THE EXPLORATION OF HOD HILL, NEAR BLANDFORD, DORSET, IN 1897.

By Professor W. BOYD DAWKINS, F.R.S., F.S.A.

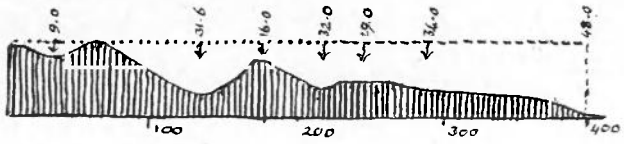
[With Four Illustrations.]

CONTENTS.

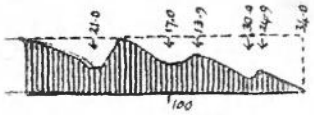
1.—Introductory.

The fortress of Hod Hill, four miles to the north-west of Blandford, forms one of a series of strongholds on the river Stour. To the north of it, at a distance of about a mile, is that of Hambledon; to the south-east, at a distance of four and a half miles, is the fort of Buzbury Rings, and at about nine miles that of Badbury Rings. These four are on the east side of the river. On the south-west, Spettisbury Rings overlook the ford at Crawford Bridge. All five command the Lower Stour where it enters the chalk downs, and from their position are clearly intended as a line of defence against attack from the west and north-west, keeping watch and ward over the low-lying vale of Blackmore. All, with the exception perhaps of the last, from their size are clearly fortified oppida, capable of protecting a comparatively large population with their flocks and herds.

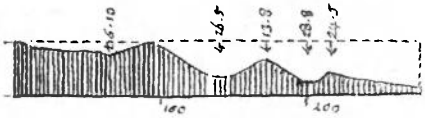
It is not my intention to treat of the place which



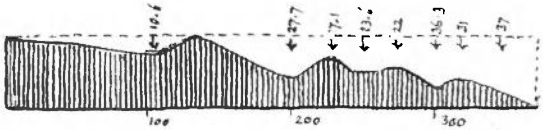
Section at A.—HANFORD GATE, 20 feet East.



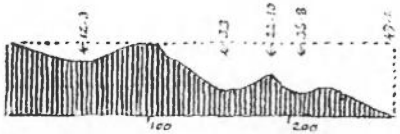
B.—HANFORD GATE, 58 feet West.



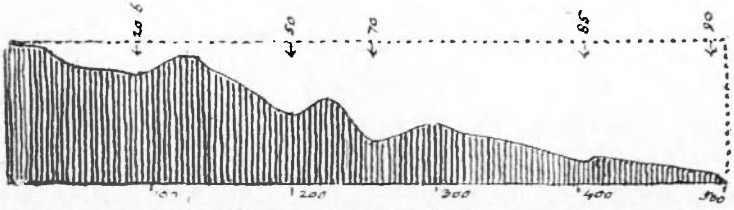
C.—STEEPLETON GATE, 66 feet North.



D.—STEEPLETON GATE, 87 feet South.



E.—WESTGATE, 51 feet S. East.



F.—WESTGATE, 146 feet N. West.

Fig. 1. Sections through Ramparts and Fosses of Plan, Fig. 1.
Scale 100 ft. to 1 inch.

these fortresses hold in the history of Dorset, nor do I propose to discuss the details relating to them, so well put by Mr. Warne.[1] I merely propose to lay before you the results of the excavations at Hod, carried out by Sir Talbot Baker, under my supervision, in the course of the last autumn. It was strongly urged at the Dorchester Meeting of the Institute that the example of General Pitt-Rivers should be followed in the exploration of some one or other of the strongholds of Dorset. Sir Talbot Baker, the owner of Hod Hill, rose to the occasion, and we have to thank him for the results which are recorded in this communication.

Hod Hill (Fig. 1) stands on the edge of a precipitous chalk cliff on the eastern bank of the Stour at a height of over 400 feet above the sea. It consists of a series of three ramparts and two fosses on every side excepting that which faces the river, where the ground falls so rapidly that little defence is needed. It is roughly quadrilateral in form, with rounded angles, and it includes a space of about 320 acres. Inside at the north-west angle is an inner fortress of about 70 acres, forming a citadel on the highest ground, rising there to a height of 470 feet. The surface of both is studded with groups of pits, to which we directed our principal work. I shall first of all deal with the outer line of ramparts and fosses.

2.—The Outer Ramparts and Fosses.

