

## **A barrow on the Hog's Back, excavated by A J Clark**

JUDIE ENGLISH

with a major contribution by  
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and other contributions by  
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*In 1966 a barrow on the Hog's Back, the narrow stretch of the North Downs between Farnham and Guildford, was excavated in advance of its partial destruction by construction of the northern carriageway of the A31. The barrow had been both extensively ploughed and previously excavated, although no record of findings from this latter intervention could be located. This report provides an account of the 1966 excavation derived from the surviving archive recovered after the death of the Director, A J (Tony) Clark.*

### **Introduction**

#### BACKGROUND

In 1966 a barrow on the Hog's Back between Farnham and Guildford, probably the example locally known as the Wen Barrow (SU 9379 4838), was excavated initially by pupils from Charterhouse instructed by Dr E E Harrison and then by the late A J (Tony) Clark, in advance of its virtual destruction by the addition of a northern carriageway to the A31. The excavation remained unpublished and, after the death of the Director, a partial archive comprising a trench plan, two section drawings, notes on the contexts of some of the finds, the finds themselves and a small number of photographs was located. A set of slides was later provided by Dr Harrison. Despite extensive enquiries the remainder of the archive could not be located. This report represents an attempt to publish the excavation which, although it cannot be other than incomplete, seems worthwhile particularly in view of the availability of an environmental report for the Surrey chalk. The archive will be deposited at Guildford Museum (acc no AS 24292).

#### GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

At their western end, locally known as the Hog's Back, the North Downs are reduced to a narrow ridge, no more than 200m wide at the summit, and reaching 152m OD (fig 1). Here at the southern margin of the London Platform, deep faults were reactivated and dips as great as 55° have been recorded in the Hog's Back Monocline (Wood 1996). As a result, both dip and scarp slopes fall steeply towards the London Clay to the north and, over bands of Middle and Lower Chalk and Gault Clay, to Lower Greensand to the south. The barrow itself lay on Upper Chalk at the summit of the ridge.

### **Excavation**

#### METHODS

The excavation took place between 10 March and 30 June 1966. A plan of the trenches (fig 2), is derived from a version in the archive that had been prepared for publication. A total of fourteen trenches were excavated, representing a variation of the quadrant method.

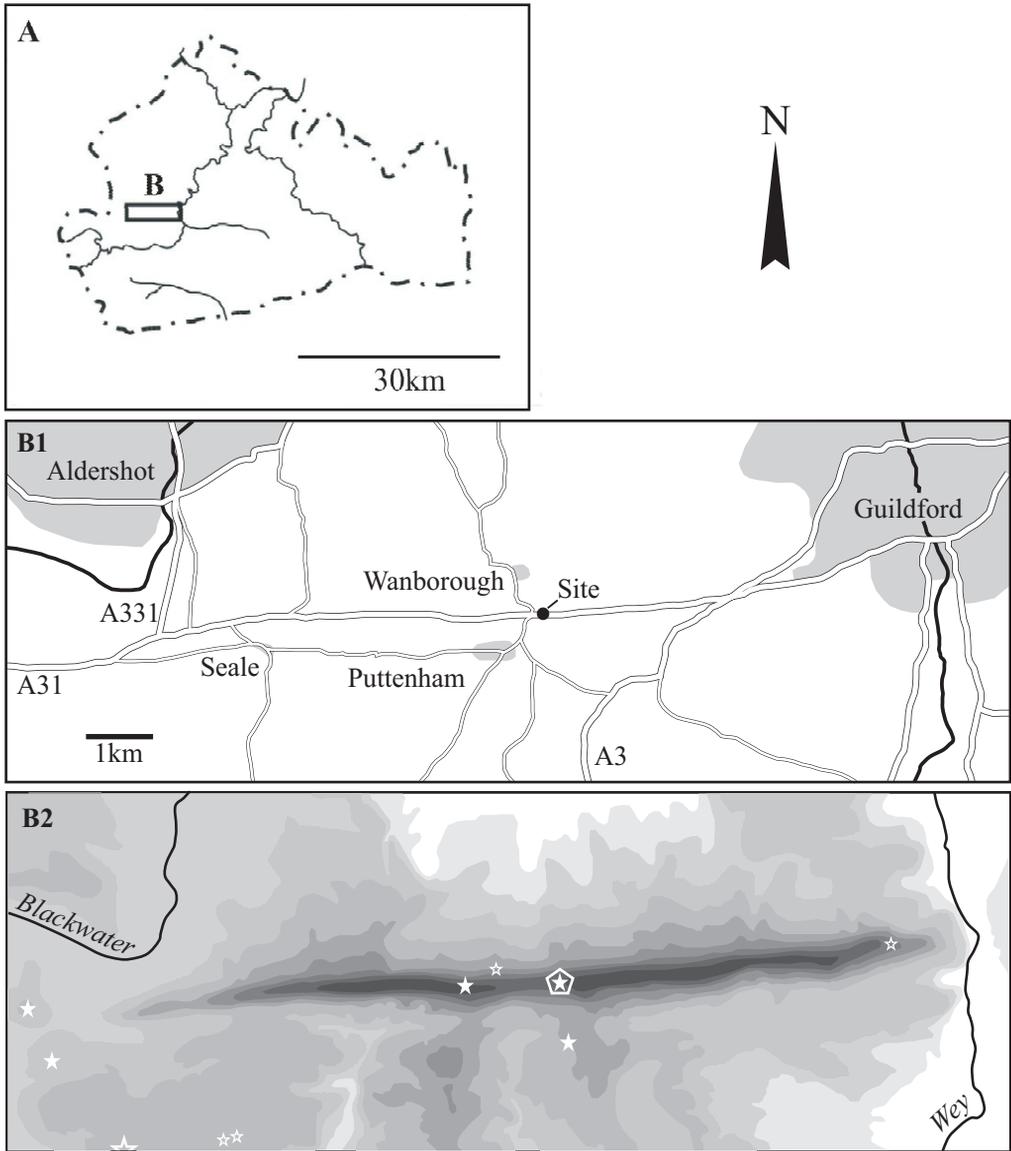


Fig 1 Hog's Back barrow. Location of the Wen Barrow (white star within pentagon), other barrows (white stars) and possible barrows (hollow stars). Land below 60m OD (white) with shaded contours at 10m intervals up to land over 140m (dark grey). (© Crown copyright Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved)

