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# PLATE

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EXCAVATIONS IN THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE DYKES.

V. BRAN¹ OR HEYDON DITCH. FIRST REPORT.

By CYRIL FOX, Ph.D., F.S.A., and W. M. PALMER, M.D., F.S.A.,
with report on Two Skeletons found,
by W. L. H. DUCKWORTH, M.D., Sc.D.

(Read 9 March, 1924)

This earthwork extended from the edge of the Essex plateau at Heydon, 400 feet above sea level, to Black Peak in Fowlmere parish, 80 feet above sea level, a distance of 3½ miles. The plateau is clay-covered and was in primitive times dense forest, while many strong chalk springs rise at Black Peak where there was until recent times a mere—Fowlmere. The topography of the earthwork is thus essentially the same as that of the Fleam and Devil's Dykes; it was a military work protected on either flank by natural obstacles.

The Ditch is now almost completely levelled; its traditional line is however marked by parish boundaries, and along this line the position of the vallum and of the fosse is in most places clearly marked by an undulation of the ground. There can be little doubt that the vallum, like that of the Fleam and Devil's Dykes, was consistently on the north-eastern side; that is that the fortification was designed to impede advance from the south-west.

The destruction of the Dyke has been a gradual process; Beldam (Arch. Journ. xxv, 36) writing fifty years ago, and Babington (Camb. Antiq. Soc. Octavos, xx, 100) a few years later, record that enough then survived to indicate the scale of the work. The top of the vallum was 7 feet above ground level, and the overall breadth of vallum and fosse not less than 80 feet.

¹ Bran=Brant, a variant of Brent=steep. For full explanation of the derivation see Skeat, "Cambridgeshire Place-Names," C. A. S. 8vo Publication xxxvi, 2nd Ed., 1911, p. 41.
EXCAVATIONS IN THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE DYKES

No finds have been recorded, so far as we have ascertained, along the line of, or in the fosse of, the Ditch. Beldam cut a section on the line of the fosse at the point where the Icknield Way crosses the Ditch (see Fig. 1), and notes that he found solid chalk at a depth of 2½ feet. It would appear therefore that there was a gap in the vallum at this point, and that the Way crossed the fosse by means of a causeway¹.

Fig. 1. Topography of the district. The dotted areas were probably densely forested.

The topographical relation between the Bran Ditch, the Icknield and Street Ways, the hill-top fortresses of Wandlebury, War Ditches and Ring Hill, and the lowland ringwork known as Round Moats, is shown on the sketch map (Fig. 1).

¹ Mr T. C. Lethbridge, in the course of excavations carried out in 1925, found that the fosse of Bran Ditch was continuous across the Icknield Way, thus disproving Beldam's statement.
That the Ditch was designed to prevent hostile movement north-eastwards along the open chalk downland which lies between river and forest and is traversed by the Icknield Way is evident; but nothing is at present known as to whether the Ditch had any connexion with the builders or occupiers of the hill forts.

The Ditch is divided geographically into two unequal parts by the Wallington Brook, a winterbourne which crosses it at the same point as the modern Royston-Newmarket road.

The investigations carried out in 1923 by the writer and Dr W. M. Palmer, with funds provided by the Society, were designed to throw light on the date of construction of the work. No settlement sites, such as those which proved of such service to our investigations at the Fleam and Devil's Dykes, were known to occur here; but it seemed on general grounds likely that the abundance of fresh water provided by the chalk springs at Black Peak would attract settlers, and that this part of the Ditch ought to receive most attention; the neighbourhood of the Wallington Brook (Fig. 1) was also obviously worth investigating. Work was therefore confined to the lower half of the Ditch. Permission to excavate was readily granted by owners and tenants, Mr Walter Pepper of Melbourn,
Mr W. C. Jackson of Fowlmere, and Mr I. C. Wilkerson of Barley, and for this permission we tender our thanks. The importance of investigating the earthwork in the neighbourhood of the Icknield Way crossing was not overlooked by us; but we had
not then obtained permission to carry this out, and it was left for a second season and another Report.

Eight sections in all were cut across the fosse of the Ditch between Black Peak and the Heydon parish boundary, a distance of 2500 yards; these were spaced out fairly evenly, as the key plan (Fig. 2) shows. These sections are lettered, A to H, from Black Peak south-eastwards. The essential measurements are tabulated on p. 34, and scale plans are reproduced in Figs. 3, 4, and 5; the following descriptions will therefore be very brief.

