The Earthwork at Hinton Waldrist.

By HEATHER GARDINER and MARTYN JOPE.

DURING the summer of 1939 trial excavations were undertaken on the earthwork at Hinton Waldrist. We wish to record our gratitude to the owner, Mr. Nicholas Davenport, who gave us of his best hospitality, provided labour, allowed us to dig trenches where we pleased in his gardens, and above all took a vital personal interest in the work. We should also like to record our indebtedness to the Rector and Mrs. Cole for their hospitality and encouragement, and to Mr. R. I. Threlfall, who spent several valuable weekends with us at Hinton.

The earthwork lies on the northern scarp of the ridge of high ground which rises to about 100 feet above the river level on the southern side of the broad Thames valley about halfway between Oxford and Lechlade. Thus it overlooks the important ford crossing the Thames at Duxford, less than a mile away. By its nature, however, the earthwork can have had little military significance, and it seems much more probable that its apparent strategic importance is due rather to the necessity for providing adequate refuge and defence for an estate through which any army campaigning in the region is almost certain to pass, than to the requirements of any military operations. It consists of a large ditch enclosing what was probably a rhomboid area of about three acres, in which lies the present house, an Elizabethan structure with many additions. There is no evidence to suggest the exact shape or position of the north-eastern part of the earthwork, which has either been entirely destroyed in making stables and gardens for the house, or else used by the present road coming up from Duxford to Hinton. In the middle of the western side of the ditch, lying outside the enclosed area, is a small mound 70 feet across and 20 feet high, which appeared to have no ditch of its own surrounding it: this lack was indeed confirmed by excavation. It should be noted that the main ditch makes a slight inward bend to avoid the mound, thereby suggesting that the mound was earlier than or contemporary with the ditch: excavation proved it to be contemporary. The western corner of the main ditch is the only sharp angle which remains intact, and this has outside it a considerable mound, 20 feet high from the bottom of the ditch. This, however, we consider to be caused merely by the necessity for disposing of about three times as much material from the ditch into the banks at the corners as along the straight.[1] The south western and northern sides of the earthwork

[1] Rectangular earthworks with humps at the corners are a recognised type: British examples occur at Dinas-y-Prif, near Carnarvon, and "Berry Castle," Witheridge, Central Devon and in many other places: they are well known among the Roman forts of the Rhineland. In our case the hump may have had some strategic importance, but the reason for its existence seems primarily structural.

