EXCAVATIONS OF THE LAMBOURN LONG BARROW, 1964

J. J. WYMER

With reports on the pottery by Dr Isobel F. Smith and on the human remains by Dr D. R. Brothwell and Rosemary Powers.

Rescue excavations undertaken by Reading Museum for the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in 1964 showed that very little remained of the mound of the Lambourn Barrow. There were some indications that a core of small sarsen boulders had been placed along the centre of the mound on the original land surface and that turves had been dumped under at least one part of its south side. Some larger sarsen stones nearer the head of the mound appear to have been part of the core. One of those had fallen out of a shallow hole. Where subjected to the plough, no more than 3–4 in of mound was preserved in any place above the original land surface and below the level reached by modern ploughing. For the most part the plough had disturbed everything down to the original land surface or scoured through it. The apparent height of the mound of about 4 ft was found to be the result of differential weathering, the surrounding chalk having been chemically dissolved to a depth of 2 ft 6 in since the Neolithic period.

The quarry ditches were examined on both sides and produced a few sherds of Windmill Hill Culture pottery beneath the primary silting, one broken antler pick, a small quantity of charcoal and six flint flakes and a core. The south quarry ditch at the head end of the barrow had a quantity of soil, burnt stones, sherds, animal bones and a broken human skull cap above the first layers of primary silting, but below more loose chalky rubble of further rapid silting. No ditch was found to exist across the tail of the barrow as suggested by some aerial photographs taken in 1935.

A small area of the head of the mound within Westcot Wood was examined in the hope that it would settle whether the barrow was chambered or unchambered. A structure of small sarsen boulders was revealed, partly disturbed by some previous excavation, presumably that of Martin Atkins in the mid-19th century. On one side, and undisturbed, was a contracted human burial within a rough cist-like arrangement of small sarsen stones. The only grave goods were some perforated marine shells. There was nothing to indicate that any megalithic structure had ever existed.

The excavations were conducted from 14 August to 10 September, 1964 and the finds have been placed in the Newbury Museum.

Location, previous history and reason for excavation

The Lambourn Long Barrow lies on the north-west edge of the large group of barrows known as the Lambourn Seven Barrows. It occupies the top of a gentle rise on to Westcot Down, but immediately to the west is a steep slope of about 20 ft into the bed of the dry valley along which, a little lower down, the majority of the barrows of the group were built. As Case (1957) has pointed out, this valley is dry as far as Longacre Farm (formerly Gaol Farm) where water rises after wet seasons. This intermittent source of water may have been higher up the valley in Neolithic times and the very siting of the barrow group was probably related to its existence. The suggestion that the spring was a place of reverence (Wilson, 1871) is a reasonable one and, in this respect, there could perhaps be a relationship between the positions of individual barrows and the gradual retreat of the spring down the valley as the water table dropped during the Sub-Boreal period. The long barrow is almost certainly the oldest burial mound in the Lambourn Group and its position highest up the dry valley may

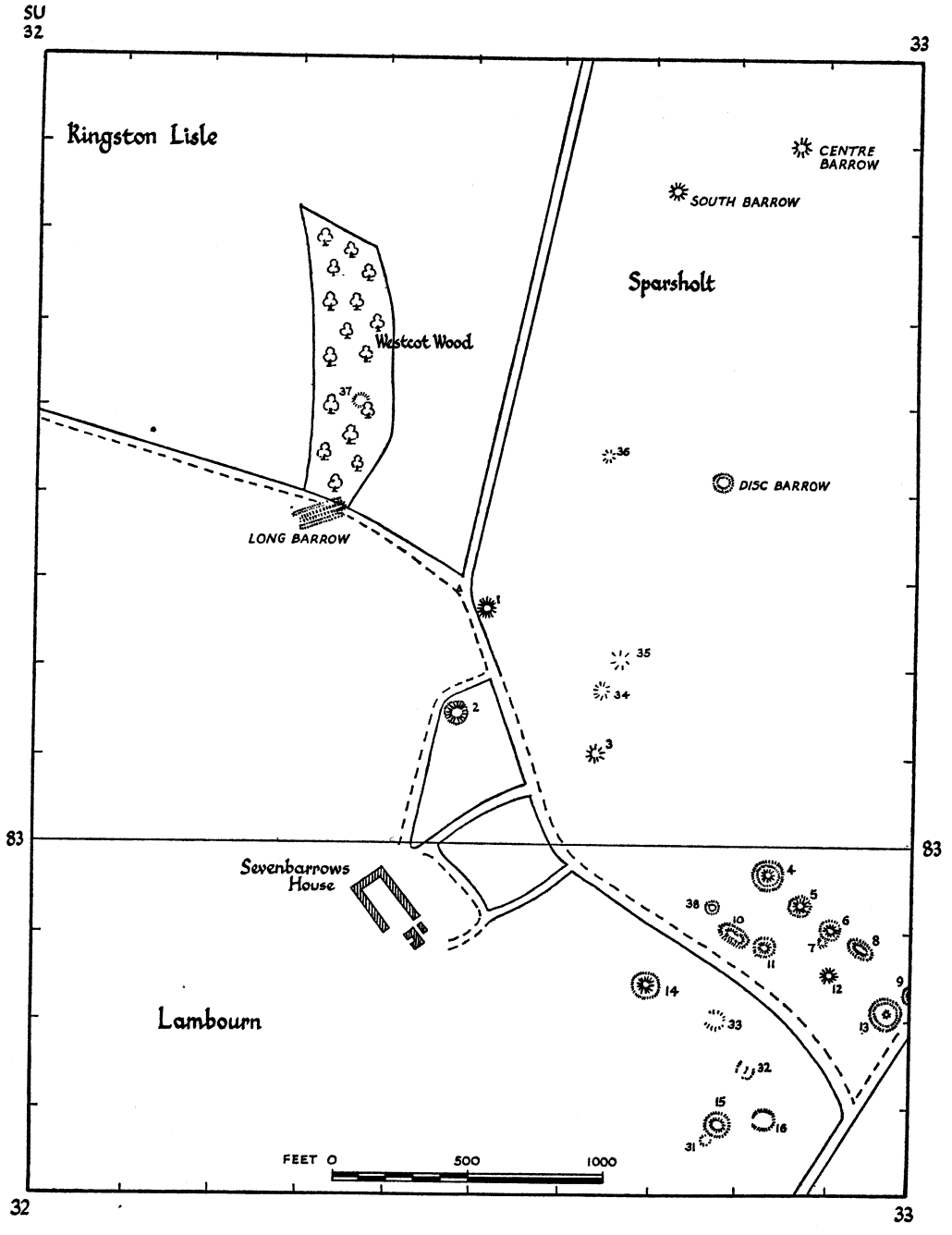

Fig. 1. *Location of the Lambourn Long Barrow among the Lambourn Seven Barrows. The numbering is that of Case* (1957) *with the addition of nos* 37 *and* 38, *two further barrows discovered by Mr P. H. Crampton in* 1961 *and* 1964: 37 *Small bowl barrow in Westcot Wood,* 30 *ft diameter,* 1 *ft high and with traces of ditch* 10 *ft wide;* 38 *Small saucer barrow* 45 *ft diameter, faint outer bank and ditch about* 3 *in deep.*

have been connected with the proximity of a spring at the time of its construction.

