

BARROWS OF THE CHILTERN

By JAMES F. DYER

This survey is an attempt to place on permanent record all the known barrows of every period in the area connecting Wessex with East Anglia—the Chiltern Escarpment. The main importance of the region is that it forms the narrow bridge between the two great centres of prehistoric culture in East Anglia and Wessex and is followed throughout by that vital trade route, the Icknield Way.

The Chiltern Hills stretch for seventy miles in a north-easterly direction from Goring-on-Thames to Royston in Hertfordshire and to-day form a belt of delightfully wooded country averaging some three miles in width. As a geographical unit it is desirable to confine the region to the chalk escarpment and a line to the south-east where the chalk and clay-with-flints become so obscured by more recent deposits as completely to alter the topography. The escarpment is higher in the west and is broken by a number of dry valleys or 'wind-gaps' and at Luton by the river Lea. At its western end near Watlington it is 837 feet above sea level and drops to 525 feet at Royston. At Coombe Hill, Bucks. it reaches a height of 840 feet and at Ivinghoe Beacon, 811 feet. Most of the hills are capped with clay-with-flints which passes on the south-eastern side into pebbly clay and would originally have given rise to dense vegetation. On the north the hills are bounded by the Gault Clay vale of Oxford, Aylesbury and Barton, which also supported a heavy forest type of vegetation, leaving only a relatively narrow strip of open chalk escarpment, in places less than a quarter of a mile in width, which represents the original Icknield Way, prior to enclosure in the 18th century A.D.

As will be seen from the distribution map, almost all the barrows of prehistoric origin lie on the chalk escarpment, whilst barrows of probable Roman or Saxon date are found on the clay lands to the north and south as well. In many places it is noticeable that barrows have been sited on low or 'false' crests when higher ones have been available, presumably because the higher hill was clay-capped and probably tree-covered; this also causes them to appear on the sky-line when viewed from the Icknield Way below. The Chiltern barrows afford little evidence to support the theory of Neolithic and Bronze Age forest clearance. One or two barrows have been included in this paper which fall just outside the area of the Chilterns above defined, but whose connections with the Icknield Way make their apparent misplacing legitimate.

This paper attempts to fill the gap in the study of the north-eastern distribution of barrows between the areas covered by L. V. Grinsell in his 'Bronze Age Round Barrows of Wessex'¹ and by Sir Cyril Fox's *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* and O. G. S. Crawford's 'Field Archaeology of the Royston

¹ P.P.S. 1941, 73 ff.

District'.¹ The number of barrows in each part of a county covered by the Chilterns and recorded in this survey may be tabulated as follows:—

	<i>Long Barrows</i>	<i>Round Barrows</i>
Bedfordshire	5	25
Buckinghamshire	—	29
Cambridgeshire	—	22
Hertfordshire	1	56
Oxfordshire	—	4
	—	—
TOTAL	6	136

These numbers are of course only approximate since many more remain to be discovered by field work and aerial photography, whilst others have been destroyed by building and quarrying.

BARROW TYPES

(1) *Long Barrows*: Four long barrows are known from the Chilterns and possibly six. Of these three have been totally destroyed and two partially, only one example remaining complete. All were probably of the earthen type, the finest example being that on Royston Heath². It is possible that some may have contained wooden chambers.

(2) *Round Barrows*:

(a) *BOWL BARROWS*: As in other parts of Britain the bowl barrow is by far the commonest type. In the Chilterns they may be divided into two sub-groups: (i) ditched, and (ii) scraped.

(i) Most of the larger barrows have been built of material quarried from a surrounding ditch. In some cases the ditches do not appear to be present due to silting, ploughing or the slipping of the central mound over the ditch. In other barrows the ditch has been deliberately buried beneath the mound as in the Five Knolls No. 5 at Dunstable (although this may coincide with the enlargement of the mound at the time that a secondary cinerary urn was inserted).

(ii) Around some smaller barrows there has never been a ditch, the material for the mound having been scraped from the surrounding ground surface; examples are to be seen on Beacon Hill, Ellesborough; on Whiteleaf Hill, Monks Risborough and at Cop Hill, Bledlow.