The north-west corner of the camp is occupied by one of the three original entrances, called Hanford Gate (Fig. 1). It is defended by the usual two ramps and fosses, and by a third smaller rampart on the outside, and is also protected by the ends of the two ramparts on the east being raised to a higher level. The relation of these two fosses to the ramparts may be seen by the two sections A and B, taken on each side the entrance, at a distance, respectively, of 20 feet east and 58 feet west.

On the east or weaker side, the ramparts are higher and the fosses deeper than on the west. Here the outer fosse dies away as the steep scarp of the river is ap-

[1] *Ancient Dorset*, folio, 1872.

proached, and the outer rampart also disappears a little farther to the south. The entrance, 10 feet 6 inches in width between the fosses, and 8 feet at the inner rampart, is slightly flanked and is approached by a ridge curving up to it from the east, probably marking an old road. From this entrance the three ramparts and the two fosses sweep eastwards past the spot where they are joined by the lines of the inner fortress of Lydsbury Rings. This is marked by a modern break in the ramparts, Leigh Gate. From this they pass to the north-eastern angle, which curves round to the Steepleton Gate, one of the principal original entrances. This is strongly defended by the prolongation inwards of the inner ramp so as to flank the entrance on either side. The entrance is 10 feet wide. It is further strengthened by the inner ramp being higher. It is also flanked on the outside by the extension of the second rampart to the south so as to flank 190 feet of the approach. The third rampart is also more strongly marked than usual. In the section C, taken at a point 66 feet to the north of the inner entrance, and D, at 87 feet to the south, the relation of the approach to the fosses and ramparts is seen. In a word, Steepleton Gate is an admirable illustration of a flanking entrance of a prehistoric fortress in which the military art in the design is of the highest order.

From the Steepleton Gate the lines of the fortress sweep southwards to the rounded south-eastern angle, the two breaks in it, Ashfield Gate and Home Gate, being probably modern, and thence westwards to the scarp of the river. From Ashfield Gate on the eastern side, and along the whole of the south side, the second fosse has almost completely disappeared, and is only indicated by a faint depression.

A third original entrance, West Gate, near the south-western angle, was also strongly fortified, not only by the inner prolongation of the inner ramp on each side of the entrance, here 10 feet wide, but by the turning inwards of the second ramp on either side. It is further strengthened by a rampart and fosse running diagonally westwards to the top of the river cliff. This may have been used also as a covered way down to the river. The

excavations carried on in modern times for the sake of the chalk at this spot render it impossible to make out the exact line of the original approaches. They were, however, more strongly defended by works than at the other two entrances to the camp.

On the west side the inner rampart and fosse are the only two works, the edge of the river cliff being a perfect defence on that side.

The inner rampart, as may be seen from the section, is the higher and commands the rest. It has been made from chalk scooped out of the inside, leaving irregular cavities, which we found had afterwards been utilised as refuse holes.

The main points to be noted in the lines of this fortress are the flanking entrances, the adaptation of works to the shape of the ground and the position of the inner and higher ramp so as to sweep the glacis within reach of the sling or the bow. The outer rampart is commanded by the inner, and the outer slope of the scarp is more gentle than that of the counterscarp. It is likely that one rampart at least was crowned with palisades. The fortress is an admirable illustration of the high military art practised in Britain in the Prehistoric Iron age, intended for the protection, not merely of the inhabitants of the district, but of their flocks and herds.

3.—The Age of the Outer Fortress.

The important question as to the archæological age of this great stronghold is satisfactorily answered by the researches of Mr. Durden and the work of Mr. Warne. The gold British coins, proved by Sir John Evans to have been in circulation in this country before the Roman occupation, and the sword, with its hilt beautifully adorned with late Celtic designs, now in the British Museum, point out unmistakably that it belongs to the later portion of the Prehistoric Iron age immediately before the Roman Conquest.

The coins described by Sir John Evans[1] in his classical work leave no doubt on this matter. They consist of un-

[1] *Ancient British Coins*, p. 101, Pl. F 2; p. 102, F 3; p. 117, G 5, 6; p. 125, H 2; pp. 148-149; 213-214.

inscribed silver and brass coins, which are copies of copies of the golden stater of Philip of Macedon, and come late in the series. One is an uninscribed tin coin copied from a Gaulish original. Of the two inscribed, one of base metal bears the legend INARA (?), referred by Sir John Evans to a date after Cæsar's invasion; the other, brass coin, with CRAB on the obverse, also belongs to the same time. The uninscribed tin coin has been found in the fortress of Mount Caburn, near Lewes, proved by Gen. Pitt-Rivers's discoveries to belong to the Prehistoric Iron age. Mr. Warne's opinion that Hod belonged to the Durotriges, who were in possession of this district at the time of the Roman Conquest, in probably true. In my opinion it clearly belongs to the same period as Worlebury Camp, at Weston-super-Mare, and Badbury Camp, near Northampton, where similar remains have been discovered—to the same period as the settlement in the marshes near Glastonbury, explored by Bulleid, and the cemetery at Aylesford, in Kent, described by Mr. Arthur Evans.

