

FWP17

24/7/1995 JW

ODXI: SUMMARY OF TWA FINDS REPORT

COPPER ALLOY OBJECTS

Only six objects recovered. Small amounts of Copper alloy finds appears typical of EIA settlements, ie, Gussage All St's phase 1&2 and All Cannings Cross. This pattern suggests that such material was scarce and not readily parted with. A fragment of LBA socketed axe which may represent part of a ploughed-out hoard was recovered from Area A cutting South 1 layer 2. Penannular brooch, formed from wire not cast. Simple form of Fowler's (1960) Type D, in use from the 3rd C BC. A similar object was found at Danbury and two were found at All Cannings Cross. As All Cannings Cross and ODXI appear to be EIA sites this style of brooch may have begun earlier than was previously suggested.

IRON OBJECTS

The assemblage is modest for the almost total excavation of an enclosure, which may reflect on the prosperity of the site or at least its ability to acquire iron. A typical collection for an early/mid IA site in Wessex, and comparable in range and quantity with Gussage All St's with which it appears contemporary. 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&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 all have functional significance, and a ploughshare fragment (Rees 1979 Type 1a) is of particular interest given the possibility that the area was converted to arable use after the abandonment of the settlement. Similar shares found at Danebury have been dated to 400-300 BC. This type was thought by Allen in 1967 to represent an unused, generally votive class, similar in their usage to currency bars mainly because large numbers were recovered from the Thames and the hoard at Llyn Cerrig Bach. However the broken state of the ODXI example suggests use and discard. Two fibulae brooches were recovered (HULL'S TYPE 1Cb) which have been dated on stylistic grounds to the 3rd C 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 St's where the calibrated C14 date range for the relevant phase is 730-420 BC, ie, significantly earlier than Hull's date range. A cleat, 4 hobnails, and 16 nails were recovered from topsoil, layer 1 or 2 which has also produced Romano-British pottery. A nail was recovered from PH67 cutting B West which also produced RB pottery. Four hobnails were recovered from PIT 20 East 2, and a nail from PIT 7 cutting East neither of which appeared to contain any material later than IA, the hobnails from PIT 20 were found in the top layers probably as a result of RB ploughing.

WORKED AND UTILISED STONE

Stone recovered from ODXI includes sarsen, limestone, and sandstone some of which 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 an IA pit (South1 PIT5) would suggest an alternative use, perhaps sarsen working, as has been suggested for similar objects from the Marlborough Downs. 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, a cluster of bone implements possibly connected with textile working were also found here.

THE GLASS BEAD

One glass bead was recovered from the top of PIT21A Cutting East, it is spherical and made of pale green translucent glass with an overall trellis design in opaque yellow. This falls within Guido's Class 11 IA beads which are described as 'Meare variants'. The example from ODXI is cited as the only example of the trellis design and is dated by Guido to the 2nd to 1st C AD.

THE POTTERY

The pottery assemblage from ODXI consists of 4279 sherds, weighing 30,507 grammes. Of this total, less than 6% by number shows any diagnostic traits, only around 4% of sherds showed any evidence of form. The quality of the assemblage is generally poor, most sherds are small and heavily abraded and can not be assigned definite form types. Much of the pottery is unprovenanced and 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. This interpretation is supported by the pottery forms, where they can be recognised. The comparatively wide range of fabric groups is worth noting, and is echoed within the contemporary assemblage from Potterne. This indicates that a number of different local and non-local resources were being exploited.

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 a continuation of activity from the BA into the EIA on the site. A few later sherds would suggest later activity on the site in the vicinity of the PIT 1/2/3 complex. 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 the site. The presence of differing amounts of sand within the fabrics would suggest that a number of different sources were 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

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 date to around the 9th C BC onwards. The second has a long flared neck which gives the appearance of a taller slimer vessel, which is thought to have gradually superseded the short necked vessel around the 7th C BC. The presence of both types of vessel in ODXI with apparently inistinct 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 have 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 with those from Potterne, and All Cannings Cross), most would appear to be within the 8th to 7th centuries BC , 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 occuring 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE POTTERY

Pottery was discovered over much of the site but several areas are of particular importance, the gullies of the huts, the N-S lynchet together with the features beneath it, and various pits particularly PITS1,2 and 3.

THE GULLIES

Gully 1 cutting S1 contains a standard EIA assemblage, similar types and proportions of fabrics were found in gullies 2 &3 and these three features are probably therefore contemporary. Gully 1 cuts several 'working hollows' which also contained a standard EIA assemblage. These hollows can be seen to represent phase 3b on the site, and were then later cut by gully 1 (south cutting) in the post 3b Occupation phase.

Gully 1 cutting East contains standard EIA fabrics. This feature is related to Gully 2 and appears (from the pottery) to be contemporary with gullies 2& 3 within occupation phase 3b.

Gully 5 standard EIA relates to pit 19 which contains similar standard fabrics, also a sherd of an ovid jar and furrowed bowl. Gully 4 (assoc with 5, thought to represent the latrine of this feature) contains pit 13 which contains standard EIA fabrics and also 2 decorated sherds of EIA type. It would seem therefore that these four features probably relate to the earliest phase of occupation on the site, phase 3a. Material from gully 6 is similar to that from 4,5 , but material from gully 8 appears to be of slightly later date in the EIA and represents phase 3b of the site.

THE PITS

PIT 1 cuts gully 1 (East cutting) and is in turn cut by **PIT 2**. This feature is then cut at a later date by **PIT 3**. Pit 1 contained no pottery, **PIT 2** contained standard EIA fabrics and appears to date to phase 3b. **PIT 3** contains Durotrigian Black Burnished Ware sherds and can therefore be dated to the LIA. This feature could therefore be related to the final phase of activity on the site, the construction of the lynchet which overlays gully 1 .

PIT 20 this feature cuts gully 8 and is therefore structurally later than that gully, the pit contains standard EIA fabric and represents phase 3b, but of a later date than phase 3b of gully 8.

PITS 22 & 23 are located to the east of gullies 5,6 and 8. These two features are beneath the proposed bank of the phase 3b boundary ditch. The pottery from these features is of a standard EIA type suggesting they are part of the phase 3b activity on the site.

THE BOUNDARY DITCH (CUTTING X15)

This cutting produced fabrics of EIA date, and can probably be related to phase 3b activity on the site.

THE LYNCHET AND DITCH

This feature contains mostly EIA material previously associated with a phase 3b date. The feature also contains a certain amount of Late Iron Age/ Romano-British date pottery in the upper layers but this material is probably a result of later ploughing activity on the site. Pottery from the lynchet suggests a secure EIA date, the lynchet is cut by PIT 3, which contains LIA material. The ditch beneath the lynchet also contains fabrics of an EIA date, suggesting that the lynchet and ditch probably relate to phase 3 occupation on the site.

POST HOLES IN AREA B CUTTING WEST

PH's 63, 67,69,70,71,72, and73, 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 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 of these finds coincide 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 bead is spherical and was found at the base of the topsoil in cutting East 2, it 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 are 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**.