(b) *BELL BARROWS*: These barrows have berms of varying widths, though averaging 8 feet, separating the mound from the ditch. In the Chilterns they are generally smaller than in Wessex and East Anglia, and the ditch often tends to surround two or three mounds forming twin or triple barrows. The two finest examples have recently been ploughed up at Lodge Hill, Saunderton; other good examples may be seen at Bacombe Hill, Wendover and at Dunstable where the ditch surrounds three mounds forming an irregular triple barrow.

¹ P.P.S. 1937, 97 ff.

² C. W. Phillips, P.P.S. 1936, 101-7.

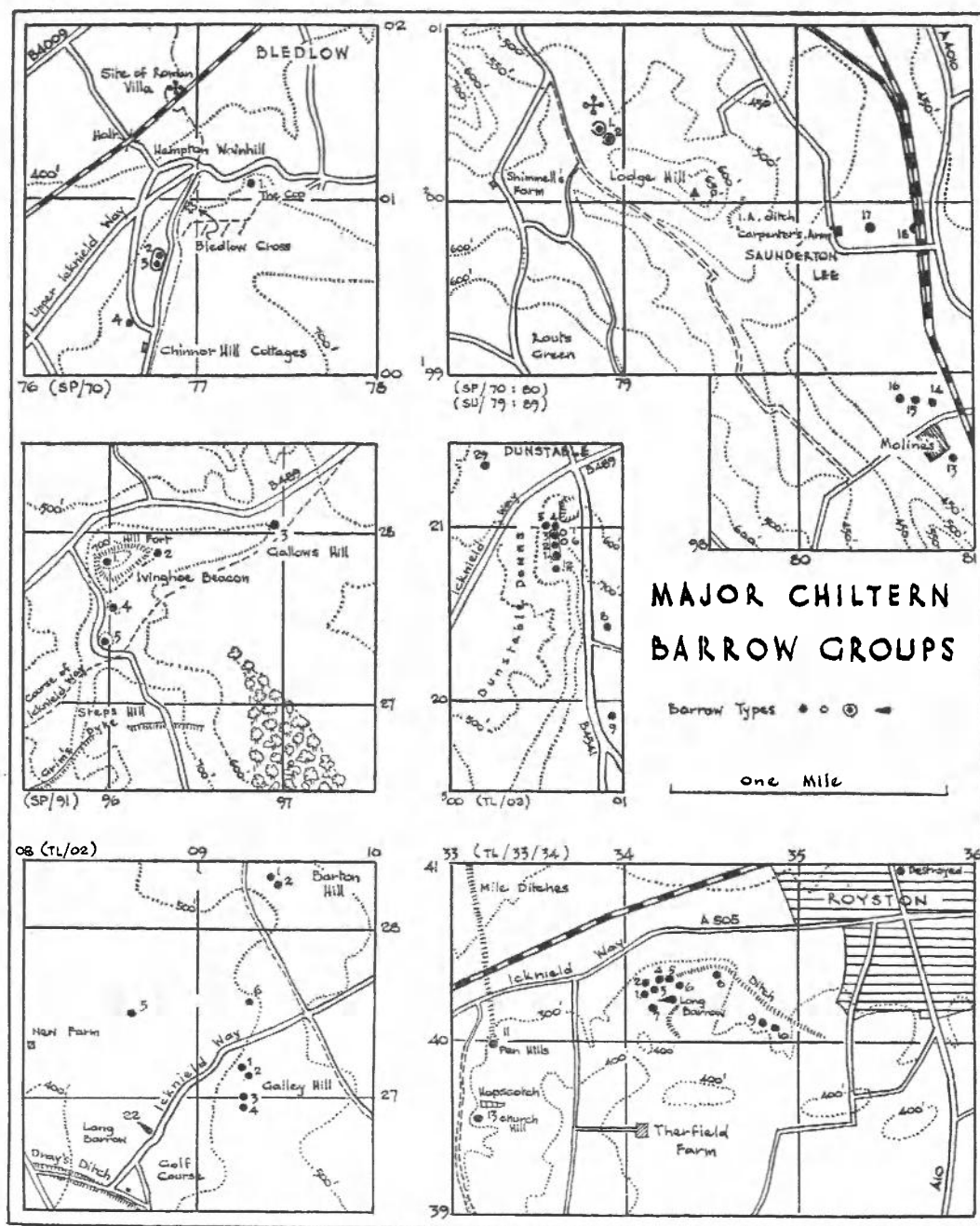


Fig. 1. Major barrow groups in the Chilterns

L. V. Grinsell has recently shown¹ that the bell barrows of Wessex more frequently contained male burials, whilst associated disc barrows contained female burials; but the sex of the Chiltern bell barrow interments can in no case be determined and only one doubtful disc barrow has been identified in our region. A number of Chiltern bell barrows are of Neolithic date (e.g. Five Knolls Nos. 2 and 3) but were probably enlarged during the period of the Wessex Culture.

(c) POND BARROWS: These barrows consist of shallow circular depressions surrounded by an embanked rim and it has been suggested that they may be the Wessex Culture counterpart to the Secondary Neolithic Henge.² There are two probable examples at Dunstable and one at Whiteleaf.

(d) DISC BARROWS: A flat central area with a small mound is usually surrounded by a ditch and external bank. Only one doubtful example has been recognised in the Chilterns near Lannock Farm at Weston in Hertfordshire.³

(e) ROMAN AND SAXON BARROWS: The Roman barrows average 100 feet in diameter and are steep-sided or conical with flat tops, and occasionally ditched; the exception in the Chilterns being Adwell Cop which is 150 feet in diameter and very overgrown. The Saxon barrows tend to be very steep-sided with wide flat tops and deep ditches.