The first two trenches (I and II) were placed across the ditch in the north-west and south-east quadrants to define the outer limits of the barrow. A long trench was then excavated across the centre of the barrow in an east/west direction, with the excavated areas staggered at the centre point such that the eastern section was excavated south of the centre line (trench III) and the western section to the north of it (trench IV, and later extension IVa). A similar trench excavated across the north/south axis (trenches V and VI) terminated against a hedge line to the south and did not reach the edge of the barrow. Later, trench IV was extended southwards for a further 1.5m over a length of  $\approx$ 6m across the line of the ditch, this extension being designated trench IVa. Trenches VII and VIII were located close to the

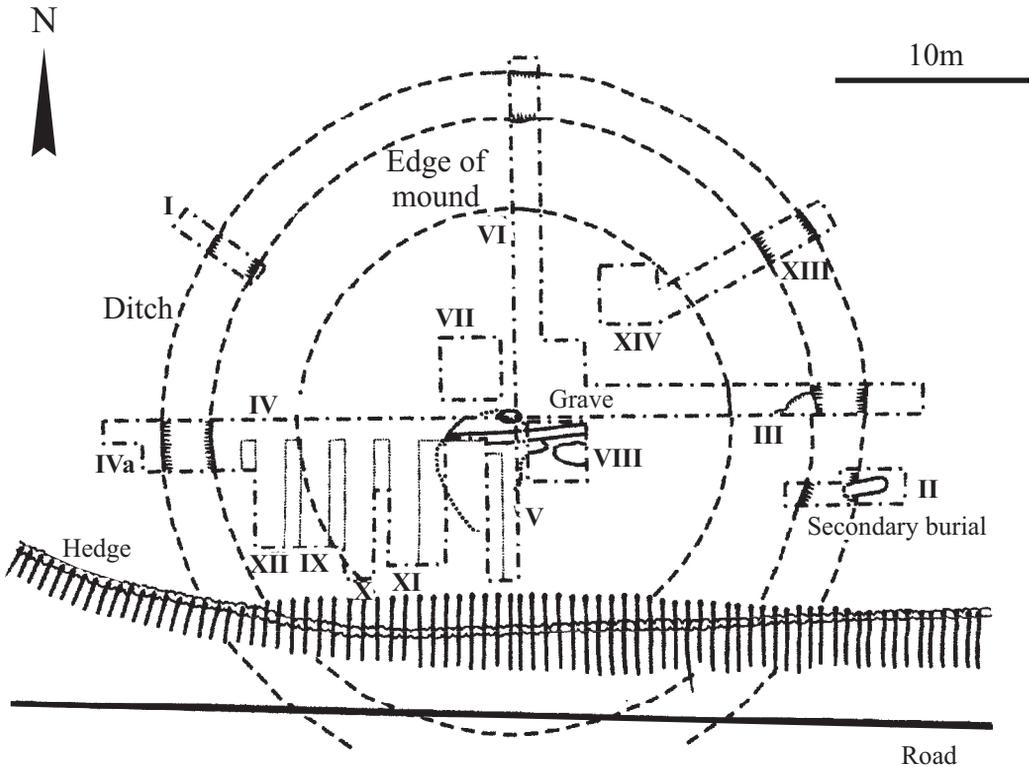


Fig 2 Hog's Back barrow. Plan of excavation of the barrow derived from a version prepared for publication by Tony Clark (amended by Alan Hall)

centre of the barrow in the north-west and south-east quadrants respectively. Trenches IX to XII investigated the south-west quadrant between trench IV and the hedge line; the baulks between these trenches were later removed. Trenches XIII and XIV occupied the north-east quadrant with trench XIII crossing the barrow ditch.

## RESULTS

Only two usable section drawings survive (fig 3), amounting to a cross-section of the barrow from trenches III and IV. In the virtual absence of a drawn archive the following is a description of some of the more salient features, taken in part from notes on bags in which the finds had been stored, and slides provided by Dr Harrison. However, it is recognised that the information is, of necessity, incomplete.

From the site plan (fig 2), the mound would appear to have been approximately 25m in diameter and to have had a ditch 2.7m across enclosing a berm 4.5m wide, giving an overall diameter of 39m. The barrow survived to a height of approximately 0.8m but had suffered plough damage, so its original height could not be assessed. The mound appears from the slides to have been made of chalk, described in trench XI as 'rubbly barrow build up'; the only find that certainly came from within the barrow matrix was the Neolithic flint fabricator (fig 4a). A central 'grave' is marked on the site plan, and from one of the slides and a note on the section drawing it appears that a 'burial pit' had been dug into the contemporary land surface, but no surviving finds could with certainty be related to this feature. Only one intrusive feature was noted on the finds bags; the writing could not be fully deciphered

