in Roman period

Perhaps part of this phase, but perhaps a later one of late-Roman date, **double lynchet track cut through fields, respecting S line of Phase 4 enclosure ditch** which had been long filled in

Phase 7: at least a millennium with no evidence

Phase 8: Medieval cultivation in strips

Phase 9: Sheep-grazing (producing `old grassland` with relict ridge-and-furrow)

Phase 10: C19-20: grassland continues as permanent pasture but periodically also used for other purposes:

temporary arable; stone-extraction; race-horse training

1940s: military activity

1950s-90s: sheep AND cattle pasture

development of major scientific and conservation interests

growth of educational and recreational functions

1960s: archaeological excavations

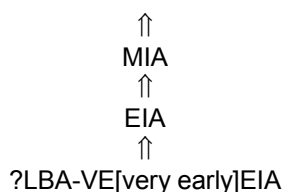
This model was initially conceived without benefit of any ceramic or other analyses: it is a theoretical construct based upon consideration of the field and structural evidence. The specific trigger was the observation that the ard-marks on the eastern edge of East 3 were relatively well-preserved in a marked cluster close to the straight length of ditch bounding the E side of the EIA enclosure; and the consequential thought that this good preservation might well have been occasioned by the marks having been sealed by, and therefore been earlier than, any bank presumably going along with the enclosure ditch. The thought released interpretation from the rigidity of a model in which all the OD XI settlement evidence had to be earlier than ard-marks.

Model 3:

Similar in kind to Model 2, from which it developed, this more elaborate model is based upon the possibility of short-lived (EIA) occupation or occupations evidenced in the area that happened to be excavated having existed within a long land-use history on Overton Down. The main difference here is not so much conceptual as structural and chronological, with much more detail for both. The model developed as it was able to begin to take account of the large increase in data that became available in the second half of 1995, principally from examination of the excavated material but also from structural and environmental research and, for the area in general, documentary work.

FOUR main phases began to emerge on the excavated site itself:

LIA/early RB



This provisional on-site framework is respected in the following by subdividing the settlement phases into a,b and c, though the overall site phasing stretches to seven to allow for the Beaker and medieval phases.

An attempt is made on the five accompanying outline sketches (figs. 1-5), to give a spatial and structural expression to the suggested time dimension.

Fig. 5.00 (above p. 00 in Chap. 3) is the properly prepared, hachured site plan resulting from fieldwork and metrical survey. This is the graphic basis for the five Phases shown in **figs. 5.00-00** (temporarily **1-5** below) which have been traced from it. **Fig 1** shows the Beaker graves as three dots and uses what would otherwise be a blank sheet of paper to give a scale (not repeated) and to outline simply for locational purposes the main earthworks on the site in 1995. **It is not implied that any of these other features were present c 2000 BC.** The junction of three lynchets c 50m NW of the graves is a constant graphic (and `real-life`) feature throughout all the figures. It is on fig. 1 merely for locational purposes, thereafter because it was there at the time illustrated. **Fig. 6** provides some of the detail for crucial points in the interpretive arguments.

Summary of Interpretative Sequence

NB This interpretation, originating in fieldwork evidence, is based largely on excavated evidence and here relates to Site OD X/XI and its environs alone i.e. it does not necessarily apply to the whole or other parts of Overton Down

Phase 1: activity c 2000 BC containing a funerary element marked by Beaker graves and a ?cremation pit

Phase 2: a: BA field system (undated but presumably within 2nd millennium)

b: LBA activity, with a round structure, on a field within continuing arable system (?C9)

Phase 3: a: Unenclosed EIA settlement, with a single complex round structure, on a field within a continuing arable system

(C8-6) b: Enclosed EIA settlement carved out of field system which continues to operate in surrounding area: single less complex house & working hollow

c: Enclosed EIA settlement continues with successive round houses

Phase 4: settlement abandoned and its area cultivated in fields, producing ard-marks, but probably not through MIA (?C5-3)

Phase 5: a: C2-1 BC: renewed but non-intensive settlement activity

b: C1-2 AD and later: renewed and intensified agrarian activity including trackway cutting Phase 2 fields but respecting Phase 3b enclosure

c: C3-4 AD some activity continuing, perhaps sporadic arable and grazing

Phase 6: no evidence C5-12

Phase 7a: medieval (C13) cultivation in strips, partly fitting in earlier land arrangements

b: sheep-grazing (C14-20) (producing `old grassland`)