(3) *Long Mounds*: Two long, narrow mounds, sometimes called pillow-mounds have been observed in the Chilterns and should not be confused with long barrows. One is situated on Lodge Hill, Saunderton and one south of the Five Knolls, Dunstable. Their proximity to large barrow groups suggests that they may possibly represent mortuary enclosures.

CHRONOLOGY

NEOLITHIC PERIOD

(1) *Long Barrows*: The Therfield Heath long barrow at Royston was opened by E. B. Nunn in 1855 and by C. W. Phillips in 1936. A disarticulated human skeleton was found at the western end. Knocking Knoll at Pegsdon was opened by William Ransom in 1856 but there is no record of his findings. A small chalk cist containing a crouched inhumation was discovered by farm labourers a few years ago, presumably from the ploughed half of the barrow. There is no record of any finds from the Mill Hill long barrow at Dunstable.⁴ The kidney-shaped barrow dug by Sir Lindsay Scott at Whiteleaf, Monks Risborough⁵ may also be considered in this group since it exhibited features more akin to long than round barrows. Here the barrow had a horned entrance and collapsed wooden chamber surrounded by wooden retaining walls and a circular ditch. The barrow is discussed further under 'Structure'.

Two polished axe-heads of Cornish greenstone⁶ were found in the vicinity

¹ L. V. Grinsell, *The Archaeology of Wessex* (1958), 99-101.

² R. J. C. Atkinson, *Arch. J.* CVIII, 15-17.

³ *E. Herts. Arch. Soc. Trans. Vol. I*, 138.

⁴ W. G. Smith, *Man the Primeval Savage* (1894), 331.

⁵ V. G. Childe, *P.P.S.* (1954), 212-230.

⁶ Now in Luton Museum.

of the destroyed Biscot Mill long barrow at Luton and part of another of similar material from the Bledlow Cop round barrow.¹ A jadeite axe probably from Brittany also came from the Luton site. An adze of chert was found on the surface of Coombe Hill near Wendover.²

(2) *Round barrows*: A few Chiltern round barrows contained features which appear to be Neolithic in origin. Number 5 in the Five Knolls group at Dunstable contained a crouched primary dolichocephalic burial with a polished flint knife of Secondary Neolithic type.³ In No. 4 of the Five Hills at Royston Nunn found nine disarticulated human skeletons heaped in an area 12 feet by 2 feet; in the same barrow was a small bone pin.

