

# Notes

**DRY HILL CAMP, LINGFIELD.** Extensive excavations, which examined both the defensive earthworks and the interior of this large and impressive camp<sup>1</sup>, were undertaken in 1932.<sup>2</sup> Not a sherd of pottery, or other datable object was found to give a clue to the date or purpose of the camp. There were found, however, deposits of rounded water worn pebbles, presumed to be sling stones, a few flint flakes, and some iron slag stated to be pre-Roman, although one wonders how this was determined. With the above article was an excellent plan which should be referred to in reading what I describe below.

Since 1932 farm drainage operations have, with the permission of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works, been done, affecting some of the earthworks and much of the interior. Nearly all of this has been watched by either Mr I. D. Margary, or the writer, on behalf of the Ministry. Every possible help and cooperation was given by Mr B. S. Philips, owner of Dry Hill Farm, and by his manager Mr Peck.

In 1964 a grid of pipe drain trenches, about 40 feet apart, were dug, mechanically in the north-east quarter of the interior of the camp, to a total length of about 5,000 feet, and covering about half the area. Nearly all of this operation was watched by Mr I. D. Margary and he tells me that not a sign of pre-historic human occupation or presence was seen.

In 1970 similar trenches, to a length of about 4,000 feet, were dug in the south-east and south-west quarters, and all watched by the writer. These all penetrated several feet into undisturbed subsoil, and the archaeological result was the same as in 1964.

Drainage work in 1969 was mainly concentrated on the present exterior of the existing earthworks. Most of it was in the form of an open ditch, 6 feet wide and averaging 3 feet deep, which followed round the remaining bank on the north and north-west sides (the 'Inner Vallum'). The ditch started about 80 feet west of the 'pond', and proceeded in a curved line, just outside the 'Inner Vallum', as far as the 'North Entrance'.

In this section the new ditch followed closely the line of the now level filled 'Inner Vallum' ditch, at some times right along it, and at others partially so. Most of the filling was very loose dry silt, which would have made it easy to spot pottery or objects, had they been there. At one point, about 100 feet north-east of the 'North Entrance', solid rock appeared just below the present surface. Here one could see the uneroded inside face of the 'Inner Vallum' ditch, cut into the rock. It had a 5 foot face and was cut at 42° from the vertical.

As the new ditch approached the 'North Entrance' it swung out to the outer edge of the 'Outer Vallum' (here not levelled), and followed it round to end at the 'Road to Dry Hill Farm'. On this course a section was cut, diagonally,

across the filled ditches of the 'Middle and Outer Valla'. In contrast to that of the 'Inner Vallum', these were found to be filled with large stones.

The section cut across the supposed 'North Entrance' proved to be of great interest, confirming that it was indeed an entrance. In the section could be seen a filled-in hollow way, 16 feet wide leading through the entrance.

A further pipe trench, about 350 feet long was dug along the inside of the 'Inner Vallum', westward from just south of the 'pond'. The only remaining work was in connecting the interior drainage to outside the camp by cutting through the 'Inner Vallum' at two points on the north-west side. This trench was however too narrow to see the section.

In the course of the open ditch digging vast quantities of material from the 'Inner Vallum' ditch was examined under ideal conditions, but with completely negative archaeological results, except for some pottery of the seventeenth century. There were, however from the ditch, a piece of bloomery slag, a few flint flakes, and 15 'sling stones'. These latter varied in weight from 1½ ounces to 6 ounces, averaging just under 3 ounces. Also was noted several places where fires had been lit in the bottom of the camp ditch, and at one place, between the 'Inner Vallum' and its ditch, was a small clay-lined pit full of wood ash.

The total result of all these quite considerable works would seem to be a confirmation of the findings of the 1932 excavation, and so does nothing to resolve the riddle of Dry Hill Camp.

However Mr Margary points out that one positive gain is a useful confirmation of the route of an important north south trackway through Sussex and Surrey, sited as passing through the north and south entrances of Dry Hill Camp.<sup>3</sup>

#### NOTES

1. N.G.R. TQ 432417
2. S.E. Winbolt and I.D. Margary, 'Dry Hill Camp Lingfield', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, XLI (1933), 79.
3. *Surrey A.C.*, XLIX (1946), 20, and *Sussex Notes and Queries*, II(1946/7), 62.

C. F. TEBBUTT

**CLAY PIPES FROM NEAR MERTON PRIORY.** During the course of the excavations near the site of Merton Priory carried out in 1962-3<sup>1</sup>, a small collection of clay pipe fragments with diagnostic features was made. Most of the pipes were collected as surface finds from adjacent allotments but three were stratified within the excavation.

The pipes have been examined by Mr B. J. Bloice who has classified them according to Oswald and Atkinson's most recent published typology.<sup>2</sup>

The dating of the three stratified specimens suggests that the clay capping to the ditch fill of the two irrigation ditches was dumped some time prior to 1820.

<i>Oswald and Atkinson type number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Stem bore (m.m.)</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Provenance</i>
15 ?	1660-1680	3.0		Unstratified.
22 ?	1680-1710	2.0	Two examples	Unstratified.
26 ?	1740-1800	2.0		Unstratified.
27	1780-1820	1.75	J.H. on heel	From clay capping to fill of N. irrigation ditch.
27	1780-1820	1.75	G.B. on heel	From clay capping to fill of N. irrigation ditch.
27 ?	1780-1820			From clay capping to fill of S. irrigation ditch.
28	1820-1840	1.75	Rib decoration on bowl	Unstratified.
30	c1850+	1.75	'SAVELS TOBACCO' in a band below the rim. Square stem.	Unstratified.
30	c1850+	1.75	R.A.O.B. and buffalo horns on the bowl.	Unstratified.
30	c1850+		Leaf decoration in place of the heel and raised central band at front and rear of bowl.	Unstratified.
30	c1850+		Hand holding bowl.	Unstratified

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<i>Oswald and Atkinson type number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Stem bore (m.m.)</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Provenance</i>
Stem only	19th cent.	1.75	'CORK' in a frame.	Unstratified.
?	19th cent.	1.50	Trailing floral pattern on bowl.	Unstratified.
?	19th cent.	1.50	Star (?) on each side of tiny heel.	Unstratified.

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## NOTES

1. *Surrey A.C.*, LXIV (1967), 35-70
2. *J.B.A.A.*, XXXII (1969), 171-227

D. J. TURNER