The earliest reference to a long barrow among the 'Seven Barrows' was by Francis Wise in 1738, but it is impossible to be quite sure that he was not referring to one of the twin barrows. Similarly, when Martin Atkins conducted his series of excavations for the Archaeological Institute between 1850 and 1858, he reported in a letter to Dr Wilson of the Institute on some work he had carried out on a long barrow, but it is not quite clear whether he was referring to the Lambourn Long Barrow or the long mound on White Horse Hill which produced Roman material. He remarked to Dr Wilson, however, that a farmer had dug into the barrow some years beforehand and found 'human remains and a quantity of black earth'. He reopened it and found more skeletons, including one without a skull, the absence of which he attributed to the farmer's digging. This is consistent with what was discovered in the 1964 excavations described below, so it seems most probable that Martin Atkins was referring to the Lambourn Long Barrow. As for the Roman coin in the Martin Atkins bequest at the British Museum described in the register as 'Bronze coin, 3rd brass, from Long Barrow' it could equally well be from either mound. Nothing Roman was found in 1964 except one small, worn rim sherd in the old plough-soil which had accumulated in the upper levels of the quarry ditches.

The presence of a long barrow among the Lambourn group was not confirmed until it was rediscovered by L. V. Grinsell in 1935 when he was searching the area for unrecorded barrows. At his request, oblique aerial photographs were taken by the late Major G. W. Allen and a report appeared in this Society's journal for the following year. Several sarsen stones protruded at the eastern end and suggested that the barrow possessed chambers. The quarry ditches were revealed in the aerial photograph by dark soil marks and another soil mark at the tail end of the mound was interpreted as a further ditch, an unusual feature for a long barrow.

A trackway, used by race horses and tractors, runs obliquely across the front half of the mound, the very head of which, on the north side of the track, is 3 ft high and is covered by young beech trees. On the other side of the track is ploughed land and the mound is even lower. The gradual destruction of the mound by the plough and use of the track prompted the scheduling of the site in 1936 by the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments as a site of national importance warranting preservation. Grinsell's pessimistic comments (Grinsell, 1936) that this would not mean the site was safe from further damage were unfortunately justified. His hopes that the track would be diverted were not realised and the state of the barrow has been the concern of this Society for many years. The local regional group of the Council for British Archaeology have also expressed their concern and, in 1964, the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments decided that the part of the barrow subjected to ploughing should be examined before modern deep ploughing destroyed it completely. Reading Museum was invited to undertake this work. The major cost of the excavation was met by the Ministry of Public Building and Works and financial assistance was received from the Corporation of Reading, the Berkshire Archaeological Society and the Newbury District Field Club. The site was dug entirely by volunteer labour, recruited from various sources, including the Berkshire Field Research Group, the Icknield School, Wantage, and through the C.B.A. Calendar of Excavations. Mr A. Coxon acted as site supervisor and thanks are extended to all those organisations and people who made this excavation possible; to the Ministry for a publication grant; to Major D. Candy for granting permission to conduct this work on his land; to Mr A. Muir for allowing the use of a nearby field for a camping site, and to the many local people who assisted in numerous ways.

Middle and Tail of the Mound

The area of the mound subjected to ploughing was totally excavated, with the exception of

two 3 ft wide baulks (fig. 2). Near the track, the black soil of the original land surface, predating the construction of the mound, was found at a depth of 1 ft 3 in below the modern plough surface. This depth was reduced even more towards the tail of the mound until the plough soil was in contact with the buried soil and, beyond, nothing remained above the natural chalk.

The mound had an apparent height of 3–4 ft but sections cut across it and continued outside the quarry ditches showed that up to 2 ft 6 in of chalk had been removed all round the barrow. Some of this may have been scraped off during the construction of the barrow, but there are no irregularities or depressions in the field to indicate it. The explanation for this discrepancy in levels is probably that the entire chalk plateau has lost this depth of chalk since the building of the Long Barrow through slow dissolution by rainwater; the ancient soil beneath the mound, however, was protected and thus remains as a natural platform. This weathering phenomenon has been observed and discussed by Atkinson (1957), and at Fussell's Lodge Long Barrow there was a difference in levels of nearly two feet between the Neolithic soil and the surrounding chalk surface (Ashbee, 1958).

With so little of the mound remaining it is impossible to know exactly how it was constructed, but the lack of post holes or other disturbances of the old turf line show there were no substantial structures on the site beforehand. One oval, shallow hole, 4 ft long and 1 ft 6 in deep, about halfway along the south edge of the mound had the appearance of a stonehole, but there were no sarsen chips in the uniform grey, chalky filling. One patinated flake came from this filling. Associated with this hole was a line of turves placed along the axis of the mound.

A few small sarsen boulders, on the average 6-12 in across, lay on the old land surface, isolated or in groups. These are all that remain of what was probably a sarsen core, for sarsen stones have been ploughed out and cast aside on to the edge of the field for at least the last thirty years. The present farmer confirmed the existence of numerous stones along the line of the mound and had purposely deep-ploughed this part of the field in order to extract them.

Another shallow hole at the end of the mound may have been connected with some marker in the preliminary stages of the barrow's construction but it was not exactly central between the quarry ditches. Other disturbances of the old turf were animal burrows. It would seem that a line of sarsen boulders was first placed along the axis of the intended mound, turves from the quarry ditches were placed on the edges and chalk thrown on top.

Finds were non-existent under this part of the mound except for one small indeterminate flint flake and a few typical chalkland snails.

Quarry Ditches

The quarry ditches each side of the mound were found to be cut steeply into the chalk, about 5 ft deep and 10 ft wide at the top, and flat-bottomed. Allowing for the weathering during and since the Neolithic period they would have been 7 ft deep when first cut. One hundred and ninety feet of ditch were emptied of fill with long cuttings at the head and tail end on the south side and at the tail end on the north. Other narrow sections were cut across the middle of the ditches on both sides.

