

RECENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN WARWICKSHIRE
(THE PRE-DOMESDAY PERIOD).

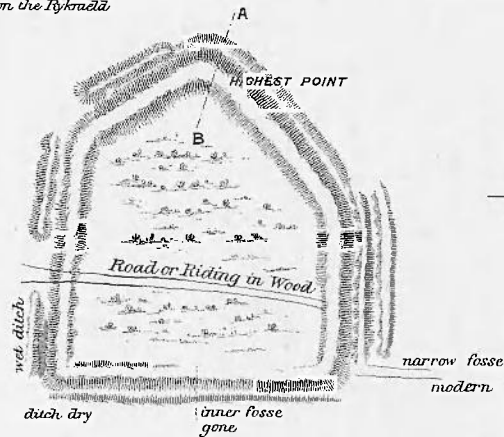
By J. TOM BURGESS, Esq., F.S.A.

WHEN the Institute held its annual congress at Warwick thirteen years ago, the Ordnance map and the map in Faussett's "Inventorium Sepulchrale" showed the pre-Domesday remains in Warwickshire, which were then known to exist. These had been noted and surveyed by Mr. Matthew Bloxam and Sir Henry Dryden, and though few in number were interesting examples of early castrametation and sepulchral mounds. The paucity of Saxon remains gave rise to the supposition that the ancient inhabitants of the forest of Arden had been able to hold possession of the territory of their fathers till a late period—a period marked by the fortifications of Stafford, Tamworth, and Warwick, by the Lady Æthelflæd in the early part of the tenth century (*circa* 913-15). The later discoveries do not destroy this supposition altogether, but they show that there existed on the northern bank of the Avon, just within the southern fringe of the woodland tract known as the "Forest of Arden," a line of early fortifications extending from the swampy plains of Leicestershire to where the ancient Ridgway overlooks the fertile vale of Evesham and the "sandy-bottomed Severn." To the south of this line, and at no great distance from it, are the Saxon graves which were noted in December, 1875, and January, 1876, specimens of the contents of which are now exhibited. The existence of these graves shows clearly that the Eastern Angles had penetrated at an early period to the very heart of England, and to some extent secured the open champaign country, known as the Feldon, which lies between the Oxfordshire bluff headlands which form the southern boundary of Warwickshire and the River Avon. Along this southern edge of the country there is another continuous line of earthworks, which extends from Hunsbury

WARWICKSHIRE EARTHWORKS.

SKETCH PLAN, OAKLEY WOOD.

*This Camp is the same
Plan as the Roman Camp
at Ipsley on the Ryknæla
Sheet.*

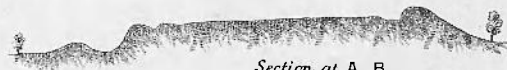
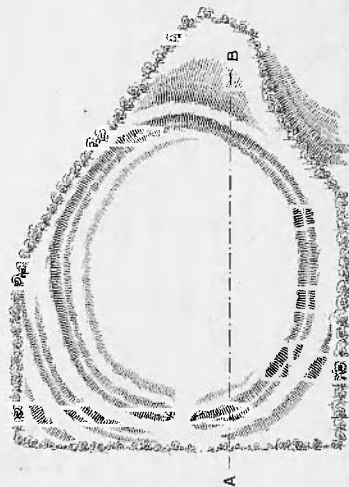


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Section at A. B.

CAMP AT BARMOOR.



Section at A. B.

or Huntsberry Hill, opposite Northampton, to Bredon Hill, which forms the northern rampart to the flat lands on which Tewkesbury is built, and where the Avon empties itself into the Severn. To these I have not been able to add one additional fortification beyond those mentioned by the historians of Oxfordshire and Worcestershire, but between these lines there exist lines of fortification which differ materially from others existing in Warwickshire, and which have not hitherto been noticed.