Section A. The filling of the fosse was mainly composed of earth; at the bottom there was a black deposit about 1 foot thick, in which lumps of chalk were visible. There was a secondary fosse on the scarp, as at the Fleam Dyke.

In the earth were found (1) an oyster shell and a piece of Romano-British ware, (2) fragments of similar ware, and (3) of an indented vase of colour-coated (Castor) ware with scale ornament (Fig. 6 a). In the black soil, on the actual floor, were (4) one piece of Romano-British grey ware (Fig. 6 j), and (5) one of soft-paste native ware. All these fragments were abraded, and none was more than 1½ inches in diameter.

The trench was then carried north-eastwards for a distance of 18 feet in order to see whether there was any trace of the vallum. There was none; overlying the chalk rock was soil unmixed with chalk rubble. Two small trenches were found; one, X, was parallel to the fosse, the other, Y, was at an angle of 45° thereto. These trenches contained a black deposit similar to that in the fosse. Fragments of Romano-British and soft-paste La Tène wares were found on the chalk rock between the fosse and trench X. In this trench near the floor lay part of a roll-rim characteristically Romano-British (Fig. 6 g), and above it was a mixed deposit of soft-paste and hard-paste fragments. Trench Y yielded a fragment of colour-coated ware (Fig. 6 b), five fragments of terra sigillata, one of which probably came from a dish of II century type (Ludowici T K), another, decorated, from a bowl, Dragendorff 37? (Fig. 6 l and k). All were more or less abraded.

Section B. The fosse at this point, 464 yards S.E. of Section A,
was similar to it in appearance and contents. The secondary fosse on the scarp was present, as was the trench X on the presumed line of the destroyed vallum; but no trench corresponding to Y of Section A was found.

Seventeen fragments of Roman and Romano-British wares were found at all levels in the fosse, the majority in a shallow depression in the centre. One unabraded fragment of colour-coated ware, coarse, and certainly as late as III century, was lying on the floor touching the chalk rock (Fig. 6 c). Close by were the rim of a cooking pot, Romano-British, and a fragment of imitation terra sigillata Fig. 6 (h) and (f); also a piece of I century gritted ware. A fragment of Castor ware with rouletted ornament found at a depth of 4 ft. 6 ins. also deserves mention (Fig. 6d). A few fragments of burnt bone, and of oyster shell were found. There was no soft-paste native (La Tène) ware.

The secondary fosse on the scarp contained fragments of coarse Romano-British ware and of cut and burnt bone. Lying on the chalk rock between the fosse and the trench (which contained no artefacts) were one fragment of terra sigillata and three of Romano-British ware; also one oyster shell.

Section C. This section was cut on rising ground nearly half a mile from the springs of Black Peak. There was here no evidence of settlement: the floor of the Ditch was covered, not with a black deposit, but with chalky silt with large chalk lumps (see Plan, Fig. 3) such as we have seen at the Fleam Dyke. There were only four potsherds, abraded, Romano-British, including a rim of a basin of Castor ware, III century or later (Fig. 6e). There was no sign of the small parallel trench X. The filling of the fosse above the chalky silt was similar to that in Sections A and B; and we here obtained definite evidence of its causation. The farmer, Mr Pepper, remarked that fifty years ago the Ditch was much deeper; but that the previous tenant had been in the habit of "ploughing in."

The bank on the N.E. side of the parish boundary was more clearly defined here than in the previous sections; and at the point indicated on the Plan (Fig. 3) a thin layer of chalk nodules was found, the rest of the upper layers of the deposit being of earth. It seemed probable that this layer represented the remains
of the chalk vallum, lying on the ancient surface soil, the overlying humus being the result of long-continued cultivation.

The most remarkable feature of this section was the presence of a skeleton which, carefully oriented E. and W., head to W., had been buried in a position diagonal to the axis of the Ditch in the narrow depression which here forms the true floor of the fosse.

The character of this skeleton is described in Dr Duckworth's report. It suffices here to state that the evidence for burial consists in the fact that hollows had been made both for the head and the feet in either wall of the fosse. The fosse trench being only four feet broad, this was necessary if the required orientation was to be preserved. The excavation was only just sufficient for the purpose, the skull being pressed close against the chalk wall, chin on left collar bone: the skeleton lay at full length on the back. There were no associated objects. The careful orientation combined with the absence of grave-goods suggests Christian burial.