4.—The Roman Inner Fort.

The inner camp, known locally as Lydsbury Rings, differs entirely in its style of fortification (see Fig. 1) from the outer, although the north-western corner of the latter has been utilised in its construction. The regularity and straightness of the fosses and ramps, the position of east and southern entrances nearly in the middle of the sides, and the use in each case of a *tete du pont* point unmistakably to the Roman engineers. The southern or weaker side has been protected by a mound on the inner ramp on the east side of the entrance, and by the south-eastern angle being strengthened by an additional ramp. The outer fosse cuts the western ramp of the outer camp and is joined to the first fosse of the latter. On the northern side it ends abruptly at the northern ramp, strengthened at the angle by its increased height. Both these circumstances imply that Lydsbury Rings are later than the outer fortification. They are as distinctly Roman as the latter are Pre-Roman.

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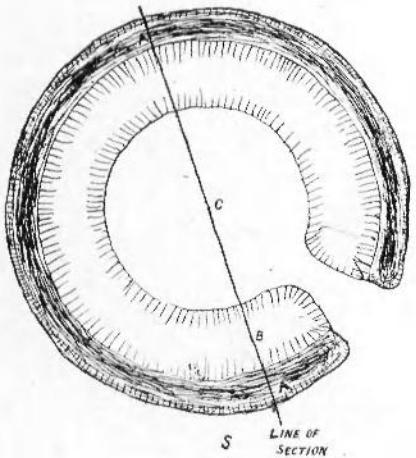
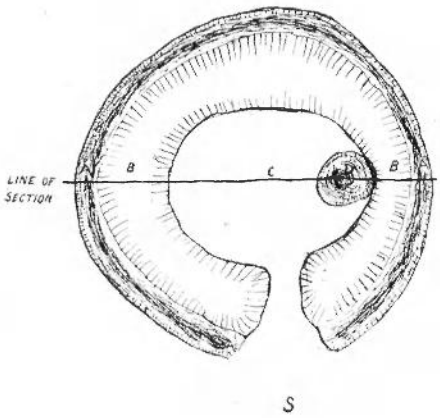
FIG. 2.



Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to foot.

FIG. 2. Circular Enclosure No. 1 (Fig. 1). Plan and Section.

FIG. 3.



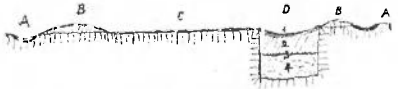
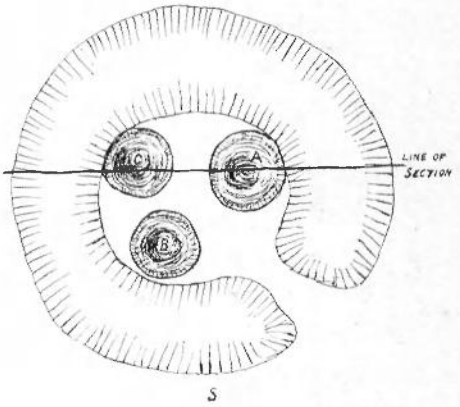


FIG. 3. Enclosure with one pit, No. 4 of Fig. 1.

FIG. 4.



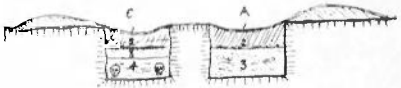


FIG. 4. Enclosure with three pits, No. 6 of Fig. 1.

5.—The Diggings within the Outer Ramparts.

Nearly the whole of the area of both fortresses had been ransacked by Mr. Durden during the last fifty years, and the rich harvest which he obtained of Roman and Pre-Roman age has now for the most part found its home in the British Museum, without any record as to the precise circumstances of each discovery. A large portion, too, of both fortresses had been under the plough. We therefore began our exploration in those portions which had apparently been undisturbed in the south-eastern corner of the outer and older fortress, where the rings and depressions which marked the sites of old habitations were thickest and best preserved.

5a.—The Circular Enclosures.

