

# ROBIN HOOD'S ARBOUR: AND RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURES IN BERKSHIRE

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THIS PAPER is written in two parts: the first part is the excavation report of a small rectilinear enclosure in Maidenhead Thicket called Robin Hood's Arbour; the second part is a study of such enclosures in Berkshire, with comments on British and Continental analogies. Appendices give details of the Berkshire sites and of a second earthwork which is adjacent to Robin Hood's Arbour.

## PART I. THE EXCAVATION REPORT

### *Earlier references*

The small earthwork called Robin Hood's Arbour is situated in Maidenhead Thicket, some three miles due south of the River Thames (NGR 41853811). The sub-soil is a clay-loam, over clay with small chalk capping the chalk rock.

The earliest reference to the site traced is that of Kerry in 1861.<sup>1</sup> He wrote — 'About half a mile to the north of this [i.e. a quadrangular enclosure near Tittle Row] is another earthwork of the same form, about 50 yards in diameter [an underestimate]. This very perfect and interesting formation is generally known by the name of "Robin Hood's Arbour". It has evidently formed a kind of outpost to the principal encampment, and appears to have been strongly fortified; the fosse is in excellent preservation. These remains [i.e. a nearby bank (see Appendix II, p. 34) and Robin Hood's Arbour] characteristic of two separate nations lie *side by side*; the former partaking of the rude and irregular character of the works of the Britons, the latter, the well-known features of Roman castramentation. They are, moreover, *coeval*. The reason for the proximity is obvious. As an argument in favour of their *antiquity*, it should be remembered that *the thicket has never been cultivated*, and that until comparatively modern times there were but few habitations in the locality; any remains, therefore, existing thereon corresponding as they do with the known habits and systems of a primitive people, must of necessity be a work of the former, and not the productions of a later age. These earthworks are perhaps now the only evidence of the *contest* between the ancient Bibroci and the Roman power; and although we are informed that this tribe was amongst the first to lay down their arms at the feet of their conquerors, it was evident that it was not without a struggle for the defence of their liberties, and for the freedom of their hearths and homes.'

This remarkable piece of mid-nineteenth century deduction, based only on the shape of the earthworks and the assumption that the Bibroci were a tribe inhabiting the Berkshire area, resulted in the site being considered as of Roman date for many a year. It was so described by Shrine in 1901,<sup>2</sup> and by Ditchfield in 1905.<sup>3</sup> When Volume I of the *Victoria County History of Berkshire* appeared in 1906,<sup>4</sup> the site was still

<sup>1</sup>*History of the Hundred of Bray* (1861), 150.

<sup>2</sup>*Bucks, Berks. and Oxon. Arch. Journal*, vii (1901), 95.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.* x (1905), 45.

<sup>4</sup>*V.C.H. Berks.* I (1906), 204.

'supposed' to be Roman, and indeed the idea still persisted when Bannard wrote his article on Maidenhead Thicket in 1931.<sup>1</sup> He wrote – 'The Roman camps however can be traced. One, known for some unfathomable reason, as Robin Hood's Arbour, though there is no trace in record or tradition or legend of Robin Hood ever having frequented the Thicket, is still fairly clearly defined. It is close against the private road that runs from the Henley road to Stubbings House. It is in sight of the Lodge and about 300 yards south-east of it. It is in the angle of the road to Stubbings and the grass track which crosses it, and is barely 30 yards south of the latter. The fosse of this camp is 60 yards long on the north and south sides, and 80 yards long on the east and west sides. In the early nineties, Mr. Rutland and Mr. Henry Arrowsmith made an exhaustive investigation of Robin Hood's Arbour by digging there, but the results were very disappointing, very few remains of any interest and none of any great importance being found.'

Otherwise, except for a mention by Peake,<sup>2</sup> the site seems to be unpublished.

As the earthwork was virtually undated, and moreover, as it was one which was probably undestroyed by any cultivation, its examination seemed well worth while. In addition, the site had become so overgrown that it was only partly visible, and some clearance and preservation of its surface features seemed desirable. Whatever its date of construction, it had not apparently been re-occupied since then, with the exception of a period during the Second World War, when the bodyguard of H.M. Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands was encamped there when she was resident in Stubbings House.

#### *Acknowledgements*

The part of Maidenhead Thicket in which Robin Hood's Arbour lies is the property of the National Trust. It is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Thanks are due to the National Trust and to H.M. Ministry of Works for permissions for the site to be cleared and excavated. The work was undertaken as part of the 1960 programme of the Field Research Group of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, and with the backing of the Reading Museum, to whom we were also indebted for lending the excavation equipment. In addition to the help given by volunteer workers of the Research Group, my thanks are due to Mr. D. B. Connah, who aided in supervision of the work of 36 boys from the St. Bartholomew's Grammar School, Newbury, Archaeological Society; to members from the Middle Thames Archaeological Society; and to members of the Maidenhead Group, who, under the leadership of Mr. H. W. Gregory, were responsible for the major part of the clearance work. Miss H. Waugh, M.A. was Deputy Director; and the Hon. Mrs. Robin Borwick helped with the supervision. For the survey I am indebted to Mr. M. R. Graham and his wife. I wish to thank Miss N. Lord, Mr. R. Miles and Mr. J. J. T. Swan for help with photography; Mr. Adrian Oswald, Dr. I. W. Cornwall and Mr. J. Wymer for expert reports; and Miss M. Wilson for the drawing of the decorated potsherd.

#### *Surface features*

Robin Hood's Arbour is a ditched rectilinear enclosure of about three-quarters of an acre in area internally. In form it is sub-rectangular, to the extent that

<sup>1</sup>*Berks. Arch. Journ.* xxxv (1931), 65 and 67.

<sup>2</sup>*Archaeology of Berkshire* (1931), 97 and 100.

the northern, western and part of the southern sides are straight with squared corners at the north-west and south-west; but the remainder of the southern side juts out southwards to a more pointed south-eastern corner, and the eastern side is bowed with a rounded corner at the north-east (Fig. 1).

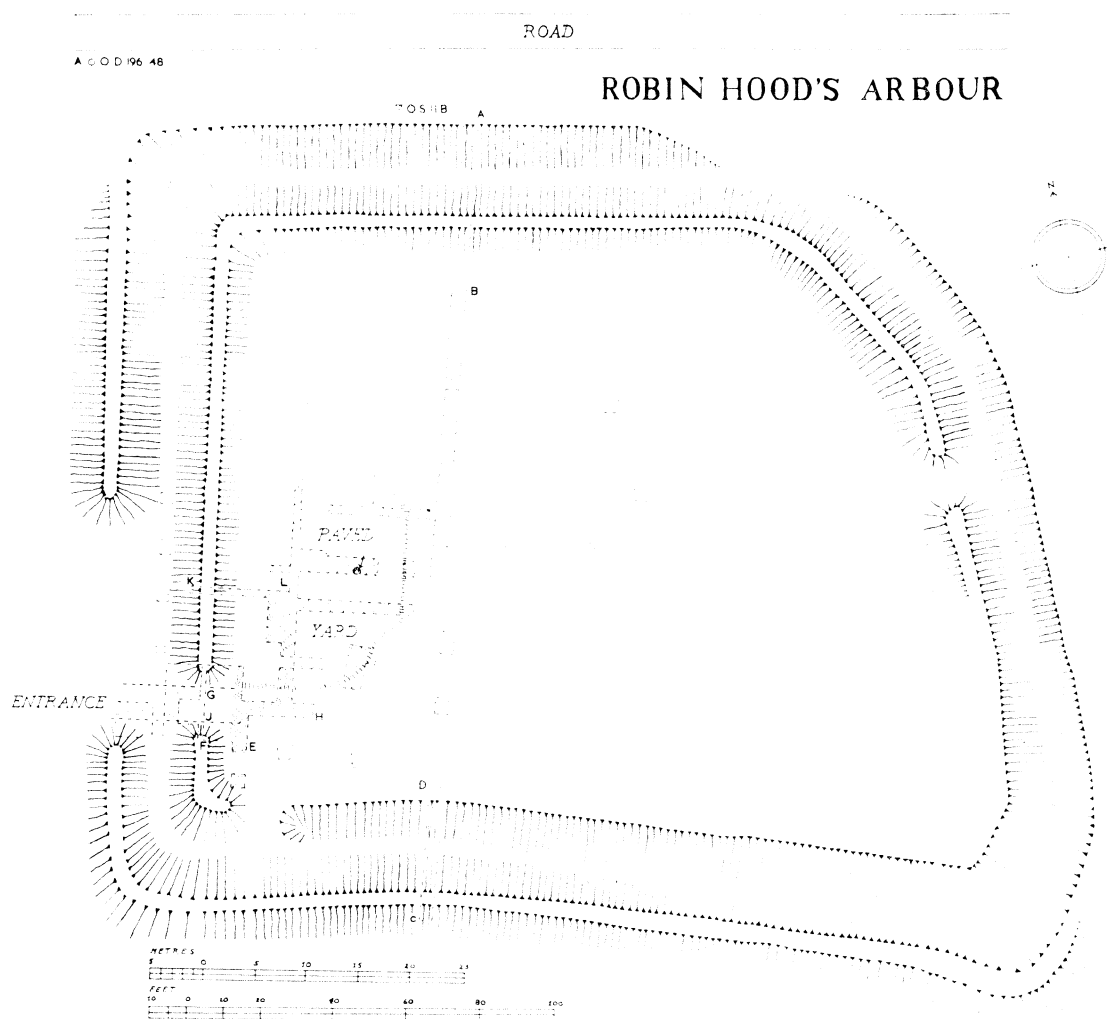


Fig. 1. Plan of Robin Hood's Arbour and the areas excavated

The O.S. 25" map (Berkshire Sheet XXIV.13 of 1934) showed the site as perfectly rectangular with four right-angled corners and with an entrance gap in the western side near the south-west corner, with the marking 'Roman Camp'. In the revised edition of 1955 (Plan SU8581), the ditch is marked with its correct shape, but the western entrance is omitted, and it is labelled, more conservatively, as an 'Ancient Earthwork'.

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The northern side, 144 feet long, which runs parallel to the road leading to Stubbings House, has nowadays a well preserved ditch and an inner bank, but any counterscarp bank that may have existed has been flattened. The ditch fades out before the north-eastern corner is reached. At this corner, and along the bowed eastern side, 210 feet long, the inner bank is at first lower and wider, the ditch, when it re-appears, is shallow and a counterscarp bank exists. Partway along there is a break in the inner bank, but the ditch and counterscarp bank continue, suggesting that this is not an original entrance. At the southern end of this side the inner bank fades out. On the south side of the earthwork, 230 feet long, there is no appreciable inner bank, but the ditch is wide and shallower than on the north, whilst there is a marked counterscarp bank. Near the south-western corner there is a hollow with earth heaped up on each side of the line of the inner bank, but again, the ditch and counterscarp bank continue, suggesting that this also is not an original entrance. It is possible, though unproved, that both these gaps represent earlier trenches cut by Mr. James Rutland and Mr. Henry Arrowsmith in the early nineties.

At the south-western corner the inner bank is high, the ditch wide, and the counterscarp bank marked. The straight western side, 156 feet long, has a well-preserved slight inner bank, a good ditch and a marked counterscarp bank.

The western entrance was seen to have a causeway across the ditch, with rounded ends on each side for the inner bank and for the counterscarp bank on the south. An unusual feature was that to the north of the western entrance, for some 65 feet, there seemed to be no ditch. There was, however, a compensating hollow inside from which earth might have been derived for this stretch of inner bank.

#### THE EXCAVATIONS

Work was undertaken on the site from April 15th–24th, July 30th–August 14th, 1960, and at weekends in the intervening period, a total of six weeks in all. As a preliminary measure, a path was cut through the thick undergrowth along the top of the inner bank to enable the survey to be made. Leaving large trees standing, the western third of the interior, the entrance and south-western corner (Pl. I), and a stretch of the southern ditch and counterscarp were cleared.