BRONZE AGE

The Bronze Age is represented by the greatest number of barrows, most of which are of bowl type. Of these, group (ii)- the scraped-barrows, may perhaps be presumed to be earlier, as they represent the simplest barrow form. Bell barrows of normal type stood at Lodge Hill, Saunderton (now badly damaged by ploughing) and at Royston (destroyed), whilst varieties consisting of twin mounds enclosed by a single ditch exist at Chinnor and three mounds and a single ditch at Dunstable. Two bell barrows at Dunstable (Nos. 2 and 3) pre-date the Wessex Culture, one containing Beaker sherds, together with Neolithic pottery of grooved, Abingdon and Ebbsfleet types, and both containing a circle of pits around a large central grave. Two other barrows close by, now destroyed, also contained circles of pits. Pond barrows which probably belong to the Wessex Culture are represented by examples at Dunstable and Whiteleaf and perhaps at Wendover. A flat grave, which may once have been covered by a barrow, was revealed on a building site at the foot of Dunstable Downs during 1958. Its contents included a rivetted ogival knife blade.

Contracted Burials: The only recorded example of contracted burials are from Barton Hill Farm near Luton, and the Five Knolls, Nos. 5, 8 and 9, where one was found with very debased Beaker-type sherds of unidentifiable form. A Necked Beaker from Hitchin is in the British Museum, but the exact place of its finding is unknown.⁴ Other Beaker sherds came from near the Cop Hill Barrow at Bledlow⁵ and at Dunstable (Five Knolls No. 2). It is noticeable that Beaker influence is surprisingly lacking in the Chilterns. A southern extension of the concentration of Beaker Folk in the Great Ouse valley and in that of its tributary the Ivel may perhaps be recognised as following the Ivel Gap, past Shefford where a Necked Beaker was found, southwards to Hitchin, and even in a debased form to Dunstable. The Cop Hill barrow at Bledlow may have contained a contracted burial but the central area had been greatly disturbed by previous digging. The crouched burial of a woman and child from the Five Knolls No. 8 has been published as surrounded by a circle of fossil echini;⁶

¹ J. F. Head, *Records of Bucks.* XIII, 313.

² *Records of Bucks.* XIII, 227.

³ N. Thomas, *Beds. Archaeologist*. Vol. I, 75.

⁴ G. Maynard & G. M. Benton, *Essex Arch. Soc.*

Trans., N.S. XV, 282.

⁵ *Records of Bucks.*, XIII, 313 ff.

⁶ W. G. Smith, *Man the Primeval Savage* (1894) frontispiece, 334.

it is now known that these were in fact scattered throughout the mound and not as depicted. The echini must have been collected from a wide area, at least 103 being found. The part they played in the burial ritual is naturally obscure, but they might be compared with pieces of freshly broken pot found throughout the mound at Whiteleaf. A single echinus was found between the legs of a secondary burial at Galley Hill No. 3, Streatley, Bedfordshire.

Inhumations other than contracted: The positions of all except three of some twenty other inhumations have not been recorded; they may belong to the Bronze Age, though in most cases due to lack of adequate excavation reports it is impossible to say. Barrow 13 at Royston contained an extended male skeleton in a chalk-cut grave 8 feet deep together with a cinerary urn, and above it a pygmy or 'incense' cup and arrow-head. A probable barrow at Tring contained an extended burial with arrow-heads, two wrist-guards, a small cinerary urn, and a large jet ring.¹

Cremations: Cremations in urns of Middle and Late Bronze Age date are fairly common in the Chilterns. In at least two cases the urn was inverted, its mouth stopped with clay, and the whole as at Royston wrapped in fabric and secured with a small bronze pin. One of these urns was of Middle Bronze Age type and would not have been out of place in a Wessex context, whilst the Royston example was of a late bipartite form.² In two instances at Walsworth near Hitchin and Royston No. 10 the ashes had been placed in a small wooden box. The practice of placing the cremation directly into a hollow in the barrow with no container, unless perhaps cloth, appears to have been quite common. In 42 barrows opened, 31 inhumation burials and 14 cremations were met with. This is quite contrary to Fox's findings further east in the Cambridge region where out of 55 barrows opened, 38 contained inhumations against 77 cremations. This is partly due to the central shaft method of opening, so widely practised in the Chilterns throughout the last eight hundred years, which must have failed to reveal many cremations not centrally placed.