Section D. This section (see Fig. 4) was cut at a point 313 yards from Section C. Very little trace of a chalk-rubble vallum was found here, the bank being mainly composed of earth. There was a curious basin-shaped trench parallel to the main ditch, which was filled with earth; it may have been dug when the hedge was planted.

The fosse was of the type which we were familiar with at Fleam Dyke; the floor is flat and the scarp and counter-scarp become steeper as the floor is approached. The filling at the bottom resembles that seen in Section C. There was no black-earth deposit and no pottery.

On continuing the section across the presumed site of the vallum a skeleton was discovered lying on the chalk rock. It was at full length on its back, carefully oriented E. and W., head to W., like the one already described. Again there were no associated objects. It was uncovered and examined in situ by Dr Duckworth whose report is appended.

Section E. At the point (1443 yards from the springs and 700 yards from the Wallington Brook) where this section was cut there were what appeared to be definite traces of the vallum:
The hedge, which follows the hidden line of the Ditch, was on the top of a steepish little bank (see Plan, Fig. 4) and the level of the ground thus raised continued higher than the normal level of the field for some distance (20 yards) to the N.E. The
appearance was that of the remains of a spread vallum: to the south-west of the dip which marked the fosse, moreover, the ground showed a gentle elevation some eighteen yards in breadth which we thought might have been the traces of a levelled bank on the counter-scarp. The rising ground on the S.W. side of the fosse, when tested by cutting a trench right across it, was however found to be composed of earth; the bank on the N.E. side was also tested (but much less completely on account of the crops) with a similar result, a few chalk lumps only being seen; Section E thus, like the others, failed to give any indication where the chalk from the fosse had been placed or why no trace of it could be found. The bank however must, we think, mark the line of the vallum and be itself the remains of it.

The fosse was found on section to be flat-floored and not unlike a Fleam Dyke section in that there was a broad shelf on the scarp. A little chalk rubble was seen in each angle of the floor, but like the other sections the fosse was almost entirely filled with earth, doubtless "ploughed in." Two finds only are to be recorded; a small iron knife and the (abraded) base of a pot of grey Romano-British ware, 4 ft. 6 ins. and 5 ft. down respectively (see Plan, Fig. 4). These were doubtless surface objects, ploughed in with the soil.

Section F. This section was cut on the N. side of the Royston-Newmarket road close to (30 yards from) the Wallington Brook, which to-day is a winterbourne, but which before the forests were destroyed may have been continuously in flow. The stream rises in the hills near Barley and Chishall (Fig. 1).

The possibility that there may have been settlements of the folk who built the earthwork at its point of junction with the stream led us to dig a section here; moreover we were curious to see whether in the Ditch we could find any indications of the method adopted by the builders to defend the gap which the stream necessitated.

There were in the section no finds of pottery or other indications of human settlement. The fosse was here cut as a dry ditch and not as a wet moat, as the silting showed.

The Ditch was V-shaped, with a maximum depth of 8 ft. 6 ins.; the filling at the base was chalky, stony, and sandy earth,
grading up into soil similar in character to that found in previous sections.

After Section F had been completed, a trial hole was dug 10 yards from the Wallington Brook on the S.E. side on the line of the Ditch. At a depth of 6 feet the section showed stratified earthy clay, undisturbed; it is probable that at this point, which was only a few feet above the level of the stream bed, the ground was in ancient times marshy and had never been excavated. No trace of the vallum was visible here.

Section G. A second cutting, made on rising ground 32 yards from the stream, where the bank was well marked, quickly revealed the fosse. It was similar to Section D on the N.W. side of the brook; but the chalk rock was cut away below where one would expect the vallum to have been. If Sections E, F and the present one be compared it will be seen that each presents in varying degree a similar feature.

The floor to a depth of some 2 feet was filled with chalk rubble very firmly consolidated, derived mainly from the counter-scarp, thus closely resembling the filling of the Fleam Dyke. Above this was earthy soil as in other fosse sections. Chalk rubble was also seen in the hollow on the scarp.