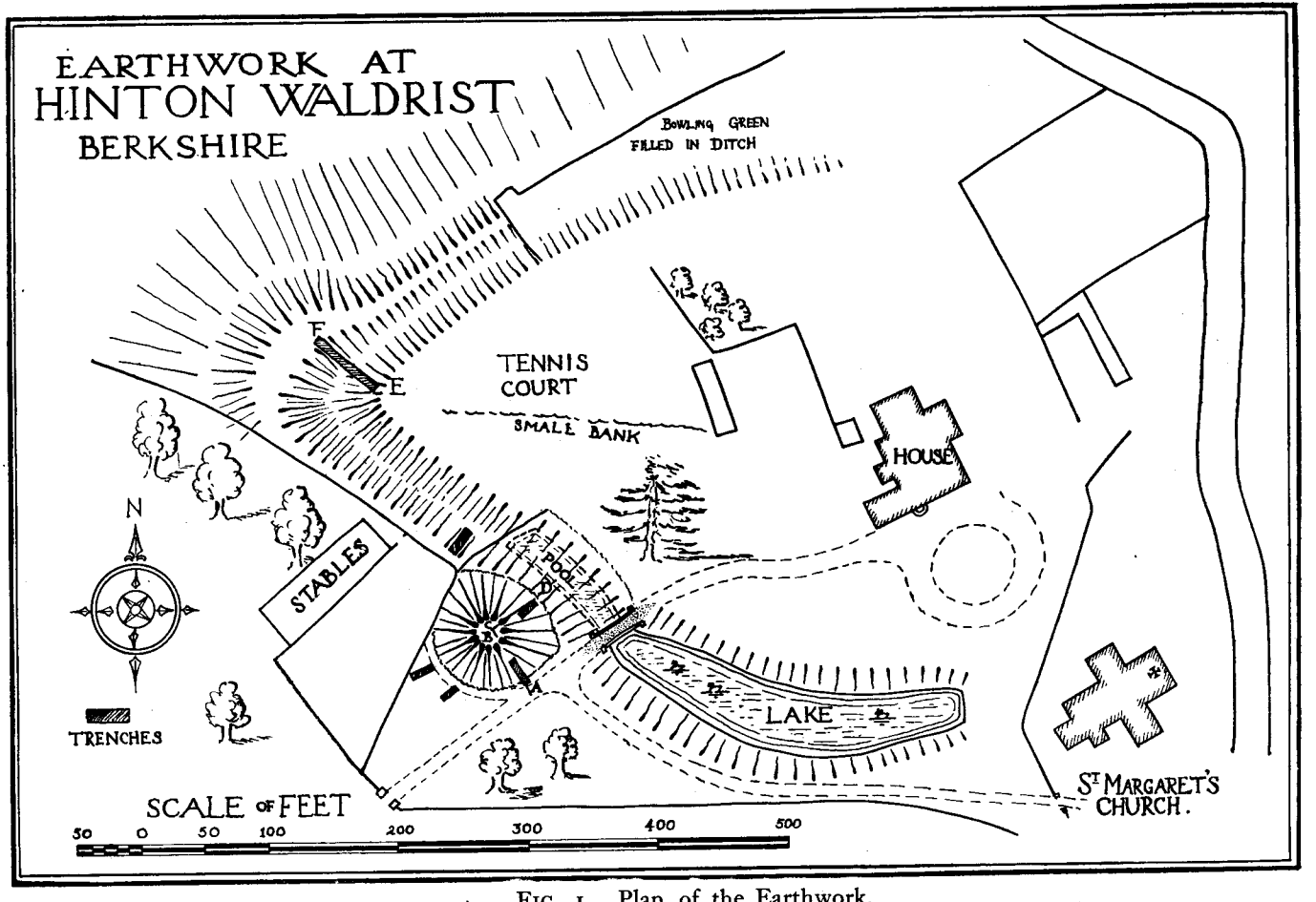

FIG. 1. Plan of the Earthwork.

are the only parts now remaining intact ; a swimming pool and an ornamental lake now occupy the south side, but these do not obscure the line of the ditch. On the north the ditch was filled in to form a bowling green where it runs past the north front of the house, with its terrace, but the line of the ditch is also still visible here on its southern scarp. On the east no trace of its line remains.

HINTON WALDRIST—HISTORICAL.

Before the Norman Conquest, Hinton[1] had two separate holdings, of 10 hides and 3 hides respectively. The first was held by Ulwen and the second by two Thegns who had two " Halls " and could go to whatever Lord they wished. At the conquest these lands were given to Odo of Winchester, who held the office of King's Engineer : he was a Saxon who evidently made his terms with William before the conquest. The two holdings were valued in the Domesday Book at $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 hides respectively ; the manor also had a fishery worth 20/-, and a church is mentioned. Hinton passed, with many other of Odo's possessions, through the barony of Ivrey to the S. Valery family, early in the XIIth century. Subsequently the honour of S. Valery reverted to the Crown, and Henry III granted it to his half-brother, Richard Earl of Cornwall ; thence it passed to his son and heir, Edmund, and then to the King as his cousin and heir, in 1300. There appears to be no documentary mention whatever of any fortification here, so that archaeological evidence must be used to determine its date and purpose.

The form of the earthwork suggests comparison with the four-sided moated homesteads which seem to become prevalent in the XIIIth century. The evidence of excavation outlined below, however, suggests a date in the earlier years of the XIIth century, and the moat and mound appear to be of one period. While this evidence is, theoretically of course, not conclusive, the total absence of any pottery which is datable later than mid-XIIth century makes it in a high degree certain that it gives a correct view of the earthwork in its historical context.

THE EXCAVATION.