By a somewhat curious coincidence the successive dates at which these discoveries were made follow, what we may fairly take to be their historical and chronological order. When I renewed my acquaintance with Warwickshire, after several years' absence in the Gaelic speaking districts of the West of Ireland, I was struck with the strange familiarity of the names in the Arden country, and involuntarily translated them as I had been in the habit of doing in Clare, Limerick, and Kerry, when investigating the earthworks and cromlechs existing in the territory which Ptolemy assigned to the Gangeni. Full of this conceit, I made inquiries, and found that spear-heads and swords had been picked up at Claverdon, but had disappeared when the village blacksmith, in whose possession they had been suffered to remain, died. These inquiries introduced me to an intelligent farmer, long resident in the neighbourhood, who volunteered to guide me to a thicket, known to the country people as Barmoor Wood, where we were told some curious trenches existed. This thicket is marked on the Ordnance map a little to the south of Henley-in-Arden, between the Crab Mill and Cherry Pool. It stands at the southern extremity of a plateau some sixteen acres in extent, which rises from a marshy plain to a considerable height. There is no regular entrance into the Wood, which is some four acres in extent, and of an irregular shape. We forced our way through a gap in the fence, and found ourselves almost immediately on the edge of a broad and deep fosse. The undergrowth prevented a detailed examination at that time, but the owner kindly cut down the brambles sufficiently to show a slightly oval encampment surrounded by a deep fosse, except on the north, where a causeway 30 ft. broad connected the interior with the open plateau, which in Ireland would be called the "faha!" or outer court. There appears to have been a vallum on the outer edge of the fosse,

but this has in places been destroyed. On the inner side of the fosse, as shown in the section, there was a similar low vallum 10 ft. wide immediately in front of a larger and stronger vallum which formed the inner line of defence. This embankment had a base of 20 ft. wide, and, though only 4 ft. in height, it had evidently been much higher. The enclosure from north to south is as near as can be measured at present 520 ft. On the south-east corner some stonework once existed, but it has long since been removed. A stone structure, described as like a saw-pit, existed also at the circular camp at Beausale, and my informant, who removed the stones, described this structure as somewhat similar. Along the outer edge of the plateau there are pits which yet contain water in the driest of seasons. The whole of the sides of the hill are terraced. The lynchets are very apparent in the winter time when the ground is not covered with crops. The country is open to the west and north, where the most remarkable objects in the landscape are the three hills of Spernal and Alne, one of which has been entrenched, and in the far west the high lands known as the Ridgway bound the horizon.

About a mile due east of Barmoor Wood is Yardingale¹ or Yarningale Common, which is situated on a bold promontory stretching into the plain. It is covered with whin, broom, and heather. It has never been cultivated, and is called by the country people "a mountain." On the north-western shoulder of the hill there are traces of a small signal outpost, in the form of a double tumulus surrounded by a fosse 11 ft. wide. The base of the larger mound is about 70 ft. in diameter, and the inner central mound not more than 9 ft. The outline is squat and low, as if the influence of the weather had denuded somewhat its original height.

On marking these early earthworks on an outline map, I found that they filled a blank space in a line of entrenchments and tumuli extending across Warwickshire in a diagonal direction indicated by the course of the Avon. Brinklow is one of the largest tumuli in the kingdom, and the ramparts defending it are somewhat lozenge-shaped, and are divided into an inner and an outer ward by an intersecting rampart. At Knightlow and Motslow there are well-

¹ This promontory first attracted my notice from the sound appearing like a corruption of "Ard-in-gael"—in Erse, the height of the stranger.

known tumuli, and between them there are the remains of ancient entrenchments at Bagington and Bubbenhall. At both places the contour has been altered to suit the requirements of mediæval architects. A camp which once existed on Whitley Common has long since been removed and no trace of its configuration has been preserved.

In the very interesting monograph of Kenilworth Castle, read before the Institute, Mr. G. T. Clarke mentions the probability of Kenilworth Castle having been built on the site of an early earthwork. I have paid particular attention to Kenilworth, and though I have not been able to find any reliable traces of the Castle which is said by Dugdale to have existed at Hom Hill, on the high lands on the north of the River Avon opposite the present Stoneleigh Abbey, and which was destroyed when Canute made his terrible irruption into Warwickshire (*circa* 1016-17). The landscape gardener has been at work on the site, and though the ground bears evidences of disturbance, no defined lines of entrenchments can now be traced.

Between this site and Kenilworth Castle, nearly a mile due east from the latter is a wild piece of uncultivated land where the drift of the Tertiary age has been thrown into large circular hillocks, round spurs and knolls of the new red sandstone which here crops up. None of these hillocks remain in a perfect state, the railway, gravel pits and quarries have altered the contours at the base, but two of them bear slight signs of circular ramparts. The most western has about a quarter of the circle remaining. The section is not very bold or striking, but it is peculiar, from surmounting a layer of black earth some two inches in thickness. It is inaccessible where exposed, so that its composition cannot readily be determined. These hillocks, like Kenilworth, lie immediately on the north of the Inchford brook. From the gravel found near these hillocks a rough stone Celt (figure A A) has been found along with many chipped flints. These, however, do not exhibit any specially marked features. Indeed chipped flints are very rare in Warwickshire.