At a depth of 4 ft. 3 ins. in this soil a curious deposit was found. It consisted of six fragments of at least four vessels and fragments of bone. Two pieces of Romano-British grey ware were much abraded; a flat base of a cooking-pot with the body rising at an angle of 65°, of hard black paste (Fig. 6 N), is early medieval; while the hammer-headed rim of a pot, also of well-baked ware which is ornamented on the upper surface with shallow indentations, is undoubtedly of similar date (Fig. 6 M). A vessel similarly indented, in the Blackmore Museum, from Old Sarum, is there assigned to the XII century. It suggests a late and debased Hallstatt cable moulding, and the motif may have been brought in by the Anglian settlers.

1 The vallum was certainly set further back. The rubble filling of this shallow trench was derived therefrom by gravity, and was not part of the vallum itself. See Plan, Fig. 5.

2 So hard was it that it was at first thought that the floor had been reached.
Section H. The original profile of the fosse at this section was exceedingly difficult to determine. The sub-soil was sandy earth; below which was a chalk marl with veins of sand; the filling so closely resembled the latter that its limits were not always certain. The Plan (Fig. 5) indicates the probable profile; the breadth and depth of the floor may be taken as accurate.

The filling of the lower portion of the fosse was of sandy chalky marl; of the upper sandy earth. In this section evidence of temporary human occupation was obtained near the floor (depth 6·6 feet); burnt pebbles, a hearth stone and charcoal covering an area about a foot square, showed that a small fire had been lit.

This is the first definite evidence of occupation of the fosse met with; the black deposit in Sections A and B may well have been silt from an area covered with carbonaceous matter, for no hearths or stratified remains were found in it. It is thus unfortunate that the wanderer who cooked a meal here at so early a date in the history of the silting up of the fosse left no pottery or other dateable objects.

General considerations.

The boundary between the parishes of Melbourn and Chishall on the one hand and Fowlmere on the other, which is the traditional line of the Bran Ditch in the sector examined, was found to represent it with sufficient accuracy. Of the eight sections cut, the boundary ("Hedge: P.B." on Plans) was found to be on the scarp of the bank in five, and above the fosse in three.

In the lower part of the sector (Sections A, B and C, Fig. 3) no definite trace of the vallum can be said to exist. In the upper part (Sections D to H) it is for the most part well marked, and invariably on the N.E. side. Between Section E and the high road it shows up after ploughing as a white band (full of lumps of chalk) contrasted with the brown soil adjacent, and there is no doubt that excavation here (which we were not able to carry out owing to the crops) would reveal a mass of rubble derived from the ditch. Such sections as we were able to cut on the line of the vallum showed no such deposit. At the Fleam Dyke
we found that levelling had been carried out by throwing the chalk of the vallum back into the fosse, but at Bran Ditch the filling of the Ditch was almost entirely of loamy soil; the ditch has been obliterated by the agricultural operation known as "ploughing in."

There is a tradition in Fowlmere that the greater part of the bank was levelled in the middle of XIX century. Since the Ditch is in Melbourn parish the material of the bank may of necessity have been carted away, or distributed over the Fowlmere fields; and this may be the reason why so little trace of the vallum was found. But it is difficult to account for the presence of a definite bank, as at Section E, which is composed of earth with hardly any admixture of rubble.

The series of sections made at the Fleam Dyke (Proc. C. A. S. Vol. XXIV, Plate I) showed that the profile of the Ditch was singularly uniform. Those of the Bran Ditch possess no such uniformity. A glance at the table (p. 34) shows that the fosse; shallowest near the Black Peak Springs, gradually becomes deeper as the uplands are approached; and near the Wallington Brook it has a fairly constant depth of over 8 feet. But this indicates a work of trifling importance; compare the 15 foot depth of the Fleam Dyke fosse and the 17 foot depth of the Devil's Dyke; the almost complete obliteration of the Bran Ditch is readily explicable.

Beldam asserted (Arch. Journ. xxv, p. 36) that the overall breadth of the Bran Ditch in a surviving sector near the Icknield Way crossing was in his day (1868) over 80 feet; this is comparable to that of the Fleam Dyke (72 to 111 feet) and led one of us to conclude (Fox, Arch. Camb. Region, p. 127) that it was a formidable work. Assuming his measurements to be accurate

A section not previously mentioned (J, Fig. 5) was cut in the steepish bank which apparently demarcates vallum and ditch at a point 335 yards S.E. of Wallington Brook, and a trial hole was cut in the raised ground which appears to be the almost completely levelled vallum. In each case the chalk rock was found at a depth of 3-4 feet, the overlying material being loamy soil. The normal depth of earth at this point is 1 ½ feet; the rest must represent deposit connected with the construction of the earthwork. But why this deposit should be earth and not chalk rubble we are unable to say.
and the depth of the Ditch there comparable to that determined by us, the combination of weak defences and considerable overall breadth may indicate the presence of a wide berm between ditch and bank. The existing profile of the work between Section E and the main road is suggestive of this, as is the profile of Section G, and it should be tested by excavation.