##### *The Defences*

The earthwork was sectioned on the northern and southern sides and partially on the western. On the north (Pls. II–III and Fig. 2, A–B), a ditch sixteen feet wide and two feet nine inches deep, of U-shaped form, had been cut through the clay loam and clay and small chalk deposits, just short of the top of the solid chalk. Most of the earth derived from it appeared to have been thrown inwards to form the inner bank. The base of the inner bank, fifteen feet wide and two feet two inches high, consisted of the clay loam from the top of the ditch area placed over undisturbed clay loam. Over this was a tip of loam with some chalk, and a few large flints set in a haphazard manner and not laid, then a tip of clay with more small chalk and fewer flints was capped with a tip of small chalk in black-stained soil under the leaf mould. The slight counterscarp bank consisted of two tips similar to the two basal tips of the inner bank.

The primary silt of the ditch was of a light brown clay loam and small chalk, derived from the decay of the inner and counterscarp banks. The secondary silt was a dark brown clay loam, which at its bottom included a number of large flints. This was sealed by a thick deposit of leaf mould. It was noted that the number and size of the flints found in the ditch silt and incorporated into the inner bank were such that they could not have been derived on the spot, as the chalk there was not penetrated. Also, many had a 'mint' appearance as if freshly mined from the chalk. It was concluded that these had been collected elsewhere and had been brought to the area when the enclosure was being built. As will be seen later (p. 8), flints and chalk were indeed brought to the site in great quantity. It could not be shown that they had been used to revet the banks or to form a capping, but seemed to have served merely as a sort of consolidation in the make-up of the bank. Again, there were no indications whatsoever that any timbering had been used in the defences. No post-holes were discovered in any position, though these would have been apparent as three quite small stake-holes in the interior, to the south of the northern bank, were observed without difficulty. From this section, therefore, the defence was primarily a ditch with an inner bank of simple dump construction and a slight counterscarp bank.

The southern defence (Pl. IV and Fig. 2, C-D) differed in that the ditch, sixteen feet wide and two feet deep only, had been dug down only into the clay loam and not into the lower deposits. The inner bank was very slight, and consisted of a basis of clay loam with a small chalk and loam capping. Unfortunately, at the point sectioned, a large intrusion spoilt the profile of the ditch's northern side, caused possibly by the fall of a large tree whose tap-root had penetrated nearly to the solid chalk. Black surface soil occurred down to the bottom of the deepest part of the intrusion. Most of the material derived from the ditch had been thrown to the south to form the counterscarp bank, in contrast to the form of the northern bank. The counterscarp bank here had a basis of clay loam with a capping of small chalk and light brown clay loam. Unlike the northern sector, large flints were not very plentiful.

On the western side, the inner half of the inner bank was sectioned at two places (Fig. 2, E-F and K-L). Its structure was similar to that of the northern side.

The only finds from the defences were the base of a hand-made cooking-pot (Fig. 4, 8) from the body of the northern bank; a wheel-turned sherd from the primary silt of the northern ditch; and the metacarpal of an ox or cow from the northern bank.

#### *The entrance*

The western entrance was stripped. The banks were found to have simple rounded ends with no revetting flints or timbering. It was a simple gap entrance with a reserved causeway. Trenches outside the inner bank to the north of the entrance confirmed the surface indications that for a stretch of fifty feet no ditch had been dug (Fig. 1). The end of the northern ditch was located, that on the south side ending normally opposite the end of the inner bank. The causeway at the entrance was ten feet wide.

That some use had been made of this entrance in comparatively modern times was shown in a roughly cobbled trackway found below the leaf mould (Pl. V and Fig. 2, F-G). Flints, stones, including sarsen, and broken brick had been thrown down, in the manner seen frequently in muddy entrances to fields used by cattle or carts. In the centre of the entrance any earlier levels had been eroded away, and this modern

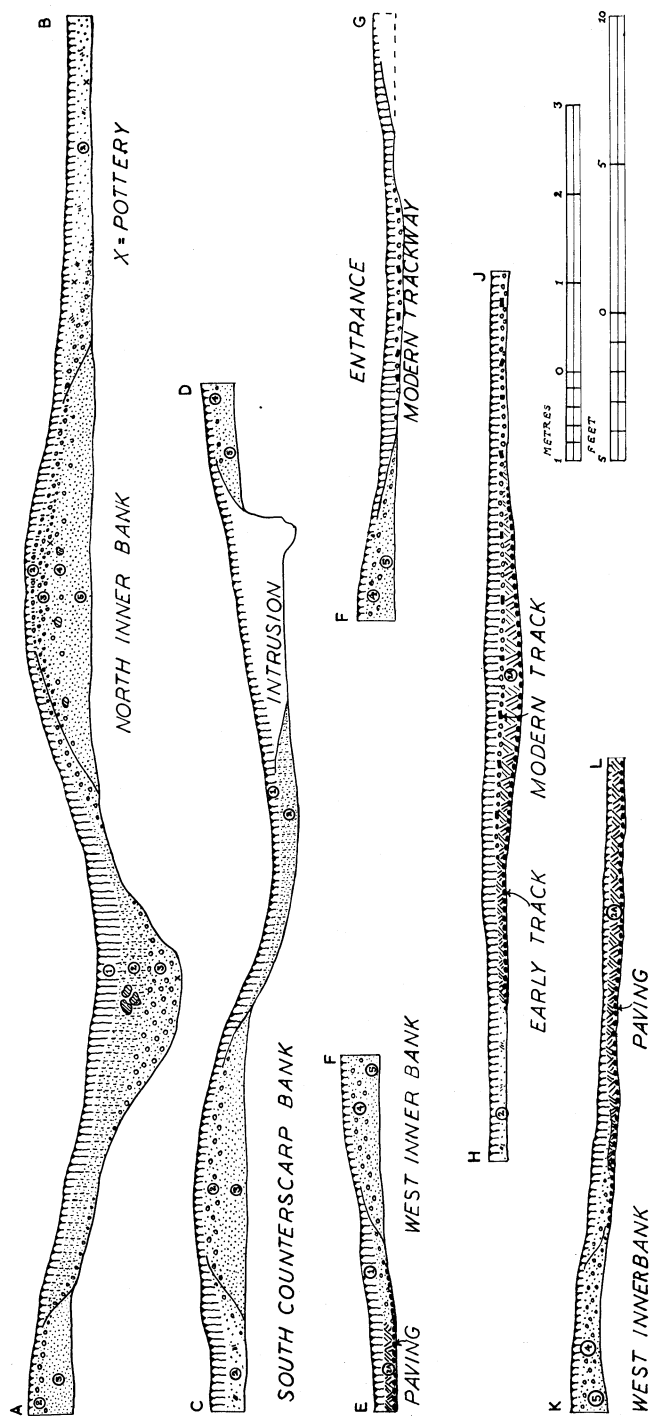


Fig. 2. Sections of the earthwork and western entrance

cobbling lay on and was pressed down into the clay-loam sub-soil. No evidence of gate-posts was found, though the holes for their timbers may also have been eroded away. But inside the entrance a greater depth of stratified levels was found. Here an earlier trackway, one contemporary with the build of the earthwork, was found, made of a mixture of freshly mined flints and chalk nodules of varying size, and quite devoid of any brick. (Pl. V and Fig. 2, H-J). Some of the flints showed battering of a sort that could have been produced by iron-tyred wheels (see p. 10). A thick silt level separated this earlier trackway from the modern rough cobbling (Pl. V).

### *The interior*

In the four-foot wide main north to south trench cut across the site (Figs. 1 and 2, A-B) the stratification consisted of leaf mould and a soft yellowish loamy layer over the clay loam sub-soil of a darker orange-brown colour. No structures or paving were found, and, except for two small stake-holes near the northern end of the trench, no post-holes. But few flints occurred. There would seem to have been no disturbance of this area except for roots and some traces of burrowing animals. The leaf mould yielded modern pottery and two clay pipes of 1640-1660 and mid-nineteenth century date (p. 10). But the soft loam level produced only potsherds of prehistoric date, though but few in number. Mostly of Belgic character, including sherds with corrugated shoulders, an exception was the rim of a hand-made pot of saucepan form decorated with a stamped pattern (Fig. 4, 9). This seems to be a stray sherd of Southern Second B character which has affinities with the pottery of this culture as found in the Upper Thames valley, where it persisted, in places, until towards the end of the Early Iron Age.

In other trial trenches scattered over the interior (Fig. 1), random attempts at locating a used occupation level or hut structures failed, as only similar stratification and no pottery were found. But as less than one third of the interior was explored, and as that third was mostly occupied by a yard, as will be seen, there is ample room for one or more huts to be sited in the enclosure.

### *The paved yard*

Inside the entrance, and over an area to its north and south, there was found a rough flint paving laid over the clay loam sub-soil. This was covered with a sticky dark brown clay silt, in contrast to the clean yellowish loam level found elsewhere in the interior. This paving was continuous with that of the earlier trackway through the western entrance. The trackway faded out inside some eleven feet from the centre of the entrance. Insofar as this paved yard was uncovered, its dimensions appear to be 54 by 48 feet to the north of the entrance, or an area of about 288 square yards. That it was an original and deliberate feature of the original earthwork was shown by both its continuity with the earlier trackway, and by the fact that the area paved had been slightly hollowed out of the sub-soil. The material derived from this hollowing, which increased in depth as it approached the bank, could have served to make the western bank over the stretch where no outside ditch had been dug (Fig. 2, K-L). It had been hoped at some point to discover that the paving might continue as a path which would lead to a hut or huts. It did not do so opposite the western

entrance, and had it continued so, it might have been picked up in the main north to south trench. But this evidence was not found in the areas opened, though the existence of such a path cannot be eliminated. The paved area with its sticky clay overlay was interpreted as a paved yard for stock. Samples of this soiled earth have been examined by Dr. Cornwall (see p. 13) who determined the pH-value, phosphate content and content of organic matter. The results obtained failed to show any concentration of phosphate such as would have been derived from animals' dung, no evidence of human occupation, but a high content of organic matter derived from forest-litter.

This negative result, together with the paucity of occupation material, raises the question as to whether the enclosure was indeed occupied. Is it perhaps an unfinished structure, abandoned for some reason before a final form (such as a gate in the entrance) was achieved?

No post-holes were found in the paved yard and no hut-floors. The only structure was a small fire-hole (Pl. VI) filled with earth and charcoal, perhaps the camping-place of the night watchman guarding the stock. It was observed that immediately inside the entrance, to its south, an approximately circular area of the paving was of smaller flints which had been flattened into the ground and formed the only smoothed surface of all the paved area seen. Possibly this had served as a point at which the herdsman had stood when bringing in the stock so that it could be directed into the main yard to the north of the entrance. Search was made at the edges of the paved area for stake-holes of a stockade. None was found in those parts examined, but a thick thorn hedge, which would leave no trace, would have served well as a barrier. The quantity of flints used to pave the yard and entrance trackway was such that they could not have been obtained on the site. Many cartloads must have been brought into the area especially for this. Many of the large flint nodules seem to have been freshly mined from the chalk. Just inside the entrance, the material used, here with more chalk lumps than elsewhere, also included a flint hand-axe of Middle Acheulian type (Fig. 3) which, as Wymer points out (p. 10), has been derived from a gravel deposit, perhaps from the Lower Boyn Hill or Lynch Hill Terrace of the River Thames in the Maidenhead-Cookham area, where they are plentiful, especially at Furze Platt.

Most of the pottery found came from the paving of the yard or earlier trackway, or from the bottom of the silty and sticky clay levels over them (Fig. 4, 1-7). This pottery was mainly of wheel-turned ware, the most distinctive forms being the rim of a bowl with a rippled or corrugated shoulder of *Camulodunum* Type 229A form, and bead-rimmed and everted-rimmed bowls or jars. A cut bone and a few animal bones (p. 13) show further evidence of occupation. But the total amount of pottery and bones did not suggest that the area excavated was much used for dumping debris.

That the enclosure might contain a hut, or huts, and was a farmstead or settlement site, though not proved, was suggested by the fact that the occupation level over the yard, and to a lesser extent elsewhere, yielded a number of pieces of burnt daub, some with wattle marks. As less than a third of the enclosure was explored, there is plenty of room for habitations, which might reasonably be expected to lie rather farther away from the stock yard.



## CONCLUSIONS

Robin Hood's Arbour is, therefore, a ditched enclosure of irregular rectilinear form, with an internal area of about three-quarters of an acre. The bounding ditch was the essential feature of the earthwork, its content being used to make either an inner bank or a counterscarp bank in an erratic manner. These banks are of simple dump construction without timbering or stone revetting, though consolidated, in places, with imported flints. The one proved western entrance is of simple gap form and without a gate. The earthwork is of boundary or drainage type and has but a very slight defensive purpose.