In Domesday Book, Kenilworth was divided into two parts. Optone, now High Town, contained three hides and Chinewrde (Kenilworth) not more than three virgats besides the woods. At the back of the street known as High

Town, north of the Church, there are some earthworks whose general plan accord with those observable at Kington, Seckington, and Castle Bromwich. They were not observed till February, 1877. They are a little south of Camp Farm, and one of the numerous rivulets arising from "the springs" has been brought close to it.

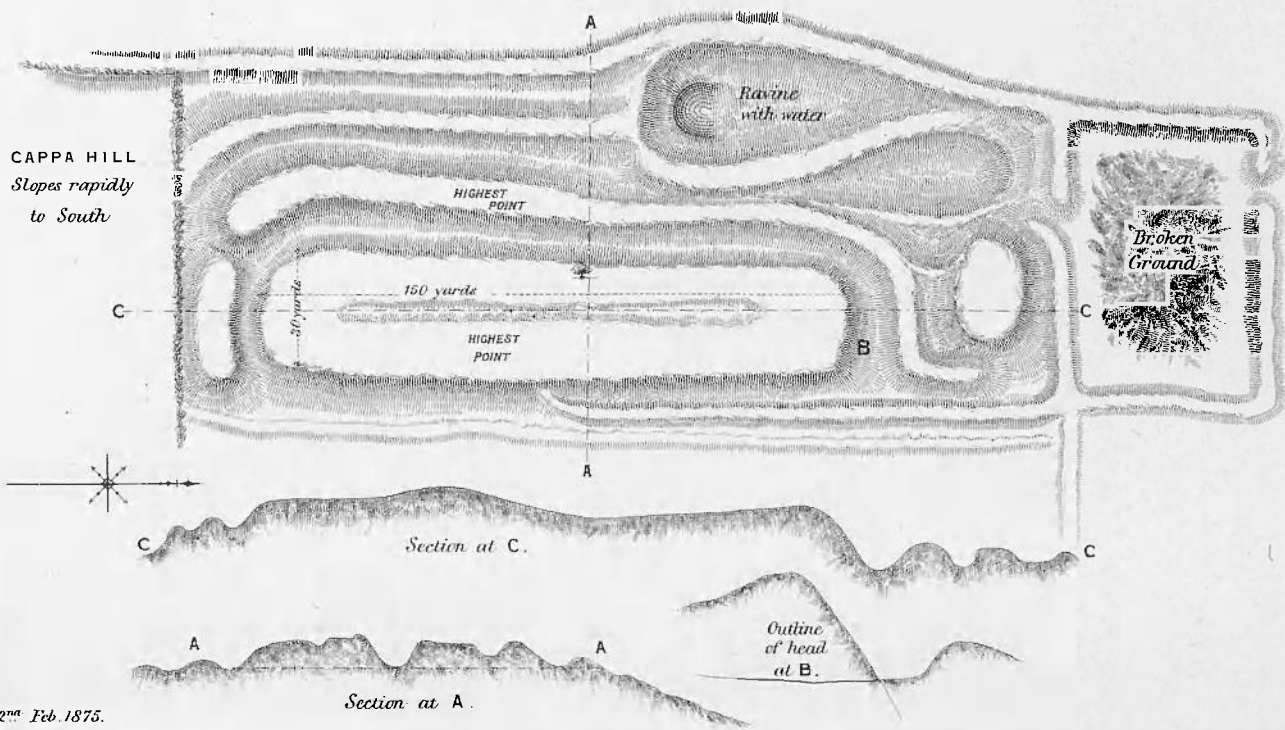
Immediately due north of the Castle there are the remains of a quadrangular entrenchment of great size, and includes the houses on what is now called Clinton Green. The western edge was the bank of the lake. The northern and western are marked by the water courses of the little streamlets known as "The Springs." At the north-eastern corner part of the vallum yet remains. It is about 5 ft. high and 10 ft. broad at the base, viewed from the inside, but is much more formidable from the ditch to the east. This is barely two fields from the earthworks just mentioned. The existence of this well-defined entrenchment would point to the fact, that if it had no earlier origin, it bears out Mr. Clarke's hypothesis that the troops of Henry III. and Prince Edward took up their position on the northern side of the Castle at the siege A. D. 1265. A few Roman third brass coins have been found in the neighbourhood and during the recent excavations at the Castle, but they are so corroded as to be undecipherable.