Sections of the mound (See Fig. 2, ABCD) showed that on the old surface level was a layer of soft black earth, 3—5 feet thick : in the section AB could be distinguished about 3 inches from the subsoil of natural yellow sand a black coherent turf line : in the section CD this level was only traceable as a difference in soil

[1] The generally accepted origin of *Waldrist* seems to be from the family name of S. Valery, who came from the village of that name in Normandy : " Thomas de Walerico " held it in 1192 (Pipe Roll), but the first occurrence of the second element in the place name appears to be in the XVIIth century—*Hinton Walrushe, Walrith, Waldridge.* " Hinton " is presumably topographical, the TUN on the high place, HIN.

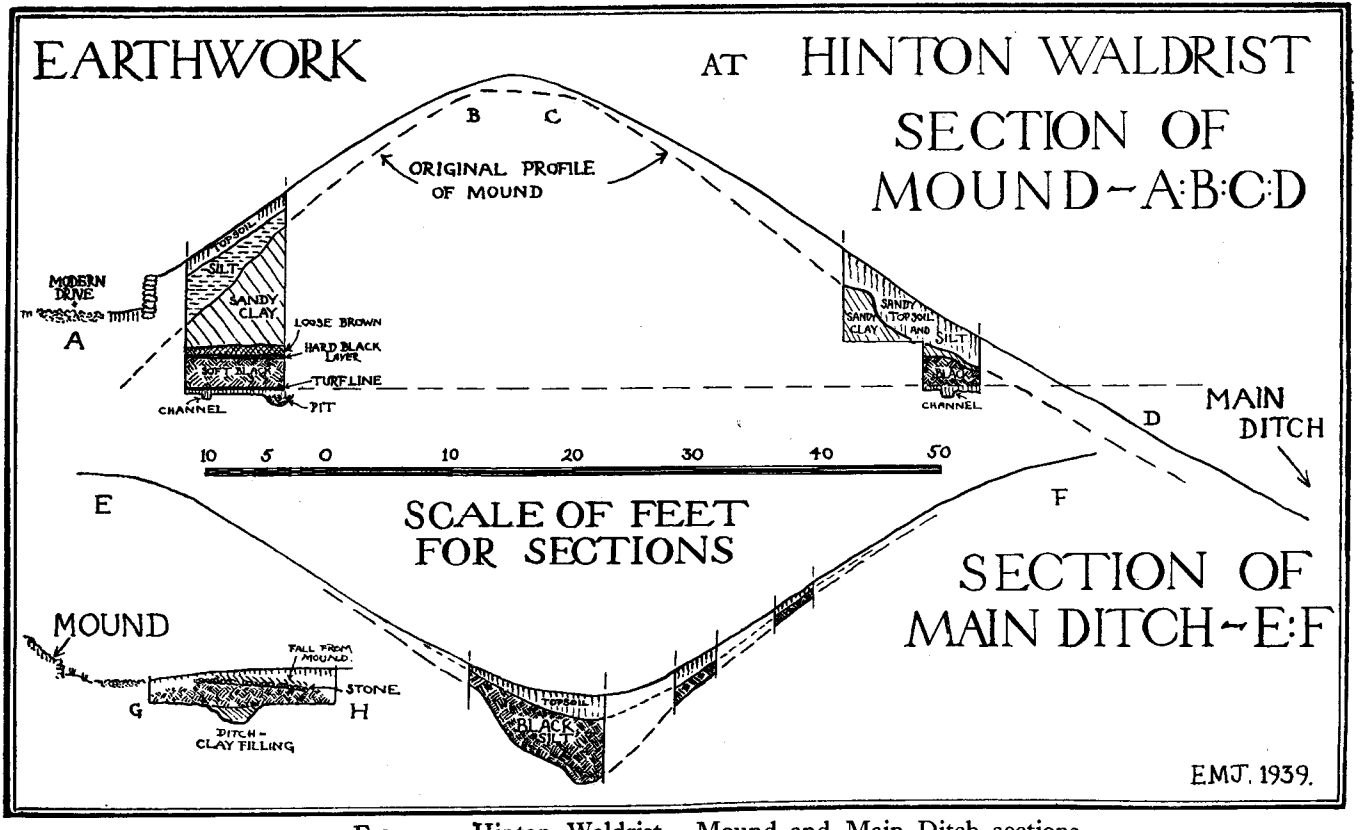

FIG. 2. Hinton Waldrist. Mound and Main Ditch sections.