The only structures found in the area so far explored are an early trackway through the western entrance, and a sunken paved stockyard. This yard was an original feature of the building plan, as it occupied a hollowed area opposite a stretch of inner bank which had no outer ditch. Though a hut, or huts, indicative of a farmstead or small native settlement, were not found in the area explored, burnt daub with wattle marks suggest that they may exist. The flints and chalk required for the trackway and yard paving had been imported to the site.

The scanty finds of pottery from the stratified levels are predominantly of Southern First C or Belgic character. It is insufficient to determine a more precise dating within the period of that culture, though a date within the first half of the first century A.D. is favoured, as this would be consonant with a Catuvellaunian expansion to the south of the River Thames.

Perhaps the most important point made, besides the attribution of the earthwork to the Belgic period, is the identification of the sunken paved stockyard, whose analogies are discussed below (pp. 14-22). The scarcity of excavated sites of this character in Berkshire, and British and Continental analogies, are discussed in Part II.

## THE SMALL FINDS

*Palaeolithic flint hand-axe*

*Fig. 3.* Amongst the flint and chalk material imported to the site to pave the trackway and yard, and to consolidate the bank, there occurred a palaeolithic flint hand-axe.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Wymer writes: "This is a typical, pointed, heavy-butted flint hand-axe of the Acheulian flint industry. It is made of poor quality flint with cavities and cherty inclusions, the edges and ridges between the flake scars are dulled by rolling, the extreme tip is missing, and it is stained an ochrous colour. Slight traces of patination exist beneath the ochrous staining. It is 5 inches long which is an average length for a hand-axe of this type.

Hand-axes of this form were first made in the Middle Acheulian industry (as represented in the Middle Gravels of Swanscombe) but continued to be made throughout the later industries to the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic. In these later industries, however, they only occur in small proportions to the number of more evolved hand-axes (cordates, ovates, etc.).

Such hand-axes occur in great numbers in the Lower Boyn Hill or Lynch Hill Terrace deposits of the River Thames in the Maidenhead-Cookham area, especially

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Mr. J. Wymer, of Reading Museum, for the account and drawing of this tool.

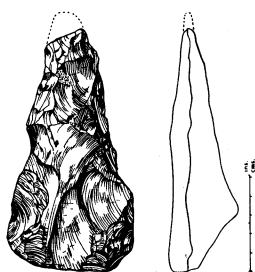


Fig. 3. Palaeolithic hand-axe

at Furze Platt. Rarely, they are found in the gravel of the higher Boyn Hill Terrace in the same area, but all the known specimens from this level are in a very rolled condition. It is very likely that this hand-axe originated from Furze Platt. No Palaeoliths have ever been reported from Maidenhead Thicket but Treacher records one apparently from the surface on Pinkney's Green (*Berks., Bucks., and Oxon, Arch. Journ.* ii, p. 18). The ochrous staining on the hand-axe from Robin Hood's Arbour makes it almost certain, however, that this implement was derived from a gravel deposit and has never been subjected to long, surface exposure.

There is not a single trace of post-Palaeolithic chipping or damage to the hand-axe. The other four flints submitted, however, are quite different: they are broken nodules fresh from the chalk which have been subjected to heavy battering and crushing, such as would be caused by the passage of carts with iron-shod tyres to their wheels."

#### *Miscellaneous finds*

A corroded iron nail was found in the stones of the paved yard. Other finds were a smoothed flint pebble, half an inch in diameter, which might have served as a counter, from the general occupation level, and a fossilised *echinus*. Charcoal occurred in association with the cooking pot of Fig. 5, 8, and in the fire-pit. Burnt daub, some pieces showing wattle marks, was most plentiful in the occupation level over the paved yard, though a few small fragments did occur in the general occupation level elsewhere.

The leaf mould yielded, in addition to modern pottery, two clay pipes. Of these Mr. Adrian Oswald writes: "The large one stamped 'McLardy's of Dublin' was made by him from about 1850. The smaller one is my Type 4, and I would date it to the years 1640-1660."

#### THE POTTERY AND DATING EVIDENCE

The pottery found only amounted to some 130 pieces of appreciable size, of which ten or so were rims or bases. Most of the undifferentiated sherds were of ware similar to that of the wheel-turned rims or bases, and included a few corrugated shoulder sherds and a small sherd decorated with a tooled trellis pattern. These were of Belgic character. There were a very few more heavily-gritted sherds which seemed hand-made. Two sherds of thin, fine ware, with quite definite marks of wheel-turning, came from the primary silt of the ditch and the paving of the earlier trackway respectively,

and, with the rims described below, also contemporary with the foundation and use of the earthwork, indicated that Belgic wheel-turned ware was in use on the site at the date of its construction.

The most distinctive piece for dating is the bowl with a rippled or corrugated shoulder (Fig. 4, No. 1), a common Belgic type. The bead-rim bowls and everted rim bowl sherds were confirmatory evidence. The lack of any imported wares, or datable small finds, leaves a wide bracket for dating within the Belgic period. Whether this Belgic settlement was due to the Southern First C, or Catuvellaunian peoples, when they penetrated into Berkshire in the time of Cunobeline; or whether, so far north as this, it was due to the Southern Second C, or Atrebatian peoples, is a question which cannot be answered on this scanty evidence. Until the Belgic pottery from the neighbourhood has been studied, it may be left an open question.

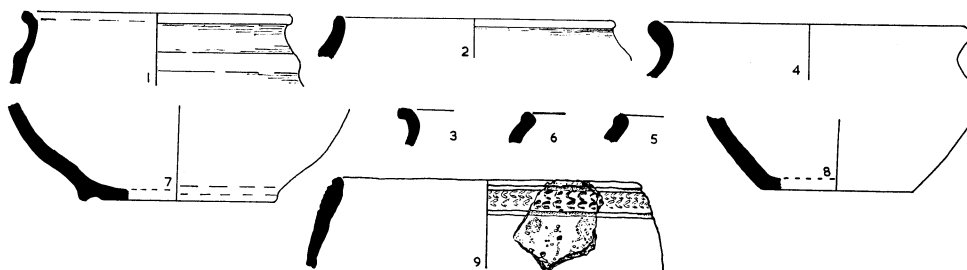


Fig. 4. Pottery from Robin Hood's Arbour. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )

Fig. 4, no. 9, is an unusual sherd. Whilst an exact analogy has not been traced, its closest affinities seem to lie to the west with the Southern Second B culture of the Upper Thames valley. Stamped ware decoration is very rare in Berkshire sites.

Pending a further study of local Belgic pottery, and remembering the Catuvellaunian 'enclave' further west (see p. 20), for which a late Belgic date has been suggested, a very tentative date of A.D. 1-50 is suggested for the initial foundation of Robin Hood's Arbour. But it is admitted that the present evidence is insufficient for dating the site firmly except within the wide bracket of the whole Belgic period.

#### *In the paving of the trackway and yard*

Fig. 4, 1. Three rim sherds were found of a bowl with a rippled or corrugated shoulder. In a fine-grained dark grey paste, fired dark brown and black, with but a few traces remaining of a black-burnished surface. Wheel-turned. Cf. *Camulodunum* Type 229A of Pl. LXXVI, pp. 262-263, where it is shown that the form was fairly frequent at Wheathampstead (*Verulamium*, Pl. L, types 11-13), but became rare at Verulamium. In Essex, however, it survived and occurred in deposits of all phases of the Belgic period.

Fig. 4, 2. A bead-rim bowl, in a dark grey paste with a dark brown rather gritty surface. Wheel-turned.

The level contained also two sherds with corrugations, two thick-walled sherds with 11 smaller ones, perhaps from the bowl of no. 1, a basal sherd of similar ware, 8 sherds of Belgic type, one gritted sherd, and a piece of burnt daub.

*In the fire-pit in the paved yard*

5 Belgic-type sherds were found.

*In the occupation level over the earlier trackway*

*Fig. 4, 3.* A rim sherd from a necked bowl or jar, in dark grey paste with a black burnished surface. Wheel-turned.

The level contained also a large sherd of thin ware with pronounced marks of wheel-turning; a small sherd with a lightly tooled trellis-pattern decoration (perhaps from a pedestalled cup like that from Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt, *Oxon.* viii/ix (1943-44), *Fig. 25, 15*); and some 16 Belgic-type sherds of which two were from thick-walled vessels.

*In the occupation level over the paved yard*

*Fig. 4, 4.* A jar with a simple everted rim, in a hard ware of brown paste with a corky orange-brown surface. Wheel-turned.

*Fig. 4, 5.* A bead-rim bowl in a dark grey paste with a dark brown rather gritty surface. Possibly wheel-turned.

*Fig. 4, 6.* A cooking-pot with an inbent rim and squared top, in brown paste with a brown burnished surface. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. LXXII, Type 255A and pp. 268-269.

*Fig. 4, 7.* The base of a bowl or jar of degenerate foot-ring form. In a black paste, fired brown. Roughly wheel-turned.

Otherwise this level produced a small basal fragment; and some 38 sherds, none of coarse gritted ware, though few show good markings of wheel-turning.

*In the make-up of the northern bank*

*Fig. 4, 8.* The base of a cooking-pot, in a black paste with a pitted brown external surface and charred black inside. Possibly hand-made.

*In the primary silt of the northern ditch*

The only pottery found was one wheel-turned sherd of hard thin Belgic type ware.

*From the general occupation level outside the paved yard*

*Fig. 4, 9.* A saucepan-shaped pot, in a black, slightly gritty paste, with a dark brown surface which is much worn but which may originally have been burnished. It is decorated with two rows of stamped crescentic impressions between two shallow grooves. Hand-made. Whilst no exact parallel has been found for the decoration on this vessel, the small crescentic punch marks occur in decorative motifs on bowls of the Southern Second B culture in the Upper Thames valley. Cf. a sherd from Calais Farm, Bampton (*Oxon.* vii, *Fig. 13, no. 46*), where the crescents are stamped singly between grooves with an intervening space; and three bowls from Frilford (*Oxon.* iv, *Fig. 7, nos. 78, 83 and 85*), where the crescentic punch marks are used to fill in horizontal bands or swags.

The remaining pottery from this level consisted of a small indeterminate rim fragment, two corrugated sherds, a carinated shoulder sherd, a sherd from a thick-walled storage jar, all of Belgic type; some 28 sherds of Belgic type ware and 4 sherds of hand-made gritted ware.

*Unstratified*

Some 8 sherds of Belgic character.

## THE ANIMAL BONES

The animal bones found, kindly identified by Dr. I. W. Cornwall of the Institute of Archaeology, were:

*From the make-up of the northern bank*

A metacarpel of an ox or cow.

*From the paved yard*

A metacarpel of an ox or cow; part of the tibia of an ox or cow; part of a sheep's ulna; a tooth of an ox or cow; and part of a broken long bone.

*From the occupation level over the paved yard*

A tooth of an ox or cow.

All these bones are typical of small animals of the Celtic type.

## REPORT ON THE SOIL-SAMPLES

BY DR. I. W. CORNWALL.

Three samples were examined. No. 1 was a dark crumbly loam, evidently full of organic matter. No. 2 came from the buried soil below the bank, which contained chalk. No. 3 was the (B)-horizon of the natural soil of modern times, from within the enclosure, taken from below the modern leaf-mould.

The question at issue was whether No. 1 could represent the surface of a cattle-pound. Being practically devoid of archaeological finds, the formation of the deposit from which the sample came did not seem to be due to human occupation. The other two samples were submitted for comparison.

On the face of the matter, the soil from a cattle-pound should be recognizable by containing massive amounts of phosphate, derived from the animals' dung. Phosphate was therefore determined in all three samples, together with alkali-soluble organic matter and the pH-values. Then sections of the two comparative soils were made, to discover whether there was any indication of a difference in the climate under which the Iron-Age buried soil was formed, as compared with that of the present day.