The scalloped edges of the ditches, although not the original edges (for these would have collapsed rapidly through the normal processes of weathering) must perpetuate original irregularities in the ditch cutting. Concavities face each other, and slight steps in the ditch-floor sometimes occur where adjacent pairs meet; each portion of ditch between these constrictions possibly represents the efforts of one Neolithic work gang. The manner in which the ditches had partially collapsed and silted up is typical of all such weathering of earthworks cut in chalk, recently demonstrated by the experimental earthwork made on Overton Down, Wilts. (Jewell, 1963): up to almost 2 ft of loose chalk rubble lay on the flat bottom of the ditch (fig. 4) with patches of turf above it, occurring indiscriminately on either or both

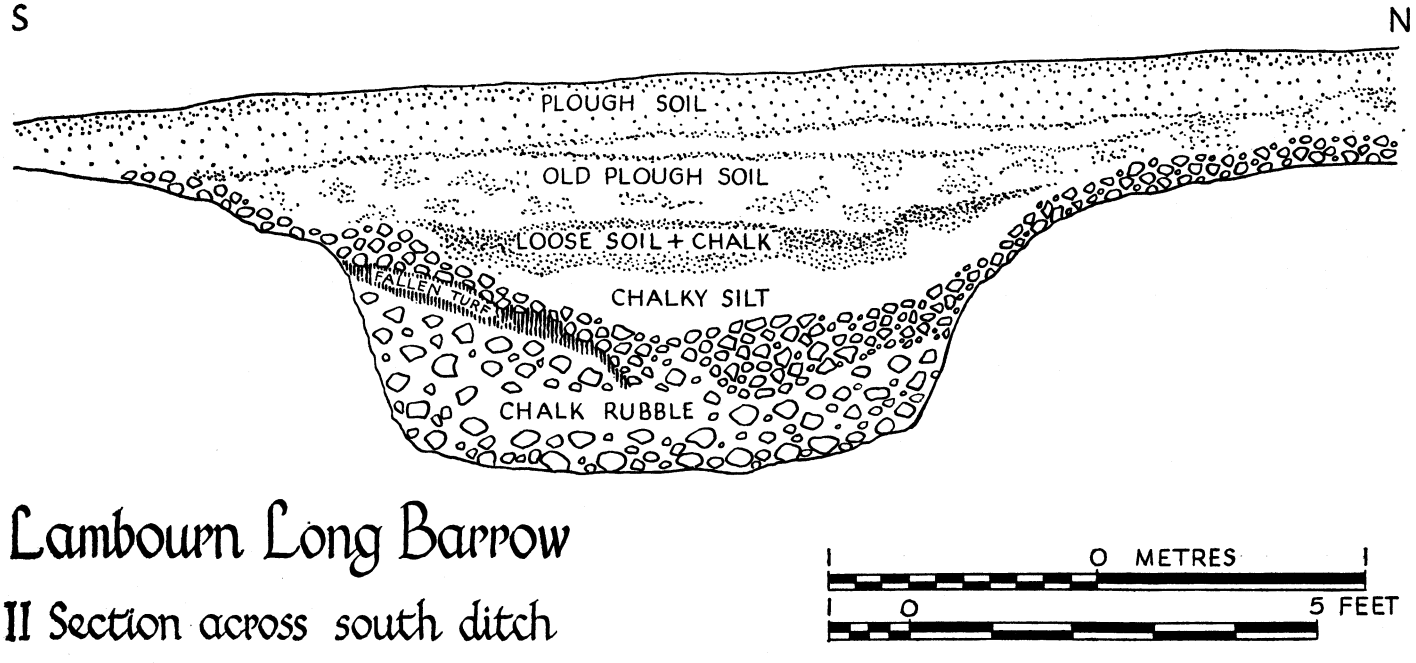
S
N
PLOUGH SOIL
OLD PLOUGH SOIL
LOOSE SOIL + CHALK
FALLEN TURF
CHALKY SILT
CHALK RUBBLE
Lambourn Long Barrow
II Section across south ditch
0 METRES
0
5 FEET

Fig. 4.

sides, or in the centre. These presumably fell into the ditch after the initial weathering had left them undercut and hanging precariously along the ditch edges on both sides. Further chalk rubble lay on top, generally less coarse than the rubble below the fallen turves. The Overton Down experiment has shown that such silting can occur in a couple of years. It can be regarded as the primary and secondary silting in contrast to the fine chalky silt and soil horizon which formed above; this tertiary silting probably required many centuries for its accumulation. The natural sequence of weathering was disturbed at the Lambourn Long Barrow by ploughing over the mound and ditches, resulting in the spread of over 2 ft of loose plough-soil over the ditches so that no depressions were left to indicate their existence, except within Westcot Wood which has protected the monument from modern ploughing. Even there, only a slight depression of about 1 ft in depth marks the line of the northern quarry ditch near the head of the mound.

The loose brown plough-soil beneath the foot of the modern plough disturbance appears to be an ancient one for it yielded nothing more recent than a sherd of Roman pottery (no. 46) apart from a small number of modern objects which are probably intrusive. Earlier material consists of sherds of Western Neolithic, Peterborough and Beaker wares, collared, ? bucket and globular urns and numerous patinated flint flakes and cores and other artifacts including three arrowheads of different types, a crude laurel leaf form, scrapers and borers. The most likely source for all these sherds and flints is the mound of the barrow and, on the slender evidence of one Roman sherd the monument may first have been ploughed about this time, a period of intense cultivation on the Berkshire Downs. No Celtic field system is actually known on the Lambourn Downs near the Seven Barrows (Rhodes, 1950), but Wayland's Smithy was found during the recent excavations to have been severely disturbed by ploughing over the mound in the Iron Age-Roman period.

Finds from under or in the initial siltings of the quarry ditches at the tail end were scanty but significant. The only sherds, described below, were of Western Neolithic type and, lying on the natural chalk at the tail end of the south ditch was a small patch of burnt wood, yielding 6 g of charcoal which should be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

The tine of a well-worn broken antler pick lay on the natural chalk in the middle of the north ditch. Bones were absent, except in the plough soil above, but conditions differed greatly at the head end of the south ditch. Here, a thicker and more continuous layer of black soil and turves was found between the primary and secondary fillings of chalk rubble. This layer produced a relatively large number of finds, among which was the major part of a human skull-cap, found in two separate clusters of fragments 2 ft apart. Flecks of charcoal in the black deposit and burnt flints and small sarsen stones suggested the sweepings from a burnt area and not a fire in the ditch. A few Western Neolithic sherds were present, but only three small flint flakes and a rough core (fig. 5 nos 12-14, 18), also a neatly perforated small, flat piece of chalk, and a lump of iron pyrites. Among the bones and teeth were some conjoined sheep vertebrae and the complete crown of a red deer antler, probably the waste part of antler-pick manufacture. The latter was stuck upright in the black soil and the upper part which protruded had been buried by the fall of secondary chalk rubble.

The only other find of consequence in the quarry ditches was a human femur, also from near the head of the south ditch, but in the upper part of the tertiary silting, and in a very poor state of preservation.

No ditch was found to exist across the tail end of the barrow as suggested by the published aerial views of soil marks. A narrow trench for a modern water pipe was found to cut across the tail end of the south ditch.