The most interesting feature of the fosse revealed by the excavations is the presence of a shelf on the scarp in Sections A and B near the Springs. This feature was consistently present at Fleam Dyke, which on the evidence obtained by the excavation (Proc. C. A. S. xxv, 36) we concluded to have been constructed not earlier than the end of I century A.D. It was absent at Devil's Dyke which (Proc. C. A. S. xxvi, 121) is certainly not earlier than the III century A.D. Such a secondary fosse is seen in the profile of one of the Welsh forts, Castell Collen, Llandrindod Wells, Radnorshire, which is held to have been constructed in A.D. 85. The excavator, Mr H. G. Evelyn-White, considered that it had probably been used by the Romans to support a cheval de frise of stakes.

No closely comparable structure is revealed by any other section except perhaps E, but Sections F and G show sharp changes of angle high upon the scarp which may possibly be of similar significance. These sections are side by side; and it may be that the differences in the character of the work are due to the method of construction employed; a given tribe or clan may have undertaken a given length and done it in its own way. The similarity in profile of Sections A, B and C, also side by side (see Plans, Fig. 3), is equally noticeable. The flat-floored profiles of the Ditch in Sections D, E, G and H is strongly reminiscent of the Fleam and Devil's Dykes, though of course on a much reduced scale.

1 See Arch. Camb. 1914, p. 39, and Fig. 3. For this reference we are indebted to Dr R. E. M. Wheeler. A second Welsh fort—Caer Llugwy—probably constructed in the last decade of the I century A.D., shows a shelf on the counter-scarp, which may have served a similar purpose. See Caer Llugwy, J. P. Hall, 1923. The Castell Collen parallel confirms the conclusion expressed by us when the Fleam Dyke report was written, that the secondary fosse was part of the original design of the earthwork (Proc. C. A. S. xxv, 36).
The numerous fragments of pottery, Roman, Romano-British and native, the cut and burnt bones and the oyster shells, the black soil in the fosse, and in the trenches on the (supposed) line of the vallum, all point to the area crossed by this terminal portion of the Bran Ditch having been a settlement site of partially Romanized peasants. The native wares are not necessarily pre-Roman. Nowhere were native wares found in a definite stratum below Roman. Indeed, in both sections Roman wares lay on the actual floor of the fosse. The date of the Roman pottery found ranges from I to III century, and possibly later.

The neighbourhood of the Springs may be considered to be the most likely place for the huts of the Wardens of the Ditch, and it is one would suppose not improbable that the earliest of the deposits referred to is approximately the date of the work. There are, however, two difficulties which have to be surmounted before this conclusion can be accepted. The first is that in the ditch there is no evidence of chronological stratification. A piece of gritted ware, probably I century, lay as we have seen beside a piece of coarse colour-coated ware and a piece of imitation terra sigillata, both III (or IV) century, in the lowest layers of Section B. The fragments found in the fosse were all small, and many were abraded. No evidence that freshly broken vessels were thrown into the ditch was obtained; and apart from the black silt, the origin of which is uncertain, the filling of the Ditch is such as might have been derived in later times from a soil full of Roman relics. (Compare “Report on Devil’s Dyke,” Proc. xxvi, p. 116.)

Again, the vallum corresponding to the fosse at Sections A and B must one might suppose have covered the trenches X and Y, which contained black soil and a range of wares similar to those in the fosse. The fosse, or rather the Bran Ditch itself, must on this assumption be later than the latest objects in these trenches; that is not earlier than III century. This difficulty can be surmounted by assuming the existence of a broad berm between ditch and vallum; though we have seen reason to suppose that such may have existed elsewhere on the line of the Ditch, there is no direct evidence of it; moreover the 18 feet which is here required is an excessive breadth for such
We may now consider what date we should assign to the Bran Ditch, on the evidence revealed by excavation.