Experimental results were as follows:

Sample No.	pH	Organic matter	Phosphate, as $P_2O_5$
		(mgs./100 gms. dry soil)	(mgs./100 gms.)
1	5·6	4·0	30·0
2	6·1	0·28	20·0
3	4·9	0·84	21·0

The phosphate-figures scarcely appear to be significant, since Samples 2 and 3, the buried soil existing before the building of the bank and the modern, respectively, seem to have a natural phosphate-level of some 20 mgs./100 gms. dry soil, while Sample 1 contained only half as much again. This might easily be attributable to its larger organic content, clearly of vegetable origin, but nevertheless containing a

certain amount of phosphate, though nothing like as much as would be expected from a deposit, such as dung, of animal origin.

On washing the fines away from a small amount of Sample 1, with water only, a residue was left of clean silica sand, with quantities of coarse, only partly humified plant-remains. These appeared to be mainly leaf, twig, bark and root remains—certainly not predominantly grasses. They therefore resembled forest-litter rather than hay, straw or cow-dung.

The pH-figures, well on the acid side, suggested that some phosphate might have been lost by weathering and leaching, but the acidity in the humic material itself was only just at the critical value, pH 5.6, at which calcium phosphate dissolves *in vitro*. Considerable and rapid loss of phosphate only takes place, ordinarily, when the pH-value is much below this critical figure, as in most podsol soils, for example. Total loss of phosphate by acid leaching, therefore, is an unlikely explanation for the relatively low figures. The modern soil-sample (No. 3), for instance, was much more acid (pH 4.9), yet retained slightly more phosphate than the buried soil, which was the least acid of the three.

Thin sections of the buried soil and of the modern soil, showed them to be almost identical brown earths (forest-soils?) of reasonably high base-status. This indicates no important climatic differences between their respective periods of formation.

In view of these results, it seems unlikely that the humic sample represents the soil of a cattle-pound. By the same token, it is clearly not due to human occupation. Qualitatively, it much resembles forest-litter, which, from the relatively good preservation of the plant-remains, though in a well-drained (and so fully aerated) position, does not look to be very ancient.

## PART II

### RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURES IN BERKSHIRE AND ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL ANALOGIES

As Robin Hood's Arbour is an example of a rectilinear enclosure, it seems appropriate to discuss similar earthworks in Berkshire with some English and Continental analogies.

The appearance of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments' monograph, *A Matter of Time*,<sup>1</sup> an archaeological survey of the river gravels of England and their settlement, has emphasised the threat to these sites, rectilinear enclosures being one of the most frequent types of site. Though they occur elsewhere, the Thames valley still remains the principal area for known crop marks of this sort. The Report states:<sup>2</sup> 'Enclosures, with the accompanying ditches, lengths of trackways and pits, are to be found at a few places beside the Thames below Reading where the gravel is still covered with grass or corn crops and has not been excavated or built over. Along the upper course of the river between Lechlade and Goring they have obtained in nearly every riverside parish, but are most frequent on the left (north) bank around the points where the Windrush and Evenlode flow into the Thames. Here, at such places as Cassington, Eynsham, Standlake, Stanton Harcourt and, lower downstream, at Dorchester, very large numbers of enclosures of all shapes and sizes are

<sup>1</sup>R.C.H.M., *A Matter of Time* (1960). H.M.S.O.

<sup>2</sup>*Op. cit.*, pp. 12-13.

crowded together, joining and overlapping in a most confusing way. Those that have been excavated afford the only certain evidence for the date and purpose of these sites.'

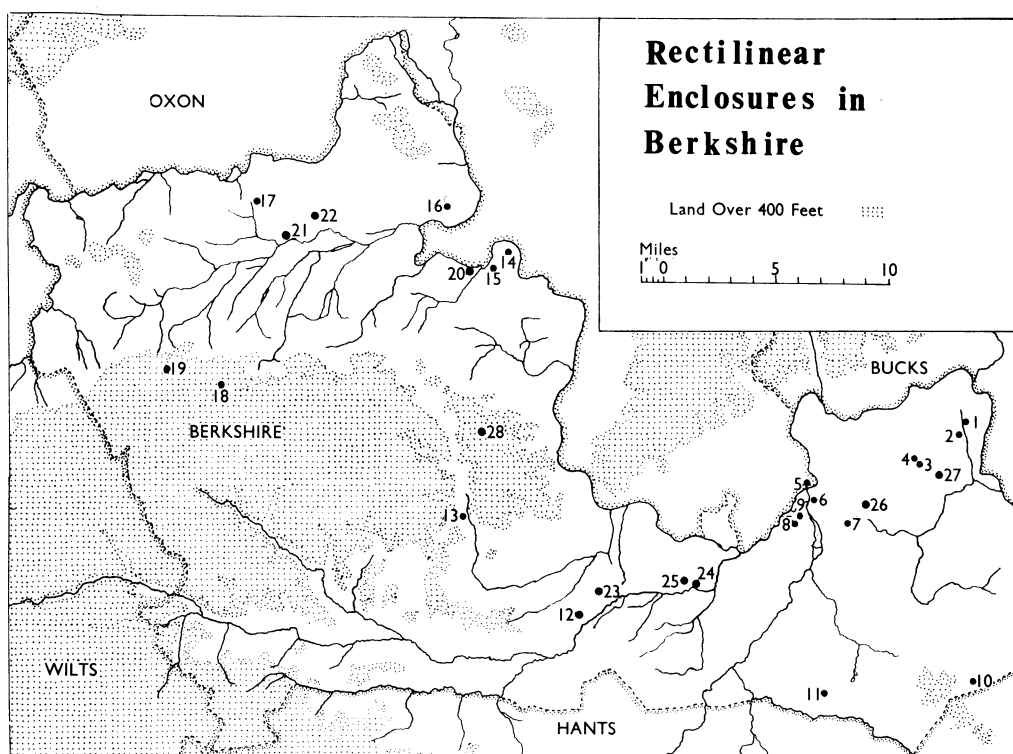


Fig. 5. Map showing the positions of rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire

Key to Fig. 5. Map showing the positions of rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire.

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Prior's Pit.          | 15. Long Wittenham.           |
| 2. Spencer's Farm.       | 16. Radley.                   |
| 3. Tittle Row.           | 17. Achester.                 |
| 4. Robin Hood's Arbour.  | 18. Hackpen Hill.             |
| 5. Shiplake.             | 19. Ram's Hill.               |
| 6. Wargrave.             | 20. Appleford.                |
| 7. Ruscombe Lake.        | 21. Kingston Bagpuize.        |
| 8. Straighthanger Field. | 22. Fyfield.                  |
| 9. Twyford.              | 23. Theale Green.             |
| 10. Rapley's Farm.       | 24. Pingewood.                |
| 11. Finchampstead.       | 25. Bath Road Housing Estate. |
| 12. Upton Nervet.        | 26. Weycock Hill Temple.      |
| 13. Hampstead Norris.    | 27. Cox Green Roman Villa.    |
| 14. Northfield Farm.     | 28. Lowbury Hill.             |

Rectilinear enclosures to the north of the River Thames in Oxfordshire, and those listed in Appendix III, are not shown.

In discussing the classification of these enclosures the report states that: 'Any consideration of the date and purpose of these enclosures must begin with a summary of the evidence from excavation.' In the list of excavated sites quoted, only one Berkshire site, that of Long Wittenham, is included. One of the purposes of this paper is to improve that lack of evidence. Of seven irregular, *rounded* enclosures excavated in the Thames valley, three had been made by people of Iron Age A culture, three were dug by users of Belgic pottery and one was undated. On two of the sites there was a re-cutting of the ditch and continuous occupation into the second half of the first century A.D. when Roman pottery was in use. Two enclosures had certainly contained huts or houses, and another at Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt, probably did. One is interpreted as a smith's compound. The rectangular enclosures excavated so far at Cassington, Long Wittenham and Stanton Harcourt have proved to be Roman, though one at Dorchester was Neolithic.

*Rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire*

Twenty-seven sites in Berkshire, and a site newly-discovered on the Oxfordshire side of the River Thames, can now be recorded in which rectilinear enclosures exist. Such information as is available for them is given in Appendix I (pp. 22-33). They can be sub-divided into those which have been excavated or explored (however inadequately); those known only from surface features; and those known only from crop marks or air photography.

I. *Rectilinear enclosures excavated or explored*

There are fourteen sites in this group:

Achester, Hinton Waldrist.

Bath Road Housing Estate, Reading.

Cox Green Roman Villa enclosure.

Lowbury Hill enclosure, Aston Upthorpe.

Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham.

Prior's Gravel Pit, Cookham.

Rams Hill, Kingston Lisle.

Rapley's (or Roundabout) Farm, Winkfield.

Robin Hood's Arbour, Maidenhead Thicket.

Straighthanger Field, Reading University Farm, Sonning.

Spencer's Farm, Cookham.

Theale Green.

Ufton Nervet, north of the River Kennet.

Weycock Hill enclosure, Waltham St. Lawrence.

From the known results, it is obvious that these sites do not form a homogeneous group. Indeed, the simple factor of the surface feature of a rectilinear enclosure is not, in itself, a diagnostic symptom of either the date or purpose of a site, though there are perhaps some aspects which tend to be suggestive. Analysis of the available information from these sites gives the following results.

The very rectangular enclosures, with fairly right-angled corners, as seen at Lowbury Hill and Weycock Hill, are not earthworks at all, but are walled enclosures (without ditches) of Romano-British temples or shrines. This information cannot be



deduced from crop marks, surface features or air photography alone, and has only been obtained by excavation. On the other hand, the crop marks seen to bound two sides of the excavated Cox Green Roman villa (the remaining sides have probably been destroyed) proved to be fairly shallow boundary ditches of late Roman date. The quadrangular earthwork at Rapley's Farm, re-discovered from the air by Messrs. Gafford and Underhill, was originally described by Handasyd in 1785, and had a very deep ditch. Handasyd's interesting account of the farmer's destructive ploughing, his observations made at the time and his illustrations of the pottery collected, seem to provide enough evidence to interpret this site as a Romano-British cremation cemetery, perhaps of Flavian date. Again, its form was fairly regular.

Spencer's Farm, Cookham, is a fairly well-preserved site. It varies from most of the others in this group in having more than one bank and ditch on three of its sides. The two-foot high platform so enclosed seems only large enough to support one hut or house. Rutland's excavations *c.* 1886, suggest that there may have been a building as well as the well which was found, and his Roman dating is probably correct. It is a site which merits complete excavation. In form and size it is reminiscent of the site at Bat's Hogstye, Aldershot, Hampshire, also sited near a stream.<sup>1</sup>

At least two of the Berkshire rectilinear sites, however, seem to be Belgic farms or homesteads whose occupation did not extend into the Romano-British period. For these, Robin Hood's Arbour, a Belgic ditched enclosure, with a sunken paved stock-yard, though at present no hut or farmhouse has been proved, is typical. Its great merit lies in its undestroyed condition. The Prior's Park Gravel Pit site, excavated in 1958-59 by Miss R. Levy and Mrs. Graham, is a proved Belgic site, with a V-shaped ditch of slightly irregular form. The ditch infill was rich in Belgic pottery, and produced two British speculum coins, and, though its full rectilinear form was not obtained, it does seem to have been a small Belgic farmstead. The partly superimposed Roman occupation is of second century date, when the site seems to have been re-used for different purposes, and a continuity of occupation was not proved.

But perhaps the greatest interest lies in four of these sites in which there appears to be a sequence of occupation from Belgic into Romano-British times. In some instances the same farmstead or homestead may have been continuously occupied: in others there would seem to be a succession of rectilinear enclosures. With the notable exception of Rams Hill, on the Berkshire Downs, these sites (Northfield Farm, Ufton Nervet, the Bath Road Housing Estate and Theale Green) are on the gravel terraces of the river valleys. At Rams Hill, S. and C. M. Piggott found that the rectilinear enclosure which abutted on to the unfinished Iron Age A hill-fort was of Belgic and first century Roman date. The excavation did not permit of a full exploration of the interior of the enclosure. At the Bath Road Housing Estate, Reading, a 'rescue' dig, though a ditch was observed, a rectilinear enclosure was not proved. The pottery, however, was both Belgic and Romano-British. At both these sites, therefore, it is possible that there were farmsteads whose occupation started in Belgic times and continued into the Romano-British period. But the three sites of

<sup>1</sup>Williams-Freeman, *Field Archaeology as illustrated by Hampshire* (1915), 61-64, 336, 341 and plan opposite p. 355. Dimensions over all are 84 by 84 feet. Those of Spencer's Farm are 272 by 224 feet.

Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham, Theale Green and Ufton Nervet present complexes of crop marks and a possible sequence of occupied rectilinear enclosures of first class importance.

At Northfield Farm, though planned and mapped by Professor Haverfield and his colleagues, the excavation amounted to little more than an exploration by the then tenant of the site. The prime interest of this site is that it must be one of the first at which crop marks were not only observed but were measured and planned. Subsequent air photographs by Allen and Riley indicated the accuracy of their work. Of the several rectilinear enclosures in Scabbs Field, the plan of the largest is very suggestive of a Romano-British house or farmstead. Of the two rectangular enclosures in Fox Furlong, one (175 × 100 feet) is probably Roman as its boundary overlay a deposit of lime and it enclosed a pit with cremation burials.

The second (118 × 90 feet), also perhaps Roman, enclosed an 8 foot deep well which contained Roman and Belgic pottery. The rectangular enclosure in Padboro No. 1 Field measured 265 by 19 feet, and had an internal partition, suggesting a simple basilican building like that of the Period I house at the Cox Green villa site (which is possibly of Early Antonine date). The enclosures in Garbage Field are not described, but one is of pentagonal form. A more careful excavation at these sites might well show both Belgic and Roman phases.

At Theale Green the story is as yet but preliminary. At the beginning of this century many finds were made during gravel digging at the 'Theale Ballast Hole'. These ranged in date from Late Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon. But air photographs, taken in 1961, show a fine complex of crop marks, adjacent to this pit, which include rectilinear enclosures. As much of the pottery recovered haphazardly in the early looting was Belgic and Romano-British, there is again a possibility of obtaining here a sequence of farmsteads of these periods.

However, the most interesting developments in this field are the results now being obtained at Ufton Nervet. Whilst the site was originally discovered in air photography by Dr. St. Joseph, it is due to the initiative of Reading Museum and the Berkshire Field Research Group that this lead has been followed up. Over the last three years further air photographs have been taken including good vertical views. In fields north and south of the Bath Road, to the north of the River Kennet, there can be seen crop marks of parallel lines, nine circles, and a minimum of four rectilinear enclosures. In September, 1961, Mr. W. H. Manning started to excavate this site. The parallel lines (previously interpreted as cursuses) are ditched roads. Two appear to converge on a possible ford over the River Kennet. One, with a branch road, is a major Roman road coming perhaps from the north gate of Silchester. The other seems to be a pre-Roman trackway (its earlier re-cut ditch produced Belgic pottery in the rapid silt) with a later ditch, perhaps of Romano-British date (so far its silt has been sterile) cut when one of the rectilinear enclosures was sited so that it impinged on the roadway. One enclosure at least, which is somewhat irregular, and has one bowed side like that of Robin Hood's Arbour, is producing Belgic pottery from the silt of its three-foot deep ditch, and much burnt daub and charcoal in one area suggest a clearance into the ditch of the remains of a burnt hut. Another enclosure, with good double V-shaped ditches bounding it, may prove to be of early

Roman date. This site merits further excavation, as does that of Theale Green which is quite close by. These two sites, with others described elsewhere, show an occupation on the gravel terraces of the River Kennet of a density hitherto unsuspected.

There is not a great deal to be said at present of the remaining two sites in this group. Huntingdon's exploration of the rectangular enclosure at Achester (270 by 60 feet, with a ditch 3-6 feet deep) showed that it contained a well and stone paving. He found no dating evidence. Of the several rectilinear enclosures found with circles in Straighthanger Field, only one has been excavated so far, by Dr. Slade for Reading University. This is of pentagonal form (with sides measuring 70 by 54 by 45 by 45 by 65 feet) and it encloses a rammed gravel structure with a complex of pits and post-holes. Dating evidence has been almost non-existent, but it has been shown to be cut by a wider ditch which contains Romano-British pottery.

## II. *Unexcavated rectilinear earthworks known from surface features*

Four sites have been noted:

An earthwork round the Church at Finchampstead.

An earthwork round the Church at Hampstead Norris.

Two sides of a rectangle at Hackpen Hill, Childrey.

An earthwork at Tittle Row Woolley, Maidenhead Thicket.

No adequate plans exist of any of these earthworks, and all are undated. The site at Tittle Row has been lost in the overgrowth since Kerry wrote about it in 1861, and its suspected position has since been much destroyed by military operations when used for camps and sapping exercises in 1914-1919 and 1939-1945. In any case, it was of much larger size, measuring, according to Kerry, some 600 feet square. He thought it to be a 'Roman Camp'.

The scarped sites on which churches have been built at Finchampstead and Hampstead Norris seem to have something in common with a similar site at Sherington, North Buckinghamshire.<sup>1</sup> At these sites a small knoll seems to have been scarped and provided with a ditch and counterscarp bank. Later, the plateau top has been levelled to serve as a suitable site for the churches and their churchyard. At Sherington, pottery (now in Aylesbury Museum) has been recovered during grave-digging. Belgic forms, including a fine pedestal beaker, are well represented.

## III. *Rectilinear enclosures known only from crop marks or air photography*

Ten sites are known only from these indications:

Appleford.

Pingewood.

Fyfield.

Ruscombe Lake, Ruscombe.

Kingston Bagpuize.

Shiplake, Oxon.

Near Long Wittenham Village.

Twyford.

Radley, north of the Abingdon-Radley Road.

Wargrave, near the R. Loddon.

Half of these sites (Appleford, Fyfield, Kingston Bagpuize and Radley) were discovered either by Crawford or Riley in their air surveys, and are on the Berkshire side of the River Thames, and complement the many Oxfordshire sites on its northern

<sup>1</sup>I am indebted to Miss Helen Waugh, of Aylesbury Museum, for showing me this site.

side. The Long Wittenham site was a crop mark observed by Haverfield. The others are new discoveries from air photographs taken by the Reading Museum staff. Shiplake, Oxon is the most easterly of the group to the north of the Thames. But Pingewood, Ruscombe, Twyford and Wargrave are on the southern bank or on tributaries of the Thames. The Ruscombe site, in a drained lake area, may perhaps be medieval. But the others could be of earlier date.

*English analogies*

The number of small ditched enclosures of Belgic date which have been excavated in England is not large. Amongst the best known are those at Wyboston, Eaton Socon, Bedfordshire,<sup>1</sup> a Belgic farm which was extended and sub-divided in the Early Roman period; and the Belgic ditched enclosures at Langford Downs, near Lechlade,<sup>2</sup> and at Linch Hill Corner, Stanton Harcourt,<sup>3</sup> both in Oxfordshire. Professor Hawkes considers that the Oxfordshire examples form part of an enclave of Catuvellaunian colonists.<sup>4</sup> These two sites do not offer close structural analogies with Robin Hood's Arbour, as they are irregular rounded enclosures rather than irregular rectilinear enclosures, and they have been shown to be reconditioned in similar forms in three successive phases. At Linch Hill, the last phase fell within the Roman period, otherwise they produced Belgic pottery. Grimes suggested tentatively<sup>5</sup> that many of the rectilinear or sub-rectilinear small enclosures which form one of the distribution types on air photographs were introduced late in the first century B.C. The Langford Downs enclosures contained pits, and post-holes of a probable hut in two of the sites, but none seems to have had a sunken paved yard, and they are rather smaller in size than Robin Hood's Arbour.

It would seem that a closer structural analogy can be quoted from the results now being obtained by Jobey in Northumberland.<sup>6</sup>

There, in his rectilinear sites Type A class, he places 24 earthworks with confidence (and probably 11 more), which, though occupied in the Roman period, are of "native" type. Their internal area is from one-third to half an acre. Their shape is roughly rectangular, though they may have one side slightly bowed, as if the building lines had not been laid out with great accuracy. The inner enclosure was of orthostatic build, but the material from the ditch was cast outwards, and Jobey considered that drainage of the internal area rather than additional security may have been the main purpose of the ditches. But the feature which forms the most striking analogy is the presence of yards. Normally the front third to one half of the interior of the settlements is occupied by two depressed areas, one lying each side of a comparatively raised pathway or causeway leading from the main entrance to circular stone huts at the rear. In some cases these yards were enclosed by stone walls. Sometimes each yard had its own entrance, which had been gated, and excavated examples showed that they had been lightly cobbled over the natural sub-soil. The main hut occasionally had a separate entrance through the enclosure to that which served the yards. These

<sup>1</sup>Tebbutt, *P. Cambs. A.S.* 1 (1957), 75-84.

<sup>2</sup>Excavated by Mrs. Audrey Williams, *Oxon.* xi/xii (1947-48), 44-46. Site A, 180 feet by 130 feet; Site B, 160 feet by 146 feet; ditches 2-3 feet deep.

<sup>3</sup>Excavated by Professor Grimes, *Oxon.* viii ix 1943-44, 47-60. Belgic phase, 54 feet by 30 feet;

ditch 4½ feet deep.

<sup>4</sup>Clifford, *Bagendon* (1962), 52-53.

<sup>5</sup>Grimes, *Op. cit.*, p. 59.

<sup>6</sup>*Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4th series, xxxviii (1960), 1-38.

depressed yards are a distinctive feature of this type of settlement, and excavation at one site failed to reveal any post-holes for timber structures in the yard. In North Tynedale the distribution shows that they begin to appear in number some two or three miles north of the Wall frontier, and lie between the 400 and 600 foot contours, in positions, not notably defensive, on the lower ridges above the main river valley. Insofar as the available dating evidence permitted, Jobey considered it reasonable to ascribe a date for the foundation of these settlements shortly after A.D. 138, stimulated by the advance of the military frontier into Scotland. The yards he sees as stock enclosures, in an economy presumably based primarily on stock farming, with the emphasis probably on cattle rather than sheep. It may be added that the Northumberland sites have both circular and sometimes rectangular huts inside, and usually there seem to be two or more in each enclosure. There is plenty of room at Robin Hood's Arbour for more than one hut, and otherwise the type of settlement seems remarkably close, in spite of the differing foundation dates.

#### *Continental analogies*

These small rectilinear enclosures are at present attracting attention in France and Germany. Recently, M. Jacques André made a survey of 62 such sites in the Département of Morbihan, Brittany.<sup>1</sup> He analysed what was known of their size, shape, defences, orientation, dating evidence and utilization. He found that they were of all dates from Neolithic to Medieval, but, with very few exceptions, the sites showed only one period of occupation. Shape was not a feature which, taken alone, indicated either date or purpose. Of the ten which he attributed to the Iron Age (and only two were known certainly to be of that date), he thought that they might have been used as small camps, as villages, as cemeteries, or as sacred places, but that the extent of excavation was too small to permit of any definite conclusions. He is now extending this research by examining those rectilinear sites which are to be found in the vicinity of Gallo-Roman temples,<sup>2</sup> as he considers these to be the enclosures of 'domaines ruraux', or stockyards on which the sacred sites depend.

Another new study, concerning square enclosures, is that of Stead,<sup>3</sup> in which he examines those which enclose distinctive forms of circular La Tène barrow burials, which occur in East Yorkshire, Champagne and the Middle Rhine and which are characteristic of La Tène cultures in these areas and form valuable cultural connecting links.

In 1959, during an expedition to France with Mr. S. S. Frere, three rectilinear enclosures in the Département of Corrèze were measured.<sup>4</sup> In size and form they resemble Robin Hood's Arbour closely. At La Moutte (1.8 acres), Fenouillac ( $\frac{3}{4}$  acre) and Pont Maure (1½ acres), all low-lying plateau sites, there are rectangular or sub-rectangular earthworks, with a low bank, outer ditch and in places a counterscarp bank, which have sharply turned or rounded corners. The simple entrances, placed either in one of the sides or at a corner, did not always show a causeway across the ditch. Fenouillac is unexcavated, but La Moutte and Pont Maure have produced La Tène III pottery. Our French colleagues are currently investigating a rectilinear

<sup>1</sup>*Ogam* xi (1959), fasc. 1, 23-24; fasc. 4-5, 257-260; fasc. 6, 441-454.

<sup>2</sup>*Ogam*, xii (1960), fasc. 1, 16-20.

<sup>3</sup>*Ant. Journ.* xli (1961), 44-62.