and a definite cleavage surface. With the exception of the pit in section AB, nothing but Roman and prehistoric pottery came from below this turf line and it was therefore presumed to be the surface existing when the mound was built. The pit 2 feet deep in AB contained fragments—unfortunately no rim or base—of a medium-sized cooking-pot of shelly fabric and purplish surface, typical of the Late Saxon pottery (see section on "Pottery") and some bones. The turf line appeared to continue over this pit without interruption, and the explanation evidently is that at some time not very long before the construction of the mound a pit was dug, refuse put in, and it was piled up again flush with the surface.[1] The thick black layer above this turf line was considered to be the surface soil scraped up off the ground prepared for the ditch: it contained prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval pottery (nothing which need be later than early XIIth century, however), and its blackness is accounted for by considering it as the occupation earth of the prehistoric and Romano-British settlements on the site.

A section (Fig. 2 GH) outside the mound to the south-west showed a layer of stones about 1 foot below the surface and on top a sloping layer of sand, presumably washed down from the mound: below this was 1½ to 2 feet of black soil containing nothing but Roman pottery and therefore probably undisturbed by the medieval builders: the corresponding black layer from where the ditch now lies must have formed the black lower layer of the mound. This section showed a small ditch 5 feet deep running apparently NW—SE. Above the black foundation-layer was the sandy clay forming the main substance of the mound, and presumably obtained from the digging of the ditch; above this was easily traceable the line of silt which had gradually washed down from the top. Unfortunately the top of the mound has been considerably upset by large trees and by the dumping there of quantities of soil during the last century to make them grow well. The dotted line, however, in Fig. 2, must indicate the approximate original profile of the mound. In many places where we dug trenches the surface of the yellow sand subsoil showed channels about 6 inches deep and 1 foot wide: the only explanation we have to offer is that they are analogous to the rather similar natural channels in the gravel surfaces of the Thames valley, presumably due to the natural drainage of the area.

We cut a section of the main ditch at the west corner (See Fig. 2, EF). Unfortunately it yielded nothing but bones, but it gave the profile of the ditch, which proved to have silted to a depth of 8 feet, and showed that the inner slope had been cut in steps. The small bank running from this western corner towards the house proved to be modern.

[1] Pits were found beneath Northampton Castle mound containing exactly this kind of pottery.

A section was cut of the " linear earthwork," (so called on the 6in. O.S. map), which runs southwards from the mound. This was shown to be an old trackway, and the section produced a piece of a handle of a jug, which might be dated somewhere about 1300.

Of the earlier material from Hinton, it seems possible to divide it into two groups, the native wares of 1st century A.D., and the genuine Romano-British wares of IIIrd—IVth centuries : there are three IVth century coins from the Rectory garden, where much Roman pottery also occurs.

It only remains to consider the possible reasons for the construction of this rather unusual earthwork combining as it does features of a Moated Homestead[1] with certain elements of a Motte and Bailey Castle. We have established a date in the early years of the XIIth century : although this part of the country was peaceful enough under Henry I it was right in the No Man's Land of the Civil Wars of the reign of Stephen (1135–1154). In 1144–45 the forces of Stephen and of Robert of Gloucester, who took the side of the Empress Mathilda, were quartered in Oxford and Faringdon respectively.[2] The suggestion therefore seems reasonable that during the unrest of Stephen's reign the St. Valery overlords ordered their estate Steward at Hinton to erect adequate defences to protect their property and tenants there. The moat presumably enclosed the buildings then existing, and space for cattle and other livestock, and the mound served as an observation post. As we have observed, the earthwork does not give the impression of having been constructed by a man well versed in the practice of military defences of the XIIth century, and we consider this more domestic explanation to co-ordinate the facts of archaeology.

HINTON POTTERY.

By E. M. JOPE.