Barely three miles due west from Kenilworth is the elliptical-shaped camp at Beausale Common. This camp is similar in design to the one I found at Barmoor, but there is no outer court or ward. It is five acres in extent. The fosse is 20 ft. wide and was protected by an inner and an outer vallum, but the outer vallum is broken away on the southern side. To the south there are entrenchments in Wedgnoek Park, belonging to Warwick Castle, and the line is continued westward by Yarningale, Barmoor, Pathlow, the heights of Alne, to Danesbank in Coughton Park at the western verge of the county.

Danesbank, though marked on the Ordnance map, had never been described or surveyed, I believe, until 1875, when by the permission of Sir N. W. Throckmorton, I made a minute survey of the ramparts and enclosures which crown the top of Cappa hill, about three-quarters of a mile west of Coughton Station on the Redditch and Evesham Railway. Close to the Station there is a moated area

WARWICKSHIRE EARTHWORKS. DANES BANK.

SCALE OF 0 10 20 30 40 50 FEET.



2nd Feb. 1875.

Sturridge & Co. Litho. London.

about one acre in extent, known as the Wyke or Wick, and though there are more than a hundred moated areas in Warwickshire, there is not, to my knowledge, another which has the vallum outside the wet ditch and none within. It was not the site of the keeper's house, for that occupied the site of the farm-house beyond, when the whole neighbourhood was inclosed in Coughton Park.

The accompanying plan will give a better idea of the singular formation of the Danesbank than any verbal description. A long rectangular mound, like a gigantic barrow, is encompassed by a double rampart, terminating on the north with two rectangular enclosures. Mr. Bloxam is inclined to think it is the site of Alauna Dubonorum, as it is only two miles north west of the Roman Alauna (Alcester), and is one mile west of the Icknield or Ryknield way. I see nothing to justify this opinion. The arrangement is altogether singular, and amongst the many scores of earthworks I have examined I have not found another of a similar character. Originally it was in the heart of Arden, over which it commands an extensive view, and I see no reason to doubt that it formed one of the series of posts of the primitive tribes who threw up the line of fortifications along the frontier of the forest, and these tribes were certainly not allied to the Dobuni who occupied the territory to the southward. The defences, by whomsoever thrown up, had their strongest points to the south. None of them are visible from the Avon, yet the tumuli which stand between them and the river have a good view over the country south of the Avon, as far as the Edge Hills and Northants.

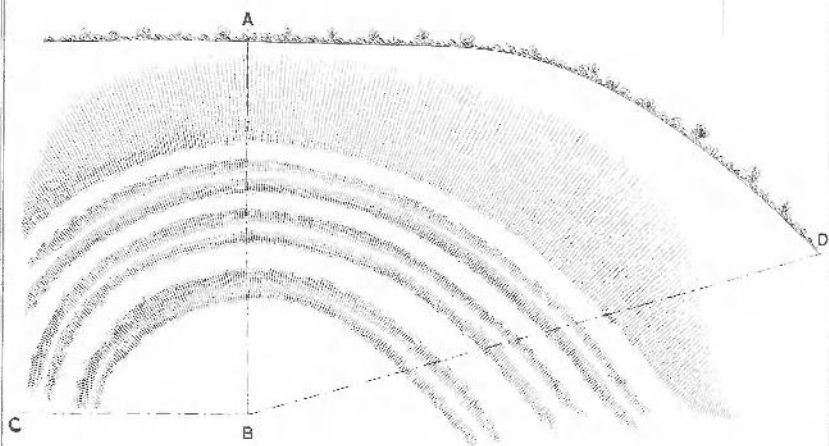
Until within the past four years, the existence of any earthworks between the Avon and the Edge Hills on the Oxfordshire border was not even suspected. The district is traversed by the Fosse way from north-east to south-west, and after leaving Brinklow, which is situated on the line of the Fosse, and causes the road to make a detour, we find no record of any remains on the Ordnance Survey, save the camp at Chesterton, twelve miles from Brinklow, and a small rectangular camp at Radbourne, about two miles west of Napton, where there are some signs of entrenchments. The camp at Radbourne is situated on the edge of a large turf field, and is one of the few entrenchments which have not been disturbed by the plough.