<sup>4</sup>Frere and Cotton, *Gallia* xix (1961), 46-54.

site at Les Fossées Sarrazins, Pouligny-Nôtre-Dame, Indre, though this is of much larger size and has stronger banks. It has, however, produced pottery of La Tène III date. It is perhaps to these French sites that we should look for the origins and influences for our British series.

In Germany, small rectilinear sites have long been studied. There is a very distinctive group of enclosures in Bavaria, with a distribution pattern to the south but not to the north of the River Danube. Because of their square form and right-angled corners, they are called Viereckschanzen. In a study by Schwartz<sup>1</sup> the purpose of these La Tène III structures is discussed, and details are given of new excavation work.<sup>2</sup> They have been interpreted as works of a purely military kind, as fortified farmsteads or occupied cattle kraals, as structures for an unknown religious purpose, and as Iron Age prototypes for the later Gallo-Roman temples in a square *temenos*. Complete stripping of one or more of these sites has been started to help solve the problem of their utilisation. But it can be seen, from the results already published, that this particular group of Viereckschanzen does not offer an analogy for a site like Robin Hood's Arbour.<sup>3</sup> Their very regular square form, their palisade, then timber and earth boundaries, and their uniformity, are features not found here as yet. Some also include ritual pits with sacrificial offerings.

### *Conclusion*

It is apparent that the general term 'rectilinear enclosure' includes a great variety of sites, of different purpose and date. As noted in *A Matter of Time*,<sup>4</sup> 'The scanty information gained on so few sites provides a very slight basis for generalisation.' With so many of these sites in Berkshire, useful work could be done by the various units belonging to the Berkshire Field Research Group. With Robin Hood's Arbour partially excavated, Straighthanger Field and Ufton Nervet in course of excavation, a start has been made. May it continue and produce further results.

## APPENDIX I

### NOTES ON RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURES IN BERKSHIRE<sup>5</sup>

The rectilinear sites noted below are those known to me at the present time. This list is but preliminary as new sites are continually being discovered in air surveys. As this paper is concerned only with Berkshire, the many sites known to the north of the Thames in Oxfordshire are not shown on the distribution map of Fig. 5. Their addition would give a truer picture of the density of occurrence of enclosures of this type in the Middle and Upper Thames valley.

<sup>1</sup>*Neue Ausgrabungen in Deutschland* 1958, 205-214.

<sup>2</sup>Fuller reference is made by Cotton and Frere, *op. cit.*

<sup>3</sup>Jobey, *op. cit.*, p. 25 also writes:—'Whether uniformity in planning and restricted distribution be taken to imply directed settlement or not, there seems to be no clear reason, either from the evidence of

cultural assemblages or structural layout, to connect the settlements specifically with Rhaetian settlers or Continental Viereckschanzen as once tentatively suggested. Cf. *Antiquity* xvii, 145.

<sup>4</sup>*Op. cit.*, p. 13.

<sup>5</sup>I am indebted to Mr. F. M. Underhill and Mr. J. Wymer for help with these notes.

The inventory is divided into:

- I. Rectilinear earthworks excavated or explored (though mostly inadequately.)
- II. Unexcavated rectilinear earthworks known from surface features.
- III. Rectilinear enclosures known only from crop marks or aerial photography.

## I. RECTILINEAR EARTHWORKS EXCAVATED OR EXPLORED

*Achester (or Atchester), Windmill Hill, Hinton Waldrist.* 41/376981

This site is situated in an oak copse on the slope of Windmill Hill and to the east of a small stream which rises nearby. It has an inner bank, a ditch, and in places a counterscarp bank. It is a long narrow rectangle with rounded corners, measuring 270 by 60 feet. The ditch varies in depth from 3–6 feet. The entrance is probably on the south-western side. Huntingdon examined it on April 25th–26th, 1922. He wrote: 'About five yards from the northern rampart a low bank, about six yards wide, runs parallel to the rampart for a distance of 50 yards. In this bank, and 25 yards from the western end of the earthwork, I found a well, a few inches below the surface. The mouth was one foot eight inches in diameter, the circumference being six feet. The well was surrounded for a distance by a rough pavement of rough flat stones, the gaps between them being filled up by smaller ones. The whole thing was very roughly constructed. I only cleared two feet of the well. East of this, in the same bank, I found traces of a rough stone floor. In the latter case, one stone was one foot three inches long; the others were smaller. Beyond these I found nothing, with the exception of a very small chip of flint, .6 inches long. I found no other flints in the camp, and there is none in the fields around it. I can offer no suggestion as to the date of either camp or well.' Huntingford considered that the name of the earthwork was possibly a corruption of OE. *ac hyrst*, 'oak wood', and that there was nothing to suggest that it was of Roman date.

*V.C.H. Berks.* I (1906), 264.

Huntingford, *B. B. & O. A. J.* xvii (1922), 103–104.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 107 and 203.

Huntingford, *B.A.J.* xxxix (1935), 19; *ibid.* xl (1936), 162 with sketch plan.

Visited by Mr. H. Copsey, April, 1961.

*Bath Road Housing Estate, Reading.* 41/690717

In 1952, pottery was found at this site, during trench digging. The site is south of the Bath Road, opposite the Prospect Park site, and north-west of Southcote Manor and south-west of the new Ashampstead Road. When visited by Reading Museum staff, there were possible indications of a ditch. The pottery found was of Belgic and Romano-British type, similar to that found nearby in Denton's Pit and the Prospect Park clay pit. The gentle slope of the land here above the Holybrook and the Kennet was considered admirably suited to agriculture and the finds seemed to suggest a humble farmstead. It is possible that there had been a rectilinear enclosure at this site. Boon, *B.A.J.* liii (1952–53), 120. Pottery in Reading Museum. Acc. No. 48.52.

*Cox Green Roman Villa, Maidenhead.* 41/866797

Straight ditches found on the north-east and south-west of this Roman villa site, excavated in 1959, suggest that it was enclosed in a rectilinear enclosure of which the remaining two sides had been destroyed. The ditch fillings contained material of third and fourth century A.D. date.

Air photographs by Dr. St. Joseph.

Excavation report by Mrs. C. M. Bennett, for the Berkshire Field Research Group, forthcoming in *B.A.J.*

*Lowbury Hill, Aston Upthorpe.* 41/540323

The rectangular enclosure on Lowbury Hill, which has sides of 141.144 by 179.180 feet, and which encloses about half an acre, was excavated in 1913-14 by Professor Donald Atkinson. The site has been variously interpreted as a temple or shrine with a *temenos*, or an upland cattle enclosure. The enclosure consisted of the debris of a wall with no ditch, with an occupation inside throughout most of the Roman period.

Atkinson, *Romano-British Site on Lowbury Hill* (1916). Excavation Report with references. Plan at Fig. 1.

*Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham.* 41/55.95.

In the hot summer of 1893, crop marks were observed by Mr. H. J. Hewett, the then tenant of Northfield Farm, in Scabbs Field and Fox Furlong to the west of the farm buildings; in Mead Furlong to the north; and in Garbage and Paddboro No. 1 fields to the north-east. These fields, though within 300-400 yards of the Thames, are very susceptible to drought owing to the gravel sub-soil. Hewett excavated in these sites from about 1893-97, and his work was visited by Haverfield, J. L. Myres and P. Manning. Haverfield published a surveyed plan of the crop marks, perhaps the first archaeological planning to be done of these features.

In Scabbs Field there were some nine circles and three wells (nos. V-VII). Well No. VII was steyned at the bottom with a hollow oak log and had steps into it, but contained no small objects. Well No. VI was steyned with stone and produced a flint arrowhead, bones (some perhaps human), a leather object (? a damaged cuirass), and Romano-British pottery. These wells are in the vicinity of a complex of rectangular enclosures, rather like a house plan, which was partly floored with a gravel layer 6-8 inches thick. What was taken to be a road, 12-14 feet wide, ran across it, and in it Hewett thought he could detect wheelmarks in the gravel metalling. This field produced much wall plaster and stone roof-slates. Further west there is a complex of straight lines and small rectilinear enclosures which might be an earlier site.

In Fox Furlong there was a large circle intersected by two rectangles, a third rectangle and two apse-shaped structures. The circle was not excavated. One of the apse-shaped structures contained a pit with ashes, and above them a rude layer of local stones. The largest rectangular enclosure measured 100 x 175 feet. Under its west side was an irregular hole which contained over a hundred bushels of lime. It enclosed Well No. IV, 3 feet deep, steyned with wood and containing pottery. At the south-east corner was a pit (? if under the ditch) which contained three urns with charred bones. The entrance was probably on the east. The second largest enclosure



was a rectangle which measured 118 × 90 feet, with an entrance at the north-west corner. To its north were rubbish pits which contained human and animal bones, flint flakes and pot-boilers. Inside was Well No. I with steps leading down into it. From the bottom of this well came five nearly perfect urns of Belgic type, with higher up a bowl base of samian ware stamped AVITVS F. The smallest enclosure was of irregular form, 72 × 32 × 32 × 50 × 72 feet which contained a steyned well (Well No. II).

In general, the enclosures in these two fields had V-shaped ditches 2–5 feet deep and 2–3 feet wide at the top. No traces of flint, brick or stone walls were noted and no footings courses. The finds included human and animal bones, and the pottery was both Belgic and Romano-British. No coins were found.

Haverfield had insufficient material to describe the enclosures in the other fields. For Garbage Field, the plan shows at least two rectilinear enclosures, of rhomboidal form, and four circles. For Padboro No. 1 Field it shows a rectangular enclosure, 265 by 19 feet, with an internal division.

This complex site, very like the examples on the Thames valley gravels in Oxfordshire, appears to have been settled at varying periods from the Bronze Age onwards. It does however seem to include a Belgic and Romano-British farmstead complex, with rectilinear enclosures and field systems, and a pit-stockade (cf. Lynch Hill). Haverfield, *Proc. Soc. Ants.* (2nd ser.) xviii (1899–1901), 10–16. Plan.

Allen, *Oxon.* v (1940), 164–165. Plans at Fig. 10. Air photographs at Pls. XVI–XXI. Riley, *Oxon.* viii–ix (1943–44), 80–82.

Harden, *T. Newbury D.F.C.* x, 1 (1953), 24. Air photograph at Pl. III; plans at Fig. 1. R.C.H.M., *A Matter of Time* (1960), 13–14 and 51. Air photograph at Pl. I.

*Prior's Gravel Pit, Cookham.* 41.884839

This site was discovered by Miss R. Levy and Mrs. Graham during gravel digging. It lies on the edge of the 50 foot terrace of the Thames. It was excavated from 1958–1959. V-shaped ditches, 6 feet wide and up to 3 feet deep, bounded a rectilinear enclosure 72 feet wide. Its length could only be traced for some 60 feet, beyond which ground was not available for excavation. There was a simple gap entrance in the centre of the west side with adjacent post-holes which made no clear pattern. The ditch silt was rich in Belgic pottery and produced also two British speculum coins. An overlying Roman occupation, of the second century A.D., had a chalk-steined well, over twenty feet deep, a T-shaped kiln and a wooden trough sunk into a bed of clay. But a continuous occupation was not apparent at this site.

*A.N.L.* Vol. 6, No. 12 (1960), 284.

Excavated 1958–59. Publication forthcoming.

*Rams Hill, Kingston Lisle.* 41/315863

The ploughed-out earthworks on the top of Rams Hill were first identified, by Grundy, from the Sparsholt Saxon Charter of A.D. 963. He identified the site with the *AS. Hremnes Burh* or 'Raven's Fort'. In 1928, Piggott found Romano-British sherds of late date outside the banked area along the hill's contour. An air photograph by Major Allen, published in 1936, showed two roughly concentric ditches and a faintly marked quadrilateral enclosure which abutted against the eastern side of the

main outer bank. The site was excavated by the Piggotts in 1938-39. These excavations distinguished five periods of occupation on the hill-top:

- I. The smaller oval-shaped inner enclosure which proved to be of Middle Bronze Age date.
- II. A trodden surface, hearth and post-holes over the silted-up ditch of the above enclosure, which was of Late Bronze Age date.
- III. The main (Camp) enclosure, of some 7 acres in area, which was an unfinished hill-fort of the Iron Age A culture, and which was the *Hremnes Burh* of the charters.
- IV. The rectangular enclosure, of Belgic and first century Roman date.
- V. Burials in the cleaned-out ditch of the rectangular enclosure. one with silver coins of the fifth century A.D.