Phase 8a : Military activity in 1940s

b: 1950s-90s: sheep AND cattle pasture, with additional land-use as major scientific and conservation interests and educational and recreational functions

1960s: archaeological excavations

Notes on the Phasing:

Phase 1 (fig. 1): three Beaker graves lay in an open but not `empty` landscape. In the wider local context (chap. 3), they occurred in a landscape already littered, even if not on Fyfield and Overton Downs, with `old` funereal, liturgical monuments (megalithic and earthen long barrows) and near-contemporary and current round barrows. A small, stone-kerbed round barrow which could well be contemporary, lay only 000 m to the N (*above* p. 00). Other flat cemeteries may also have existed but have simply not been located by a monument-orientated sort of archaeology. Settlements existed but are still poorly represented in the record except in general by the near-ubiquitous spread of worked flints and flakes.

Possibly fitting in at the end of this phase is Pit 23, E3, a small pit of which the contents indicate an EBA date and which might have contained a cremation. Its relatively good preservation might have been due to its accidental protection by the Phase 3b enclosure bank.

PHASE 2 (FIG 2): between c 2000-800 BC i.e. between the Beaker burials and the earliest LBA/EIA occupation. Site OD X/XI did not really exist as a separate entity at this stage.

Phase 2a: the area that was later occupied by EIA settlement (and therefore excavated) was simply a fragment of a an extensive, coaxial field system consisting basically of 60 x 50m field units (*above* pp, 00, 00, in Chaps 2 and 3). Most of the site detail here is hypothetical, reconstructed from apparently significant on-site features interpreted in the wider landscape context represented by fig. 2.00 (RCHM map); but into it is tentatively put the best-preserved blocks of ard-marks on the hypothesis that, over Pit 23 and under the enclosure bank in E3, they are at least arguably pre-EIA and therefore possibly the earliest on the site. This phase of cultivation establishes open downland later reflected in the EIA enclosure ditch micro-fauna (Phase 3c/4); and may have triggered erosion (see *below* Chaps. 9 and 10)

Phase 2b: an LBA phase of activity on earlier BA fields was evidenced by a small but significant amount of LBA pottery and metalwork, tending to clump around SW area of South 1 and cuttings B at the lynchet junction. At the latter, enough post-holes were so configured to allow the suggestion that in this phase a round structure stood there at the S side of a field, perhaps only part of an activity area developing within an existing `Celtic` field system. The field, it is envisaged, was taken out of cultivation within a system which continued to be farmed.

PHASE 3 (figs 3a-c) embraces the main periods of occupation, though it may well have developed out of that already identified in Phase 2b. Its absolute date, and the length of the period(s) of occupation, are uncertain but archaeologically it begins with the earliest EIA pottery and ends with the latest pottery that can firmly be associated with settlement structure (probably that in Pit 22). Ceramically, a date in the C8-7 seems to be required for its earliest phase, and occupation may well have been short. It certainly ceased well before the next firm dated horizon in C1-2 AD (Phase 4 *below*). Outside limits of C9-6 BC are not unreasonable. The possibility of a `three generation occupancy`, here over a century either side of 700 BC, is one interpretation further discussed elsewhere (*below* Chap. 11, p. 00)

3a: unenclosed EIA occupation within one specific (hypothetical) field:

the phase is posited on the concept of a first EIA occupation in the form of an open (or `unenclosed`) settlement within a `Celtic` field, a concept similar to that on which Phase 2b is based. Ceramically, Gully 5 contained the earliest EIA occupation material on the site. That from Gully 8 was ceramically sequential but so closely that it could have been contemporary. An interpretative difficulty is that structurally G8 cut, and is therefore later than, G6; but the pottery may indeed all be from G6 and not from G8, having perhaps been wrongly observed, and therefore wrongly contextualised in its record, when found at the point of intersection i.e. it may well have been actually in, or disturbed from, the filling of G6 when recorded as from G8.

Fig. 3a therefore shows one round building (G5) with a southern annexe (G4); indicating that a third structure, G6, may either have been added to it to complete a trilobate building or, perhaps now more plausibly, was a replacement for it. The dots represent those pits with associated early EIA material, but others may also have belonged to this phase. The graphic expresses the idea of an open settlement lying within, indeed contained by, a `Celtic` field now given over from arable to occupation but within a field system still continuing in arable use. On this interpretation, the building complex is fairly central to the rectangular enclosure `left` by the converted field. A negative reason for suggesting this unenclosed EIA settlement phase is that none of the early pottery of this occupation occurred in the enclosure ditch.

