

## An Analysis and List of Berkshire Barrows.

By L. V. GRINSELL.

### PART I. ANALYSIS.

#### A. INTRODUCTION.

THE county of Berkshire contains about 250 known ancient burial-mounds or barrows, and there are doubtless a number of additional examples awaiting discovery. Several of the barrows in the county are of special note, and these include the famous chambered long barrow known as Wayland's Smithy, and the Lambourn group known as "The Seven Barrows."

Taken as a class the Berkshire barrows are essentially an extension of the Wiltshire types. Wayland's Smithy is apparently the easternmost example of the chambered long barrows fairly common on the Marlborough Downs, and the bell and disc barrows on the Berkshire Downs are likewise an extension of the main distribution area of those types, which is on Salisbury Plain.

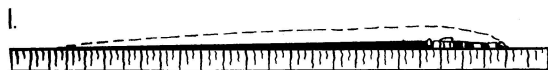
#### B. DISTRIBUTION.

Although a few examples are scattered over the heathlands (especially those on the Bagshot Beds) of South Berkshire, the majority of barrows in the county are on the Berkshire downs, extending from Ashbury along and south of the Ridgeway eastwards to Streatley. From this unspoilt and beautiful part of the downs wonderful views are obtainable and the air is very bracing—facts which may well have influenced early man in choosing the sites for his burial-places.

#### C. BARROW TYPES.

(i.) *Long Barrows.* So far as is known, the earliest English barrows are those of the long type. They are generally between 100 and 300 feet long, about 50 or 60 feet broad, and between 4 and 10 feet high, the higher and broader end frequently pointing towards the east or south-east. Long barrows may be chambered or earthen. The chambered ones contain one or more entrances leading to burial-chambers; the entrances, passages, and

# AN ANALYSIS AND LIST OF BERKSHIRE BARROWS.



WAYLAND'S SMITHY (CHAMBERED LONG BARROW)



COMBE GIBBET (EARTHEN LONG BARROW)



IDSTONE DOWN (BOWL).



STANCOMBE HATTS (BOWL).



LAMBOURN (TWIN).



CHURN (BELL)



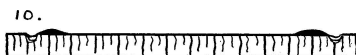
LAMBOURN (BELL)



ASTON UPTHORPE (DISC WITH LARGE MOUND).



LAMBOURN (DISC).



WASH COMMON (RINGWORK).

SCALE 0 10 20 30 YARDS.

## BERKSHIRE BARROW SECTIONS

L.V. Grinsell 1935.

chambers are formed sometimes of large stone blocks and sometimes of dry stone-walling of small stone slabs, and the two methods of construction are very frequently combined. The stones used are generally native to the locality in which the barrow is situated. Earthen long barrows sometimes contained wooden structures analogous to those of stone in the chambered long barrows.

Wayland's Smithy near White Horse Hill has been described as the most famous of all long barrows. It is of the chambered variety, having an entrance from the south-east, leading to three burial-chambers, the whole being arranged in the form of a cross, the long arm of which is represented by the passage. Only one of the chambers has its capstone in place, and the capstones of the other two rest prostrate beside their uprights. The barrow is of the True Passage Grave type.

The long barrow on which Combe Gibbet is placed is a fine example of the earthen type. It is near Inkpen in the extreme south of the county.

Berkshire also contains three very doubtful long barrows,—two near Churn Station in Blewbury parish (6" O.S. 21 N.E. and S.E.) and one on Abingdon Lane Down (6" O.S. 21 S.W.). The Churn example on 6" O.S. 21 N.E. was opened this year by Mr. H. J. E. Peake who found no evidence that the mound was a barrow.

*Round Barrows* are of several types, as described hereunder:—

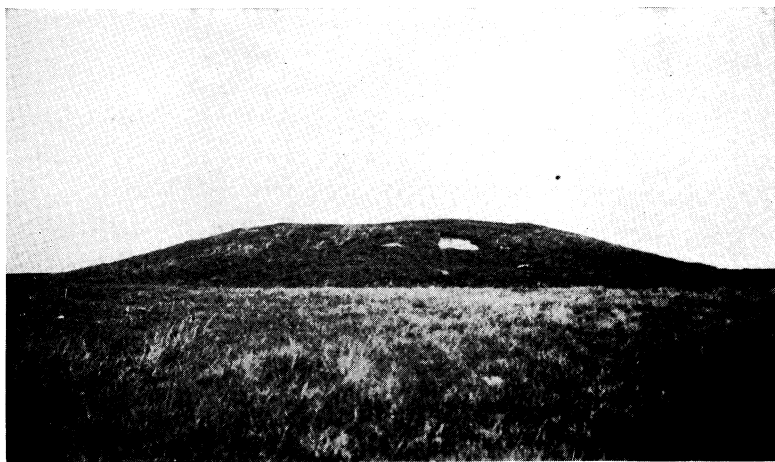
(ii.) *Bowl-Barrows* are, in Berkshire as in other counties, more common than any other type of barrow. In shape they resemble an inverted bowl, or the third of an orange placed convex side upwards. Good examples exist at Idstone Down (The Three Barrows), among the Lambourn group, at several points along the Ridgeway over the crest of the North Berkshire Downs, and in the Churn area. Some examples have visible ditches, but most have had their ditches obliterated by the plough. Most round barrows probably originally had surrounding ditches. Among the Lambourn group are two confluent bowl-barrows.

(iii.) *Bell-Barrows* differ from those of bowl shape in that there is a platform, ledge, or berm between the mound and the ditch. Some examples, perhaps of an early date, have the ledge very poorly defined and blending into the mound which has partly

AN ANALYSIS AND LIST OF BERKSHIRE BARROWS.



I. WAYLAND'S SMITHY FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



2. ROUND BARROW ON HACKPEN HILL.

overspread the ledge ; others, perhaps later, have a well-defined platform surrounded by a well-formed ditch, and occasionally there is a bank outside the ditch. When this feature is present the barrow seems to be transitional in type between bell and disc. Examples with the vague sloping berm are near Churn Station and among the Lambourn group which includes a twin. A well-developed example is on Mortimer Common. Some examples resembling bell-barrows of the developed type are on Brimpton Common, but the ditches round these barrows are thought to be recent and connected with tree-planting. It is not certain whether the Brimpton mounds themselves are barrows as excavation by Greenwell failed to disclose any interments. There are no really good bell-barrows in Berkshire, but there are three fine ones among the Four Barrows on Sugar Hill in Wiltshire, just outside the Berkshire border.