It is the Period IV occupation that is relevant in the present context. The eastern side of this rectilinear enclosure could not be excavated, because of crops, but the western side was 260 feet long, and the northern and southern sides, which turned at right angles, were traced for 110 feet. The enclosure ditch was 8 feet wide at the top, 4 feet deep, and from 1 foot to 3 feet wide at the bottom. No trace of an interior bank could be seen. The homogeneous filling of the ditch contained first century Roman and Belgic pottery, but without any stratification. Trenches in the interior of the enclosure showed only a very small ditch at one point which contained Roman sherds and a fragment of flue tile scored for plaster. This was the only evidence for interior buildings, and no masonry had been turned up in ploughing, nor were robber trenches encountered. It was concluded that any structure existing in the western half of the enclosure would therefore presumably have been a timber building.

Both first century Roman and Belgic pottery was found in the ditch, with no admixture of later wares. The excavators wrote: 'It is tempting to think that we may have at Rams Hill a native Belgic site which was 'Romanized' at the Conquest. In view of the small number of sites where continuity has been proved, it is apparent that further digging might yield valuable results. In support of a Belgic origin, the placing of the site high up on the chalk ridge, and not half-way down the slope, as are the Roman sites in the neighbourhood, would appear to be a native custom.' Rhodes has pointed out that the nearest Celtic fields to Rams Hill are nearly a mile away, and that a pastoral use for the enclosure was more feasible.

Grundy, *B.B. & O.A.J.* xxvii (1922), 162.

Piggott, *Antiquity* ii (1928), 217-218.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 68, 105 and 206.

Huntingford, *B.A.J.* xl (1936), 167.

Peake, *T. Newbury D.F.C.* vii (1934-37), 103-194.

P.P.S. v (1938), 321 and *ibid.* vi (1939), 253.

Piggott, *T. Newbury D.F.C.* viii. 2 (1939), 116-117. First Interim report. Corrected in 1940.

Piggott, S. and C. M., *T. Newbury D.F.C.* viii. 3 (1940), 171-177. Second Interim Report.

Piggott, S. and C. M., *Ant. Journ.* xx (1940), 465-480. Final excavation report with plans, sections and pottery.

Wheeler, *Maiden Castle* (1943), 192. Maps haematite sherds.

Rhodes, *Oxon.* xv (1950), 21. On Celtic fields.

*Rapley's Farm, Winkfield.* 41/90.64.

There is an interesting account of 1785 of a small quadrangular earthwork in Winkfield Parish. It was discovered by Handasyd in July, 1783. A small farm of about 35 acres, named the 'Roundabout', lay a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from Bagshot Park and a similar distance from the Bagshot-Bracknell road. It was situated to the south side of a gentle slope above a valley called Heatly Bottom, and belonged to a 'Mr. Rapley, a very civil farmer, who lives on it'. Somewhere about 1615, according to Mr. Rapley, his ancestors had enclosed the area; before that it had formed part of the heath. In one corner of the farm there was a 'small spot of ground enclosed with a vallum, and a deep fosse without it. The dimensions will best be described by Mr. Rapley's own words, when I made enquiry concerning it. "It was deep enough, sir", said he, "to take in a road wagon, tilt and all". About 1773 the farmer threw down the bank into the ditch and ploughed over the site. Nothing was discovered then, and the site was not again ploughed until 1783. The boy doing the ploughing noticed a small hole, put his hand into it, and found a pottery vessel. He called his master, who dug it out, and expecting that more would be found, and 'being not desirous to lose time, set the plough to double the depth, when numbers of vessels were turned up at almost every furrow.' Handasyd collected the shattered remains and thought there could not have been less than fifty pots, though he observed 'the contemptuous looks of the farmer's servants at my extraordinary caution in packing them up.' He mended what he could and published drawings of some. His illustration and description of the finds provide the clue to the purpose of the site and its date, though he himself made no deductions. One urn, found whole, standing upright and covered with a dish, obviously contained a cremation burial with bronze and iron remains. Mr. Rapley had said that when an urn was found, 'they were sure to find some vessels, and in some places were three of different sizes in the other'. The site would appear to have been a small Romano-British cremation cemetery. The pottery illustrated included a globular urn with trellis decoration (which had contained the cremation), a large and small jug, and samian vessels of Dr. Forms 18, 27 and 46. A glass melon bead is shown. One base had the stamp OF RVFI, a stamp of RVFVS, in use from Claudian to Vespasianic times (cf. *Camulodunum*, p. 200). In spite of the antiquity of the record, it would seem reasonable to suppose that the site was a Romano-British cremation cemetery of perhaps the second half of the first century A.D.

Handasyd, *Arch.* vii (1785), 199-204. Pottery at Pl. XVI.

*I.C.H. Berks. I* (1906), 266.

Air photographs by Mr. J. G. Gafford and Mr. F. M. Underhill, 1959.

*Robin Hood's Arbour, Maidenhead Thicket, Cookham.* 41/853811

A Belgic ditched rectilinear enclosure with an inner bank, ditch and counterscarp bank, and a western entrance. The form is irregular, the sides measuring 144 feet on the north, 210 feet on the east, 230 feet on the south and 156 feet on the west. It contains a slightly sunken paved stock yard. The subject of the present report (pp. 1-14).

Kerry, *The History of the Hundred of Bray* (1861), 150.

Shrine, *B.B. & O.A.J.* vii (1901), 45.

Ditchfield, *ibid.* x (1905), 45.

*V.C.H. Berks. I* (1906), 204 and 264.

*B.A.J.* xxx (1926), 155-156.

Bannard, *ibid.* xxxv (1931), 65 and 67.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 97 and 190.

Excavated 1960.

*Straighthanger Field, Reading University Farm, Sonning.* 41/769759

At this site a complex of crop marks was discovered by air photography in 1959. They consist of two rings, some 80 feet in diameter, at least four rectangular enclosures, and straight parallel ditches some 300 yards long. Further marks to the west show a road with field systems. A preliminary test of one of the rings suggests that it may be a ploughed out round barrow of Bronze Age date. One of the enclosures, of pentagonal form, is in course of excavation (1959-1961) by Dr. Slade with students from Reading University. It measures 65 feet by 70 feet by 56 feet by 45 feet by 45 feet. The old ground surface and top of the ditch cuts had been removed by ploughing, but the enclosure ditch, cut into the gravel sub-soil, was 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep. It encloses a rammed gravel structure which has a complex of pits and post-holes. Material for dating is as yet inadequate, but it has been shown to have been cut by a ditch containing Romano-British pottery.

Air photographs by Reading Museum Staff, 1959; Rural Life Museum; and Fairey Air Surveys Ltd.

*A.N.L.* Vol. 6, No. 12 (1960), 286.

*Spencer's Farm, Cookham.* 41/887827

Here there is a small raised platform, which stands some two feet above the surrounding ground, which has two banks and three ditches on its east and south, one bank and two ditches on its north, and a single ditch on its west. It is said that it may have had a causeway connecting it with a road which led, in the 1890's, through an ancient avenue of elm trees to the Manor House of Ellington. In about 1886 it was excavated by Mr. James Rutland. He described its size as 272 feet from north to south by 224 feet east to west [these must be overall measurements, and not those of the platform only], and claimed that it was some 440 yards due east of a supposed Roman road which ran from Bray Wick to Cockmarsh, 'on which it may have been a military outpost, many years after probably converted into a pleasure garden.' He trenched it from east to west and came across a well, 2 feet in diameter, with the water level 5 feet from the surface. In clearing it out by dredging, some oaken boards were brought up, and a piece of bronze which resembled the foot of a large vessel. Three stones forming the well-top were of chalk, the circle and joints being of excellent workmanship. Flints, brick and foundation trenches were met with frequently, and two iron knives and pottery of various periods were found. The then owner of the site, Mr. E. Gardner, had a bronze coin of Antoninus found in a ditch a short distance from the site. Rutland considered the site to be of the same date as the road, and Roman. Underhill says that this Roman road passed through 'Wellhouse Field',

the site of a Romano-British settlement, and that Stanwell Lane, named as a boundary of St. Luke's Parish, adjoined the enclosure which contained the earthwork, and that its name might be significant. At present the site has a few trees growing on the platform, but appears to be fairly undisturbed.

Rutland, *Maidenhead and Taplow F.C. Ann. Reports* 8 (1891), 49.

Rutland, *Quart. Journ. Berks. A. & A.S.* ii (1892), 74.

Derby, *Chapters from the History of Cookham*, 23.

*V.C.H. Berks. I* (1906), 204.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 97 and 191.

Visited by Mrs. M. A. Cotton, March 1961.

*Theale Green.* 41/630706

A recent air survey of this site, which is adjacent to the old Theale 'Ballast Hole' site, shows a complex of crop marks which include circles, several small rectilinear enclosures, and possible field boundaries. When, at the beginning of the century, the pit by the side of the railway and to the west of the village of Theale, was being worked for gravel, a large amount of archaeological material was recovered. The site is on a gravel terrace above the River Kennet. No detailed records were made when this material was found and no associations are known. The finds, later reported on by S. and C. M. Piggott, show occupation of the area from Late Neolithic times to the sixth century A.D. They include a cremation burial of a child, in a pot with a handful of grain, which may be transitional in date between the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age; two crouched burials and a Beaker of degenerate form may have been of Early Bronze Age date and pottery which could be assigned to Southern First A, Southern Second B, Southern First C, Roman and Saxon times. This site merits excavation.

*V.C.H. Berks. I* (1906), 215; *ibid.* III (1923), 330.

Hawkes and Dunning, *Arch. Journ.* lxxxvii (1930), 249 and 325.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 66, 76 and 234.

Seaby, *B.B. & O.A.J.* xxxvii (1933), 84.

Piggott, S., *T. Newbury D.F.C.* vii (1934-37), 146-149. Pottery in Reading Museum. Savory, *Oxon.* ii (1937), 12.

Piggott, C. M., *T. Newbury D.F.C.* viii (1938), 52-60. Pottery at Pl. I and Figs. 19-21.

Air photographs by Reading Museum Staff, 1961.

*Ufton Nervet, north of the River Kennet.* 41/617690

Air photographs of fields here, to the north and south of the Bath Road, show complex crop marks consisting of rows of parallel lines, three circles, and a minimum of four rectilinear enclosures. Preliminary excavations at this site show that the parallel lines are road ditches. Two roads appear to converge at a possible ford over the River Kennet, one being a main Roman road with a branch road, and the other perhaps a pre-Roman trackway with a re-use in Romano-British times. One at least of the rectilinear enclosures, of slightly irregular form with one bowed side and rounded corners, appears to be of Belgic origin and may contain a burnt hut. Another has a double ditch and may perhaps be of early Roman date. A fuller excavation of this site, with its sequence of occupation, is being planned for 1962.

Air photographs by Dr. St. Joseph and the Reading Museum Staff, 1959; and again by Mr. J. Wymer and Mr. J. G. Gafford for the Berkshire Archaeological Society, in July, 1960. Later verticals by Fairey Air Surveys Ltd.

*A.V.L.* Vol. 6, No. 12 (1960), 286.

Preliminary excavations, by Mr. W. H. Manning, for Reading Museum, in September, 1961.

*Weycock Hill enclosure, Waltham St. Lawrence.* 41.823778

During the 1953 excavations in the vicinity of the Romano-British octagonal temple on Weycock Hill, a momentary glimpse obtained of a wall was thought to be that of its *temenos*. The poor air photograph then available tended to confirm this, but further photographs, taken in 1960, showed quite definitely that the temple is situated inside a rectangular walled enclosure.

Cotton, *B.A.J.* iv (1956-57), 48-68. Excavation report.

Air photograph by the Reading Museum Staff, 1960.

## II. UNEXCAVATED RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURES

*Earthwork round the Church at Finchampstead.* 41/793638

The Church at Finchampstead stands on a small hill near the road from London to Silchester. This has a rectangular platform with a steep escarpment on all sides except the eastern part of the north side where the road has disturbed its original form. The site has been interpreted as a 'Roman camp'. It appears to be unexcavated. When visited in 1961, it was noted that the southern and eastern churchyard walls are built in a ditch which has a bank outside it. The ground inside the wall, between it and the escarpment has been levelled.