The pottery forms a characteristic group which may be compared in many respects to groups occurring at Yarnton (Oxon), Aylesbury (Bucks)–and at Flambard's Manor, Meldreth (Cambs)–and may be attributed to the late XIth or early XIIth century. It is of considerable interest to find the smooth shelly fabrics and typical forms of the East Anglian Late Saxon (" St. Neots' ") potting tradition occurring side by side with the normal sandy and gritty wares of the XIIth century as far west as West Berkshire. In East Anglia this series of Later Saxon pottery from the IXth century to the early years of the Norman Conquest well

[1] At Appleton (Berks) there is a normal Homestead Moat round a Late XIIth Century House, but there is unfortunately no evidence to indicate the date of digging of the Moat.

[2] See *Ant. Journ.*, XVI, 1936, p. 165 ff, for the documents on this subject.

illustrates the influence of the continuity of Late Roman traditions of potting in the Rhineland during the Carolingian period,[1] which it has been suggested was one of great trade expansion between England and the Continent.[2] This pottery is well made and wheel-turned, in contrast to the Pagan Saxon pottery and to any other pottery attributable to the Later Saxon period. After the middle of the XIth century the influence of this potting spreads westwards and is found, for instance, at Aylesbury (Bucks) in conjunction with pottery typical of the early XIIth century.[3] In East Anglia in the late XIth century this pottery undergoes a development in fabric, which loses its shelly soapy texture and becomes much finer grained and harder, though the older forms are retained almost unaltered; the development is well illustrated in the pottery from Alstoe (Rutland) and Stamford Castle (Lincs).[4] This developed type has also been recorded in Oxford: there is a finely made jug of buff fabric and thin pale yellow glaze in the British Museum from The Angel Inn, Oxford,[5] possibly made in the Cambridge Region.

The westward spread of the earlier shelly pottery is well illustrated by the Hinton material (there are several bases and many other fragments of this fabric as well as the pot, fig. 3, No. 3) and also by the series from Yarnton, Oxon, which includes in addition fragments of three bowls (one is illustrated in Fig. 3, No. 4) of typical East Anglian type, very exactly paralleled at Cambridge, Bedford and Northampton (pits beneath the Castle, XIth century).[6] At Yarnton there are also fragments of a much coarser shelly fabric resembling greatly the forms of the other more gritty wares at Hinton: these all have well dated parallels in the late XIth-early XIIth centuries, for example, pottery found at Old Sarum[7] (with a coin of William I), *c.* 1100 (E.g. cp. figs. 3, No. 12 (Hinton) and fig. 3, No. 13 (Yarnton) etc.) Fig. 3, No. 5, has exact parallels at Yarnton in coarse shelly reddish fabric.[8]

The Hinton pottery bears no resemblance whatever to that from Faringdon Clump (Berks), which Mr. Leeds has identified as the adulterine castle of Robert of Gloucester, put up in 1144 and apparently destroyed by Stephen's forces in 1145. The Faringdon pottery, however, bears so little resemblance to XIIth century ware and so much to dated XIIIth century pottery groups elsewhere in England that it is difficult, in spite of the excellent documentary

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1 For continuity in the Rhineland, see *Trierer Jahrbuch*, XI, 1936, p. 75. Especially Beilagen 1 and 2.

2 But see my article in forthcoming *Oxoniensia*

3 *Records of Bucks* IX, 1907, 282 ff.

4 *Ant. Journ.*, XVI, 1936, p. 396 ff.

5 *B. M. Quarterly*, XIII, p. 35 and Plate XV, c, b: Also *Oxoniensia*, 1940 (forthcoming).

6 *Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, XVI, p. 1.

7 *Ant. Journ.*, XV, 1935, p. 187, fig. 4.

8 I should like to express my indebtedness to Mr. G. C. Dunning, B.Sc., F.S.A., for his advice concerning the East Anglian and the Aylesbury pottery.