A very fine example in a plantation on Aston Upthorpe Downs (6" O.S. 21 N.E.) has a small mound and an outer bank. This is transitional in type between bell and disc, but is nearer a disc than a bell. This barrow is unfortunately covered with dense undergrowth.

(iv.) *Disc-barrows* consist of a large circular area bounded by a ditch and an outer bank, and inside the circular area are placed one, two, three, or even four tiny circular mounds, beneath which are the burials. The method of primary interment in barrows of this kind is almost invariably by cremation.

There is a good disc-barrow immediately south of Idlebush Barrow on Woolstone Hill south of Uffington Castle. Another good example is on Mere End Down east of the Lambourn group. Among the Lambourn "Seven Barrows" is a fine disc-barrow and another is half a mile to the north. All the Berkshire disc-barrows have a single central mound. There is also among the "Seven Barrows" another example approaching the disc type, but as the central mound spreads over the entire area of the platform this seems to be a large saucer-barrow rather than a disc. This area seems to be the eastern limit of the area of distribution of disc-barrows.

(v.) *Saucer-barrows* resemble disc-barrows, but instead of having one or more small mounds on the central platform, they have one very low mound spreading over the whole of the central area, as far as the surrounding ditch. So low is this mound that it is not always easy to tell whether there is a mound there at all. When the mound is absent the earthwork is classed as a ring-barrow or ring-mound. There are two saucer-barrows, one large and one small, among the Lambourn "Seven Barrows." On Hodcott Down near East Ilsley is what appears to be another small saucer-barrow, very low and poorly preserved (6" O.S. 21 S.W., Lat.  $51^{\circ} 32' 45''$  and Long.  $1^{\circ} 17' 50''$  W, approximate; not marked on the map).

(vi.) *Ring-mounds, or earth-circles*, as has just been indicated, are really disc-barrows without the central mound. It is impossible to tell, without excavation, whether a ring-mound is a barrow or not. "Residence, 'camp,' 'pastoral enclosure,' temple, place of debate or of judicature—a ringwork may have been built to be any one of these . . . and for every one of these purposes it may have received its consecration deposit. . . . But to prove it an intentional barrow there is needed something much more prominent, much more central perhaps, certainly much more proportionate, than the thing that served for a consecration-burial."—Allcroft, *The Circle and the Cross*, Vol. I., pp. 37-8. If one or more such ringworks are among a group of barrows there is circumstantial evidence that the ringworks may be barrows, but when they exist isolated it is well to leave the question of their purpose an open one until answered by excavation. There is a large ringwork among the barrows on Wash Common south of Newbury, but it is in a plantation and difficult to see on account of dense undergrowth. The remains of another ringwork exist at Marshall's Hill, Grosvenor Road, Reading. Some other circles, possibly of this type, appear on some air-photos taken by Major Allen. After these sites have been inspected on the ground and an effort made to determine their nature, they will be described in the List of Barrows in Part 2 of this paper.

(vii.) *Steep and Conical Bowl Barrows*. Barrows of the bowl shape were erected during all periods from the Early Bronze Age

AN ANALYSIS AND LIST OF BERKSHIRE BARROWS.



I. "THREE BARROWS," IDSTONE DOWN.



2. A BARROW AMONG THE LAMBOURN "SEVEN BARROWS."

to Saxon times, and it is difficult to determine the date of original construction of a bowl barrow without excavating it. At the same time some authorities claim to be able to distinguish Roman barrows from those of the Bronze Age and other periods on account of the steep conical profile, large size, and flattish top frequently possessed by Roman barrows. These features are well-shown at the Bartlow Hills in Essex. Yet the general shape of some of the Roman barrows is almost if not quite identical with that of some examples of the Bronze Age. Near Fawler, north of Kingston Lisle, is a rather conical bowl-barrow covered with trees and surrounded by what is evidently a bank thrown up when the trees were planted. The situation of this mound, in the White Horse Vale below the downs, is very unusual for a Bronze Age barrow, yet the position and steep conical profile are quite consistent with a Roman period. The name Fawler is derived from the Latin words *Flaga flora* or *Faga flora*, denoting a variegated floor or tessellated pavement which may have existed in the vicinity. It remains for excavation to decide the purpose and date of this mound. Another steep and conical mound is Cwichelmeshlaew or Cuckhamsley. Excavation in 1934 by Mr. H. J. E. Peake and others satisfied the excavators that the mound was probably not sepulchral. At the same time it can scarcely be omitted from a study of Berkshire barrows. For long it has been looked upon as the burial-place of Cwichelm, a Saxon chief, but this belief must now be taken with reserve, if not definitely abandoned.

(viii.) *Grave-mound Clusters*, which are so common in Kent and other south-eastern counties, do not appear to exist in Berkshire.

(ix.) *Exceptional Types*. *Oval barrows* exist in one or two areas near Ashdown Park. Attention was drawn to them in 1826 by the anonymous author of "*The London Hermit's Tour to the York Festival*" (page 47).

*Pillow-Mounds*. Of these there are two, both on White Horse Hill above the Horse and east of Uffington Camp. Each example was opened between 1850 and 1860 by E. Martin Atkins of Kingston Lisle, who found in them a number of skeletons and



grave-goods which are probably Roman. One of these mounds is more like a figure 8 than a normal pillow-mound. [See Thurnam and Davies, *Crania Britannica*, II. 51].