We began with one of the rings, No. 1 on the plan (Fig. 2). It consisted of a ditch on the outside from 5 to 7 feet across, and 1 foot 10 inches deep, surrounding a low ring of chalk about 9 feet wide by 1 feet 3 inches high, with an entrance 3 feet 9 inches wide to the south-east. Inside there was a flat space 24 feet in diameter, which presented the following section :—

	ft.	in.
1. Turf and mould	0	6
2. Mould and rubble chalk	0	6
Chalk rubble undisturbed.		

Underneath the mould, and resting on No. 2, there were large numbers of carefully chosen oval flint pebbles, which had been selected for slingstones (glandes). There were also pot-boilers more or less calcined, and fragments of black cooking pottery, and bones of *Bos longifrons* and sheep or goat. Most of these occurred near and in a mass of charcoal in the centre, which marked the site of a hearth. The purpose to which this enclosure was put is unknown. It may either have been a yard, or it may have been an enclosure with a circular hut inside, which was not sunk beneath the level of the ground. There are many other similar rings without depressions, which we did not examine, because this proved so barren of results.

5*b*.—*The Pits without Enclosures.*

We next examined one of the circular depressions without any ring, about 41 feet to the north of the above ring (see Fig. 1, No. 3). It was 8½ feet in diameter, with its centre 1 foot below the general surface of the ground. Its section was as follows :—

	ft.	in.
1. Turf and mould with slingstones and fragment of coarse black pottery	0	6
2. Soil and rubble chalk with layer of charcoal in centre on a hearth of flints, at 2 feet below the surface. Pot-boilers, coarse pottery, bones of *Bos longifrons*, sheep or goat, and hog, and a fragment of a human skull occurred in this layer...	3	0
3. Chalk rubble with fragments of black and red coarse pottery with sand and small stones in the paste, hand-made, probably cooking, vessels, as well as fragments of the bones of the above domestic animals	1	4

The total depth down to the undisturbed chalk was 4 feet 10 inches, and the bottom was flat.

A second depression, No. 12 of plan (Fig. 1), about 200 yards to the south-west of Steepleton Gate, measured 6 feet 8 inches by 5 feet 9 inches, and was 3 feet deep. It contained coarse pottery, pot-boilers, a fragment of a quern, and the bones of the *Bos longifrons*, hog, and sheep or goat.

A third (Fig. 1), No. 11, measuring 6 feet by 5 feet 6 inches, gave the following section :—

	ft.	in.
1. Turf	0	6
2. Chalk rubble with mould and charcoal, black coarse pottery, iron nail and a bent iron implement resembling one of those found by General Pitt-Rivers at Woodcuts and taken by him to be a key, coarse pottery and the remains of the domestic animals above mentioned, pot-boilers...	2	4
3. Chalk rubble with similar refuse bones, including one of a dog, and a fragment of iron slag ...	1	0
Total depth	3	10

5c.—*Pits within Enclosures.*

We next turned our attention to the enclosures containing pits, of which there are many in the settlement. One on the east side (see plan, Fig. 1, No. 4, and Fig. 3) measuring 43 feet 6 inches by 42 feet 6 inches contained a pit 6 feet in diameter on the east, and had an entrance 3 feet wide on the south.

The section of the pit (Fig. 3), is as follows :—

	ft.	in.
1. Turf and soil	0	6
2. Rubble chalk with loam and charcoal and refuse-bones, red lathe-turned pottery, pot-boilers, a fragment of burnt clay and of iron slag, and an eyed nail of iron	2	6
3. Layer of flints forming a hearth with charcoal ...	0	4
4. Rubble chalk with four loom-weights at 4 feet from the surface, and a charcoal layer at 4½ feet. A second layer occurred on the west side resting on the bare chalk at a depth of 5 feet 8 inches	2	4
Total depth...	5	8

This stratum contained the usual refuse-bones and coarse pottery. The loom weights are made of hard blocks of chalk, and are identical with those which have been figured by General Pitt-Rivers from the Romano-British village of Woodcuts, and from the fortress Mount Caburn, near Lewes, which belongs to a late period in the Prehistoric Iron age.

A second enclosure with pit (No. 5 of plan, Fig. 1), in the south-eastern quarter of the settlement, consisted of the usual ditch surrounding the bank, and measured 47 feet in diameter, including the ditch. The entrance is on the east side, and a circular pit 8 feet 6 inches in diameter occupied the western side of the interior. The section was the same as before. There were the bones of the same domestic animals, coarse red pottery, pot-boilers, and slingstones intermingled with charcoal. An iron harp-shaped Roman fibula, similar to those figured from Woodcuts, a fragment of Samian ware, and an iron nail clearly indicate that the upper portion of this pit had been used in Roman times, at all events down to a depth of 1 foot below the surface. The chalk rubble below, to

a depth of 4 feet, contained the usual refuse-bones, pot-boilers, and coarse hand-made cooking pottery, but presented no traces of the Roman influence.