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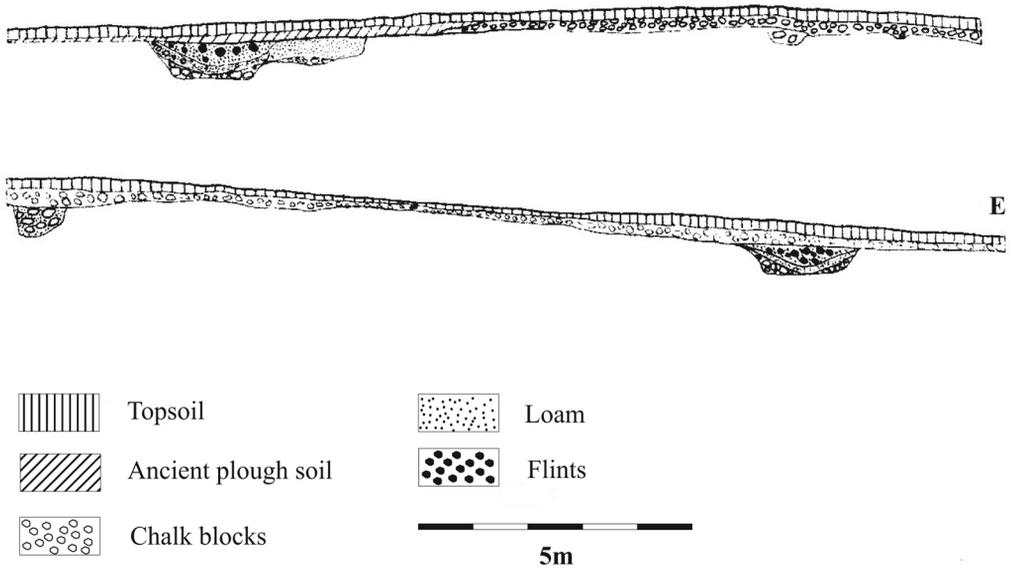


Fig 3 Hog's Back barrow. Section through the barrow derived from a version prepared for publication by Tony Clark (amended by Alan Hall)

but indicated a 'hollow about 1 inch (25mm) above the floor' from which human bone had been recovered but subsequently lost and this may relate to a disturbed grave pit. A note published at the time (Anon 1966) records 'Tool marks, some made by a blade 1 ½ inches wide, others by a point only ¼ inch wide, were found in the ditch bottom at one place'. A grave containing a skeleton had been cut into the ditch filling on the east side of the barrow; a coin found 2 inches (5cm) above the chest suggested a Roman date although the coin could have been residual and the burial later. The skeleton of a mature, robust male who had been buried in chalk was found in the Clark archive but there was no indication of its provenance.

Artefacts dating from most periods between Neolithic and medieval were recovered during the excavation. However, in view of the lack of secure stratification across the site, the scarcity of finds that can be assigned to secure contexts, and the evidence of earlier disturbance, a possible chronological development of the mound will be discussed below. Here it is sufficient to note that the small sample of worked flints found during excavation is evidence of Neolithic activity in the area, but within the context of this site they are likely to have been residual. Similarly, the circumstances under which an iron projectile point, possibly of medieval date, was lost cannot be determined.

### Finds reports

In the absence of site notebooks and finds records it is not generally possible to relate finds to any stratified context and dating is, in the main, limited to noting evidence of activity from the surviving finds. Where no information was available about the position in which finds were located they have been described as unstratified.

## THE FLINTS, by Roger Ellaby

Only twelve flints were recorded and are listed at the end of this report. All the flints are variably patinated blue/white, indicative of having been in alkaline soil for a considerable time. While those from trenches III and XIV are somewhat glossy, suggestive of having suffered a considerable amount of movement within the soil, the majority of the flints are relatively fresh and probably little disturbed. However, most exhibit edge damage of seemingly recent origin where the patination has been removed. This may have been the result of excavation. The fabricator (fig 4a) is completely undamaged, but of a smooth appearance as though much handled and carried about the person over a considerable period. Both ends are abraded and smoothed through use. The flint is very different from that of the other artefacts, again suggesting that the piece could have travelled far before being lost, discarded or deposited. Examination of the cortex suggests that the flakes were struck from locally collected nodules from fields and scree slopes as shown by generally worked cortex and old thermal fractures. The style of knapping is fine, but lacks an intention towards the production of blades as might be expected in the Mesolithic period but at the same time does not display the cruder elements that appear from the later Neolithic, and increasingly so, to the end of the Bronze Age. On this evidence, admittedly from a small sample, the flints are of an early to mid-Neolithic tradition and this is seemingly reinforced by the presence of the fabricator and the discoidal core, or chopping tool, both of which are normally accepted as being of this period.

*Trench III – plough soil*

1 Flake 41 x 29 x 5mm. Primary. Smooth abraded cortex. Variegated dark grey/cherty flint. Variably patinated blue/white. Considerable recent edge damage. Glossy.

*Trench IV – top of ditch fill*

- 1 Blade-like flake 36 x 13 x 6mm. Secondary. Variegated chert/flint. Flint portion patinated white. Edge-damaged in antiquity. Flint portion slightly glossy.
- 2 Thin flake 21 x 17 x 3mm. Secondary. Light grey flint. Thin blue/white patina. Slight ancient edge damage. Slightly glossy.
- 3 Thin flake 20 x 11 x 2mm. Tertiary. Light grey flint. Thin blue/white patina. Undamaged. Slightly glossy.
- 4 Blade-like flake 29 x 4 x 5mm. Bulbar end missing. Tertiary. Light grey flint with cherty inclusions. Thin blue/white patina. Slightly glossy.
- 5 Splinter 25 x 9 x 6mm. Secondary. Grey flint. Thin blue/white patina. Undamaged. Slightly glossy.

*Trench V*

- 1 Flake 80 x 47 x 16mm. Secondary. Cortex unabraded. Dark grey flint with few small cherty

inclusions. Scattered thin blue patination. Some recent edge damage. Slightly glossy.

- 2 Flake 53 x 50 x 9mm. Secondary. Same type of flint and condition as (1). Possibly from same core.
- 3 Flake 40 x 39 x 10mm. Secondary. Cortex partly abraded. Dark grey flint variably patinated blue/white. Some recent edge damage. Slightly glossy.
- 4 Blade-like flake 44 x 13 x 5mm. Secondary. Cortex smooth and abraded. Mottled blue and white patination. Slight ?ancient edge damage and/or utilisation.

*Trench XI – ‘rubbly barrow build-up’*

- 1 Fabricator (fig 4). 70 x 18 x 13mm. Tertiary. Flint with small cherty inclusions at both ends. Original colour indeterminate but possibly grey/white with thin filmy patinations.

*Trench XIV – topsoil*

- 1 Discoidal core or chopper 70 x 65 x 30mm. Secondary. Cortex smooth with adjacent decorticated thermally-fractured surface. Medium to dark grey flint patinated blue/white with a little localised iron staining and recent damage exposing the raw flint.