#### D. CHRONOLOGY: BARROWS EXCAVATED WITH RESULT.

##### (a) *Neolithic Period.*

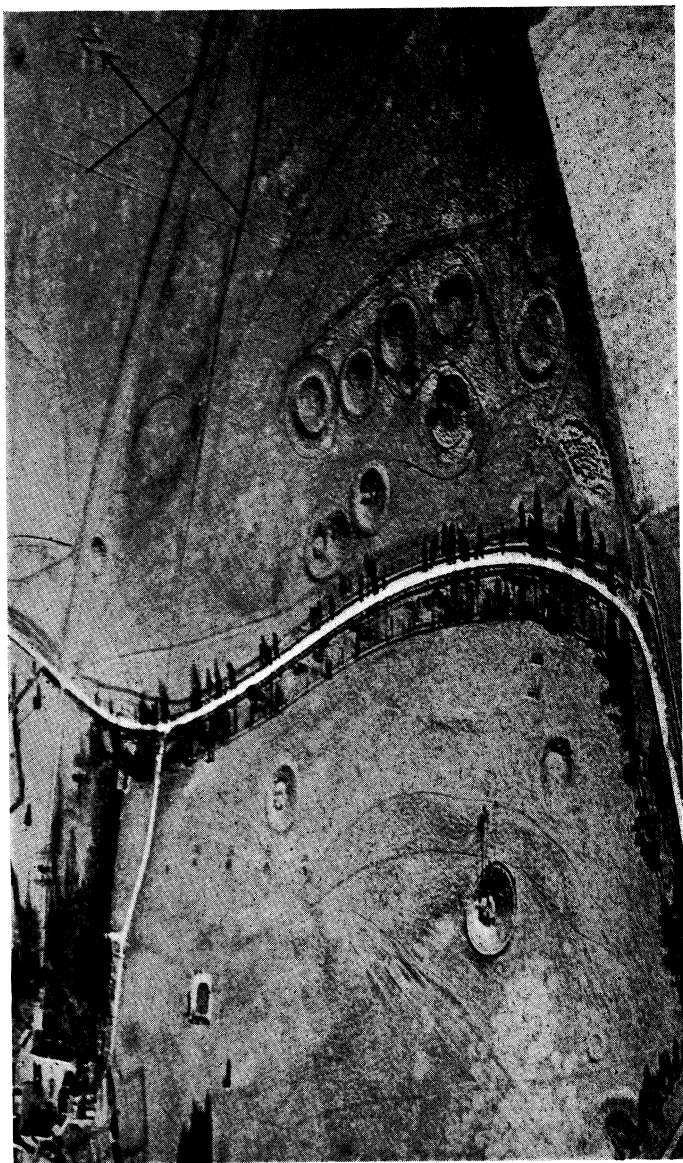
*Long Barrows.* Wayland's Smithy was opened in 1919 by Sir Charles Peers, Mr. R. A. Smith, and others, who found the remains of about eight skeletons in one of the burial-chambers. These skeletons included primary, and may have included secondary, burials.

The Combe Gibbet long barrow has not been scientifically excavated but there is every reason to regard it as Neolithic. The long mounds on Churn and Abingdon Lane Downs are of doubtful age and purpose.

##### (b) *Bronze Age.*

(i.) *Beakers and Contracted Skeletons.* In the British Museum are two beakers which were found on Lambourn Downs and may have come from the "Seven Barrows." They were presented to the Museum by Mrs. Martin Atkins. It is unfortunate that their exact provenance is unknown. Although the excavations in the "Seven Barrows" were very inadequately recorded, it is clear that some of them yielded contracted burials. "Barrow No. 1" yielded a *secondary* burial of a contracted skeleton of uncertain date. Two skeletons, at least one of which was flexed, were found in a nearly levelled barrow near Seven Barrows Farm, and one or both of these skeletons may have been primary. Among other skeleton-burials found were those from the "two small ring-barrows," with early Bronze Age grave goods associated (jet disc with central boss and V-boring, barbed and tanged arrowheads, and a flint strike-a-light with a lump of iron pyrites). Hitherto these small ring-barrows have been identified with the two large disc- or ring-shaped barrows in the group, in spite of the fact that disc-barrows almost invariably contain primary burials by cremation. The tiny saucer-barrow and the very small flat bowl-barrow among the group may be two possible alternative sites for the finding of these contracted burials. In the

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THE LAMBOURN "SEVEN BARROWS."

*Air-photograph by Major G. W. G. Allen, M.C.*  
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British Museum is a handled beaker found with a skeleton at Appleford. It is not certain whether the site was covered by a barrow, but Major Allen's air-photographs reveal ploughed barrows in the neighbourhood. There seems to have been no evidence of a barrow covering the beaker and crouched burial from Slade End near Didcot (*Berks Arch. Journ.*, Vol. 39, p. 99).

(ii.) *Cremation (Early and Middle Bronze Age)*. The following barrows have yielded cremations of early or middle Bronze Ages :—

The Beedon barrow (O.S. 27 N.W.) yielded a cremation, incense cup, and riveted dagger (*Arch Jour.*, 7., pp. 65-7).

Blewbury (O.S. 21 N.E. and S.E.). Several barrows on Churn downs have yielded primary burials by cremation. (*Arch. Jour.*, Vol. 5, pp. 279-291).

Childrey (O.S. 19 N.E.). A simple cremation from Greenwell's barrow ccxcii (*Archæologia*, Vol. 52, p. 63).

Cock Marsh (O.S. 24 N.W.). Simple cremation. (Peake, *Arch. Berks*, 1931, pp. 189-90 and references there given ; also S. Darby, *History of Cookham*, p. 16).

East and West Lockinge boundary (O.S. 20 N.E.). Simple cremation (*Trans. Newbury Dist. F.C.*, 7, p. 90).

Hampstead Norris (27 S.E.). Barrow (? near Beech Wood) opened by Dr. Silas Palmer who found in it a bronze knife-dagger [? uncertain whether burial was by cremation or inhumation]. (See *Trans. Newbury Dist. F.C.*, Vol. 4, p. 184).

Inkpen Hill (O.S. 41 S.E.). Barrows I-IV on Inkpen Hill were opened by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford in 1908. Three of them yielded cremations, and the remaining one (II) yielded a fawn-coloured urn. At least one of these barrows may be late Bronze Age (see below). (Peake, *Arch. Berks*, 1931, p. 205 ; Crawford's unpublished MS.).

Inkpen (Sadler's Farm). This barrow (Crawford's No. V) contained a partially burnt interment within a large number of fragments of pottery. (Peake and Crawford, *Ibid.*).

Lambourn (O.S. 19 S.E.). Greenwell's barrow cclxxxix yielded a simple cremation, with which were associated an incense-cup, perforated stone axe-hammer, perforated hammer

of deer horn, a bronze knife, and other articles. (*Archæologia*, Vol. 52, pp. 60-1).