Fig. 5. Fosse Sections G, H and J. The small circles indicate chalk rubble or chalk marl with greater or less admixture of soil. The black curved line represents a hearth, the black dot finds. The position of the Parish boundary in relation to Sections G and H is shown.
EXCAVATIONS IN THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE DYKES

a feature. The destruction of the vallum of the Bran Ditch is most unfortunate; problems that, had it survived, could have easily been resolved, have to be attacked indirectly.

We cannot then on the evidence available come to any definite conclusion as to the date of the Ditch in the neighbourhood of the Springs. The fosse is here, however, so rich in artefacts that it is certain that further work will give some definite stratification or range of objects, which will decide whether a 1st century A.D. date, or a date not earlier—and possibly later—than the late Roman period is to be preferred. In either case the irregularity of the work suggests that barbarians, and not Romans, made it, though Roman influence is present in its profile, as we have seen.

Though the finds made elsewhere in the line of the Ditch do not enable us to arrive at a more definite conclusion than has been presented above, they are of some interest. That a skeleton should have been found in each of two narrow trenches (C and D) cut by us across the earthwork 313 yards apart is remarkable. The orientation and absence of associated objects suggest Christian burial. Both skeletons were adult males; the man buried in the fosse was of great stature, and, as Dr Duckworth shows us, of Nordic type. Two facts give a clue to the date and significance of these interments. Section D is adjacent to, and Section C no great distance from, the point where the Joint Way, a pre-enclosure trackway, crossed the Ditch, as the Ordnance Survey Map of 1806 and Baker's Map of Cambridgeshire (1828) clearly show. Now the gap utilized by this track was called Gallows Gate, and the field wherein skeleton no. 2 was found Hangman Field. Our skeletons then were probably those of sheepstealers.

The small fragments of abraded Romano-British pottery from Sections C and E were evidently ploughed in with the soil, and are of no value as evidence of the date of the earthwork. The group of fragmentary early-medieval wares found in Section G are perhaps of greater interest; they are not abraded and suggest that the Ditch has been silted up to a considerable depth before the end of the XIIth century.

We have in this series of papers shown reasons, based solely
on archaeological data obtained in the course of our excavations, for holding that the Fleam Dyke is not earlier than the end of the 1 century A.D. and that the Devil's Dyke is not earlier than the III century A.D.

No evidence bearing on the upper limit of date was obtained at either of these earthworks. Determination of the lower limit was easy, once the method was learnt and the right spot selected, but we realized that there was no certain means whereby we could hope to fix archaeologically the upper limit. A stroke of luck occurring in the course of a season's dig might have settled it, of course; such good fortune, for example, as the finding of a broken tool cast up with the chalk rubble and so buried in the vallum while it was in course of erection. Such fortune did not fall to our lot.

The archaeological problem presented to the excavator of the Fleam and Devil's Dykes thus differed materially from that facing the investigator of a hillfort such as War Ditches. Here the fosse contained ample material for the fixing the upper limit of date; one had only to determine the age of the artefacts preserved in the lowest layers of the silting of the fosse. Moreover, it was not unreasonable to assume as a working hypothesis, that the upper limit of date thus determined was approximately the lower limit also; for since rubbish probably accumulated in the Ditch bounding an inhabited area from the day of its construction onwards, the oldest objects found therein were likely to be contemporary with the structure.

It is possible that the Bran Ditch near the Black Peak may present a problem resembling that of War Ditches and not that of the Fleam or Devil's Dykes; if so, determination of the date of its construction may be within our reach. The pottery in the fosse, that is to say, may have been used and broken by the builders who dwelt beside it. A more extensive examination than we have made in this area ought to show whether this is so or no. Several fragments of the same pot lying together; a preponderance of sherds with sharp edges, well-defined stratification and such-like evidence, will decide the point. If not, the artefacts must be considered, as we are on the whole inclined to consider them, as chance elements in the silting due to the
fosse being driven at a later date through an area encumbered with the refuse of a Romano-British settlement.

Should this be the case, a lower limit of date within the Roman period will have been obtained for all three of the great Dykes; and the probability that all are of the succeeding period, the Anglo-Saxon, will have been increased, since it is difficult, in spite of the parallel adduced in this paper, to believe that they are Roman works.