Iron Age: There are no records of any Iron Age barrows in the Chilterns though Iron Age 'A' burials surrounded by ring-ditches were quarried away on much ploughed land near Leighton Buzzard, to the north of our region, in 1936. Adwell Cop is littered with late Iron Age and Romano-British sherds as are the barrows at Ivinghoe, one of which lies inside the Iron Age fortifications. Wayting Hill at Hexton, north of Ravensburgh Castle, may belong to this period.

Roman Period: The Six Hills at Stevenage are the classic Roman barrows in the Chilterns; others exist at Adwell, Gosmore, Knebworth and (destroyed) at Toddington, Biggleswade and Royston. One of the Six Hills according to Gough³ was opened in 1741 by Dr. Ducarel and others who found only 'wood and a piece of iron; the substance of gravel and fine clay. An old man in the town remembers opening the fourth and finding nothing'. From their

¹ *Archaeologia*, VII, 429.

² C. Fox, *Arch. Cambridge Region*, 40 and Pl. III, 4.

³ Gough, *Britannia* (1789), 343.

very irregular surfaces it is apparent that all six have been opened. Foxburrow, at Toddington, a little north of our region, contained numerous undecorated urns, burnt animal bones, several fragments of samian ware and an iron chopper.¹ Mention might also be made of the two Belgic burial vaults at Stanfordbury near Shefford which lie to the north of our area.²

Saxon Period: Two probable Saxon barrows stand near Hampden House in Buckinghamshire and are obviously later in date than the Iron Age (?) Grim's Dyke over which they lie.³ The classic barrow at Taplow is on the southern edge of our region. Other Saxon barrows may be seen on Moneybury Hill above Aldbury, and at Golden Parsonage, Gaddesden Row. A small mound north of Great Kimble church may also be of Saxon origin, but it is more likely to be connected with a Norman motte beside Little Kimble church.⁴ A barrow known as Windmill Heap which produced Saxon pottery and ironwork was destroyed at Caddington fifty years ago. One should also remember the opening of the now non-existent 'Hills of the Banners' at Redbourn, by monks of the Abbey of St. Albans in the 11th century; these too were probably Saxon. A number of barrows contained Saxon intrusive burials: examples have been found at Royston and Bledlow. At Dunstable 98 skeletons dated to about A.D. 450 were found scattered over the surface of barrow No. 5, many with hands apparently tied behind their backs and possibly victims of a massacre.⁵ A similar state of affairs was revealed at Galley Hill No. 3, Luton in 1950, where burials of similar period were discovered.⁶

STRUCTURE

Long Barrows: Through lack of adequate reports it is only possible to consider the Royston (Therfield Heath) long barrow and the Whiteleaf kidney-shaped barrow in any detail. At Royston⁷ an area was apparently stripped of turf and the human remains deposited on clean chalk near the western end. The turf was then built in a core over the burial and a ditch dug round the whole barrow, the material from it forming a solid crust over the turf core. A 'wall' of flints discovered by an earlier excavator near the eastern end may be the remains of a collapsed flint burial chamber.

At Whiteleaf we are faced with the problem of the untimely death of a competent modern archaeologist, Sir Lindsay Scott, before the publication of his report, and it has only been possible to reconstruct the barrow from fragmentary notes and sections.⁸ Here the barrow contained a rectangular wooden chamber covered with a small mound of earth and flints and, according to the excavator, retained by a wall of tree trunks. The chamber was entered from the

¹ Wyatt, *P. S. A.*, 2nd s., VI, 184-6.

² *V.C.H. Bedfordshire*, II, 13.

³ I cannot agree with Mr. D. F. Renn's classification of these mounds as Norman mottes of a temporary nature. (*Antiquity* XXXIII, 111).