Lambourn (Seven Barrows), O.S. 19 S.E. "Barrow No. 1" yielded the primary burial of two cremated bodies with an incense-cup, a bronze knife, and a bronze awl. A barrow at the eastern corner of the group towards Lambourn also contained an urn and burnt bones not far from a contracted skeleton (*Arch. Journal*, Vol. 78, pp. 47-54).

Letcombe Bassett (O.S. 19 S.E.). Greenwell's barrow No. ccxc yielded a simple cremation. (*Archæologia*, Vol. 52, pp. 61-2).

Sparsholt (O.S. 19 N.E.). This barrow is Greenwell's No. ccxciii, and is stated by him in error to be in the parish of Childrey. It yielded a cremation in an urn with an overhanging rim. (*Archæologia*, Vol. 52, pp. 64-5).

West Shefford (O.S. 26 S.W.). The barrow near Coldridge Wood yielded burnt bones and an incense-cup (probably both secondary) on the north part, and three simple cremations on the west part of the barrow. (*Trans. Newbury Dist. F.C.*, 3, 130-1).

[*Note*.—Although excavation-records are wanting, the disc-barrows south of Idlebush barrow, on Mere End Down, at Lambourn Downs, and on Aston Upthorpe Downs can all be considered as most probably middle Bronze Age, and the bell-barrows at Lambourn "Seven Barrows" and Stratfield Mortimer are almost certainly of early or middle Bronze Age. Nearly all the bell- and disc-barrows so far opened with result have been shown to belong to the early or middle Bronze Age.]

(iii.) *Cremation (Late Bronze Age)*. Barrow No. 1 of the Lambourn "Seven Barrows" contained at least 59 urns as secondary interments, arranged in two concentric circles beneath the outer fringe of the barrow which had probably been added to. At least some and perhaps all these urns were of the Deverel-Rimbury type, including those of globular and barrel forms. There were also about 50 simple cremations found, each of which was covered with sarsen stones. Reference to the plan (*Arch. Journal*, Vol. 78, p. 48) shows that about 40 of the burials were in

the N.E. half and about 70 in the S.W. half of the mound. This is in keeping with the frequent custom for the bulk of the secondary interments to be on the south and west sides of barrows, and a similar arrangement of burials tends to occur in the older churchyards.

The Inkpen Hill barrow (No. IV) has already been referred to as perhaps of late Bronze Age.

(c) *Early Iron Age.*

Primary burials in barrows of this period appear to be unknown in the county. The presence of pottery of the Early Iron Age (probably La Tène I) at the bottom of the ditch surrounding Cuckhamsley or Cwichelm's Low indicates that the mound was constructed during that period, but the absence of any signs of a burial casts doubt on the purpose of the mound.

(d) *Roman Period*

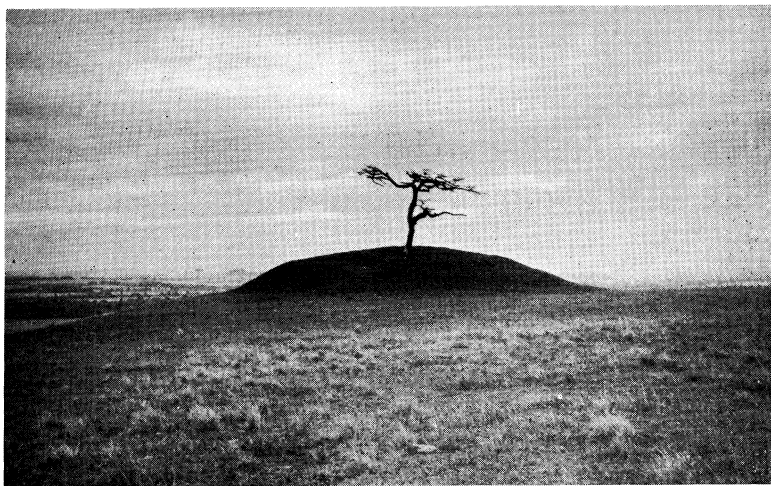
The barrow between Kingston Lisle and Fawler has been claimed by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford to be probably Roman. The situation at the foot of the downs is unusual for a Bronze Age barrow, but is not uncommon for one of Roman origin. The low bank surrounding the mound was probably placed there when the trees were planted on the mound a century or more ago. Fawler is derived from the Latin *Flaga flora* or *Faga flora* meaning a variegated floor or tessellated pavement which probably exists or existed nearby. Two long or oval mounds on White Horse hill yielded a large number of skeletons and other objects probably of Roman period when opened by E. Martin Atkins between 1852 and 1858. These mounds have been classed by Mr. Crawford as pillow-mounds.

(e) *Saxon Period.*

The large mound known as Cuckhamsley was for long thought to be the burial-place of the Saxon Cwichelm, but Mr. Peake's excavation of 1934 showed that the mound was originally erected during the Early Iron Age.

The only proved Saxon barrows in Berkshire appear to be among the Cross Barrows east of East Ilsley, which were opened by W. Hewett who found Saxon skeletons and iron implements, apparently primary, in two of them, and six skeletons (secondary) in a third. The fourth barrow appeared to be a cenotaph.

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I. CHURN KNOB.



2. CUCKHAMSLEY.

Secondary burials of Saxon date have been found in the Cockmarsh barrows. The magnificent Saxon barrow at Taplow is just outside the county boundary.

*Note.*—Only the more satisfactorily recorded excavations are embodied in this chronological section. The site at Speen Moor has been omitted because the date of the urn found is unknown, and the so-called barrow with six concentric ridges or ditches in which it was found is so unusual that one wonders whether it was a maze and not a barrow. In Part II of this paper a list of all the barrows or possible barrows will be given with full references.

#### E. THE HISTORY OF BERKSHIRE BARROW STUDY.

In his Additions to Camden's *Britannia* (1695 Edn.), Gibson noted (? from the MS. of Aubrey's *Monumenta Britannica*) " a barrow call'd Dragon-hill " near Uffington which may however be natural, and the large mound called Cuckhamsley. He also noted, a mile away from White Horse Hill, " a great many large stones, which tho' very confus'd, must yet have been laid there on purpose. Some of them are plac'd edge-wise ; but the rest are so disorderly, that one would imagine they had been tumbl'd out of a cart." This account probably refers to Wayland's Smithy. Further references to Wayland's Smithy and Dragon Hill occur in F. Wise's *Letter to Dr. Mead* (1738) and *Further Observations* (1742), and in Lysons' *Magna Britannia (Berkshire)* (1813). The latter volume also refers to the alleged barrow at Speen and to the Lambourn " Seven Barrows." Some of these early writers were obsessed with the idea of connecting Dragon Hill with Uter Pendragon and Wayland's Smithy with a Danish chief named Baereg or Bagsecg. The Lambourn " Seven Barrows " were likewise claimed to be the burial-places of five Danish earls and two other Danes of less importance killed at the Battle of Ashdown.