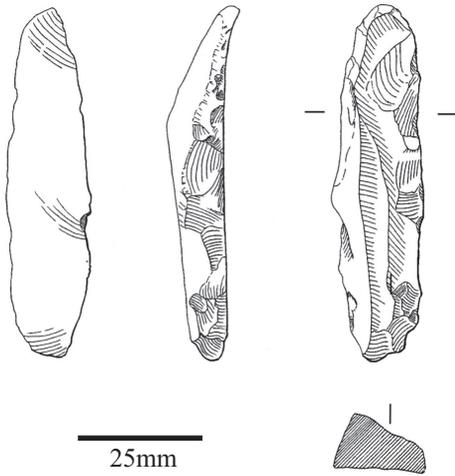
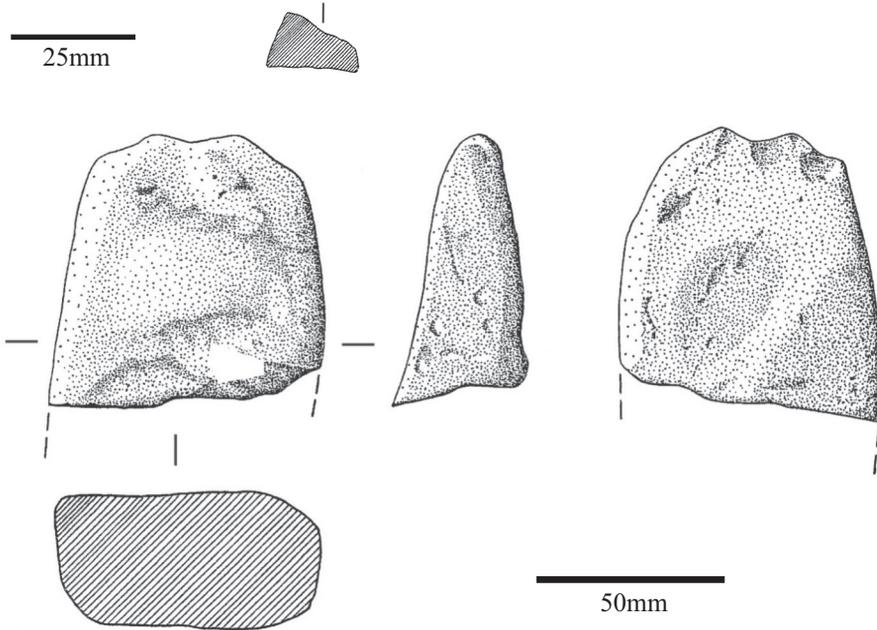


Fig 4 Hog's Back barrow: (left) fabricator; (below) part of an undated whetstone made from sarsen (drawn by Mike Brace)



THE WHETSTONE, by Roger Ellaby (fig 4)

A portion of a whetstone produced from a sarsen pebble, probably from the Bagshot Beds, was located in trench IV in the 'black layer at base [of ditch] with flints'. It is not possible to suggest a date for the object from its morphology but, in view of the location of the findspot, a prehistoric date seems likely.

THE BROOCH, by Frank Pemberton (fig 5)

A Colchester derivative two-piece copper-alloy brooch with a separate spring and pin assembly attached to a lug behind the head. The crest has incised notched decoration and the upper bow has a rounded 'BB' profile: length 54.3mm. Large numbers of this type are known from southern and eastern Britain and are thought to be of local British manufacture. Dated contexts at Colchester and St Albans are in the range AD 50–60 (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Frere 1984, 23 no 21).

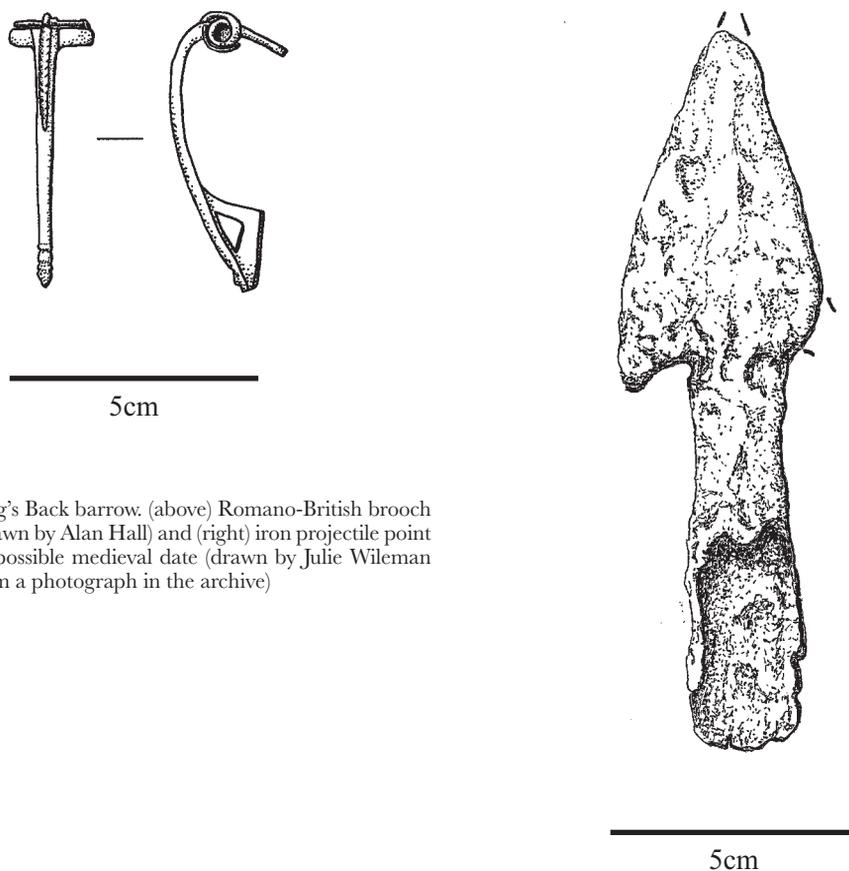


Fig 5 Hog's Back barrow. (above) Romano-British brooch (drawn by Alan Hall) and (right) iron projectile point of possible medieval date (drawn by Julie Wileman from a photograph in the archive)

#### THE COINS, identified by Mike Hammerson

(*RIC* = Mattingley 1923ff; *LRBC* = Hill *et al* 1965 – details in Bibliography.