In searching for the possible site of a Roman post at Easthorpe, midway between Chesterton and Brinklow, I found the regular castrum of the Roman period at Wappenbury, on the northern bank of the river Leam. I have subsequently learned that it had been noted by Mr. Bloxam. I have since heard that on the southern side, outside the churchyard, there are the remains of some strong foundations, in which Roman tiles are intermixed. The site of this Roman station answers to the one placed blank on the 14th Iter of Richard of Cirencester, and it ought to be excavated and explored. Many Roman remains have been found at Princethorpe, in the immediate neighbourhood.

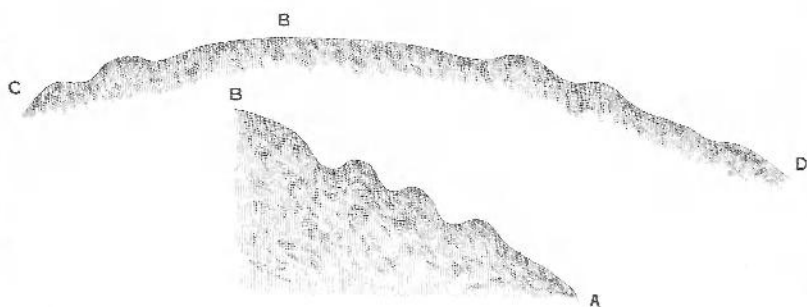
About three miles further west, on the Fosse, and beneath Ufton hill, there are two mounds or barrows, which have not yet been explored. One has a peculiar hollow on its summit, and during the wet autumn of 1875 the top of the other gave way and sank some 4 ft. A change of tenancy has prevented the opening of this barrow. On the northern side of the Fosse, in the parish of Radford, and within a mile of Chesterton camp, is a hill called Frizmore. In shape, it is like a gigantic barrow, and, curiously enough, has the hollow crown like the barrows at Ufton, as if it had been opened, or the interior cist had given way. Six miles from Chesterton there are two or three low tumuli, which have not been explored, on the estate of Sir Charles Mordaunt, and on the hill opposite, on the northern side, are situated the most formidable earthworks in Warwickshire. In the valley between is situated Walton, the seat of Sir Charles Mordaunt, which is believed to have been the site of an ancient settlement, if not of a Roman villa. During the autumn of 1876 a quantity of chipped flints were found in excavating for some ornamental water, 3 ft. or 4 ft. from the surface; and near Wellesbourne Mill others have been found. These and those found at Kenilworth are the only ones hitherto noted in Warwickshire, though polished flints are noted in "Dugdale," and flint arrow-heads have been found in barrows.

The formidable earthworks on Red Hill, overlooking the valley of the Avon, and facing the Welcomb hills, which form the northern ridge above the river, are of great extent. They appear to begin on the brow of the hill where the road from Wellesbourne to Halford Bridge crosses

RED HILL , EARTHWORKS .
LOXLEY . WARWICKSHIRE .



SKETCH PLAN . LOXLEY .



it, but the principal remains are nearer Loxley. They were surveyed in the spring of 1875, by Mr. E. Pritchard, C. E., under the superintendence of Mr. Cove Jones, F.S.A., and myself. The hill has a semicircular base towards the vale on the north, and this conformation of the ground has been used for the purpose of fortification, and presents an outline to the eye of a series of ramparts and ditches, one above the other. The lines are carried along the face of the hill for some distance to the west, and can be traced, but more faintly, to the eastern face of the hill overlooking Wellesbourne.

The discovery of these ramparts induced me to pay all the unvisited portions of the Feldon minute attention. I was soon rewarded by finding in Oakley Wood, which is situated by the side of the Banbury and Warwick turnpike road, four miles from the latter place, a quadrangular enclosure, of great strength, particularly on the northern side. The vallum at the north-east angle rises to the height of 30 ft. from the bottom of the Fosse, and is not less than 30 ft. in diameter at its base. On the southern side the vallum appears to have been levelled, and the material removed to make a slight fence beyond the camp on the south-east. The ditch remains perfect on every side. The spring which apparently supplied the camp with water is on the north-west angle. The area of the camp is estimated at six acres, from the rough survey I have been enabled to make of it. As the underwood is partially cut every season, I hope to perfect the plan this year. There can be but little doubt that this is a Roman camp, and one like that at Radbourne, used for some temporary purpose entirely unconnected with the military roads. It is about three miles from Chesterton on the Fosse, and is not within sight of any of the lines of tumuli within the county. Stukeley noticed a quadrangular entrenchment not far from the ancient bridge at Warwick, and a portion of this entrenchment is yet preserved in the garden attached to the estate office of the Earl of Warwick, but it is impossible now to estimate its extent or strength. A similar entrenchment exists at Ipsley, on the Ryknield Street in Warwickshire.