In 1844 W. Hewett published his "*History of the Hundred of Compton*" which contains a detailed account of Cuckhamsley, " the boast and glory of our downs," as well as an account of barrows south of Hodcott Farm near Ilsley, at Stanmore near Beedon, and the Cross Barrows near Compton.

In 1847 appeared in Volume 32 of the *Archæologia*, an account of Wayland's Smithy by J. Y. Akerman, and an account of the legend of Wayland Smith by Thomas Wright. Between 1840 and 1860 some digging was done on the Berkshire Downs by Dr. J. Wilson and Mr. Edward Martin Atkins, who were not in advance of their time as to their methods of excavating and recording. Although their well-meaning excavations fell a long way short of the needs of the modern archæologist, they succeeded in showing that the Lambourn "Seven Barrows" (their chief victims) belong to the Bronze Age. Atkins also opened two pillow-mounds near Uffington Castle. As a member of the Committee for the Scouring of the White Horse (1857) he did valuable work in preserving facts and traditions relating to some of the ancient sites on the Berkshire Downs. These were ably recorded by Thomas Hughes in his fine book, "*The Scouring of the White Horse*" (1858).

Meanwhile some barrows on Churn downs were opened by Dr. J. Wilson and the excavations recorded in 1848. Two years later E. Long published his account of the Beedon barrow.

The barrows on Cockmarsh near Maidenhead were explored by Mr. Heneage Cocks and Mr. Napier between 1874 and 1877. Much more scientific excavations were made by Canon Greenwell in barrows in the parishes of Lambourn, Letcombe Bassett, Childrey, Sparsholt, and Brimpton, and these were recorded in 1890 in Vol. 52 of the *Archæologia*. Greenwell's work was, of course, infinitely superior to that of all his predecessors in Berkshire.

During the present century the most important details of Berkshire barrows have been collected and published by Mr. Peake (*V.C.H. Berkshire*, Vol. 1, 1906, and *Archæology of Berkshire*, 1931). Mr. Peake has also conducted some excavations on the Berkshire Downs (*Transactions of Newbury District Field Club*, Vol. 7). Barrows near Inkpen on the southern fringe of the county were opened by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford about 1907-8. I am indebted to him for allowing me to use his unpublished account of these excavations, some details of which are included in this paper.



Important researches at Wayland's Smithy were conducted by Sir C. R. Peers and Mr. Reginald A. Smith in 1919. (*B.A.J.* 32, 74).

The Anglo-Saxon land charters of the county have been carefully analysed by Dr. G. B. Grundy, whose account appeared in volumes 27 to 32 of this *Journal*. The references to barrows in these charters are of considerable importance.

During the last three years valuable aerial observation and photography have been done by Major G. W. G. Allen, M.C., and have resulted in the discovery of a number of new sites.

#### F. FOLK-LORE.

(i.) *Fairies*. About a mile west of Beedon is a barrow said to be inhabited by the fairies or "feeresses." "A certain ploughman, who broke his share near the spot, went to get tools to mend it, but on returning found that the good people had repaired the damage during his absence." (*Arch. Jour.*, VII, 66.) A strikingly similar tale is told of a barrow on Sidwell Fields, Quantocks, Somerset. This time a pixie had broken its peel (a wooden shovel used in old-fashioned baking). A ploughman mended it, not knowing to whom it belonged. After a time he went to the spot where he left the peel, and found that the peel had gone and a hot cake had been put in its place by the grateful pixie. (*Folklore*, vol. 19, pp. 49-51).

(ii.) *The Devil*. When the Devil ran his ploughshare through the soil to form the Devil's Ditch (Grim's Ditch) within a few hundred yards of Cuckhamsley, he found it necessary to clean his ploughshare; the lump of earth that fell off was the Cuckhamsley mound or barrow (Hayden, *Travels round our Village*, p. 12). An identical tradition is told of a Norfolk barrow: the Devil was digging another entrenchment known as the Devil's Ditch, and scraped his spade against a tree, the lump that fell off forming the barrow known as Hangour Hill near Swaffham. (This item was told to Mr. F. M. Underhill, a member of the Berks Archæological Society, by a shepherd in the vicinity).

(iii.) *Mythical Personages*. The legend of Wayland's Smithy is too well known to be described with minute detail here, as everybody knows how the invisible smith was supposed to shoe horses a groat apiece. The story of his adventure with his imp

Flibbertigibbet is not so well known, but is too long to record fully here. Wayland is said to have thrown a large sarsen-stone at the imp who was hit on the heel by the stone and went away snivelling, at the spot known as Snivelling Corner between Shrivenham Station and Ashbury, where a large sarsen bears witness to this exploit. [For further details see *Berks Arch. Jour.*, Vol. 33, pp. 112-114; *Archæologia*, Vol. 32 (pp. 312-324); Alfred Williams: *Villages of the White Horse*, 1913, p. 248].

Dragon Hill is well-known for being the spot where St. George, or "King Gaarge," is supposed to have slain the Dragon. The patch where no grass grows on this hill is said to have been poisoned by the Dragon's blood. It is not certain whether Dragon Hill is natural or artificial.

Among the traditions relating to Cuckhamsley is that it is the grave of one Captain Scutchamer, killed in the Civil Wars (*London Hermit's Tour to the York Festival*, 1826). Burrow Hill near Beedon is said to have been erected over the remains of a man named Burrow, buried in a gold or silver coffin (*Arch. Journal*, VII, p. 66).

(iv.) *Ghosts*. A barrow south-west of Sadler's Farm, Inkpen, stands in a field which is said to be haunted by a ghost, which, according to some people, is headless (Mr. O. G. S. Crawford's unpublished MS.). [Traditions of headless ghosts have also been recorded at Barrow Fields near Newquay and near a barrow on Roundway Down, Devizes; see *Folk-lore*, Vol. 11, p. 347].