The next group of pits (No. 6 of plan, Fig. 1) enclosed by a bank without a ditch is in the eastern quarter to the south of No. 4, and occupies a circular space of 45 feet in diameter. It consists of three, the entrance (3 feet wide) to the enclosure being to the south-east. They yielded more interesting results than any of our other excavations.

In pit A, 9 feet by 9 feet (Fig. 4), the section is as follows :—

	ft.	in.
1. The turf and subsoil, yielding fragments of mediæval pottery	0	6
2. Chalk rubble mixed with soil containing the usual refuse-bones as well as those of the horse, oyster-shells, a fragment of Samian ware, iron nails, clasps, an iron harp-shaped fibula and a perforated metacarpal of sheep, fashioned into an implement resembling a shuttle, of the same kind as those figured by General Pitt-Rivers from the British village of Rotherley. (*Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, Vol. II, p. 173.) There were also pot-boilers and slingstones associated with charcoal, and iron slag which had been cooled on the bottom of an earthen tuyere. Two fragments of human tibiæ, one platycnemic and the other normal, and a carinated human femur occurred in the upper part of this layer. A mass of charcoal extended from a depth of 1 foot on the east side to 3 feet on the west. It rested on a hearth consisting of blocks of flint ...	2	6
3. Chalk rubble with the usual refuse, pot-boilers, slingstones, and coarse pottery, along with the fragments of a human sacrum and vertebræ, which had probably formed part of an interment disturbed in later times	3	6
Total depth	6	6

In this case the abode of the living had been used for the last home of the dead and afterwards re-excavated for another dwelling, in which the stratum No. 2, with the Roman fibula, had been accumulated during the time of the Roman occupation.

Close to the south of the above, pit B, 8 feet 6 inches by 8 feet, gave the following section :—

	ft.	in.
1. Turf	0	6
2 Rubble, containing charcoal in a layer 3 inches thick, with black lathe-turned ware and bones of the above domestic animals and the usual fragments of coarse hand-made pottery. At the bottom was a hearth made of blocks of flint, resting on the chalk and covered with wood ashes...	6	0
Total depth...	6	6

The third pit in this singular group (Fig. 4, C) measured 9 feet 3 inches by 7 feet 10 inches and was 6 feet deep.

It presented the following section :—

	ft.	in.
1. Turf and mould	0	6
2. Rubble, containing iron nails, fragments of coarse dark ware and the usual domestic animals, resting on a layer of ashes, lying on a hearth of flints...	2	6
3. Rubble with bones of domestic animals, large flints and coarse pottery	1	0
4. Rubble in which a perfect skeleton rested on its side, at a depth varying from 4 feet to 4 feet 6 inches from the surface. There were also bones of a child and an old man, probably belonging to a previous interment. The remains of the domestic animals and the coarse pottery were the same as those of No. 3	2	0
Total depth..	6	0

The skeleton belonged to a young adult, and had been buried in the crouching posture with the legs gathered up. It rested on its side with the head to the north-west, touching the side of the pit.

The interment probably belongs to the Prehistoric Iron age, and the hut had been occupied in later times when the burials had been forgotten. I was informed by Capper, a workman employed many years ago by Mr. Durden, that a skeleton buried in the same crouching position was then discovered in pit No. 13 of Fig. 1. Similar interments have also been noted elsewhere in similar pits, as for example in those described by Sir

Henry Dryden in the prehistoric fortress in the Iron age, close to Northampton. The skull, it is interesting to note, has a cephalic index of ·719 and belongs to the same long and oval-headed race as the inhabitants of the Romano-British village of Woodcuts.

5*d*.—*Trenches close inside Principal Rampart.*

We turned now to the examination of the hollow from which the chalk had been to a large extent excavated for marking the principal rampart. Two trenches were dug, one on each side Steepleton Gate, and carried down to the chalk. That on the north (No. 14 of Fig. 1) was 20 feet long, 2 feet 7 inches wide, and 2 feet deep. It yielded the usual refuse-bones of the domestic animals, pot-boilers, coarse red and black pottery with sandy paste, a fragment of a quern, and fragments of burnt clay. That to the south (No. 15) yielded similar remains, and in addition a bronze ring and fragments of iron slag. It was 10 feet long, 2 feet 6 inches wide, and 2 feet deep. It was near this spot that Capper found what he described to us as a bundle of swords rusted together, which formed part of the Durden collection. The unfinished swords, one of which is figured by Mr. Warne, probably belonged to this find. It is probable that this hollow on the inner side of the principal rampart was largely used for herding the domestic animals, and from the quantity of slag in some places, for iron smelting.