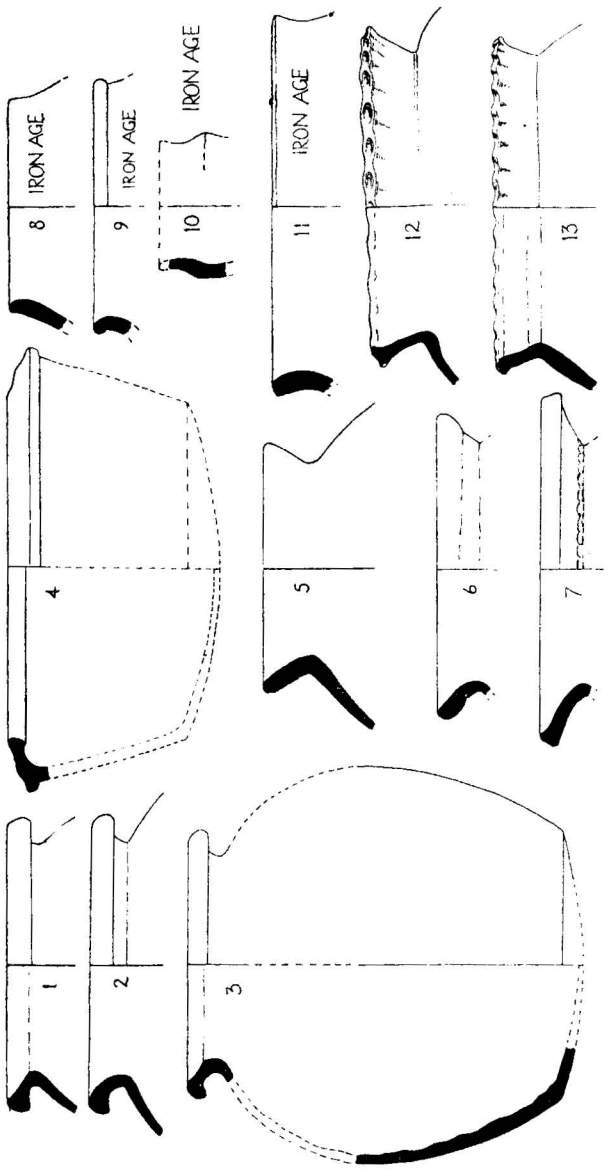

FIG. 3. POTTERY : 3, 5—12 — Hinton. 1, 2, 4, 13 — Yarnton. (¼)

evidence, to accept it as a mid-XIIth century group.[1] The finding at Hinton, only 5 miles from Faringdon, of a series of pottery so completely typical of the groups elsewhere dated to the early XIIth century refutes, as far as Faringdon is concerned, Mr. Leeds' argument that rim forms vary too much from region to region to be used as an indication of date, and provides additional evidence indicating that the Faringdon Clump pottery is probably not attributable to the middle of the XIIth century.[2]

FIG. 3, NO. 3 (HINTON), NOS. 1 AND 2 (YARNTON).

Fine shelly fabric with purplish surface, soapy to the touch: wheel-turned. These belong to the East Anglian "S. Neots's" group of pottery of the Late Saxon period; parallels may be quoted from Bedford, Cambridge, Gt. Paxton (Cambs)—(*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc. XXXV*, p. 102, Fig. 3, Nos. 7, 8, 9), Flambard's Manor, Meldreth (Cambs)—(From a latrine pit: *ibid.* Fig. 4, Nos. 1 and 2), in the pits under Northampton Castle mound, thus dated not later than late XI (*Assoc. Arch. Soc. Reports*, XVI, pt. I), Aylesbury (Bucks) (*Records of Bucks*, IX, 1907, p. 282 ff: with material of early XII Cent.), and those illustrated (*Fig. 3, Nos. 1 and 2*) from Yarnton (Oxon): an exact parallel to *Fig. 3, No. 3* has recently come to light from Market Street, Oxford, and a complete lower half of one of these vessels from Logic Lane, Oxford, is in the Ashmolean Museum. The form is also well illustrated, in a harder fabric, at Stamford (Lincs) and Alstoe (Rutland). (*Antiq. Jour.*, XVI, 1936, Figs. 3, 5 and 7). These may be considered late XI–early XIIth Century at Hinton.

FIG. 3, NO. 4 (YARNTON).

Rim of a bowl of light red shelly gritted ware with grey core, soapy to the touch. Typical of the Late Saxon pottery in East Anglia. There are fragments of three of these bowls from Yarnton.