Though the investigation of Bran Ditch has failed to yield the definite results obtained in our previous excavations, the problem which it presents may well admit of solution, and we have great hopes that the work which is contemplated by the present Director of Excavations, Mr T. C. Lethbridge, may be successful. Excavations at the crossing point of the Icknield Way should provide valuable data to check the results obtained at Black Peak. Dateable objects lost by traveller and fighting man may, one hopes, be present in the silting of the fosse immediately adjacent to the crossing.
**Analysis of eight sections cut in the lower half of the Bran Ditch, 2500 yards in length, between Black Peak Springs and the Heydon Parish boundary.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Section</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Present condition</th>
<th>Measurements of fosse, etc. obtained by excavation</th>
<th>Estimated original depth of fosse</th>
<th>Secondary fosse on scarp</th>
<th>Slopes of scarp and counter-scarp</th>
<th>Trench on ?site of vallum</th>
<th>Finds in fosse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>76 yds. S.E. of Springs</td>
<td>Levelled. A slight hollow marks the ditch; remains of the bank when present are on the N.E. side.</td>
<td>17' 7&quot; at lip 8' 8&quot; on floor</td>
<td>5' 1&quot;</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Black silt. R. and E. I. A. pottery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>540 yds. S.E. of Springs</td>
<td>Levelled.</td>
<td>20' 8&quot; at lip 10' 3&quot; on floor</td>
<td>5' 0&quot;</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Black silt. R. and E. I. A. pottery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>817 yds. S.E. of Springs</td>
<td>Levelled. A slight hollow marks the ditch; remains of the bank when present are on the N.E. side.</td>
<td>26' 6&quot; at lip 10' 6&quot; on floor</td>
<td>6' 1&quot;</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>A, B, C and F too irregular to render figures reliable (see plans); D, E, G, and H resembled Fleam Dyke in profiles (see Proc. C. A. S. xxiv, 35)</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Skeleton. Few R. sherds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1130 yds. S.E. of Springs</td>
<td>Levelled. A slight hollow marks the ditch; remains of the bank when present are on the N.E. side.</td>
<td>16' 10&quot; at lip 6' 0&quot; on floor</td>
<td>6' 8&quot;</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1443 yds. S.E. of Springs</td>
<td>Levelled. A slight hollow marks the ditch; remains of the bank when present are on the N.E. side.</td>
<td>24' 0&quot; at lip 7' 7&quot; on floor</td>
<td>7' 4&quot;</td>
<td>Present in modified form</td>
<td>R. potsherds and iron fragment</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>On N. side of Newmarket-Royston Road</td>
<td>Levelled. A slight hollow marks the ditch; remains of the bank when present are on the N.E. side.</td>
<td>About 27' 0&quot; at lip Floor V-shaped</td>
<td>8' 6&quot;</td>
<td>Present in modified form</td>
<td>Not looked for</td>
<td>Medieval sherds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>32 yds. S.E. of Wallington Brook</td>
<td>Levelled. A slight hollow marks the ditch; remains of the bank when present are on the N.E. side.</td>
<td>About 25' 0&quot; at lip 4' 6&quot; on floor</td>
<td>8' 3&quot;</td>
<td>Present in modified form</td>
<td>Not looked for</td>
<td>Medieval sherds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>90 yds. S.E. of Wallington Brook</td>
<td>Levelled. A slight hollow marks the ditch; remains of the bank when present are on the N.E. side.</td>
<td>About 23' 0&quot; at lip 7' 10&quot; on floor</td>
<td>8' 3&quot;</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Not looked for</td>
<td>Cooking hearth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 6. (a) Fragment of indented beaker of colour-coated (Castor) ware with scale pattern. Section A, fosse, 5' 10" down. (b) Colour-coated ware, from black soil, Section A, trench Y.
(c) Colour-coated ware, floor of fosse, Section B.
(d) Colour-coated ware, with roulette pattern, 4' 6" down, fosse, Section B. (e) Rim of basin, colour-coated ware, fosse, 3' 6" down, Section C.
(f) Imitation Terra Sigillata, fosse floor, Section B. (g), (h) Rims of cooking-pots, Romano-British; (g) from trench X, Section A; (h) from floor, fosse, Section B.
(i) Grey ware, Romano-British, floor of fosse, Section A. (k), (l) Terra Sigillata, decorated and plain fragments, Section A, trench Y.
(m), (n) Medieval ware, rim and basal angle, fosse, 4' 3" down, Section G.