PHASE 3b (fig 3b) is seen as the phase of major physical disruption when the size, nature and perhaps status of the settlement is changed to take local precedence over arable fields. An **enclosed** settlement, occupying three times the area of the original ex-`Celtic` field settlement of phase 3a, was created by digging some 400 m of ditch and (presumably) at the very least heaping up some form of accompanying bank. Locally, the field system was permanently warped by the `bite` of the northern arc of the enclosure into two fields N of the 3a settlement; the curve is still there as an earthwork on the ground in the late C20, as indeed is the straight line of the enclosure`s southern side. The latter predetermined the position of the later double-lynchet track which also remains as a prominent earthwork (fig. 1).

Inside, interpretation is tentative, though occupation is seen as the ceramic `standard mainstream EIA` of ?C8-6 BC. The enclosure could have contained three structures but on this model it is envisaged as having contained one round house, at least at any one moment. The three possibilities are represented by G1/NW and G1/South 1, and probably G8: three simple round houses (except for annexe G2 on G1/NW), all with SE, probably porched, entrances, a hearth and some internal fittings. Each is simpler than the structures of Phase 3a. G1/2 (NW) is shown on fig. 3b, partly because its associated material could be slightly later than that of the structural complex 10 m E, partly because a `shift` slightly W from the G6/8 complex to it embrace an area nearer

the centre of the new enclosure. It is nevertheless possible that one or two other buildings (?G8 and G1 in South 1) also belonged here, sequentially or collectively. The squiggle S of the building in fig. 3b indicates the area of `working hollows` in South 1, overlain by the house there and with filling that contains a few `standard EIA` sherds. If, however, the house there belongs in this phase, the `working hollow` should go back probably to Phase 3a.

The case for G8 belonging in 3b hinges on its relationship to the putative enclosure bank as much as potsherds. Either as a stand-alone round house or as a replacement for G6 in continuing to provide an eastern part of a trilobate building, G8 appears to have been constrained locationally by the back of the enclosure bank; but of course, in the absence of stratigraphical relationships, theoretically it is as likely that the bank avoided it as that it stood in its position because the bank was already there. However, that may be, G8 remains structurally earlier than, but ceramically indistinguishable from, P20.

Probably many of the other excavated but undated features - pits etc., - belong to this phase. Pits 1, 2 and 3 on the NW under the lynchet should all belong in this phase or earlier since all are cut by G1, a house of this phase or Phase 3c. Pit 2 was `ritual` with ox and horse skulls on top. Pits 22 and 23 in East 3 also ceramically fit here, even though they would appear to have been under the theoretical bank of this Phase had it existed. There is a problem here: could they belong to the very end of Phase 3a, immediately before the bank was cast up? Or could they belong to a brief phase of activity **after** removal of the bank but before renewed cultivation (Phase 4)?

PHASE 3c (fig. 3c) accommodates a `late` phase of EIA enclosed settlement; but whether or not the `right` house or houses are shown in it is uncertain. One element of the model is that the general building sequence was from complex to simple. The building shown near the centre is the one in South 1, not far off the enclosure centre, later than the `working hollow` and with a markedly bigger palisade trench (though that probably results from better preservation than the others). The building to the N is G8, shown here partly because of its relationship to the `surrounding` bank` is interpreted as being significant i.e. the building is where it is because the bank was in existence.

Alternatively:

Phase 3c: could have contained two houses, G1 under the lynchet in East 1 and G1 in South 1. They appear to have been very close in time, but whether in use simultaneously or sequentially is uncertain. They cannot be related stratigraphically. G1, South 1, cut through `working hollows` with Phase 3b sherds. Using a `single-house model` as guide, with G1, NW 1, already placed in Phase 3b, G1 South is shown in fig. 3c. It is structurally different from the others in having a more substantial foundation trench and it is also a simple round building in plan i.e. there too is a `from complexity to simplicity` hypothesis at work in this model. Structurally Pit 20 should come in here but ceramically it appears to belong to the end of 3b. The enclosure ditch, as evidenced in cutting X/15 to the south, GF 513, contained `standard` EIA pottery of Phase 3b with some 3c too (check).