Head of the Mound

Although the purpose of the excavation was to examine the part of the barrow subjected to ploughing, opportunity was taken to make one

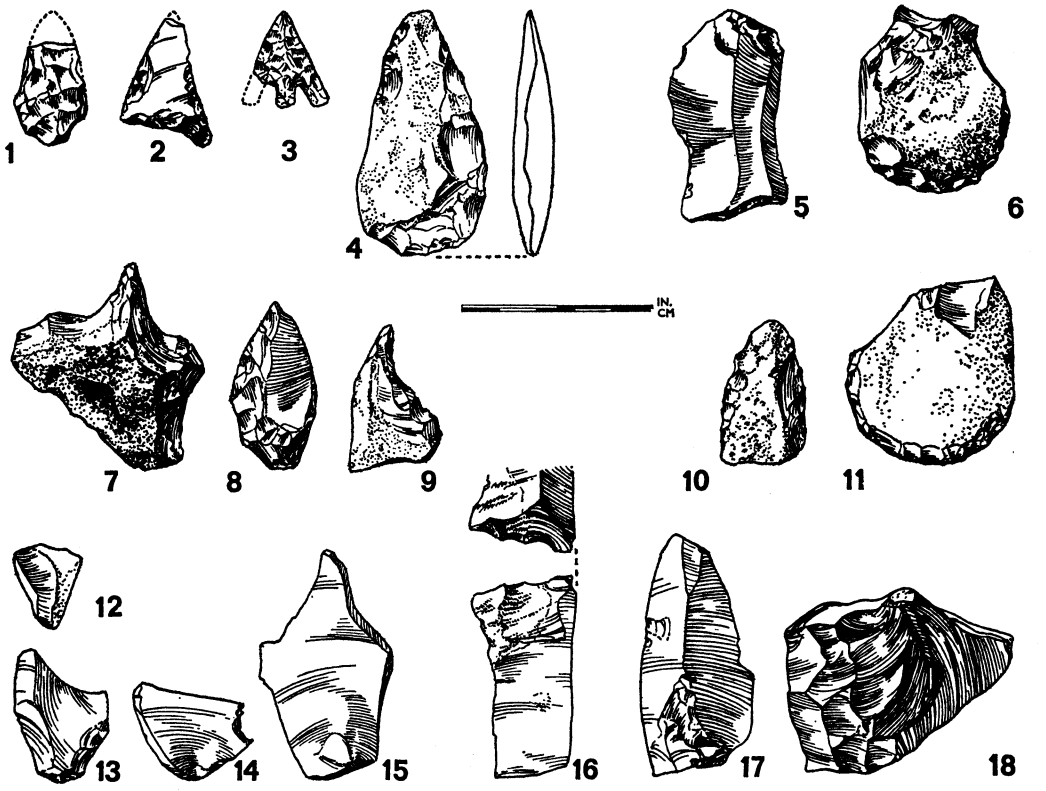

Fig. 5. Lambourn Long Barrow. Flint artifacts. Nos 1–11 from the old plough soil above the quarry ditches: 1 Broken leaf-shaped arrowhead; 2 Petit tranchet derivative arrowhead; 3 Barbed and tanged arrowhead; 4 Laurel leaf knife or lance-head; 5 End scraper; 6 Scraper; 7–9 Borers; 10–11 Scrapers. Nos 12–14 and 18 from the primary and secondary chalk rubble filling the bottom of the quarry ditches: 12–14 small flakes; 18 Crude two-platformed core; No. 15 from the make-up of the mound near its head: 15 Flake. Nos 16–17 from the Neolithic land surface beneath the mound: 16 End scraper worked bifacially; 17 Flake.

cutting across the trackway where it passed over the mound and to make a trial excavation in the wood at the head of the mound.

The Neolithic turf line was only 1 ft below the surface of the trackway, which was composed of hard compressed chalk. It remained only as black traces in this chalk and had clearly been disturbed by the passage of vehicles or horses at times when rain had reduced the trackway to a slough. On the edge of the trackway, however, although ditch-cutting had confused the surface, up to 1 ft 6 in of the mound remained and five sarsen stones about 1-2 ft long lay flat on the ancient turf line. One of these stones (pl. IV) had apparently fallen from a shallow stonehole as such a feature occurred beneath one end. No small finds were made in this cutting apart from six patinated flakes on the old land surface.

The cutting in the head of the mound (fig. 6) revealed a mass of sarsen boulders. Two feet of loose root-entangled chalk and soil remained above the Neolithic surface, but it soon became apparent that the central area had

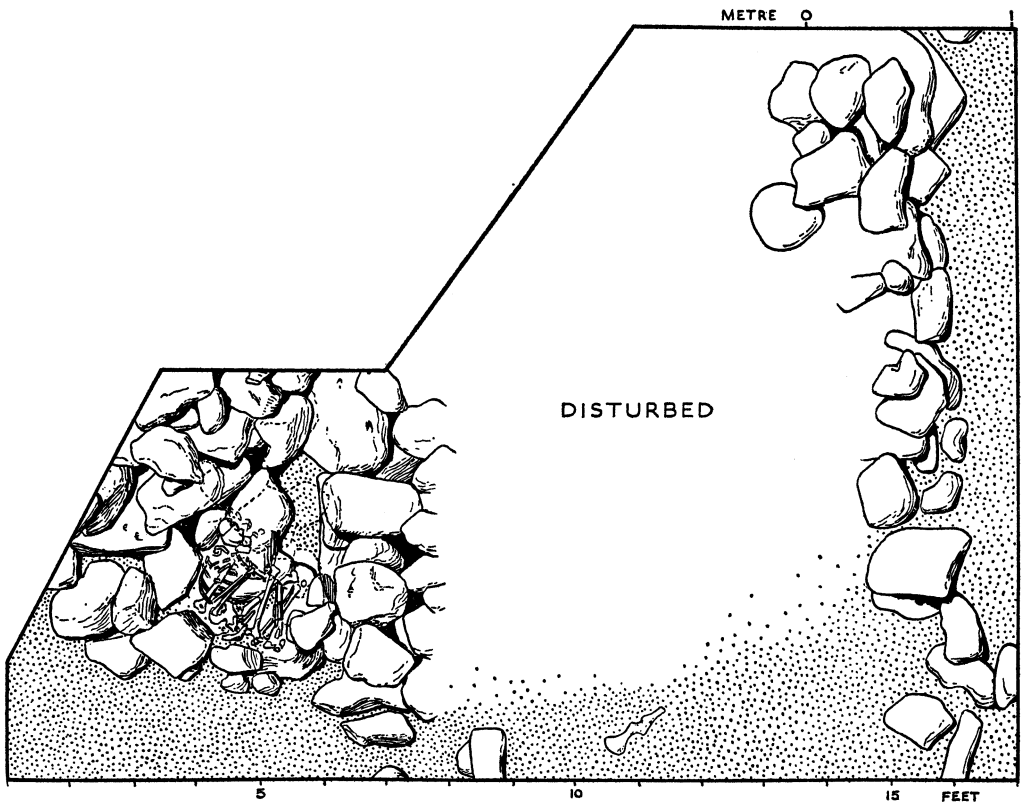

Fig. 6. *Lambourn Long Barrow. Plan of part of the head of the mound showing position of contracted burial.*

been disturbed by an excavation which had penetrated below this surface. One side of this disturbance just showed on the west face as a slanting cut through the rubble of the mound, but the other side was lost in a tangle of roots. A few scraps of human bone were found among the chalk, soil and sarsen boulders that had been thrown back into this earlier excavation, which could well be that of Martin Atkins and the unknown farmer. The trench-like probe is typical of early Victorian barrow investigation.