FIG. 3, NO. 5.

Hard dark grey fabric, shell gritted, wheel-turned, red to purple-brown on exterior, and grey interior surface. This undecorated rim with no shoulder angle is a widespread late XIth–early XIIth century form, examples being known from Pevensey (Late XI), Ogmore Castle (Glamorgan) (1130–1140)—(*Antiq. Jour. XV*, 1935, p. 332, Fig. 5, No. 36), Chichester, Winchester, Yarnton (Oxon), Handley Hill (Hants)—(Pitt Rivers—*Cranborne Chase* IV, p. 246, No. 9) and Oxford itself (*Oxoniensia* IV, 1939, p. 157, Fig. 29, No. 18).

[1] See Mr. R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford's arguments in *Oxoniensia*, IV, p. 141 ff. Also it has always seemed remarkable to me that an advanced outpost of Robert of Gloucester at Faringdon, occupied for about 6 months only, under continual threat from the King's forces at Oxford, only 17 miles distant, should have used considerable quantities of what is the best quality pottery normally attributable to the second half of the XIIIth century.

[2] *Ant. Journ.*, XVI, 1936, p. 174.

FIG. 3, No. 6.

Cooking pot rim of hard grey coarsely gritted ware. Traces of applied strip with finger-tip decoration may be noted in the angle of the everted rim. This is another form typical of the Early XIIth Century in the South, with parallel examples at Winchester, Chichester, Ashstead (Surrey), Luccombe and Woody Bay (I.O.W.)—(*Proc. I.O.W.N.H.S.*, Vol. II, p. 671 ff).

FIG. 3, No. 12 (HINTON), AND No. 13 (YARNTON).

No. 12 is of hard grey coarsely gritted fabric with a black surface: No. 13 is of a softer fabric gritted with coarse shell and reddish brown in colour, both body and surfaces. Finger-tip decoration is present on the top of each rim. This technique is in use in the Late Saxon period in East Anglia, and at the end of the XIth century is fairly widespread in the southern half of Britain.[1] However, *No. 12* appears to be the later type of finger-tipped rim, the exact parallels, in so far as they are dated all appear to indicate the earlier half of the XIIth century: Castle Hill, Folkestone (*Archaeologia* XLVII, Pl. XX, No. 50-found with coin of Stephen)-Woody Bay, I.O.W.—(*Proc. I.O.W.N.H.S.*, Vol. II, p. 677, Fig. 3, No. 6)—and Dorchester (Oxon) (*Oxoniensia*, Vol. II, p. 61, Fig. 17, No. 13, probably C. 1140).

FIG. 4, No. 14.

Roughly wheel turned, of hard grey-cored fabric, gritted with coarse shell: exterior has a purple tinge, much blackened: interior is a light purplish-brown: fragments of a vessel halfway between a bowl and a cooking-pot. This is a XIIth Century type in the Oxford region, and parallels may be quoted in Oxford itself (New Bodleian Library—Tunnel excavations 1939. See *Fig. 4, Nos. 16 and 17*), Yarnton (Oxon)—(*Fig. 4, No. 15*), Woodperry (Oxon), Combe (Oxon), and Bourton-on-the-Water (Glos), the last of which occurred in conjunction with pottery typical of the early XIIth century[2] (finger-tip decorated rims, etc.). Examples of the same type of pot, only with the rim top sloping slightly outwards instead of inwards, have occurred at Marston (Oxon), Seacourt (Berks) and Winchester. The type does occur, though more rarely, outside the Oxford region, as is indicated by the Winchester example, and one at Flambard's Manor, Meldreth (Cambs)—(*Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.* XXXV, p. 103, Fig. 4, No. 8). From Benson (Oxon) there is an example in the Ashmolean Museum of shell-gritted ware with a purplish to light red smooth surface which forms a link with the East Anglian shelly Late Saxon fabrics, and may indicate the origins of this form of pot in the XIth century.

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[1] E.g. Bramber, under Castle Rampart—Late XI; Old Sarum "c. 1100" (*Ant. Journ.*, XV, 1935, p. 187)

[2] I am grateful to Mrs. B. H. St. J. O'Neil for showing me the material from Bourton.