At Hodnell, which is situated on a line of tumuli which can be traced from Towcester, in Northants, to the one known Roman station away from the military ways in Arden

(Harborough Banks), are two ramparts, parallel to each other, about 150 ft. long and 40 ft. apart. The ramparts are comparatively weak, being not more than 6 ft. thick and from 3 ft. to 4 ft. high. To the west, on the slope of the hill, there are distinct signs of a terraced fortification, which extends much farther than the existing ramparts. About 250 ft. to the eastward, on the very summit of the hill is a small tumulus. The windmill at Chesterton (built by Inigo Jones), above the camp, is situated apparently on an ancient tumulus. There is a very perfect but hitherto unnoticed tumulus at Tachbrooke, situated in a spot which alone commands a view of Warwick and of Chesterton.

There are a few other points of pre-historic interest which have not been published. Between Wilmcote and Billesley, a series of foundations of circular dwellings, with a deep well, containing the bones and horns of deer, with a quantity of black earth, were uncovered, when quarrying for limestone; and near them was a grave with a skeleton; and not far away, a sword. I have made a plan from the description and measurements of the foreman of the quarrymen on the spot, but all the objects found were accidentally destroyed by fire. There are curious circular pits not far from Oakley Wood. Others have been noticed in the neighbourhood of Hodnell, and the site of others along the vale of the Red Horse, beneath the Edge Hills, but these, like everything extraordinary in the neighbourhood, are attributed by the inhabitants to the battle of Kineton, *temp.* Charles I.

I would point out that Red Hill, Hodnell, and Napton are on a line with Meon Hill, just outside the county boundaries, which overlooks the vale of Evesham. They appear to be the frontier-line of a tribe or power advancing from the south, and similar bronze celts have been found at the rear of Loxley entrenchments, as those found at Tadmarton, just within the Oxfordshire borders.

These surface indications of the inhabitants of Warwickshire in the past have been supplemented by the discovery of the graves of the fathers of the land. In laying out the grounds at the Priory, Warwick, the gardeners came upon several skeletons lying along the face of a ridge of rock, which had been covered with earth. The late Dr. O'Callaghan has described the finding of these bodies in a paper read before the Society of Antiquaries, and pointed out

that there were indications of cremation having been practised. Since that period, further excavations have been made on the southern side of the rocky eminence on which the Priory is built, close to what was formerly known as the Dog Lane, but now called the Priory Lane, leading from the North Gate to St. John's. When the earth was cleared away, it was found that the rock was honeycombed by a series of rude openings, containing ashes, cinders, and pottery of a rude construction, containing bones. Before accurate sketches could be obtained of the appearance of these rude columbaria, they were destroyed. Some two or three of the urns were preserved, and the rest ruthlessly thrown into a disused flour barrel as rubbish. When I visited the spot only one of the openings remained, the others had been either taken away, or converted into receptacles for garden requisites. The one I saw was about 3 ft. from the ground, 2 ft. wide, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high. The Keuper sandstone had been rudely hollowed out to the depth of 18 inches to 3 ft., and in the opening were placed cinders of charcoal, black ashes, and charred bone, round an urn of grey pottery ware, turned perfectly plain. The one I saw was broken, and the bones it contained were calcined, and were scattered about. I made a sketch of the appearance of the rock at that time, and I was permitted to bring away portions of the pottery. Further investigations were absolutely forbidden. The pottery appears to me to be of the Roman or Romano-British period, and is essentially different from the other sepulchral urns found in the immediate neighbourhood of Warwick. The rock in which these remains were found is the same as that in which the renowned cave of the fabulous Guy Earl of Warwick is excavated, and in this rock, along the banks of the Avon, towards Lillington, there are several caves formed in the face of the cliff, and on the surface of the rock, but it is impossible to assign any specific date to them.