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ G. C. Dunning and R. E. M. Wheeler, *Arch. J.*, LXXXVIII, 193. Since some graves overlie others, it seems more likely that these burials represent a series of executions spread over a number of years.

⁶ J. F. Dyer, *Bedr. Archaeologist*, Vol. I, 39.

⁷ C. W. Phillips, *P.P.S.* 1935, 101.

⁸ V. G. Childe, *P.P.S.* 1954, 212 ff.

west by a downward sloping ramp on which lay scattered the remains of a middle-aged dolichocephalic man. All this was covered with chalk quarried from an irregular surrounding ditch, only the entrance forecourt being left uncovered. From the lenticular stratification of the original earthen core it is obvious that it was built of small amounts of earth, perhaps brought in baskets from some distance away. Deposits of charcoal and freshly broken pottery in the mound seem to indicate the remains of funeral feasts. A comparison might be drawn between this barrow and the small henge-like barrows with a mortuary enclosure and turf-built hut at Barton Hill Farm north of Luton, Beds.¹ At both Whiteleaf and Barton Hill Farm a number of serrated flint flakes with glossed edges were found, together with Neolithic pottery combining features common to Ebbsfleet, Abingdon and East Anglian wares.² Flint-lined pits were met with at both sites; one at Barton containing a crouched burial.

Round Barrows: The primary burial, when crouched, is normally placed in the centre of the barrow in an oval grave some 3 feet by 2 feet. In some cases the central grave can take on a rectangular form as much as 12 feet long, as at Dunstable No. 8, or even a figure-eight plan as at Royston 11;³ depths vary from 1 to 8 feet. At Dunstable 2, 3, 8 and 9, the central grave was surrounded by six or seven smaller ones. The lenticular stratification of the mound observed at Whiteleaf has been seen also in numerous round barrows especially at Royston and Ashwell. A number of round barrows are composed of a core of turf stripped from the immediate area and then covered with a crust of chalk quarried from a surrounding ditch, a sequence fairly common throughout southern Britain. Four such barrows have been revealed by aerial photography between the Thrift and Marden Farm near Royston. In others the mound consists of material scraped from the surface, together with material sometimes brought from some distance away. The practice of covering the base of the mound with clay has been observed at Bledlow where it is suggested that it formed a 'waterproof' covering above the burial.⁴ The surrounding ditch appears to be U-shaped in most Chiltern prehistoric barrows though one wonders how often this is due to poor excavation; it is frequently extremely difficult when excavating in chalk to distinguish the primary silting of a ditch from the naturally weathered sides. In most cases the ditch completely surrounds the barrow, but in the two bell barrows at Lodge Hill, Saunderton it appears on the evidence of crop-marks to be broken on the western sides. At Barton Hill Farm near Luton, one of the henge-like barrows excavated there in 1954 had its ditch broken by a chalk causeway. In an adjoining site, a layer of large

¹ Interim notes: Dyer, *Herts. Countryside*, Spring, 1955.

² This hybrid pottery is generally rather coarse and flaky with much flint and shell in it. The decoration, whilst conforming to the accepted Ebbsfleet pattern, is occasionally continued in chevroned panels down the sides of the pots, which are sharply carinated and have pointed lugs of Mildenhall type. Sherds, unparalleled from any other sites, have a 'flat expanded top with deep

transverse impressions'. Sherds of Abingdon and Peterborough ware were also found at Barton Hill Farm, but in not sufficient quantity to determine whether they had been combined with motifs common to wares of other types. The sherds from the Causewayed Camp at Maiden Bower (in Luton Museum) also belong to this group.

³ J. Beldam, *P.S.A.*, 1st s., IV, 5.

⁴ J. F. Head, *Records of Bucks.*, XIII, 313.

flints had been spread along the floor of the ditch, which was partially dug in clay, in order, perhaps, to provide a dry passageway for some form of ceremonial procession or dance. In Dunstable No. 5 the ditch had been entirely covered by the mound, and the excavators suggested that this was purely of ritual significance; although, as has been said above, the mound was probably enlarged when a secondary collared-urn was placed in the barrow. It might, however, be remembered that the Manton barrow in Wiltshire and many Oxfordshire barrows north of the Chilterns had one or more ditches hidden by their mounds.