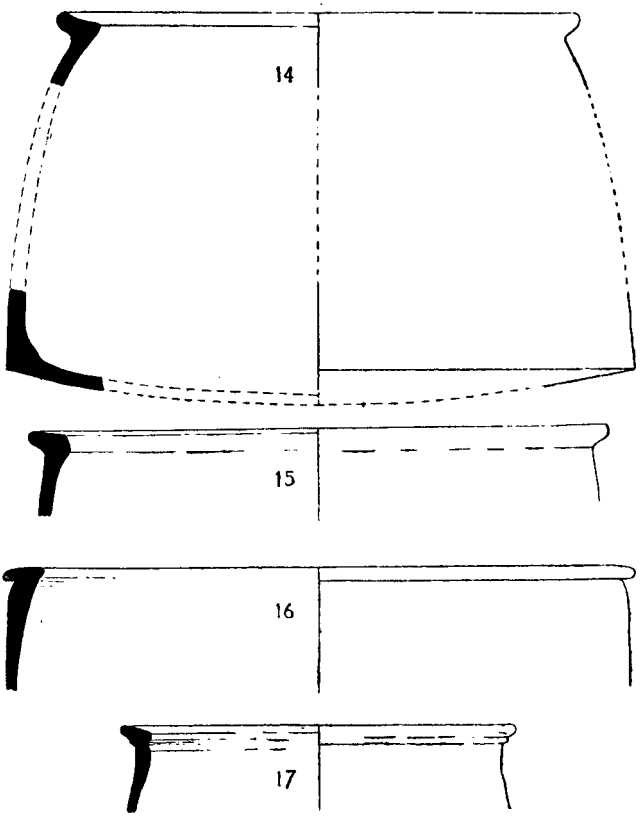

FIG. 4.

POTTERY : 14 — Hinton ; 15 — Yarnton ; 16, 17, — Oxford. (¼)

Prehistoric Pottery.

These are all characteristic native wares and forms of the Ist Century A.D. in the Oxford Basin. They all came from the thick black layer of the trench on the north side of the mound.

Fig. 3, No. 8. Black somewhat burnished ware : hand made.
Fig. 3, No. 9. Soft buff sandy ware, probably made on a turntable.
Fig. 3, No. 10. Hard black fairly gritty ware : hand made.
Fig. 3, No. 11. Rough dark grey ware with grass-tempering : clumsily hand made.

ROMAN POTTERY FROM HINTON WALDRIST.

(Not Illustrated).

1. Fragment of bowl of pinkish fabric and red slip, decorated with zones of roulette hatching. Typical red coated ware. of the IVth century : cf. *Richborough I*, p. 105, and XXIX, No. 125.
2. Rim of Pie dish in medium fine brown ware ; IVth century : cf. *Richborough I*, p. 103, and Plate XXVIII, No. 106. Hambleden (Bucks). *Archaeologia* LXXI, p. 182 and Fig. 15, No. 152.
3. Top portion of jar with cavetto rim ; hard grey gritty ware, smooth blackish surface with apparently no decoration. IVth century : cf. *Richborough III*, d. 181, and Plate XD, No. 321. " This is a common IVth century type in the deposits at Richborough." (But see *Brecon* R. E. M. Wheeler, *Y Cymmrodor 1926, p. 229, and Fig. 100, No. C. 73* for remarks on difficulty of dating such pots by a chronological table depending upon their proportions, as suggested by May, *Silchester Pottery*, pp. 301 ff.)
4. Rim of hard grey fine ware with smooth surface. Probably Ist century. cf. *Wroxeter Ist Report.* 1912. p. 75, No. 37. Two dated separately 80–120 A.D.
   Richborough Ist Report, 1926, p. 93 and Plate XXI, No. 14, Claudian.
   Richborough IIIrd Report, 1932, p. 173 and Plate XXXVI, No. 255, Nero-Vespasian.
5. Part of base of large bowl of pale hard fabric with a design of cross-crosslets, and dots painted on interior of base in chocolate brown paint. IVth century : cf. painted wares from Headington, Oxon.