The paucity of Saxon remains in Warwickshire I have already adverted to. I have before me a list kindly furnished to me by Mr. M. H. Bloxam of all the places where traces of Saxon occupation had been found in Warwickshire. The only "bits" of early masonry which could be attributed to a pre-Norman era are found at Wootton Wawen Church, and in the causeway over the Fosse at Tamworth Castle.

Fibulæ of the ordinary cross-shaped pattern and other Anglo-Saxon ornaments have been found near Bensford Bridge and Churchover adjoining the Watling-street way on the east of the county. At Princethorpe and Brinklow urns had been found. In 1774 three skulls and two Saxon jewels, described by Mr. Pegge in the third volume of the *Archæologia* (p. 373) were exhumed at Walton. In Warwick Museum there is preserved the handsome fibulæ engraved in Akerman's "*Pagan Saxondom*," and the crystal ball found therewith at Emscote, near Warwick, together with five circular discs of metal, roughly chased; four of them fit into rings, and two of the rings are filled with beak-like hooks. These were found near Chesterton. In cutting the Railway near Marton, midway between Leamington and Rugby, fibulæ of the dish-shaped pattern were found, together with spear-heads and the umbos of shields.² All these "finds" are in the immediate vicinity of Roman roads. The three recent "finds" are on the line of the Avon.

Late in the autumn of 1875 a friend brought me the iron umbo of a Saxon shield and a spear-head, which I immediately recognised as belonging to the same period. I then learned for the first time that two workmen employed by the Town Council of Warwick in digging for gravel about a mile on the Stratford road had found several skeletons and many objects similar to those shown me. The next day I went to the spot and found that two or three umbos and spear-heads, together with a long Saxon sword, had been found. There was one circular fibulæ with an interlaced design rivetted to a plate at the back, two small fibulæ, and some knives of ordinary pattern. These were in the possession of the engineman at the adjoining pumping station of the Warwick Sewage Works. On returning to Warwick I was offered a dish-shaped fibula and an amber bead for sale. These I secured, and at once communicated with Mr. John Staunton, the owner of the field, who immediately commissioned me to act on his behalf, and watch the progress of the excavations.

The spot where these relics were found is a field one mile due west from Warwick, near Longbridge, at an angle of

² A very handsome gilt fibula (engraved in the *Archæologia*) was found at Itagley with a knife some years ago, and was, by the permission of the Marquis of

Hertford, to whom it belongs, added to the collection of Warwickshire fibulæ exhibited.

Warwick Castle Park, where the Fisher Brook forms the boundary on its way to the Avon.¹ The whole space excavated does not exceed a plot of 50 ft. by 45 ft., and it is evident that there is yet a vast number of graves to be explored whenever the excavations are resumed. The objects found and recovered consist of a glass drinking vessel, the remains of an urn of black pottery, both of which are shattered, three "buckets," so called, varying from 5 in. to 7 in. in height. These are too fragile to travel; the stave of one bears the only bit of woven fabric found. A sword 3 ft. long, a spear-head 2 ft. 6 in. long, many spear-heads varying from 7 in. to 15 in., javelin-heads, knives of the ordinary pattern, several umbos of shields, one of which was found over the head of one of the bodies, and the point of the sword within it.

The umbos vary in shape and size. One was surmounted by a spike or small spear-head, others had a flat disc or button terminal, whilst in others it was round, and with the disc-headed umbo the point of the long heavy sword was found. Several of these umbos were found, with the rivets which attached them to the "linden wood" of which the shield was generally formed, and in more than one instance the handle or brace of the shield was found below the umbo.

The one sword stands alone. It is one of the few Saxon swords which have been found which show the remains of the wooden scabbard and its ornamentation. Altogether it formed a weapon 2 ft. 10 in. long, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. broad. The end of the hilt is formed of a square piece of bronze brought to a point. The hilt and guard are decayed, but where the scabbard begins there are yet the narrow bands of thin bronze which held the scabbard together, and portions of it can be traced down the entire length of the blade, and is very similar to one found at Fairford a few years ago.