Phase 4: the settlement was abandoned by the mid-C6 and possibly deconstructed. Its area was incorporated into four new fields delineated by new boundaries on slightly different lines from the pre-settlement system. In particular, one new N-S boundary divided the former settlement enclosure roughly into two halves. The new fields, absorbed into the existing system formerly associated with the settlement, were cultivated, perhaps only for a further short period within the EIA and not apparently into or through the MIA. More ard-marks were nevertheless produced, everywhere crossing settlement remains. Perhaps the double-lynchet track past the S end of settlement enclosure was inserted at this stage: it respected the S line of the Phase 3b enclosure ditch, perhaps because it was still open ? - see *below*

Perhaps part of the last phase but perhaps a later one of late-Roman date, **double lynchet track cut through fields**, which had been long filled in

Phase 4: begins with the enclosed settlement ending - suddenly or violently is an issue to be left for further consideration: the point for present purposes is that occupation ceases and the site abandoned ceramically (if I can put it that way) by the mid-C6 BC. It is conspicuously lacking in `middle IA` material (saucepan pots etc) and ceramically there is a long gap until bead-rims (Phase 5 below). In land-use terms, however, the settlement area was converted into arable fields. At the moment it is not clear whether this happens immediately after the end of the occupation - therefore providing a reason for the cessation, as has always been thought in site interpretation, - or some time after. Ceramically, the long straight N-S lynchet across the site is `mid-IA at earliest`. It is later than Pits 1 and 2 beneath it and the northerly of the two G1s (and it may yet be possible to demonstrate that it is stratigraphically later than G1 South too). It is also cut by `RB Pit 3` (see phase 5 below), implying that cultivation had to have lasted sufficiently long before AD ?C1 for the lynchet to have accumulated. Whatever the absolute date, most of the ard-marks probably belong to this Phase since they clearly relate to the straight lynchet (and corresponding sides of a squarish field: detailed analysis of the ard-marks is proceeding as this is keyed and it is beginning to look as if it will be theoretically possible to suggest perhaps three major phases - ?Phases 2, 4 & 5 of this Model? - with several `operational ploughings` within each). A preferred `interpretive hunch` at this stage is that the settlement was abandoned and its area was re-used for cultivation a bit later but still before a `saucepan pot` horizon. Perhaps the earthworks of earlier fields and the settlement enclosure remained visible, rather than being flattened, and were therefore lightly ploughed over, smoothed but still retaining their shape.

PHASE 4 (fig.4) really represents in graphic terms the result of a second major disruption - the ending of the settlement, probably deliberately through razing it, and the re-conversion of the area it occupied back to arable, with a new field boundary being inserted right through the middle of the settlement (as the subsequent formation of a lynchet along that boundary over Gully 1 `proves`).

[memo for pjf/IB: ? of the ? comparable subdivision of the Headlands EIA enclosed settlement into roughly equal parts by the ostensibly C10 Anglo-Saxon estate boundary: is this documented boundary perhaps following an earlier boundary or are we seeing the archaeological evidence for a repeating act of subdivision?]. continues

It is not at all certain what else should/could go on this figure 4, though there can be little or no doubt about the Phase. Some, probably most, of the ard-marks should appear here, representing serial acts of cultivation within the new fields either side of the new boundary; and there clearly should be more field boundaries though which ones is not yet clear. The `new` possibility to come out of this rethink is that the double-lynchet track, hitherto regarded axiomatically as (?early?) RB, is shown as belonging to this phase.

But that really begs a major question: at the moment the date of this phase is unknown, though it is bracketed between the latest occupation of 3c and early Roman. What is locally a major phase of land reorganisation should theoretically come either immediately after 3c or with another separately recognised and dated landscape re-organisation c AD 100. To provide a reason for flattening the settlement, and because the DL track was apparently laid out respecting the ditch of the EIA enclosure, here I am opting for settlement subdivision and DL track going together AND belonging to (somewhere in) the mid-1st millennium BC.

[There should therefore be here a Phase 5 for the archaeologically and ceramically witnessed late prehistoric/RB phase but I am holding back on that, not because it is unsubstantiated but because it might well incorporate what is identified above as Phase 4)

Phase 5: a: C2-1 BC: renewed but non-intensive settlement activity

- b: C1-2 AD and later: renewed and intensified agrarian activity including trackway cutting Phase 2 fields but respecting Phase 3b enclosure**
c: C3-4 AD some activity continuing, perhaps sporadic arable/grazing

Phase 5:

5a: C2-1 BC based on Pits 21a and b and Guido bead: anything else????