On each side, beyond this disturbance, the sarsen boulders lay upon the Neolithic turf line and had clearly been placed carefully to some design. On the north side a distinct edge was found, with the sarsens laid in rough courses. On the south edge of this apparent cairn a human contracted burial lay among the stones with a few small sarsens placed upright in a semi-circle on the outside to form a rough cist. A few scraps of calcined bone which could be human came from the material directly overlying this inhumation. The skeleton was badly crushed. By the wrists were two polished and perforated marine shells; these have been identified by Mr Adrian J. Rundle as the Common Dog Whelk (*Nucella lapillus*) and it is significant that a shell of this species, rubbed down in exactly the same way, was found on the clay floor of the Nympsfield Long Barrow, next to the orthostats on the north side

(Kennard, 1938). Some overlying sarsen stones, shown by dotted lines on the plan (fig. 6), and the skeleton itself were removed, and a report on the latter is appended below. Other shells from what was presumably a bracelet, or necklace as the hands were drawn up close to the head, may still be between the underlying sarsen stones, and some more articulated bones below may belong to yet another burial. In view of the small area under examination it was thought best to cease excavation at this stage and leave the sarsen structure intact for a future full-scale investigation. Until this is done it is impossible to interpret the results of this cutting. There is nothing to indicate any megalithic chambering but the careful arrangement of the sarsen boulders is reminiscent of the original tomb discovered at Wayland's Smithy in 1962–63. Neither is it possible to be sure that the contracted burial is not intrusive.

Eleven patinated flint flakes came from the make-up of the mound. A few animal bones were also found and part of an ox pelvis is shown on the plan (fig. 6). The only finds near the burial, apart from the two perforated marine shells and the calcined bone, were eight flint flakes and three small enigmatical pieces of grooved chalk.

Polythene sheeting was placed over the excavated area before backfilling.

FLINT ARTIFACTS (Fig. 5)

Very few flint artifacts were found in contexts that suggest they were contemporary with the construction of the long barrow, and only one of these can be classified as a tool. The old plough soil above the quarry ditches was rich in flint cores and flakes and a few finished forms. All are deeply patinated although some found deeper in the ditch are less so.

From the Neolithic land surface where preserved beneath the mound

7 flakes (no. 17)

flake worked bifacially across straight end (no. 16)

From the primary and secondary chalk rubble filling the bottom of the quarry ditches

6 flakes (nos 12–14)

crude core (no. 18)

From the fine chalky silt in the quarry ditches

2 flakes

From the make-up of the mound near its head

19 flakes, 8 of which were immediately above or close to the contracted burial (no. 15)

From the filling of a possible stone hole on the south side of the mound

1 flake

From the old plough-soil above the quarry ditches

888 flakes (a representative sample)

69 cores, mainly small with a maximum width of less than 2½ in. All are extremely crude and difficult to classify. 48 are, however, roughly biconical, having been struck from all angles. 5 are similar, but resemble small choppers as cortex remains on one side. 6 have had flakes removed from only one direction, 2 have opposing platforms, 1 is flat and discoidal and the remainder are unclassifiable.

4 round scrapers (nos 6, 11)

4 side scrapers (no. 10)

2 end scrapers

1 end and hollow scraper combined (no. 5)

1 minute scraper, bifacially worked

1 bifacially flaked rough-out, possibly for an arrowhead

3 borers (nos 7–9)

1 laurel leaf (no. 4)

1 broken leaf-shaped arrowhead (no. 1)

1 petit tranchet derivative arrowhead (no. 2)

1 broken barbed and tanged arrowhead (no. 3)

1 naturally perforated flint crudely flaked round the edge

There is nothing apart from typology to indicate the date of these numerous flints. The leaf-shaped arrowhead and laurel leaf are characteristics of Western Neolithic flint industries, and the petit tranchet derivative and barbed and tanged arrowheads are typical of Late Neolithic industries. The other finished forms could occur in any Neolithic assemblage, or

even a later one. It is particularly unfortunate that the flints from the stratified levels are undiagnostic flakes and one crude core.

The numerous crude cores are not characteristic of normal Neolithic industries. Several of the flakes have been struck from well-prepared methodical cores and the absence of these at the site is puzzling. The very high proportion of crude flakes to finished forms is also unusual. The lack of sherds and the very small number of flint flakes on the old land surface beneath the long barrow show that no settlement site existed on the site before it was built, and beyond the barrow, on the modern plough-surface, flakes are also scarce, so it would seem that there is some connection between the barrow and the cores and flakes found in some quantity immediately around it. There is a possibility that cores and flakes were intentionally struck on the site and cast into the make-up of the mound and this could explain the crudity of the cores and the low proportion of tools or weapons and also their presence each side of the denuded mound.

MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

From the old plough-soil above the quarry ditches

A number of finds of unknown or post-prehistoric date came from this level in addition to the prehistoric sherds and flints artifacts described above.

A rough piece of chalk (greatest width 4 in) with an hour-glass perforation.
A small piece of chalk, partially bored
Rim sherd of Romano-British vessel
3 sherds of 19th century tin-glazed pottery
2 fragments of slate
1 piece of bottle glass
1 0·303 bullet

References on page 16.

POTTERY FROM THE LAMBOURN LONG BARROW

ISOBEL F. SMITH

NEOLITHIC

'Western' Neolithic

Sherds from stratified contexts (the numbers refer to the excavation small find numbers):

No. 109 (fig. 7) From south ditch, west end, on natural chalk. Sherd from T-shaped rim, undecorated; profile suggests possibility of a high rounded shoulder. Refired to a bright orange colour right through. Contains fairly abundant particles of shell, up to 6 mm across.

Nos 154–167 From south ditch, east end, in primary rubble. Two small featureless sherds, both from same vessel and refired to brick red throughout. Contain some coarse quartz sand and small, sparse particles of calcined flint.

No. 153 From south ditch, west end, on top of primary rubble. Sherd from wall of cup or small bowl. Exterior dark, interior buff. Contains fairly abundant particles of calcined flint, up to 3 mm across; surfaces lumpy. In fresh condition.