HISTORY OF CHILTERN BARROW STUDY

The earliest recorded barrow-opening in the Chilterns dates from about 1178¹ when monks from St. Alban's Abbey opened a group of probable Saxon barrows at Redbourn, called the Hills of the Banners, in search of the bones of St. Amphibalus. In 1290 it is recorded in the Annals of Dunstable Priory that a barrow called Golden Lowe in the grounds of Golden Parsonage, Gaddesden Row² was opened by Matthew Tyler of Dunstable who found great treasure there in the time of Edward I. In 1695 William Camden, in his *Britannia*, at Stevenage 'observed several large hillocks of earth thrown up, such as the Romans used to raise over the soldiers killed in battle'.³ The mounds, he adds, 'having ashes, coals, chalk, potsherds, etc., mixed with them'. Gough records the opening of one of these Six Hills at Stevenage by a Dr. Ducarel in 1741.⁴ In 1724 Dr. William Stukeley rode along the Icknield Way between Royston and Dunstable and recorded numerous barrows on the way. For instance at Pegsdon where there are 'barrows and dykes in a wood',⁵ at Galley Hill near Luton, and at Dunstable. A probable barrow excavated at the Grove, Tring⁶ in 1787 contained an extended burial with some flint arrow-heads, two archers' wrist-guards and a large jet ring together with a small cinerary urn. Gough⁷ referred to bones from Wayting Hill, Hexton, 'a little east of which and near the Icknield Street are two large tumuli' (at Highdown east of Pegsdon).

The first edition of the Ordnance Survey covering the Chilterns between Tring and Royston was prepared in 1823. On it are shown a large number of barrows, many of which have since been destroyed, and in some instances rediscovered by aerial photography. This map is useful too in providing the names of some barrows omitted on later editions. In 1847 the Hon. R. C. Neville was carrying out valuable excavation work on the 'Five Hills' east of Royston, a group of barrows now under plough which he duly published in a book, *Sepulchra Exposita*: and although leaving much to be desired by modern excavation standards, his book provides a landmark in the history of Chiltern barrow study. Thomas Inksipp in 1849⁸ recorded the destruction of two

¹ V.C.H. Herts. I, 256-8; Wright, *Essays on Archaeological Subjects* (1861), Vol. I, 285.

² Hearne, *Chronici sive Annalium Prioratus de Dunstable* (1773), II, 587.

³ W. Camden, *Britannia* . . . , ed. Gough (1789), 335.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ W. Stukeley, *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1724), I, 73.

⁶ *Archaeologia*, VIII, 429.

⁷ Gough, *Britannia* (1806 edn.) II, 66.

⁸ *Brit. Arch. Assoc.* IV, 57.

barrows at Clifton near Shefford. The so called 'Shefford Beaker' may have come from one of them¹ In 1850 the Bedfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society opened Nos. 3 and 5 of the Five Knolls at Dunstable; the former had already been opened, and meeting secondary burials in No. 5 they considered that that had been opened also and consequently abandoned work. During the next ten years Edmund Nunn² and Joseph Beldam examined most of the barrows at Royston; William Ransom opened Knocking Knoll at Pegsdon and may have found a 'rectangular cavity containing nothing but soil', and W. J. and B. Burgess were investigating barrows in the Great Hampden area.³ A barrow in Graffridge Wood, Knebworth was opened for the British Archaeological Association in 1869 and contained a probable Roman cremation.⁴ Limlow Hill, Ashwell, a barrow which from a contemporary engraving seems to have been at least 15 feet high, was removed in 1882 according to E. B. Nunn and Professor Hughes.

Perhaps the greatest field archaeologist in the Chilterns during the latter part of the 19th century was Worthington G. Smith, who recorded the Windmill Heap barrow at Caddington, the Mill Hill long barrow at Dunstable and the Five Knolls Nos. 8 and 9.