(v.) *Battles*. The barrows on Wash Common near Newbury are said to cover the remains of soldiers killed in the first Battle of Newbury (1643) which was fought in the vicinity. The dead were placed in 7 rows of 70 each, and their horses were buried in a barrow all to themselves. (Information from Miss Champness, late of Newbury Museum). Cuckhamsley has been variously regarded as the burial-place of Cwichehm's soldiers, slain in a battle hereabouts, and as the burial-place of people killed in a battle with the Scotch (an alternative name for Cuckhamsley is Scotchman's Knob). (*Folk-lore*, vol. 26, p. 154; Hayden, *Travels round our Village*, p. 12).

A battle between the Saxons and Danes is said to have been fought near a supposed tumulus on Batlynge or Bartle Mead, but the name may be a corruption of Bartholomew. The mound may not be a barrow (Darby, *Place-Names of Cookham*, pp. 10-11). A skirmish during the Civil Wars probably occurred in the field to the north. A round barrow near Everington stands in a field known as England's Battle (Peake, *Archæology of Berkshire*, 1931, p. 51).

(vi.) *Hidden Treasure*. A golden coffin is said to have been buried somewhere on the hill between Wayland's Smithy and the White Horse (Alfred Williams, *Villages of the White Horse*, 1913, pp. 265 and 287). The Beedon barrow was supposed to contain a gold or silver coffin (*Arch. Journal*, VII, p. 66). The tenant's wife permitted the opening of the barrow on condition that she should receive any gold that might be found therein. One of the barrows on Inkpen Hill has been said to conceal a gold table (Mr. O. G. S. Crawford's unpublished MSS.). The barrow S.W. of Great Shefford was opened in search for gold (*Trans. Newbury District F.C.*, vol. 1, pp. 130-1).

(vii.) *Thunderstorms*. The Beedon barrow is said to have been opened one night and the excavation stopped by a storm. During a subsequent excavation of the same barrow in about 1850, a storm occurred and was attributed by the villagers to the sacrilege (*Arch. Jour.*, VII, p. 66). The opening of the barrow near Sadler's Farm, Inkpen, is also reported to have been stopped by a thunderstorm (Mr. O. G. S. Crawford's MSS.).

(viii.) *Underground Passages*. The traditional existence of an underground passage between Wayland's Smithy and the coombs near Ashbury was hinted at in Alfred Williams' book, *Villages of the White Horse*, 1913, p. 248.

#### G. LOCAL NAMES.

A number of examples are distinguished by local names. Among general names may be cited Barrow Hill (Beedon and Garford), Burrow Hill (Beedon), and Barrowbush Hill (Fernham), but these names probably apply not so much to the barrows as to the hills on which they are situated.

The only certain example of a barrow distinguished by a personal name is Wayland's Smithy, with the variants Weland's and Wieland's Smithy, Wayland Smith's Cave and Wayland Smith's Forge.

Cuckhamsley was for long thought to be Cwichelm's Low but excavation in 1934 cast doubt on this identification, and Mr. Peake has recently suggested the derivation from cwic-elm, the live elm. There are a very large number of variants of Cuckhamsley. Among these are Cuckhamsley Hill (maps by Saxton, Rocque and others), Cuckhamslow Hill (Greenwood's map), Cuchinslow, Scuchinslow, and Scuchamere (F. Wise gives these three variants), Cwichelmes-low, Cwichelms Low, Cwicelemes Hlaew, Scutchamer Knob, the Knob, Scutchamfly Knob, Scotchamfly Barrow, Scotchman's Knob, Scratch-my-Knob, and Cutchinloe.

Baughurst or Borson Barrows, Brightwell Barrow, and Churn Knob are all named from the villages or farms near them.

On Idstone Down is the group known as "Three Barrows" and on Wash Common near Newbury are some barrows marked on early maps as "Three Barrows" or "Three Burrows." The famous group at Lambourn is known as the "Seven Barrows." In only one of these cases does the number of barrows in the group correspond with the number in the group-name. The Lambourn group contains over twenty examples; that on Wash Common contains about four bowl-barrows and one ringwork; the Idstone group at present contains only three barrows but the site of a fourth example is about 150 yards distant. Peculiar significance has for long been attached in the popular mind to the numbers three and seven.

Idle Tump or Idlebush Barrow may be so-called from the fact that over a century ago it was planted with trees which failed to grow (another but perhaps less probable explanation is given in Alfred Williams' *Villages of the White Horse*, 1913, pp. 249-50).

Among names not so easy to explain are Cross Barrows (Compton), Fox Barrow (6" O.S. 21 S.W., on three parish boundaries), and Dragon Hill (perhaps named from the resemblance of the White Horse nearby to a dragon; this mound was formerly thought to be a barrow but its nature is open to question). The

large barrow on Hagbourne Hill (21 N.W.) is called Mount Skippet, as I was informed by the keeper of the *Horse and Jockey Inn* nearby. The barrow on the parish boundary at Wash Common is known as "Bumper's Hill." Is this a spot where boys were "bumped" during the beating of the bounds? The local name is given in *Trans. Newbury District Field Club*, Vol. 4, p. 176.

There are also a number of barrows with local names, not now easily identifiable, mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Land Charters recently analysed in this Journal by Dr. G. B. Grundy. These will be referred to in the next section of this paper.

#### H. SAXON LAND CHARTERS.

The fine work of Dr. G. B. Grundy on the Berkshire Charters (*Berks Arch. Journal*, Vols. 27-32) has revealed a mass of information on the barrows used as boundary-marks in Saxon times. Many of the barrows mentioned in these charters are not marked on the maps and have probably been destroyed long ago. Others may still exist although at present unknown outside the charters. The task of identifying the barrows mentioned in the charters with the remains that still exist would be a very formidable one and is outside the scope of the present paper. It may be noted however that air-photographs by Major Allen have already revealed the sites of barrows, especially in the Abingdon area, some of which are probably among those mentioned in the charters. The writer hopes on a future occasion to make a study of the barrows mentioned in the Berkshire charters and to publish it as Part III of the present paper.

Meanwhile the following summary of the relevant information may prove useful.