5b: is a (possibly very late prehistoric and) RB phase, probably beginning in the mid/late C1 AD, marked ceramically by bead-rims and some `proper` Roman sherds. Indeed there is a general if thin spread of RB material across the site, invariably occurring in the top layers (mainly layers 1 & 2, with a few in other `late` contexts). This material is interpreted as marking a renewed phase of agricultural activity, here arable probably with some of the ard-marks and the sherds representing manuring rather than on-site occupation. There is a spread of earlyish RB pottery over much of the downland, though it seems to go on later variously. There is also structural evidence for landscape re-organisation as well as land-use change in the C1-2 over much of the whole area studied, so an RB phase 5 on OD X/XI is contextually plausible. The double-lynchet track, such a prominent feature locally, has always been thought to fit in here as part of the early RB landscape intensification. The point that its location and alignment on ODX/XI presupposes a knowledge of the S side of the Phase 3b settlement enclosure can be met if the enclosure is not razed at the start of Phase 4 but allowed to persist in a ploughed down form through the M and LIA up to Phase 5. Indeed, its flattening could well have occurred then, since other prehistoric works were overlaid etc. elsewhere at this time (but see Phase 6 below). Pit 3 belongs here but other RB features have not (yet?) been identified on site

***PHASE 5** (fig 5) completes the land-use history in as far as it can be represented graphically by structures. It is a long gap from AD 400-1250 but there is nothing on the site to show for it. Similarly there is a long span between 1300 and the present, Fig. 5 shows in thick lines essentially the same features of the present earthworks which appear on fig. 1. The thin broken lines represent the pattern of ridge-and-furrow over the site i.e. the lines do not accurately show individual ridges or furrows but en bloc they accurately show alignments of what is here justifiably to be called `broad rig` (for the ridges are 27 ft. wide), the headlands between the furlongs (partly in the open, partly at `Celtic` field lynchets), and relationships to earlier earthworks. The C13 date is taken from the similar evidence on Fyfield Down, though I understand there is a little medieval pottery from ODX/XI. It is apparent that virtually the whole of the LBA/EIA settlement area was overploughed, though unploughed `gores` exist either side of the straight central lynchet across the settlement. As represented by existing ridge-and-furrow, all the medieval cultivation over the settlement area was N-S, so at the very least the E-W ard-marks cannot be attributed to medieval ploughing (unless a phase of medieval cultivation unrepresented by and earlier than the existing r-and-f is postulated).*

Phase 6: medieval (C13) cultivation in strips, partly fitting in earlier land arrangements

Medieval cultivation in strips, producing ridge-and-furrow within `Celtic` field pattern

Sheep-grazing (producing `old grassland`)

Military activity in 1940s

1950s-90s: Sheep AND cattle pasture, with major conservation interest

1960s: archaeological excavations

Phase 6: is exactly the same as Phase 5 on Model 2 i.e. arable fields in furlongs, still marked on the ground by 'broad rig'. Perhaps it was at this stage, rather than in the mid-IA or RB period, that all the earthworks were finally flattened, other than those still visible and shown on fig. 1.

The 'old grassland' still over the area, one of the reasons for Overton Down being designated an NNR, is only, or as much as, 700 years old. Like most things, not least archaeological interpretation, it depends on your viewpoint.

Model 4+

Model 4: a highly-simplified and abbreviated version, this has grown out of the preceding Models 1-3 and is not an arbitrary alternative. In presenting it as a preferred model, however, we appreciate that, in seeking clarity, it does silently embody a number of decisions, each carefully judged, to go with one alternative rather than another. Nevertheless, it encapsulates an archaeologically viable sequence, now fortified by an apparently 'hard' chronology. The latter is, of course, actually a series of best-guesses added to a reasonably secure succession. It is meant to provide, not certainty but a challenging temporal framework to encourage further thought about the dynamics of long-term landscape evolution.