Lyon, *Chronicles of Finchampstead in the County of Berkshire* (1895).

*B.B. & O.A.J.* ii (1897), 28. Review of above.

*V.C.H. Berks.* I (1906), 264. Map.

Visited by Miss P. Stinton and Mr. H. Copsey in March, 1961 and photographed.

*Hackpen Hill, Childrey.* 41/352853

In March, 1917, when Huntingford was looking for a forgotten earthwork mentioned by Wise, he found traces of a small enclosure with two sides of a rectangle visible. On the north side a low bank, 120 feet long, had no trace of a ditch. There was a rounded corner, and on the west a 60 foot stretch of bank and ditch. The site was at the north-west corner of a small wood which had destroyed the eastern ditch, and at the head of a hollow called the Devil's Punchbowl. Some 50 yards to the south-west there is a fine bowl barrow. The site is on the Downs close to the Ridgeway. Huntingford thought the name of Hackpen Hill might derive from OE. *haecce*, 'rail fence', and *penn*, 'enclosure', pointing to a stockaded work.

Wise, *Further observations upon the White Horse* (1742), 59.

Wise, Letter to Dr. Mead, (1738), 55.

*T. Newbury D.F.C.* ii (1872-75), 191. Mention.

*V.C.H. Berks.* I (1906), 272.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 186. Mention.

Huntingford, *B.A.J.* xxxviii (1934), 116.

Huntingford, *ibid.* xl (1936), 167. Sketch plan.

Grinsell, *ibid.* 116. For the adjacent bowl barrow.

Visited by Mr. H. Copey, April 1961, but enclosure not identified.

*Earthwork round the church at Hampstead Norris.* 41/529763

To the west of the church at Hampstead Norris there was a bank and ditch which formed three sides of a rectangle. The fourth side, which should be to the east of the church, was not visible. In extension of the churchyard, a stretch of the ditch was filled in before the V.C.H. report was written in 1906. When visited in 1961, only a slight bank was observed crossing the churchyard to the west of the church, but the rectangle could not be seen. The churchyard has now been extended to the south-west, on the other side of a lane, and in the thicket beyond it, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the church, is the ditch marked on the O.S. 1" map.

*V.C.H. Berks. I* (1906), 264.

Visited by Mr. H. Copey and Miss P. Stinton, February, 1961.

*Tittle Row/Woolley Earthwork, Maidenhead Thicket.* 41/85.80.

Kerry recorded an earthwork which 'lies on the south side of the Thicket, near the track leading from Tittle Row to Woolley. It consists of a large quadrangular entrenchment about 200 yards in diameter, and is unquestionably of Roman origin.' He considered that Robin Hood's Arbour was an outpost of this work. By 1931, Bannard found that because of the spread of its banks and the undergrowth, and other causes, only very slight traces of this earthwork were discernible. According to Underhill, during World War I troops occupied a barbed wire enclosure in the southern part of the Thicket, and the area was used for practising trenching and sapping. In 1919, the trenches were filled in, but the sappers' tunnels were left open for a time. Williams-Hunt thought he could locate the earthwork in the area ploughed up by the troops in 1914-16, but the ground is so disturbed there that it is not possible to be sure whereabouts this earthwork was. Peake mentioned a smaller enclosure to the north, but this may be a confusion with that of Robin Hood's Arbour.

Kerry, *The History of the Hundred of Bray* (1861), 150.

Shrine, *B.B. & O.A.J.* vii (1901), 95.

*V.C.H. Berks. I* (1906), 264.

Bannard, *B.A.J.* xxv (1931), 65.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 97 and 190.

Visited by Mrs. Cotton, February, 1961. The site was not traced.

### III. RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURES KNOWN FROM CROP MARKS OR AIR PHOTOGRAPHY

*Appleford.* 41/531937

In July, 1895, Manning noted that several circles and square enclosures could be seen each year in the field immediately to the south of Appleford Church. Also, in the field known as Heron's Acre, on the east side of a field road, there was a rectangular

enclosure. Haverfield mentions these sites, which are two to three miles west of Northfield Farm (see above, p. 24). A sherd of pottery, with cross-hatched decoration of Glastonbury type (now in the Ashmolean Museum), is included in Ward Perkins's distribution map of pottery of this kind. Bradford notes that it was marked 'bought at the sale of Jesse King', but that it is assumed to be of local origin. It is an 'outlier' to the main distribution and there is no suggestion that it is associated with the crop marks.

Manning, *B.B. & O.A.J.* iv (1898), 43-44.

Haverfield, *Proc. Soc. Ants.* (2nd ser.) xviii (1899-1900), 15.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 69 and 174.

Ward Perkins, *P.P.S.* iv (1938), 168.

Bradford, *Oxon.* vii (1942), 59 and Fig. 13, 42.

*Fyfield.* 41/424974

In August, 1942, Riley, in his air surveys, observed, three-quarters of a mile south of Fyfield village and 800 yards 120° from Woodhouse Farm, a lane running between two small blocks of possible rectangular fields, among and near which were pits and small round enclosures. The ditches of some of the small enclosures cut the field boundary ditches. To the west were two clusters that looked like pits, near one of which were two small round enclosures.

Riley, *Oxon.* vii (1942), 113; *ibid.* viii-ix (1943-44), 101.

*Kingston Bagpuize.* 41/399960

At 1,700 yards 245° from Fyfield Wick, and a quarter of a mile north of the bridge over the River Ock on the road from Kingston Bagpuize to West Hanney, Riley observed, from the air, an enclosure with rounded corners and rectangular sub-divisions. There were three small round enclosures within and one outside the main enclosure.

Riley, *Oxon.* vii (1942), 113; *ibid.* viii-ix (1943-44), 100.

*Near Long Wittenham Village.* 41/54.93.

In the fields to the south and south-west of the part of the village where is the Parish church, Haverfield saw crop marks of lines and rectangles. One of the rectangles measured 185 feet on its longest side.

Haverfield, *Proc. Soc. Ants.* (2nd ser.) xviii (1899-1900), 15.

*Pingewood.* 41/688694

Air photography has shown in this area a rectangular enclosure, with double ditches on two sides, and with markings of two parallel lines leading to it.

Air photographs by Reading Museum Staff, 1961.

*North of the Abingdon-Radley Road, Radley.* 41/513984

On the north side of the road from Radley to Abingdon, about half a mile south of Peachcroft Farm, and opposite the drive to Wick Hall, Haverfield observed crop marks of lines and rectangles. It is uncertain whether this is the same site at which Akerman recorded the discovery of skeletons, a 'British urn', and ditches like those at



Standlake. Haverfield thought that from his account it might be nearer to Abingdon, but Huntingford pointed out that if this was so it would be in the parish of St. Helen, Abingdon, and not in Radley parish.

Akerman, *Proc. Soc. Ants.* (2nd ser.) ii (1863), 248.

Haverfield, *ibid.* xviii (1899-1901), 15.

Huntingford, *B.B. & O.A.J.* xxix (1925-26), 139-140.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 69-70 and 218.

*Ruscombe Lake, Ruscombe.* 41/806762

In 1956, the existence of an earthwork at this site was reported to the Reading Museum and was recorded on their maps. In 1959, it was re-discovered by Dr. Peter Wood, from the air, when he observed a rectilinear enclosure on the site of the old drained lake. It was of rectangular shape, with slightly rounded corners, the western one being truncated. A ground check showed that it consisted of two small banks, about a foot high and 15 feet wide, separated by a shallow ditch of about the same width. It measured 315 feet by 270 feet. Breaks occur in the banks on the north-eastern and south-eastern sides. Roman coins are said to have been found in the vicinity. In view of its siting on the drained lake area, it may perhaps be medieval. Reported to Reading Museum, 1956, and recorded.

Air photograph by Dr. Peter Wood, 1959; and by Reading Museum Staff, 1960.

*A.N.L.* Vol. 6, No. 12 (1960), 285-286.

*Shiplake, Oxon.* 41/777788

This site is on the Oxfordshire side of the River Thames. Rectilinear crop marks of a double enclosure, of pentagonal form, have been photographed immediately north of Shiplake Lock and west of the railway line.

Air photographs by Reading Museum Staff, 1959; and by Fairey Air Surveys Ltd.

*A.N.L.* Vol. 6, No. 12 (1960), 287.

*Twyford.* 41/773767

A rectilinear enclosure at this site was first observed and photographed by Fairey Air Surveys Ltd., and again by Wymer. Of rectangular form, there might be an entrance gap on its west side. The eastern end has a partition line which continues beyond the enclosure to its south. Further east there is another straight crop mark which may be part of another enclosure. To the north there is yet another line. The main enclosure seems to lie on the edge of the higher ground above the flat meadows which stretch to the Thames.

Air photographs by Fairey Air Surveys and Mr. J. Wymer.

Visited by Mrs. Cotton, 1961.

*Wargrave, near the River Loddon.* 41/781778

A large complex of rectangular crop marks has been identified in a field near the river.

Air photographs by Reading Museum Staff, 1959 and Fairey Air Surveys Ltd.

*A.N.L.* Vol. 6, No. 12 (1960), 287.

## APPENDIX II

*Linear earthwork in Maidenhead Thicket, Cookham.* 41/858808

Though this is not a rectilinear enclosure, it is noted here because of its proximity to Robin Hood's Arbour. Kerry described this earthwork, situated some 200 yards up the Henley Road, as a bold embankment *c.* 5 feet in height, 10 feet across and 80 yards in length. It had an oval or curved form and he thought it might have formed part of a larger enclosure, and might be of British origin. When Bannard wrote on Maidenhead Thicket in 1931 it was so overgrown that he could not identify it. But, in 1939, when excavations started for the Maidenhead By-pass road (now a tributary of the new M4 motorway), it was rediscovered by Underhill and Williams-Hunt. The latter cut a section across its bank and ditch, and found a simple dump construction bank and a V-shaped ditch. A few pottery sherds of gritty ware were found, but their date was indeterminate, and they seem to have been lost.

Kerry, *History of the Hundred of Bray* (1861), 149-150.

Shrine, *B.B. & O.A.J.* vii (1901), 95.

Ditchfield, *ibid.* x (1904), 45.

Peake, *Arch. of Berks.* (1931), 64.

Bannard, *B.A.J.* xxxv (1931), 64.

Ward Perkins, *Arch.* xc (1944), 170.

Underhill, *B.A.J.* xlix (1946), 55.

Visited by Mrs. Cotton, 1939, and, in 1960, when the bank section was seen at the sides of the new road. Williams-Hunt's records (in the possession of Mr. Underhill) indicate the position of the earthwork, but there are discrepancies over the line taken on his unfinished plans. The dimensions and length are close to the figures given by Kerry.

## APPENDIX III

## NOTES ON ENCLOSURES NOT LISTED IN APPENDIX I

I am indebted to Mr. J. Wymer for supplying me with the following additional information, which is recorded in Reading Museum. These sites are not referred to in the main text and are not shown on the distribution map of Fig. 5. See also *B.A.J.* 58 (1960), 62-64 and Pls. I-II for further notes on aerial survey and crop marks.

*West of Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead.* 41/881802

A rectangular enclosure noted in an air photograph in 1945 by Williams Hunt.

*Near Impstone Cottage, Aldermaston Soke, Mortimer West.* 41/620628

Opposite the Lodge to the north of Impstone Cottage, a "small camp—Mr. H. M. Wallis—not investigated" is recorded on the Museum's 6" O.S. map (Berks. 44SE).

*Tower Hill, Winkfield.* 41/905665

"A possible enclosure. Cf. reference to Gough's Camden" noted on the 6" O.S. map (Berks. 47NE and SE) in the Museum.

*Big Wood, Warfield.* 41/893700

In 1936, Mr. F. M. Underhill noted the site as that of a 'possible camp'.

*Winterdown Bottom, East Garston.* 41/363780

A rectangular enclosure, of fair size, situated at the southern end of a long stretch of a linear earthwork. Mr. P. Crampton has traced this site on the ground and has identified it on one of the late Major Allen's air photographs, now in the Ashmolean Museum.

The two earthworks shown on the Ordnance Survey maps at *Upper Wood, Ashbury*, 41/285813 and at *Harley Bushes, Idstone Down, Ashbury*, 41/275812, enclose much larger areas than those here described and do not seem to belong to this series.