State of wear given as a subjective guide to possible circulation period before loss: A = unworn – E = very heavy wear. An oblique (/) between legends indicates division between obverse and reverse legends. Parts of the legend not visible are shown in parentheses.)

- 1 Nero, As, AD 64–8. *RIC* 319. NERO CLAVD CAESAR AVG GER P M TR P IMP / S C Victory with shield. Wear B.
- 2 As/dup. Probably Flavian AD 69–96, though small flan suggests possibly a 'lightweight' copy, manufactured during the 2nd century. Wear E.
- 3 Vespasian, As, AD 71. *RIC* 497, IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG COS III / S C Eagle on globe. Wear C but small flan suggests 'lightweight' copy.
- 4 Vespasian, As, AD 77–9. *RIC* 766, [IMP] CAES VESPASIAN A[VG COS III P P] / VICTORIA AVGVSTI S C. Wear D.
- 5 Domitian, As, AD 85–6. *RIC* 294. ]AVG GERM COS XI CENSI[ / Mars. Wear B.
- 6 Hadrian, Sest., AD 98–117. Wear E.
- 7 Faustina II, Sest., AD 161, *RIC* 1387. [FAVSTINA AVG ANTONINI AVG PII F / VENUS S C. Wear E.
- 8 Tacitus, base AR Ant., AD 275–6. *RIC* 65. IMP CL TACITVS AVG / TEMPORVM FELICITAS. (Scarce as site find in Britain).
- 9 Theodosian, AE4, AD 388–402, rev. VICTORIA AVGGG, m / m ]CON, as *LRBC* 2.562ff. Wear B.

## THE PROJECTILE POINT, by Geoff Egan (fig 5)

The object has suffered complete degradation since excavation and this opinion is given from a photograph, so the identification must be regarded as uncertain. Possible parallels exist in the typology of multi-purpose, medieval arrowheads (eg Jessop 1996, fig 1 MP1; MP6).

## MIDDLE IRON AGE POTTERY, by Phil Jones

A single handmade sherd of irregular thickness, with grey core and red/brown surfaces. Tempered with frequent angular chalk grains ( $c$ 0.2–4.0mm, but with most  $c$ 0.5–2.0mm), frequent angular grog inclusions ( $c$ 0.2–4.0mm, but with most  $c$ 0.5–1.0mm), and sparse sub-rounded quartz grains. The combination of chalk and grog as a tempering medium is not known among the Roman, Saxon or medieval pottery types of the region, but has been identified among the Iron Age pottery recently excavated at Tongham Nurseries, which lie at the west end of the Hog's Back (Jones, in prep). This sherd probably dates to the Iron Age, and most probably to the Middle Iron Age.

## OTHER PREHISTORIC AND ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY, by Malcolm Lyne

*Introduction*

The various trenches cut into this barrow during the 1966 excavation yielded a total of 126 sherds (759g) of pottery ranging in date between Bronze Age and modern. It is unfortunate that no archive of any significance relating to the excavation, other than comments on finds bags, survives and it is therefore not possible to identify the nature of many of the contexts.

*Methodology*

All the assemblages from the fourteen trenches and those intervening baulks that were excavated were quantified by numbers of sherds and their weights per fabric. These fabrics were identified using a x8 magnification lens with built-in metric scale to determine the nature, frequencies, sizes and forms of added inclusions. None of the assemblages is large enough for any kind of meaningful quantification.

*The assemblages*

## Middle to Late Bronze Age

The assemblage from the topsoil in trench IV yielded six small abraded urn fragments in a lumpy handmade black fabric with profuse up to 3.00mm calcined flint filler fired orange with brown exterior surface. A further urn fragment in similar fabric came from the topsoil in trench IVa and yet another piece from context 3, a 'black patch in the earth and flint fill of the ditch', sectioned by trench XIII.

Late Iron Age to  $c$ AD 70

A context in Trench IV described as 'brown earth above chalk; bottom of layer on edge of mound' yielded three fragments of handmade pottery in a patchy black/brown fired fabric with profuse up to 0.20mm quartz and ill-sorted 0.10–3.00mm protruding calcined flint filler as well as a sherd in very fine sanded totally blackened fabric. Both of these fabrics are paralleled in the material from the Late Iron Age to  $c$ AD 50 pottery site at Wheatley just west of, and immediately pre-dating, the Roman potteries in Alice Holt Forest.

The same context also yielded eleven fresh jar sherds of probable mid-late 1st century date in grey Alice Holt/Farnham ware (Lyne & Jefferies 1979, Fabric A), five jar sherds in the same fabric with blackened surfaces and three fragments in the similarly dated coarse

version of the ware (*ibid*, Fabric C). Two sherds from a ?flagon in very fine orange fabric with external white slip are also present.

What was probably a similar context in trench IVa yielded a basal sherd from a vessel in the very fine sanded fabric from Wheatley and five fresh sherds from an Atrebatic bowl of Lyne & Jefferies Type 5.2 in grey/brown Fabric A.

Further sherds of 1st century date came from the rubbly earth in the top of the barrow ditch sectioned by Trench IV, from the rubbly soil over the chalk sectioned by Trench IX and the lower plough soil on the berm of the barrow in Trenches IX and XII.

The upper fill of the barrow ditch sectioned in trench XIII produced nineteen sherds from handmade pottery in a similar patchy black/brown fired fabric to that described as coming from trench IV (above).