Phase 1 : 2000 BC: Beaker/EBA burials

2a: MBA field system

2b: C9: LBA occupation in field in field system

3a: VEEIA settlement in field in field system

3b: C8: EIA settlement, complex building(s), in an enclosure within field system

3c: C7: LEIA settlement, single round house, in an enclosure within a field system

4a: Settlement abandoned and its area, re-incorporated into field system, ploughed

4b: C6-2: MIA grassland

5a: C1 BC: LIA activity, perhaps recultivation

5b: C1-2: AD Re-marking of old, and new, field boundaries, intensive recultivation

5c: C3-4: non-intensive, probably non-arable and pastoral farming

6 : C5-12: permanent pasture

7a: C13: cultivation in strip fields arranged within prehistoric/RB fields

7b: C14-19: permanent pasture (formation of 'old grassland')

8 : C20: permanent pasture, while becoming non-agrarian, multi-purpose resource

+Model 4 is the one I'm reasonably happy to live with; it seems so simple and obvious but in fact it has taken a year to move from Model 1 through to 4 as we have gradually sifted the evidence. An editorial judgement is needed as to whether we just go for Model 4 phasing, together with most of the discussion (suitably modified) above under Model 3; or whether there is any merit in showing, perhaps in more abbreviated form that this present text, not just that there have been and still are different interpretations but also how the preferred one has grown out of the preceding three.

my [dig]gin[s]

*fiftee[n pha]ses in fifteen inch[es],
[f]our thousand [y]ears in [f]our lay[er]s:
[thi]s is t[he T]rut[h be]neat[h t]he hlynches -
the Goo[d] [Shep]herd ha[s an]swered my [p]ray[e]rs*

ame[n]

translated and restored from an incomplete fragment of an anonymous Anglo-Saxon riddle, presumably C10, miraculously preserved on a sheet of A4 vellum folded to fit a St. Bruno tobacco tin lying, impeccably contextualised, in Cutting 15, layer 3*

for St. Bruno, see Crabtree, Joseph, 1927, **Lives of the Early Saints: reminiscences of a pipe-smoking man, Tampdown Press, Puffin Sound (via Bray Head, Co. Kerry)*

here endeth Chap 5 thank god

NOT PART OF CHAP 5

The following are merely debris from earlier drafts etc, dumped here pro tem just to make sure we have considered all their points before they are scrubbed:

iwb Interpretation 24/4, revised 15/5/95 and parked here since it raises points to be included/answered in general site interpretation/discussion:

re South 1 cutting

GF400, moulded steel, probably not IA at all !!, but WWII (compare with tracks across A/West?)

Gully 1 of South 1 (21/8/68 - GF465) and burning debris = burning down of hut ? CHECK

Is PH24 a burnt PH?

GF486 PH at eastern side of terminus of Gully 1 - which PH?

Hearth, GF481, of Gully 1 bldg? Just inside bildg. not central (over working hollow)

Layer 2

Over Working Hollow **SF49**: LBA Socketed Axe. Is such an instrument contemporaneous with the light industry being carried out in the working hollow? cf GAS

GF430 Iron Chisel. Similar to one from Hod Hill and thought by Manning to be Iron Age in date. Such objects are rare on British Iron Age sites, although there is one from Casterly Camp, Wiltshire.

Pit 5

Latest feature ? has it any parallels with Gully 8 bldg.? are they contemporary?

GF504/SF70 two brooches, same type as East 2, Gully 8, Layer 1 (**GF362/SF16**). Layer 1 of Gully 8 is top fill, but **SF70** is layer 5 of Gully 1!! Does this indicate South 1 & East 2 Gully 8 building (the latest of the three) are contemporary, C3rd BC?

Why is **SF16** only 2" from surface, whilst **SF70** is 7" from chalk?

Site as a whole

What has been going on on the surface; nothing for bldg Gully 8, or bank 'protecting' it, but a lot over South 1?

Is South 1 filled in/ burnt down and then bldg. 8 erected? Is **SF70** dropped when Gully 1 is filled in?

Is **SF16** over **Gully 8** just a dropped item with no relation to building underneath, *i.e.* worm-sorted down and happens to be in Gully 8?

GF429/SF49, a LBA socketed axe fragment from layer 2, South 1, could well be from the working hollow, as it is from the SW corner of the cutting. This could date working hollow to LBA.

Although Pit 20 contained EIA knife (**GF364/SF19**), this could be from Gully 8 which is cut by Pit 20. Thus the digging of Pit 20 disturbed material from Gully 8. However, Pit 20 does contain what seems to be a ritual deposition (**GF364/ SFs18, 19, 20, 607, 608, 609, 617, 618**) not unlike those of Pits 1, 2 & 3, & 8 & 10 of East 1 and Pit 19 of East 2. There seems to be similarities; animal bones, similar fillings & strata. Moreover Pit 19 has similar EIA knife to Pit 20 (**SF25 & 27**).