The following all come from the deposit of black soil between the primary and secondary silt at the east end of the south ditch:

No. 107 (fig. 7) Joining sherds from the rim and wall of what appears to have been a fairly large pot (diameter not ascertainable). Rim rolled outwards with inward sloping bevel. Exterior patchy black and buff, interior black to reddish. Contains abundant shell particles, up to 7 mm across. Internally the shell fragments project from the surface; on the exterior many are dissolved, leaving pitted areas. Nos 108, 112–130 almost certainly belong to the same pot; some of these are also pitted on one side.

No. 110 (fig. 7) Sherd from irregularly formed T-shaped rim bearing a line of circular punch-marks along the centre. Patchy brown ware; contains shell particles mostly under 6 mm; these are concealed by smoothing on exterior, prominent on interior. In fresh condition

No. 172 Small refired wall sherd; might have belonged to no. 110.

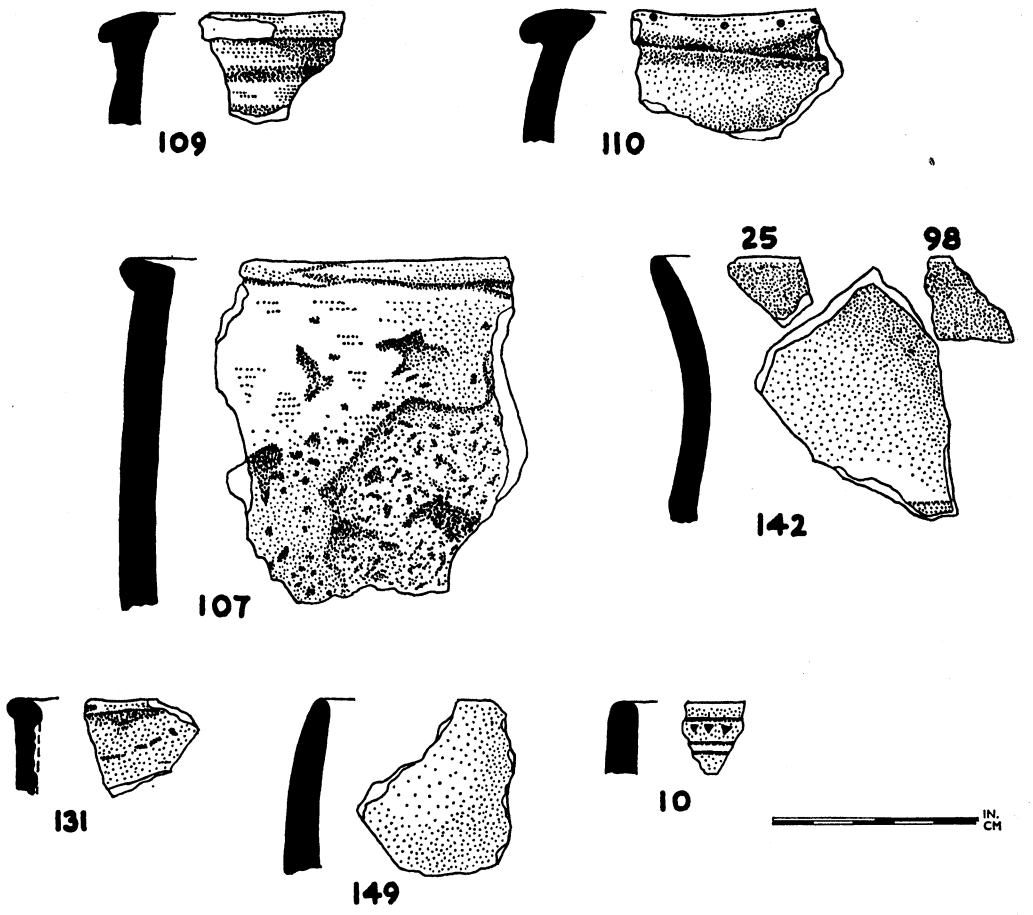

Fig. 7. Lambourn Long Barrow. Sherds of Western Neolithic ware from the quarry ditches (nos 25, 98, 107, 109, 110, 131 and 142); sherds of Bronze Age ?Bucket Urn (149) and Globular Urn (10) from the old plough soil above the quarry ditches.

No. 171 Refired wall sherd from crudely formed cup or small bowl. Ware appears to be identical with that of nos 154–167 and these might all have come from the same vessel. Wear on fracture edges suggests that this sherd had been lying about for some time.

No. 24 Middle of south ditch, top of secondary silt. Featureless sherd with dark exterior, buff interior; a fine smooth finish on both surfaces. Contains a good deal of fine, slightly micaceous sand and a little calcined flint, all particles 2 mm or less in size. Weathered.

Sherds from the old plough soil over the ditches:

Nos 25, 27, 58, 96, 98, 142 (fig. 7). These sherds are identical in composition and finish with no. 24, and there can be little doubt that all belong together. The group includes two small pieces from a simple rim, one minute fragment bearing a single incised line, and a larger fragment giving the upper profile of what appears to have been a shouldered bowl with a long concave neck and flaring rim. Some of these

pieces are weathered; others are remarkably fresh.

Nos 131, 135, 136 (fig. 7) Rim and two wall sherds, all probably from same vessel; rim irregularly rolled. Brown ware, perhaps originally filled with a small quantity of straw or grass; smooth, soapy texture, with no stone, sand or shell particles.

No. 133 Small featureless shell-filled sherd.

The remainder of the pottery comes from the old plough-soil over the ditches, and includes Peterborough, Beaker and Bronze Age wares.

Peterborough ware

Nos 80, 144, 155, 161 (fig. 8) These sherds all seem to have belonged to the same bowl, a rather coarse type of Ebbsfleet ware. One has a slight indication of a shoulder, the remainder are from the body. All bear whipped cord impressions which apparently were set horizontally round the shoulder and herring-bone fashion beneath. The lower wall was undecorated. The patchy black and buff ware is very rough, with numerous fine shrinkage-cracks pieces of calcined flint up to 3 mm in size protrude from both surfaces.

Beaker

No. 3 Small sherd of reddish ware with part of a herringbone design impressed by means of a stamp with rather coarse teeth. Fabric contains numerous pieces of crushed pottery (grog) and a few very small pieces of flint.

No. 9 Apparently from the lower part of a second beaker. Traces of what appear to be paired fingernail impressions set beneath irregular lines made by a stamp with widely spaced teeth. Orange colour; no fillers visible.