The first bucket found at Longbridge was formed of vertical bands of bronze, ornamented with pearl mould on both sides, which were riveted with prominent studs to the three plain bronze hoops, which surrounded the bucket. These hoops and bands are a little over an inch broad, and correspond in width to the narrow strips of wood which

¹ The plan, which was exhibited, showed the relative position of the stream and river to the graves.

formed the bucket-shaped vessel. The upper edge was tipped with metal, and on one side there are the signs of the fastening of some kind of handle. The second bucket was the largest. The hoops were riveted with square-headed studs, and the bronze was quite plain. The third bucket was similar, but the bronze much decayed, though the wood was tough and fresh. A bead or two of the large amber variety were found near the urn, but these were either lost or given away, or sold before the nature of the find was understood. The later excavations revealed a silver armlet, or bracelet, a gold bractate, a large cross-shaped fibula, very like one found at Rothley Temple, Leicestershire, and figured in Plate 20 of *Pagan Saxondom*. It is of rude design, and has evidently been ornamented with plates of silver. With the bractate were found five or six amber beads, and in the next grave two saucer-shaped fibulæ; in the centre of each was fixed a small piece of glass. One of these is before you. Of the other fibulæ found, twelve in all, the one first seen is circular, is two inches in diameter, and has a circular opening a quarter of an inch in diameter in the centre, which has held a jewel or some precious stone. The space between this was formed of a raised interlaced SS-like pattern riveted, with the ring-like edge, to a thin disc of metal which held the pin and catch. The other fibulæ belonged to the *sculptæ*, or round saucer-shaped fibulæ, made out of a solid disc of metal, bearing an incised pattern similar to the more important one. These bore signs of having been gilded. Two of the fibulæ were of the ordinary flat ring pattern, and two belonged to what are called cross-shaped fibulæ, of ordinary patterns; one is trefoil-headed, and the other is square-headed, ornamented with dotted lines.

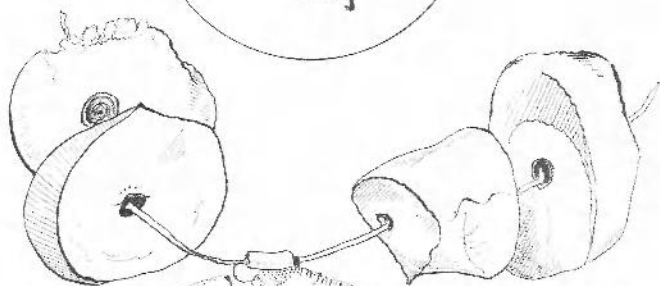
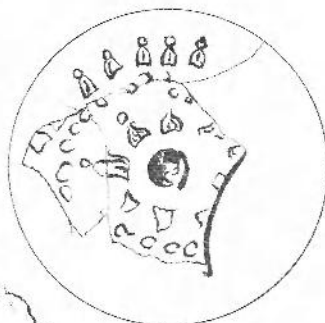
With respect to the bodies themselves, one of the most perfect of the skeletons was that of a powerful young man, who was upwards of 6 ft. high and about 23 or 24 years of age. His teeth were perfect. His chin somewhat more pointed than usual. This pointed chin marked all the lower jaws we had an opportunity of examining, for many of the skeletons fell into dust or were broken by the workmen in removing them. Some of the skeletons were found indiscriminately upon the others, a circumstance which in other cases has given rise to the supposition that these were either



RUDE STONE CELT
KENILWORTH 1877.
See page 371.



FRAGMENT OF
SILVER BRACTATE.
LONGBRIDGE.



GOLD BRACTATE &
AMBER BEADS,
LONGBRIDGE.



prisoners taken in battle or slaves sacrificed as a propitiation to the gods. No regular plan was pursued in the burials, for the bodies were found in various positions. The gold and silver articles have been claimed by the Government as treasure-trove, but I have ventured to retain them in order that the members of the Royal Archæological Institute might have an opportunity of examining them. The fragment of the silver bractate is, I believe, very rare. In consequence of the claim of the Government the excavations have been suspended at a time when regular and systematic supervision had secured so much that was rare and valuable.

Exactly three miles east of Leamington is the village of Offchurch, as Longbridge Cemetery is three miles to the west; and at this spot, reputed to have been one of the residences of Offa, King of Mercia, he is said to have founded the Church there, in memory of his son Fremund, slain between Long Itchington and Harbury. Near the spot, thus roughly indicated as the scene of the murder, Saxon weapons have been found; and near the Church is the site of another Saxon burial place, and the remains found are in the possession of the Dowager Countess of Aylesford at Offchurch Priory.

In these remarks I have not attempted to give you more than a brief account of the more recent discoveries, and to show the yet unworked field which remains open to the Archæologist who carefully investigates the remains and relics which exist in the neighbourhood in which he lives.