### Late Roman

The Late Roman period is represented by seven sherds from horizontally rilled jars including an example of Lyne & Jefferies Type 3C.9. One, unstratified, sherd is in coarse Alice Holt/Farnham greyware: the rest are in buff, sandy Overwey/Portchester D fabric. Vessels in the latter fabric appeared around AD 325/330 but were considerably more common after AD 370. The Hog's Back barrow fragments are almost certainly from the Overwey kilns (Clark 1950) although there is strong evidence that wares in this very distinctive fabric were made by itinerant potters setting up short-lived production centres in Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent around the edge of the Weald (Lyne 1994).

A further fresh jar sherd in Overwey/Portchester D fabric came from the top fill of the same ditch sectioned by trench VI and a sherd from a handmade vessel in polished brown/black Early Saxon fabric with silt-sized quartz filler is present in the unstratified pottery from the site.

### LATE SAXON POTTERY, by Phil Jones

A single sherd, the rim of a bowl with an inturned, flanged rim. Dark grey fabric with orange/brown surfaces; roughly wiped external surface. Gritty feel. Tempered with frequent sub-rounded quartz sand grains (*c*0.2–1.0mm, but with most *c*0.4–0.7mm), moderate to frequent angular chalk (*c*0.2–2.5mm, but with most *c*0.4–1.0mm), sparse angular flint splinters (*c*0.5–3.0mm), sparse iron mineral inclusions and rare fragments of Lower Greensand chert. Similar rim forms are found on bowls and dishes of the St Neot's ware shell-tempered tradition, which was popular in the South Midlands and is dated from the late 10th to the mid-11th centuries at Oxford (Mellor 1994, 54 and fig 15). However, they are usually not as large as this vessel, which more closely approximates to the size of post-Conquest open forms. On balance, the rim probably belonged to a late Saxon vessel.

### THE PRE-MONUMENT ENVIRONMENT: LAND MOLLUSCA, SOIL AND CHARCOAL EVIDENCE, by Michael J Allen

In 1983 Tony Clark presented a bulk soil sample from the ditch for analysis; it was thought to be from a fallen turf. A 1kg air-dried sub-sample was analysed for land Mollusca following standard methods (Evans 1972, 40–5) and nomenclature follows Anderson (2005); see table 1. This report was originally written in 1984 and subsequently revised in 2011.

#### *The sampled layer*

The sample was from a dark layer overlying the primary silt (A J Clark, pers comm) and was a discrete single lens with sharp edges (fig 6). The primary fill comprised large angular chalk rubble having weathered from the sides of the ditch. Topsoil and turves over the primary

fill have been observed at the Overton Down Experimental Earthwork (Jewell & Dimbleby 1966; Bell *et al* 1996) and the Butser Iron Age Experimental Farm (Reynolds 1981, 43–6), where they have slipped into the ditch. In some cases turves had taken root and became a stabilising factor in the ditch (pers obs). Judging by the Overton Down and Butser Iron Age Farm experiments, the primary fill and slippage of the turves probably occurred within about 20–30 years of the construction of the monument (Bell *et al* 1996). The sampled layer here is comparable to a fallen turf (compare fig 6 to Jewell & Dimbleby, 1966, plate 3 and fig 1). The lack of weathering of the top of the primary fill (observed in available photographs, eg fig 6) suggests the selected layer was a worm-sorted soil (ie a fallen turf, see Bell *et al* 1996) with

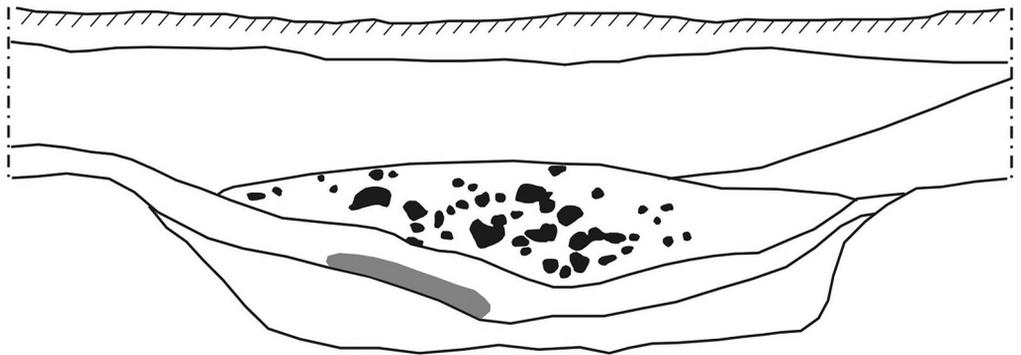


Fig 6 Hog's Back barrow. Photograph and ditch section drawn from it showing the *in-situ* position of the turf sample used in the molluscan analysis (photograph provided by Dr E E Harrison, drawing by Alan Hall).

no significant *in-situ* pedogenesis and soil formation over the primary fill. Land snail analysis (below) provides information about the pre-barrow and contemporaneous environments.

### *Mollusc assemblages*

The shells were in a good state of preservation although many were highly encrusted with a secondary calcareous deposit that hindered identification. So great was some of the encrustation that a few specimens were not identifiable to even family level. Encrustation was removed by soaking in weak solutions of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and rinsing (Allen 1984; 1986).

The moderate abundance of molluscs (464) is consistent with the layer being a turf or a soil horizon. The assemblage is characterised by an abundance of *Carychium tridentatum* and *Discus rotundatus*, with a rich shade-loving taxa comprising 74% of the assemblage. With the exception of *Pupilla muscorum* (5%, discussed later) this suggests a shady woodland environment. Other shade-loving species such as *Punctum pygmaeum*, *Vitrea crystallina*, *Nesovitrea hammonis*, *Aegopinella pura*, *Oxychilus cellarius*, *Trochulus striolatus* and the number of rupestral taxa present (*Acanthinula*, *Merdigera*, *Helicigona* and Clausillidae) confirm this. The abundance of *Carychium*, *Discus*, *T. striolatus* and the predatory zonitids suggest leaf litter and decaying plant remains on a deciduous woodland floor. Other shade-loving and rupestral species suggest old woodland. This is confirmed by the presence of *Acicula fusca*, which usually lives in mature, undisturbed woodland ecosystems that create damp and shady conditions, and is perhaps why it is rare in post-Neolithic contexts (Evans 1972, 135).