The greatest discrepancy which arises from the metal analysis from TWA at the moment is that Pit 20 has EIA material from it in layer 2, and Gully 8, which is cut by Pit 20 and should therefore be earlier, has SF16, a La Tène brooch from the 3rd C BC from its top fill. One possible explanation is given below.

Is the sequence...?: 21/4/95 & 15/5/95

Latest Medieval ploughing, when?? (or is it RB?)

(Great deal of) **RB activity** over all the site; Manning nails in layers 1/2

- what are they doing? Lynchet/ division into fields with fences

(hurdles?) **GF224, PH67**, Manning Type 1b nail, for example. Pit 7 from East 1 could be this date (GF367), as could Pit 3 from East 1.

What date are the awls **SF52 & GF431** from layer 1/2?

South 1&2. C3rd BC: C3rd BC Fibula Brooch (**GF504/SF70**) from layer 5, IA chisel fragment(**GF430**). Could be contemporaneous with Pit 20 - the **SF70 brooch is the same type as SF16 from layer 1 of Pit 20/(G8) !!** The inhabitants of South 1&2 cultivate the settlement area (GF620) before it burns (is burnt?) down (**GF465**).

⇓⇓⇓⇓⇓⇓ with or later than ⇓⇓⇓⇓⇓⇓

Pit 20 (East 3) 3rd C BC /Early RB? but possibly EIA (see **SF19**)

⇓⇓⇓⇓⇓⇓

Gully 8 bldg., (cuts Gully 6 bldg.) possibly EIA (**GF364/SF19**), but **SF16 (GF362)**, a La Tène brooch C3 BC, puts this at LIA. However, SF16 is from the top fill of G8 and could therefore be from LIA activity over an EIA hut. In fact,

SF14, two hobnails, Manning Type 10 (what date? RB? Early Med?), also come from the top fill of Pit 20 or **'possibly from fill of Gully 8 where it cuts across Pit 20'**. This clearly points to there being some difficulty on site as to the exact relationship between G8 & Pit 20 and, as SF14 comes from the same layer, it is feasible that it too is of LIA/ Manning 10 in date.

The evidence of SF620, a 3C BC onwards penn. brooch, from an unspecified location (no layer either) in East 3 (G8 area), again points to an EIA + date for East 3, although again this could be remnants from agricultural/settlement activity in the area.

One has to conclude on this metallurgical evidence that G8 is LIA, but my feeling is that it is earlier and the digging of Pit 20 unearthed and brought material from G8 to the top of the pit. Pit 20 could well go with South 1&2.

↓↓↓↓↓↓↓**Break**↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

Gully 6 bldg. (with or without G5)

↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

Gully 5 bldg. (with Gully 4 - lav. & Gully 5a + G6?) + Pit 19

(GF380/SF25&27; EIA knife fragments)

↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

East 1 }

} Could be earlier than
 } South 1, but later than
 } Gully 5 or Gully 6.

↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

Working Hollow (GF429/SF49 ?LBA socketed axe). Could be contemporary with East 1 or East 2, or East 3 (G8) or South 1&2.

↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

Earliest Beaker Graves

ends

Simply dumped here pro tem; analysis of G4-8, prompted initially by TG`s pot rpt: she asked whether previous interpretation of the structural sequence could be re-considered i.e. whether, instead of a trilobate building of G. 6/5/4 followed by G8 and then P.20 (see FWP 1, 2.4.ii), we could have a sequence of a trilobate G8/5/4 followed by G6 with G20 remaining later than G8 but otherwise `floating` (if you really want to understand this crucial but technical and

acrostically detailed argument, follow it on the annotated fig. 6). Interestingly, the same question had independently come to be asked by pjf in considering the structural evidence, and specifically whether the observation that the NE end of G5 was beside the N side of the exit from G6 allowed the inference that G6 was structurally related to a contemporary G5. Put other ways, two questions asked were whether G5 went with G8, allowing a useful northern doorway between them, and, more fundamentally whether either G6 or G8 need be related structurally to G5 at all. One possibility still being considered is whether an eastern arc to complete a circle of G5 might not have been scrubbed out by TWO successive and independent buildings (i.e. G 6 and G8) overlapping that arc.

Fundamental to the detail behind such questions is the relationship between G6 and G8, two `Gullies` (assumed to be palisade trenches - but that is another point for interpretive argument elsewhere