The early parts of Grundy's papers (*B.A.J.*, vol. 27) deal largely with the parishes of Abingdon, Appleford, Bayworth, and surrounding areas. Among the barrows mentioned are Enna's Barrow (Vols. 27, p. 144, and 31, p. 56), and *Ytting's Low* (p. 149) which may survive in the field-name Titlar Hill. Ecel's Barrow (or perhaps the church barrow) which may have been near Alfred's Castle, appears in an Ashbury charter (Vol. 27, p. 154). In the same area (between Ashbury and Uffington) are mentioned

*Stanhlaew* (the stone barrow) and *Hoda's Low*. The charters of this region are important as they contain references to Wayland's Smithy (Vol. 29, pp. 87-90) as well as to some barrows nearby called *Hildes hlaew* (Hild's Low) and *Hwittuces hlaew* (Whittuc's Low). The former may have been west of Knighton Copse and the latter in the N.W. angle of Hardwell Wood. An exceedingly interesting site near Hardwell Camp was known as *Dinra Beorh*, or the Coin Barrow, which "must have been a barrow where coins had been found" (Vol. 29, p. 89). *Wæardaes Beorh* (Watchman's Barrow) may have been the example now known as Idlebush Barrow south of Uffington Castle (Vol. 31, p. 144). The place-name Challow appears to have been *Ceawan hlaew*, or Ceawa's Low (Vol. 28, p. 64).

References are equally prolific relating to the downs between Wantage and East Ilsley. *Cat beorh* (Cat Barrow) may survive in the name Catmore near Farnborough. Farnborough is *Fearnbeorh*, the barrow covered with ferns (Vol. 29, p. 101). *Brocenan Beorg* (the broken or opened barrow) doubtless survives in the field name Broken Berry near the N.W. corner of Farnborough parish (Vol. 29, p. 103). This may or may not be the same as *Borsenan Beorge* = the burst or broken barrow, perhaps on Woolley Down to the west of Farnborough (Vol. 27, p. 226). With these examples may be paralleled one mentioned by Kemble (*Archæological Journal*, Vol. 14, pp. 119-139): "*westan tham beorge the ædolfen waes*" = "west of the barrow that was dug into." The references to Cuckhamsley in the Saxon charters are well known (Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus*, Nos. 693 and 1289). A small barrow on the boundary between East and West Lockinge seems to be the *gemaerbeorg* of another charter (*Berks Arch. Jour.*, Vol. 30, p. 114). *Rypelme Hlau* (? the elm barrow) may or may not be the same as *Cwichelmes hlaew* (*B.A.J.*, Vol. 30, p. 48).

We now come to the eastern part of the Berkshire Downs. Among the most interesting references is to Fox Barrow, which is still so-called and adjoins Grim's Ditch near Churn Station (Vol. 27, p. 203). Lowbury to the east is *Hlaew-byrig*, the barrow near the camp (Vol. 29, p. 198).

In the southern part of the county are a few more sites which can be approximately located. Near Leckhampstead is Rowbury Farm with a tumulus to the east. Rowbury is "undoubtedly the name of the tumulus, *Ruh-beorh* = Rough Barrow" (Vol. 27, p. 213). A similar example is *Ruwan Beorg* = Rough Barrow, in the Winkfield charter (Vol. 32, p. 17), south-west of Windsor.

The Borson or Baughurst Barrows on the Berks-Hants county boundary near Silchester are mentioned in a Brimpton charter (Vol. 29, pp. 207-9), where one of the barrows is called Imma's Barrow.

In conclusion it must be said that this account does not include every barrow mentioned in the Saxon land charters; it includes only the more interesting and important examples.

#### I. MAPS.

The early Berkshire maps by Saxton and others of the 16th and 17th centuries have no barrows marked except Cuckhamsley Hill which probably applies to the down rather than to the mound thereon. The most important map of the 18th century is that by Rocque (1761) which marks the Lambourn "Seven Burrows" and the Wash Common "Three Burrows." These sites are also marked on Cary's map of 1801.

C. and I. Greenwood's map (1822-3) does well in marking "Wayland Smithes Cave," Cuckhamslow Hill, "Round Barrow" S.E. of Blewbury, Seven Barrows (Lambourn), Baughurst Barrows near the Hampshire border, and Three Barrows on Wash Common near Newbury. A map by Weller (1864) is likewise rich in the marking of archæological sites.

The 1st editions of the 1" Ordnance Survey maps (1805-44) mark nearly all the sites on the present maps, and reveal a little fresh information in addition. The Baughurst or Borson Barrows near the Hampshire border are marked as nine mounds in 1" O.S. 1st edition, yet only five mounds appear on other maps. Moreover, one of the mounds appearing on the later maps is omitted from the 1" O.S. 1st edn., so that there may originally have been ten mounds here.

The 1st editions of the 6" O.S. maps are important in showing which barrows were planted with trees and surrounded by modern banks and ditches. Among the examples thus altered in shape are the Baughurst Barrows, four examples among the Lambourn "Seven Barrows," and the Kingston Lisle barrow. As the trees have now in some cases vanished from the barrows, this information would not be easy to discover without referring to the maps in question.

The 1" O.S. 5th edition (Sheet 113, Reading and Newbury) is of course thoroughly up-to-date in its archæological information. Two barrows on Compton Downs near East Ilsley are new to the archæological world, but one of them was marked on 1" O.S. 1st edition although omitted from all previous and subsequent maps. The mounds near Hamstead Marshall, marked on previous maps in error as tumuli, are now correctly described as "Castle Mounds."

The following improvements may be suggested for future 6" O.S. maps. The word "disc-barrow" might perhaps with advantage be placed beside appropriate examples among the Lambourn group, south of Idlebush Barrow, and on Mere End Down. The Lambourn group needs revision in the light of extra information revealed by Major Allen's air-photographs. The same air-photographer has discovered some other sites which should be marked, notably S.W. of Hodcott Farm, West Ilsley.

On 6" O.S. 19 N.W. is an unmarked barrow about 200 yards N.W. of Idlebush Barrow.

At the same time the Ordnance Surveyors deserve congratulations on the large number of sites that they have marked. Without the Ordnance Survey maps, a survey like the present one could never have been undertaken.