Although *Oxychilus*, *Vitrea* and *Discus* are also typical of rock-rubble habitats (Evans & Jones 1973) and *Helicigona lapicida* often occurs in holes and crevices in rocky ground as well as in old woodland (Kerney & Cameron 1979, 199; Kerney 1999), the assemblage is clearly largely one of old deciduous woodland. It is clear from the assemblage composition that the predominantly shade-loving assemblage in this layer reflects the wider landscape and not just a shady micro-habitat of the ditch.

Although the assemblage is predominantly one of shade-loving species, open country species are present. Of these, *Vallonia costata* also occurs in open woodland (eg Ashcott-under-Eychwood: Evans 1972, 251–6; 2007) and has been recorded consistently in the predominantly shady contexts in the Late Neolithic ditch at Coneybury Henge, Wiltshire (Bell & Jones 1990). In a Neolithic horizon just above the primary fill of the north quarry at Hazleton long barrow, Gloucestershire both *V. costata* and *V. excentrica* are present (Bell 1990). *Pupilla muscorum* is, however, a strictly open-country species and only rarely found in even open woodland. It is characteristic of earth bare of vegetation and of loose rubbly open slopes (Evans 1972, 146, 235). This, together with the relatively high numbers of *Pomatias elegans*, which enjoys loose broken earth, may represent the clearance of woodland, disturbance of the soil, and invasion of open country species. Indeed *V. costata* can be seen as a pioneering species occurring in immature grassland, as it is able to colonise poorly vegetated habitats that have been recently cleared (Allen 1995; Ellis 1985).

### *The pre-barrow and contemporaneous environment of the barrow*

It can, therefore, be postulated that the woodland on the Hog's Back at the Wen Barrow was ancient with little or no anthropogenic disturbance. This is perhaps confirmed by the lack of pre-Bronze Age activity on the Hog's Back (Clinch 1902; Clinch & Montgomerie 1912; Oakley *et al* 1939; Whimster 1931). There is little environmental evidence for the Surrey chalk, and especially for the Hog's Back (Macphail & Scaife, pers comm; 1987, 45). However, Kennard analysed the Mollusca from the primary silt and Neolithic B layers from the ditch of the Badshot Neolithic long barrow to the extreme west of the Hog's Back, which produced 'faunule(s) indicating damp shrub conditions with a complete absence of grassland species' (Keiller & Piggott 1939, 149). Unfortunately, no data of the species and their abundance were published.

Table 1 Land Mollusca from the Hog's Back barrow ditch, sample 2, weight 1000g.

Mollusca	No
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Müller)	20
<i>Acicula fusca</i> (Montagu)	11
<i>Carychium tridentatum</i> (Risso)	119
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Müller)	6
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i> (Porro)	4
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	13
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	5
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linnaeus)	24
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Müller)	11
<i>Vallonia</i> cf. <i>pulchella</i> (Müller)	1
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	11
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	15
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i> (Müller)	8
<i>Ena obscura</i> (Müller)	1
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i> (Draparnaud)	4
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Müller)	69
Arionidae	+
<i>Vitrea crystallina</i> (Müller)	9
<i>Vitrea contracta</i> (Westerlund)	31
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i> (Ström)	2
<i>Aegopinella pura</i> (Alder)	19
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	26
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Müller)	9
Limacidae	1
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Müller)	24
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i> (Montagu)	5
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Ström)	4
Clausiliidae	13
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linnaeus)	1
<i>Trichia striolata</i> (C. Pfeiffer)	12
<i>Trichia hispida</i> (Linnaeus)	3
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (Linnaeus)	2
<i>Cepaea hortensis</i> (Müller)	5
Taxa	28
TOTAL	488

A large quantity of charcoal from the barrow was identified by Joy Ede as *Quercus* sp. (oak) and *Fraxinus* sp. (ash), which are typical of mixed deciduous forest. Charcoals from Badshot included *Ulmus campestris* (elm), *Quercus* sp. (oak), and *Corylus avellana* (hazel) from the Neolithic contexts (Maby 1939) and are also consistent with a mixed deciduous forest.

Clearance of the ancient woodland is indicated by the open country species and *P. elegans* and may also be evidenced in the presence and quantity of charcoal. This might suggest that the woodland clearance was, at least in part, by fire. The impoverished nature of the emergent open country assemblage suggests that clearance was not long before, or even possibly for, the construction of the barrow.

### Summary

It is unfortunate that no samples from buried soil horizons under the mound or from other fills in the ditch were taken for mollusc analysis, and that the sampling was not undertaken in a stricter and more precise fashion. However, the single sample has been extremely fruitful. The mollusc assemblage from a remnant of the old land surface suggests a mixed deciduous woodland on the Hog's Back prior to the barrow construction. The woodland may have been a mature undisturbed one, and its removal was soon before, or even for, the construction of the barrow.

## Discussion

The date of construction of the Wen Barrow is uncertain, but could have taken place either during the first half of the 2nd millennium BC or in the Early Saxon period. The number and date of other barrows and burials on the Hog's Back ridge is similarly unclear. The location and fate of two, which survived as extant monuments into the 19th century, has been discussed (Bierton 1990); one, at SU 9261 4825, was partially destroyed in 1817, but hearsay evidence records finds including 'human bones, coins, fragments of iron – among which was one resembling an 'oven peel' (probably a shield boss) with fragments of pottery most likely the remains of an urn' (*ibid*, quoting Kerry 1868–77), and the possibility that this barrow was Saxon has been suggested by Needham (1987). Grinsell (1987) dismisses marks on aerial photographs that he earlier (Grinsell 1934) thought to be ploughed-out barrows as infilled chalk pits, but a further aerial photograph (NMR: 954/80; 02.06.1976) shows a ring ditch c35m in diameter situated at SU 9314 4848. In summary, it seems likely that at least three barrows were constructed at a point halfway along the ridge, all of which have been largely destroyed.