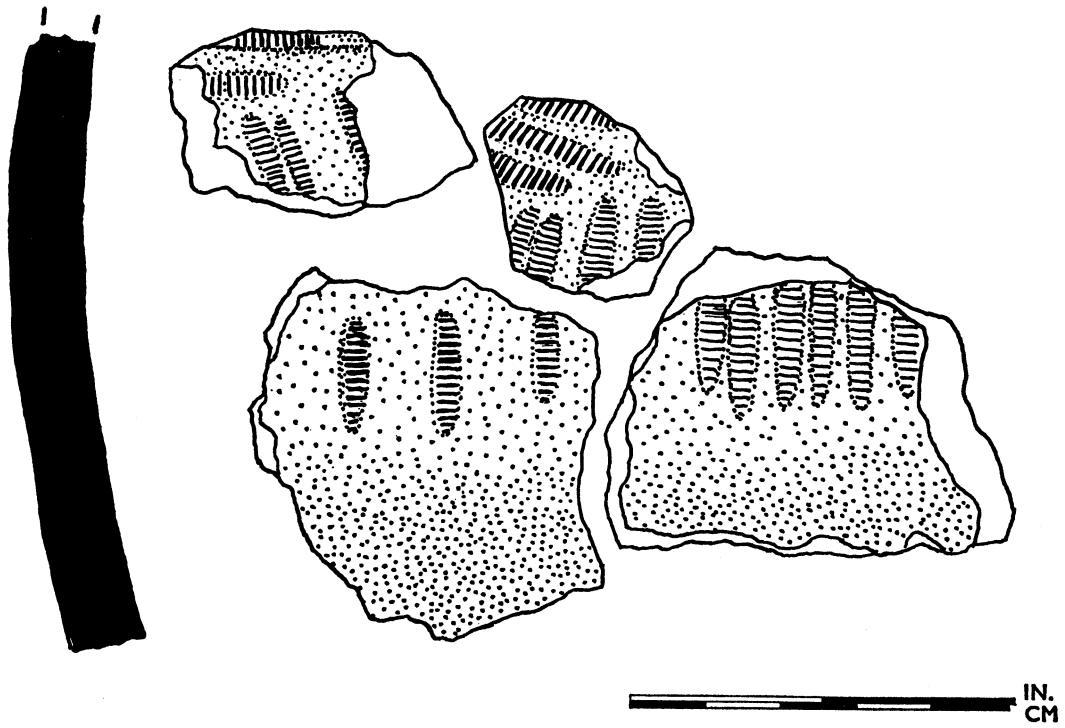

Fig. 8. *Lambourn Long Barrow. Sherds of Neolithic Ebbsfleet ware bowl* (*nos* 80, 144, 155 *and* 161).

No. 2 Small, featureless, heavily weathered piece, probably from a beaker.

BRONZE AGE

Collared Urns

Nos 5, 40, 148 Sherds from lower part of collar of urn carrying twisted cord decoration. The design seems to have consisted of sets of triangles resting on two horizontal lines encircling the base of the collar. Reddish-buff externally, dark to buff internally; flaky black core; no visible filler. Nos 11, 37, 38, 41–43 are four body and two base sherds possibly from the same urn.

No. 36 Sherd from collar or neck of a second, thinner, urn with finer cord impressions. Contains some visible grog.

Nos 4, 14, 32, 50, 55, 62 Plain body sherds, possibly belonging to no. 36. No. 35 is a similar piece bearing traces of a slight rounded ridge, perhaps the shoulder of a tripartite urn.

? Bucket urns

A group of some twenty-odd featureless sherds, several of them fairly large (2 in across) are in a fabric allied to that of the Collared Urns, but rather harder and containing relatively sparse pieces of calcined flint up to 5 mm across. These are likely to derive from Bucket Urns, and at least three with this fabric are represented:

Nos 82, 86, etc.: hard ware; reddish externally, black internally; 11 mm thick.

Nos 70, 78, etc.: similar, but only 8–9 mm thick.

Nos 141, 162, etc.: yellowish in colour, softer, and with fewer and finer pieces of flint.

In addition there is a group of sherds, including two from a very thick vessel (14–15 mm) containing a much higher proportion of coarse flint, which may also come from Bucket Urns.

No. 149 (fig. 7) Undecorated sherd with simple rim, apparently from a vessel of fairly small diameter. The soft reddish ware contains grog only, as do some Bucket Urns, and it seems probable that this fragment represents a small accessory vessel in the Bucket Urn series.

Globular Urns

These sherds are densely filled with, for the most part, very finely crushed calcined flint; particle sizes range from 5 mm (exceptionally) to 0.5 mm, the average being 1–2 mm. Quartz sand is also present in some sherds. On the basis of slight differences in fabric it may be estimated that at least two or three urns are represented. The only pieces showing features are:

No. 10 (fig. 7) This is the only rim fragment. On the exterior a line of triangular punch-marks is enclosed by a single incised line above and below. Bright red, with very fine flint.

Nos 19–21, 33, 59 All probably from the lower wall and base of a single urn and forming about one-third of its basal circumference. The sherds indicate a rounded body profile and perhaps a slightly hollowed base. Dark, well-smoothed ware.

Residue

Amongst the material from the plough soil are some twenty fragments that are too small in size and indeterminate in character for classification. All contain flint particles.

COMMENTS

The Lambourn Long Barrow lies almost exactly equidistant from the Neolithic causewayed enclosures at Windmill Hill in Wiltshire and Abingdon in Berkshire, and most of the Neolithic pottery finds parallels at both these sites. The T-shaped rims of nos 109 and 110 (fig. 7) may, for example, be compared with punch-marked rims of similar form from Abingdon [1] and Windmill Hill [2], and the presence of no. 109 on the bottom of the ditch suggests that, in terms of relative chronology, the long barrow is likely to have been broadly contemporary with both enclosures. The soapy, gritless ware of nos 131, 135 & 6 is sparingly represented at Windmill Hill [3] (where the pot in question contains numerous chaff impressions) and possibly at Abingdon [4]. The only other vessel from Lambourn that demands

further comment is that represented by nos 24, 25, 27, etc. (fig. 7). This particular combination of simple, flaring rim and concave neck is best matched in southern England amongst the carinated bowls from Whitehawk Camp [5] in Sussex, and the exceptionally thorough smoothing of the surfaces, which sets these pieces apart not only from all the rest of the Neolithic pottery from Lambourn but also from the great mass at Windmill Hill and Abingdon too, is also characteristic of the Whitehawk bowls.

The Peterborough and Beaker sherds (found in plough-soil, but doubtless originally deposited in or above secondary silt level) conform to the pattern already well known from other long barrows, where finds of this nature are not uncommon in the same secondary contexts.

The Bronze Age urn fragments are, on the other hand, all likely to derive from destroyed cremations, evidently deposited in mound or upper fill of ditches over a period of some time. In view of the proximity of the large cemetery of round barrows this is hardly surprising. At least two cremations in Collared Urns [6] are recorded from this cemetery, and three in Globular Urns [7]. The latter all fall into Calkin's Type I [8] (gritty fabric with lightly tooled decoration). But the rim sherd from the long barrow (fig. 7), though of gritty Type I fabric, has incised and punched ornament akin to that of Type IIb globulars, which are virtually confined to Dorset. Thus the Lambourn urn in question belongs to a miscellaneous group with a somewhat scattered distribution, already represented by two urns from Berkshire [9]. The remaining sherds from Globular Urns are also in the Type I fabric, but as none is decorated they cannot be classified more precisely.