6.—The Settlement.

It is obvious that the circular depressions above described have been the bases of huts occupied for a long period, ranging from the pre-Roman times to a date later than the Roman Conquest. They may have been cooking huts rather than living huts, because their small size would make it difficult for them to be inhabited, while a fire was in the centre. It is, however, quite as likely that they were used for cooking at one time, and to shelter the family at another. They are not, as has been suggested, mere holes dug for the reception of refuse. They were surrounded by a wall composed of wattle and

daub, the burnt fragments of which were met with in the course of our digging. The ring of earth around some of them probably was crowned with a fence or palisades.

The exploration of these huts seemed to us sufficient to prove the nature of the whole settlement, and we did not think it necessary to examine the rest. It is interesting to note that the huts were aggregated irregularly together, and that the ditches outside the enclosures formed a complex system of drains on the slope of the hill, delivering the rain-water to the lower levels. They have also been used as paths between the enclosures. I must also further remark that the practice of arranging the huts in a settlement in orderly rows was unknown in Britain till the days of the Roman Conquest. This probably accounts for the fact that in the diggings at Silchester no traces have been met with of British habitations older than the Roman times. The Roman architects and surveyors made their buildings and streets in the usual rectangular fashion, and probably "Haussmanised" the interior of Calleva Attrebatum in such a way as to destroy the whole of the irregular dwellings.

7.—The Diggings within the Roman Fort.

We next turned our attention to the contents of the inner Roman fort of Lydsbury Rings, which has previously been described. The surface of this commanding position presented numerous pits, which were somewhat like those of the outer fortress, but were without banks and ditches. Out of these, three were selected for examination which had evidently been used as pits for refuse. In No. 7 of Fig. 1 the section was as follows:—

	ft.	in.
Turf	0	6
Chalk rubble with black, cooking, hand-made pottery, and grey lathe-turned Roman pottery, oyster-shells, bones and teeth of *Bos longifrons*, sheep or goat, and pigs	3	2

It measured 7 feet in diameter at the top, and tapered down to 3 feet 10 inches at the bottom.

In No. 8 of Fig. 1, measuring 5 feet 6 inches by 5 feet 6 inches, and 6 feet 4 inches deep, the section was

practically the same, and the contents were also the same as before. The two Roman coins, mentioned below, were found here. In No. 10 of Fig. 1, measuring 7 feet 3 inches by 7 feet 9 inches, and 5 feet 3 inches deep, an iron nail, a fragment of a thick red tile, and numerous burnt stones were among the most noticeable of the remains. In all there was the usual mixture of remains in Roman refuse heaps. They are all referable to the time of the Roman occupation, and are distinguished from the circular pits used for habitation and cooking outside the limit of the Roman camp by the contracted bottom and the absence of hearths, as well as by the presence of Roman refuse at the bottom.

We also cut a trench (No. 9 of Fig. 1) through the highest point, close to the centre of the camp, where there were signs of a circle, which might have been the base of a tumulus. It revealed the presence of a Roman trench 5 feet across and 4 feet deep, containing refuse-bones of animals, coarse pottery, nails, and the fragments of a human femur, vertebræ, and calcaneum.

The rarity of Roman remains in the fort is due to the area having been under plough down to the bare chalk, and to the fact that there were no excavations for the foundations of permanent buildings of stone, such as are found elsewhere. While it was under the plough it yielded large quantities of Roman implements and articles, which found their way into Mr. Durden's collections, and ultimately into the British Museum.

8.—The Date of the Roman Fort Proved by the Coins.

The two coins above mentioned[1] are coins of Augustus and Caligula, the first with DIVVS AVGVSTVS, S.C., on the obverse, and on the reverse CONSENSV. SENAT. ET. EQ. ORDIN. P.Q.R., Augustus seated to left, holding a cup and a laurel branch. This was struck in the reign of Tiberius. The second has on its obverse C. CAESAR. AVG. GERMANICVS. PON. M. TR. POT., with Caligula's bust with bare head to the left, and on the reverse VESTA S.C.,

[1] I have to thank Mr. Churchill for this identification.

Vesta veiled seated to the left, holding a cup and a sceptre.