The form of the barrow excavated by Tony Clark is uncertain. The interpretation of the limit of the mound (fig 2) indicates the apparent presence of a berm, and the personal memories of those involved are that the excavator considered this to have been a bell barrow. Grinsell (1932) did not recognise it as such, although by then ploughing may have spread the mound such that any berm was not visible in the field.

According to Kerry (1868–77), other human skeletal material has been recovered from the same area. He records (p 111) the removal of a bank beside the road near Beggar's Bush, which revealed the bones of a young man, and another note (p 113) clarifies the position as 'within the triangle formed by the diverging extremities of Oliver's Lane and the main road between Guildford and Farnham'. Oliver's Lane was a name given to the road between Puttenham and Wanborough, which suggests an area for this burial as SU 934 483. Some years later, further human remains were discovered in the same area when the level of the lane was lowered, and these were re-interred in Puttenham churchyard (p 104). When Beggar's Bush was removed a further skeleton was recovered and was also buried at Puttenham (p 108). A further two skeletons were found in Wanborough Lane 'near the place where the lime kiln now stands' (p 130); this limekiln was probably that recorded in 1871 (OS 25 inch sheet XXXI.2) on the northern slope of the Hog's Back at SU 9330 4859, and close to the ring ditch shown on aerial photographs. These burials cannot be dated and may have no relevance to the discussion here, but could indicate the presence either of further destroyed barrows or flat graves associated with them.

The barrow may have dated to the Early Bronze Age when activity in western Surrey appears to have been concentrated on light sandy soils of the Bagshot Series to the north, and the Lower Greensand to the south of the North Downs. Isolated barrows or barrow groups are found on, for example, Crooksbury, Thursley, Frensham and Puttenham Commons south of the Hog's Back, and to the north on West End, Chobham and Horsell Commons, and valleys cutting the Bagshot Table have been suggested as foci for contemporary settlement (Needham 1987). In favour of construction during this period is the topographical position, set high on a ridge above a nivation hollow (erosion of the ground beneath and at the sides of a snow-bank, mainly because of alternate freezing and thawing). The three certain and possible barrows would have been set around the head of this slight, north-facing combe, a location now recognised elsewhere (eg McOmish *et al* 2002, 43–8; Tomalin 1993). It may also have been of importance that the barrows were placed exactly half-way along the flat-topped ridge, some 5.6km from either end (taking the length above 100m OD). If the barrow did date to the Bronze Age an interesting parallel exists between the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age fabricator found here and that recovered from the barrow in Deerleap Wood, east of Guildford (Corcoran 1963). A number of examples of Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age graves containing fabricators, thought to be the striker element of strike-a-light set are known

(eg Clarke 1970). The ‘much handled’ state of the fabricator found in the Wen Barrow may indicate a personal, possibly ancestral, piece.

Molluscan evidence, albeit from a single sample, suggests that the barrow under discussion was constructed in a clearing produced by burning previously undisturbed woodland; assuming the charcoal identified derived from locally grown trees this woodland included oak and ash. This contrasts with the more usual finding that, where the evidence is available, chalkland barrows were often constructed on previously utilised, and sometimes exhausted, arable land (eg Smith *et al* 1997), or on previously cleared grassland (eg Allen *et al* 1995), which in some cases is thought to have been intensively grazed (eg Cleal & Allen 1994; Wyles & Allen 1996, 26). The wooded environment also calls into question the view that local lines of visibility determined the location of barrows, unless extensive clearance took place at the time of construction, when a significant break in the tree line might frame the mound. Alternatively, and accepting that evidence from a single sample is a weak basis for too much speculation, perhaps an approach along a path cut through woodland rather than over open land on well-known and exploited sandy soils enhanced the importance of this locus. The relative lack of barrows on the Hog’s Back may imply that such a dramatic feature was ‘too important to defile with earthworks’ (Field 1998), but surviving woodland would have created an unbroken horizon when viewed from lower ground – the ridge remained ‘undefiled’.

If this early date is correct then the coarsely gritted urn style pottery sherds tentatively suggest secondary, Middle Bronze Age, burials disturbed when the mound was levelled, probably by ploughing. The finding of Romano-British artefacts, and a possible burial of that period, would then add this barrow to the many that have produced evidence of interest during this period and later. The unabraded nature of the pottery and the wide date range of the coins, together with the lack of any building material, preclude the derivation of these artefacts from either a settlement or a manuring scatter. During the Romano-British period, extensive use was made of earlier monuments for ritual purposes (Williams 1997).

Re-use of prehistoric barrows in the Early Saxon period is well attested, with burials being placed within the earlier mound or in flat cemeteries focused on the visible monument. This may explain the assemblage of finds from the mound ‘excavated’ in 1817 that included a possible shield boss and coins. It is most likely in this scenario that the coins were Romano-British in date, and the shield boss Early Saxon. This, however, remains a speculation and it is possible that the mounds originated in the Early Saxon period and that the coins were either residual or later in date.

Barrows of Saxon date are known from near Merrow, east of Guildford (Lane Fox 1877; Saunders 1980). The preferred position within the landscape of Anglo-Saxon barrows has been less well studied than those of earlier periods, but visibility from routes, whether by land or water, appears to have been a factor of some importance. Barrows at Sutton Hoo overlook the Deben estuary near Woodbridge in Suffolk and similarly a number of cemeteries on the south coast of the Isle of Thanet in Kent overlook the Wantsun Channel (Brookes & Harrington 2010, 68). The concept of a long-distance route along the top of the North Downs has been rejected comprehensively, but there is some acceptance of the possibility of a route along the dip-slope of the downs to the later position of Guildford and from there westwards along the Hog’s Back (Turner 1980). Such a route would run close to both the Early Saxon cemetery on Guilddown and the barrow under discussion here.

In summary, it is to be regretted that at least one and possibly two barrows on the Hog’s Back were destroyed without proper record, and that adequate publication of the excavation of the Wen Barrow has been prevented by the untimely death of the Director and the consequent loss of much of the archive.

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