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[6] Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery*, ii, No. 17.
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[9] *ibid.*, 58.

SKELETAL REMAINS FROM LAMBOURN LONG BARROW

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ONLY a small quantity of human remains were sent for examination. There are, for certain, parts of two individuals, but an isolated left femur may be indicative of yet another person. All were fully adult and probably female. The bones are generally off-white or light brown in colour, and show moderate preservation. In particular, some parts of the bones show considerable post-mortem erosion of the outer cortical tissue.

Contracted burial (Burial XVI Layer 2)

Fragmentary remains, but with most parts of the skeleton represented (fig. 9a). From the slender nature of the skull and post-cranial skeleton, and from certain sexually dimorphic features of the skull and pelvis, the individual was clearly female.

The dentition is represented as follows:

$\overset{\frown}{7}\ 6\ \overset{\frown}{5}\ 4\ \overset{\frown}{3}\ 2\ 1$	$1\ 2\ 3\ 4\ 5\ \overset{\times}{6}$
$8\ \overset{\times}{7}\ \overset{\times}{6}\ 5\ 4\ 3\ 2\ 1$	$1\ \overset{\frown}{2}\ 3\ \overset{\frown}{4}\ 5\ 6\ \overset{\times}{7}\ \overset{\frown}{8}$

$\overset{\frown}{7}$ = socket only present

$\overset{\times}{6}$ = tooth lost *ante-mortem*

No caries cavities were present, but five instances of ante-mortem tooth loss occurred. Calculus deposits were considerable on the lower anterior teeth and also on some upper incisors, a premolar and molar. Wear of the teeth suggested an age of 40 ± 5 years.

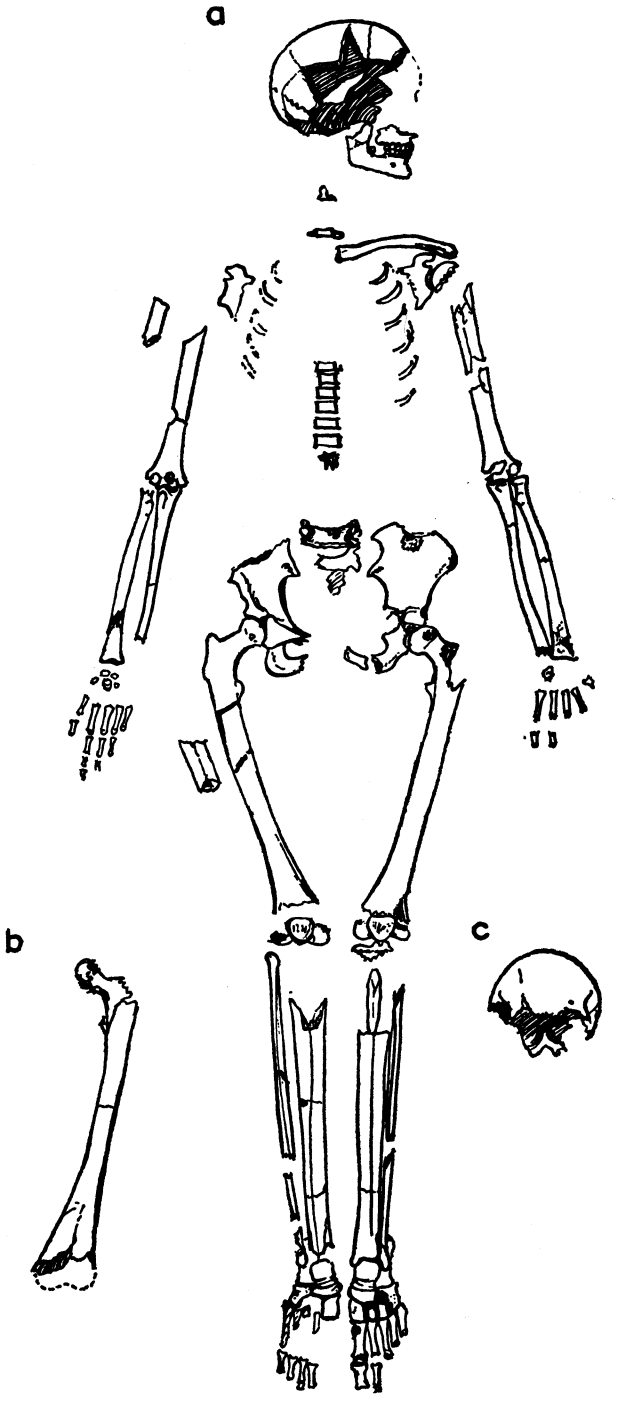

Fig. 9. Lambourn Long Barrow. Contracted burial and extra bones.

Owing to the broken nature of the bones, few measurements could be taken. These are as follows:

Biasterionic breadth	(BiB)=103 mm
Bregma-lambda arc	(S_2)=124·5 mm
Bregma-lambda chord	(S'_2)=110·5 mm
Bimental breadth	(ZZ)= 39·5 mm
Minimum ramus breadth	(RB')= 39·7 mm

Post cranial pathology is represented by moderate osteo-arthritic deformity on a lower lumbar and at least two thoracic vertebrae.

Owing to the broken nature of the long bones a precise stature estimate could not be made.

A congenital variant in the form of a supra condylar foramen is present on the right humerus (and may well have been on the left but breakage obscures this point).

Post-cranial measurements possible were as follows:

Tibia, shaft diameters (at nutrient foramen)

antero-posterior breadth	(TiD1)=30 mm
transverse breadth	(TiD2)=19 mm

Isolated skull from head of south ditch on top of primary chalk rubble

Most of an adult calvarium (Fig. 9c). Judging from its slenderness (especially frontal and occipital) it was female. There is slight warping, which prevents the accurate measurement of some dimensions.

Approximate length	(L)=192 mm?
Approximate breadth	(B)=130 mm?
Minimum frontal breadth	(B')= 98 mm
Frontal arc	(S')=129 mm
Frontal chord	(S'_1)=111 mm
Bregma-lambda arc	(S_2)=142 mm
Bregma-lambda chord	(S'_2)=128 mm

No pathology was noted.

Left femur from head of south ditch in tertiary silting

Much eroded proximal end, and with the distal articular area broken away (fig. 9b). Upper shaft dimensions are: antero-posterior 24 mm; transverse diameter 29 mm (post-mortem changes may have slightly modified these).

FAUNAL REMAINS

From the chalk rubble and soil at the bottom of the head end of the south quarry ditch

Ox (*Bos longifrons*)	—portion of horn-core
	—proximal end of scapula
	—atlas
Sheep	—base of horn-core
	—shaft of humerus
	—four articulated vertebrae
Red deer	—crown of antler
Roe deer	—antler

From the old plough-soil above the quarry ditches

These remains were mainly in a very fragmentary and corroded condition.

Ox (*Bos longifrons*)
Red deer
Pig
Sheep
Man—molar

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