#### J. SCHEDULING UNDER THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS ACT.

Up to September 1935, the following barrows were scheduled :—

Borson Barrows, Wasing ;

Boxford round barrow east of Rowbury Farm ;

Combe Gibbet Long Barrow ;

Dragon Hill (doubtful whether natural or artificial) ;



Stratfield Mortimer: group of five barrows near Holden's  
Firs;

Inkpen Hill—group of barrows;

Wash Common, group of barrows:

Blewbury: a long mound on Churn plain (O.S. 21 N.E.);

Wayland's Smithy;

Brightwell Barrow.

The writer suggests the following additional examples as worth being scheduled: the Lambourn "Seven Barrows"; Idlebush Barrow and the disc-barrow to the south; the disc-barrow on Mere End Down; the "Three Barrows" on Idstone Down; Cuckhamsley (whatever its nature may be); Fox Barrow near Churn; Churn Knob and the barrow adjoining; the fine disc-barrow in the plantation on Aston Upthorpe Downs; and the bell-barrows on Churn Plain.

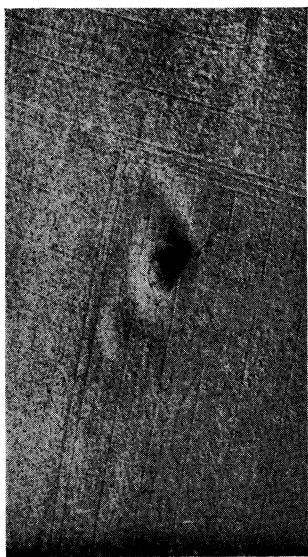
#### K. OBSERVATION AND PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE AIR.

Most of the air-photography of ancient sites in the county has been done during the last three or four years by Major G. W. G. Allen, M.C., some of whose beautiful photographs accompany the present paper. He has secured some fine photos of the well-known "Seven Barrows" at Lambourn, as well as photos of most of the barrows in the Churn region. In some ways of even greater importance are his photographs revealing the existence of barrows not marked on the maps, notably south-west of Hodcott Farm near West Ilsley, and also on the downs above Ashbury. Other photographs reveal circles, some of which are barrow-circles, in the regions of Abingdon and Appleford. Although the Saxon Charters refer to barrows hereabouts, their exact sites were unknown until the air-photographs revealed them. The task of identifying these barrow-circles with the barrows mentioned in the charters will be a long and difficult one. It is hoped to include more of Major Allen's air-photos in Part II. of this paper, together with the results of ground-inspection of the new sites revealed.

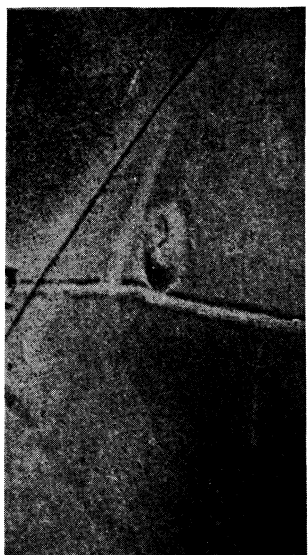
Among the R.A.F. air-photographs at the Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, are the following:—

Nos. 3125 and 3138: Circles near Abingdon (6" O.S. 10 N.W.).

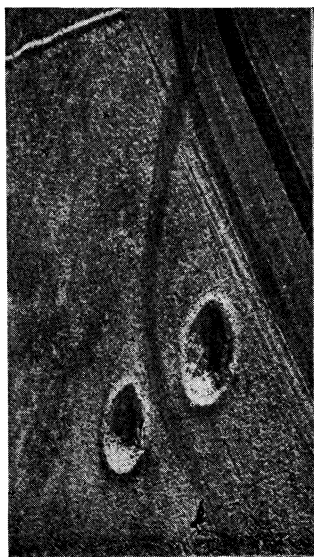
AN ANALYSIS AND LIST OF BERKSHIRE BARROWS.



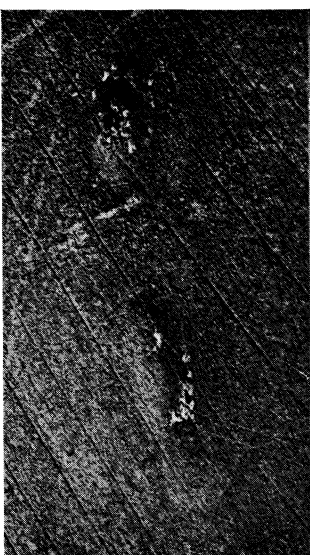
1. CHURN KNOB AND ADJOINING BARROW.



2. FOX BARROW AND GRIM'S DITCH.



3. BELL-BARROWS NEAR CHURN STATION WITH GRIM'S DITCH IN TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER.



4. ROUND BARROWS AND A SMALL CIRCLE EAST OF CHURN FARM.

Nos. 3150, 3166 and 3167 : Circles near Radley Station (10 N.E.)

Nos. 3127 and 3140 : Several Circles near Culham Bridge and Stonehill House (10 S.W.).

No. 1223 : Circle at Appleford (10 S.E.).

No. 1224 : Circles near Northfield Farm (11 S.W.).

The above-mentioned circles may not all be barrows.

In order to become " air-minded " the writer has flown over the sites between Reading and the Lambourn "Seven Barrows" in company with Mr. C. A. N. Bishop of Reading Aero Club.

#### *Acknowledgments.*

I have to thank Mr. H. J. E. Peake for unpublished information of his excavations this year, as well as for his kind help in other details. His *Archæology of Berkshire* (Methuen, 1931) has been my indispensable companion throughout. To Major G. W. G. Allen I owe once again a great debt for taking the air-photographs and giving me complete freedom to reproduce whichever I chose. His aerial observations have materially enriched our knowledge of Berkshire barrows. I have to thank Mr. O. G. S. Crawford for permitting me to publish details from his unpublished notes on his excavations at barrows in the Inkpen district. Mr. R. S. Simms of H.M. Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments has kindly brought up-to-date the list of scheduled barrows.

#### ADDENDUM.

Since this paper was written, the writer has found a long mound on Westcot Down north of Lambourn. The mound is partly in a wood, partly traversed by a cart-track, and partly under plough ; but there seems little doubt that it is a long barrow, and the presence of several sarsen stones near the eastern end suggests that it may be chambered. A further account of this find will appear in the Spring 1936 issue of this *Journal*.