These two coins belong to the period just before the Roman conquest of Britain, and from their freshness could not have been very long in circulation. Their evidence as to the date of the Roman occupation, when added to that of the fifteen coins mentioned by Mr. Warne as having been found at Hod Hill, is unmistakable. These latter belong to the following coinages :—

Augustus, B.C. 63–A.D. 14	4
Agrippa, B.C. 63–B.C. 12	1
Tiberius, A.D. 14–A.D. 37...	1
Germanicus, B.C. 15–A.D. 19	1
Caligula, A.D. 37–A.D. 41...	1
Claudius, A.D. 41–A.D. 54...	5
Nero and Drusus, A.D. 54–A.D. 68 ...	1
Trajan, A.D. 98–A.D. 117	1
	15

With the exception of the two last they all belong to the time immediately before the conquest under Claudius. They fix the date of the Roman camp to be very early in the history of the Roman Conquest. This conclusion is confirmed by the numerous Roman coins of a later date found elsewhere in the neighbourhood, at Ewerne, and more particularly in the Romano-British village at Woodcuts, described by General Pitt-Rivers. Had this camp been occupied at the same time as the latter the same group of late Roman coins would probably have been found.

9.—The Arts and Industries.

In the following table I have grouped the remains which were discovered in the course of our diggings :—

TABLE OF RELICS.

	In Outer Fortress.										Roman Fort.			
	Ring 1.	Ring 2.	Hut 3.	Hut 4.	Hut 5.	Group 6	Hut 11.	Hut 12.	Trench 14	Trench 15	Pit No. 7.	Pit No. 8.	Trench 9	Trench 10
Domestic animals	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Human bones	—	—	x	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—
Oysters	—	—	—	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	x	x	x	x
Ashes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	—	—	—	—
Hearth	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pot-boilers	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	—	—
Slingstones	x	x	x	x	x	x	—	x	x	x	—	—	—	—
Quern fragments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	x	—	—	—	—	—
Loom weights	—	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burnt wattle and daub	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coarse hand-made black pottery	x	x	x	—	—	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	—
Coarse hand-made red pottery	—	—	x	—	x	—	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—
Coarse lathe-turned red pottery	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hard grey lathe-turned pottery	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—	—	—
Amphora	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—
Red lathe-turned pottery	—	—	—	x	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samian ware	—	—	—	—	x	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—
Red tile	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x
Iron eyed nail	—	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron nail	—	—	—	—	x	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—
Iron key (?)	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron fibula	—	—	—	—	x	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron slag	—	—	—	x	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron ore	—	—	—	—	x	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	x
Iron ring	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—
Bronze buckle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—	—	—	—
Bronze ring	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	—	—
Bronze coins	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

These relics prove that the inhabitants of Hod not only were farmers, but carried on the industries of spinning and weaving, of iron smelting, and iron-working. Their domestic animals consisted of the horse, the Celtic Shorthorn (*Bos longifrons*), the ancient Shorthorn, the small mountain sheep, the goat, the hog, and last, though not least, the dog. In the later time of the Roman occupation they also kept fowls, and obtained oysters and mussels from the neighbouring sea. The whole group of domestic animals is identical with that of Woodcuts, although the remains of the dog are too fragmentary to allow of the identification of the breed. It must also be noted that the coarse cooking vessels common in the Prehistoric Iron age continued to be used after the Roman Conquest. They have been proved by the discoveries at Silchester to have continued in use down to the end of the Roman dominion in Britain.

10.—General Conclusion.

The results of our exploration may be summed up as follows :—

1. The outer lines of fortification are, in their irregular shape and method of defence, clearly proved to belong to a type known in Britain elsewhere to be of Prehistoric Iron age, and to have been used by the inhabitants before and at the time of the Roman Conquest.

2. The pits inside mark the habitations, which were circular and composed in part like those of Woodcuts of wattle and daub.

3. The contents of these pits are divisible into the upper with, and the lower without, Roman remains. Consequently it may be inferred that the settlement continued to exist from the pre-Roman age well into the time when the Roman influence was dominant in the district.

4. When the Claudian invasion took place the commanding position of Hod attracted the attention of the Roman engineers, who made the castrum of Lydsbury Rings, in which they modified their usual rectangular plan to meet the circumstances of the ground. This military occupation, however, was probably not continued far into the second century. The castrum was probably

disused as the country became more and more tranquillised.

5. As the country became free from the conflict of the warring tribes, which was ended by the Pax Romana, the necessity for the protection of the inhabitants within the outer lines ceased. The inhabitants were no longer compelled to have their settlement in so inaccessible a position, and probably migrated into the lower and more fertile grounds, to found other more convenient habitations in the open country. As the evidence stands at present, I should feel inclined to couple the depopulation of Hod Hill with the establishment of the neighbouring Roman centre of culture at Ibernio, the modern Ewerne, in which Lady Baker and General Pitt-Rivers have discovered remarkable buildings with frescoed walls. The exact date when this took place must be left for settlement to the results of further explorations on Hod Hill and at Ewerne.

List of Illustrations.

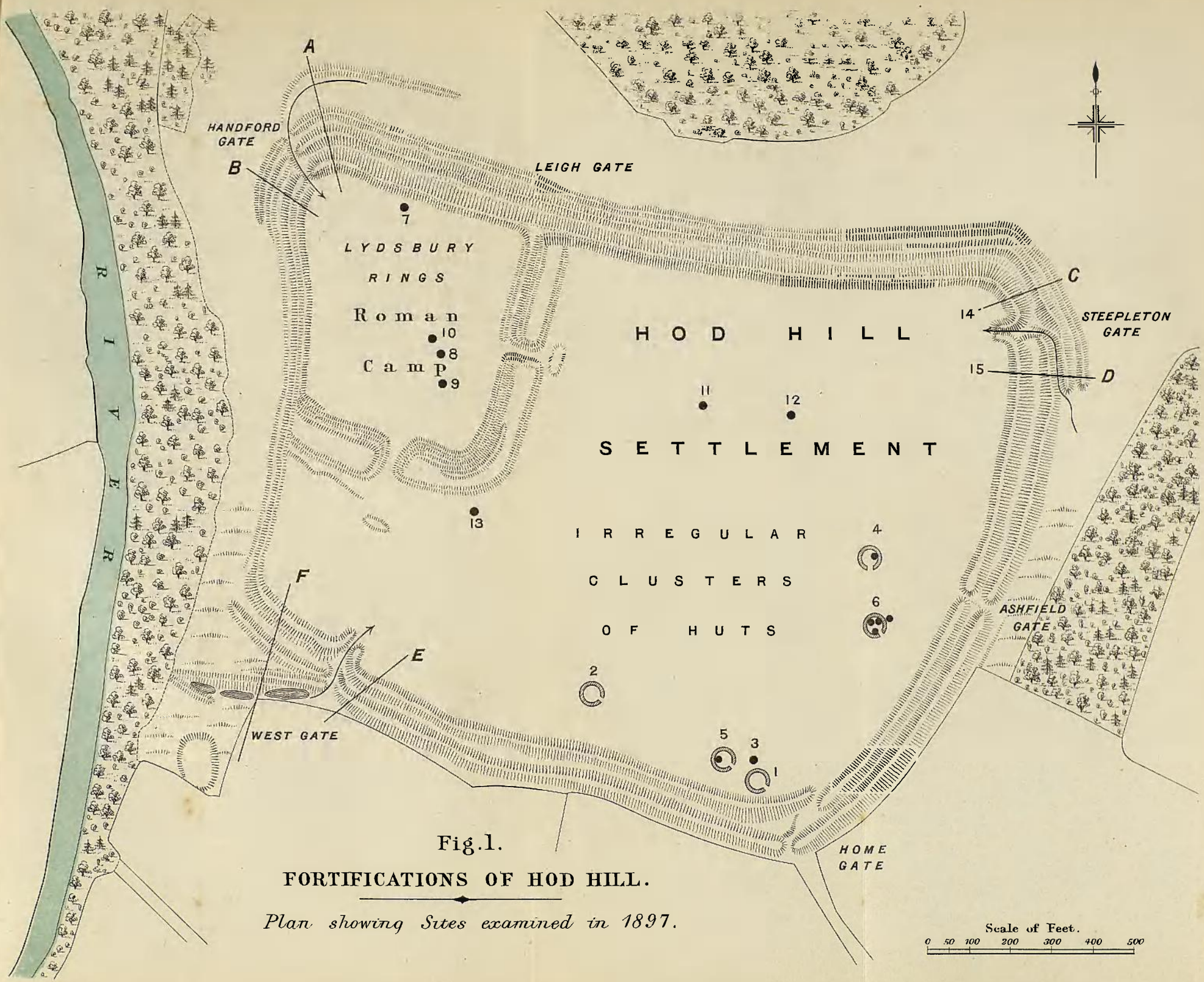


Fig. 1.

FORTIFICATIONS OF HOD HILL.

Plan showing Sites examined in 1897.