In this century the College of Surgeons Anthropological Society reopened two of the Five Knolls between 1926 and 1930 in a very unscientific manner which caused much horrified comment from Sir Cyril Fox and others.⁵ The opening of barrow No. 5 was completed by Mr. G. C. Dunning and Sir Mortimer Wheeler. The time-honoured but unsatisfactory method of trenching was employed by Mr. W. P. Westell at Gallows Hill, Kelshall in 1934.

Aerial photography reached the Chilterns in 1934 and with its aid Major G. W. G. Allen and Mr. O. G. S. Crawford discovered more than 100 new barrows in the Royston area, though most of them to the east of our region. In the 1930's scientific excavation of three barrows, by Sir Lindsay Scott at Whiteleaf, Mr. C. W. Phillips at Royston, and Mr. J. F. Head at Bledlow produced results of considerable importance; and since the Second World War, air-survey by Dr. J. K. St. Joseph and field work by Mr. L. V. Grinsell and the present writer have led to the results discussed in this paper.

LOCAL NAMES AND FOLKLORE

Mr. L. V. Grinsell has shown that the study of local names and folklore is as essential to the study of barrows as the details of their contents and characteristics. Of the Chiltern barrows some thirty still retain their local names and may conveniently be divided into small groups.

(1) *General*: The word 'lowe' from the Saxon *blaew* or *blaw* meaning a hill or barrow is preserved in Golden Lowe, Bledlow Cop, Limlow Hill, Metley

¹ C. Fox, *Beds. Hist. Records*, IX, 1.

² E. B. Nunn *Mss.* in Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.

³ *Bucks. Records*, I, 21 and 128.

⁴ *Brit. Arch. Assoc.* XXVI, 260.

⁵ C. Fox, and others, *Man*, XXVII, articles 12, 43, 55, 67, 77 and 109.

Hill, Highley Hill and Hounslow near Watlington. 'Cop', with similar meaning is used at Adwell Cop and is redundant in Bledlow Cop. 'Knap' is used for a small barrow such as in Mesmaknap on Lilley Hoo in Hertfordshire. 'Bury' from the Anglo-Saxon *beorg* is used for natural and artificial hills, and is present in Wilbury Hill and Moneybury Hill and in both cases is redundant. It also occurs at Foxburrow.

(2) *Numbers*: The Six Hills at Stevenage, called the Six Boroughs in the 16th century, are well-known, as are the Five Knolls at Dunstable. The latter are the traditional burial places of five kings.¹ On Royston Heath are the Five Hills and nearby are the Five Hills, Melbourn. Nylowe near Ashwell is an earlier form of Highley Hill² and probably refers to nine barrows, all except two of which have been destroyed. In a deed of 1339 relating to this area is a reference to Twymelowe—the two barrows.

(3) *Treasure*: Many barrows are connected with stories of buried treasure. The story of treasure found in Golden Lowe has already been mentioned. Moneybury Hill at Aldbury (Money Barr Hill, 1672) and Money Hill at Melbourn support local traditions of money being buried in the barrows. Sir John Evans recorded the finding of Roman coins near Moneybury Hill and a Roman building has since been discovered close by.

(4) *Later Use*: Windmills were built on the Mill Hill long barrow at Dunstable, Windmill Heap at Caddington and perhaps on the destroyed Biscot long barrow at Luton. Gallows Hill, Kelshall, Galley Hill, Luton, and Foxburrow, Toddington need no comment. The destroyed Church Hill barrow near the western end of Royston Heath and close to the mysterious 'Hopscotch' earthwork, is more difficult to explain. When the barrow was opened about a hundred years ago it was considered to have contained a 'Druid's Temple'. The 'Hills of the Banners' at Redbourn were used as a meeting place for people carrying banners, about to make an annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Amphibalus in St. Alban's Abbey.

(5) *Other names*: Personal names may be embodied in Fyler's Hill and Goffer's Knoll, perhaps also in Penn Hill and Mesmaknap. Past vegetation is revealed by the names Bush Barrow on Metley Hill, in Limlow Hill meaning lime-tree barrow and Wilbury Hill meaning willow tree barrow. Deadman's Hill, Kelshall had eight barrows on it, all of which have been ploughed down and revealed by aerial photography. Two were still standing in 1823. The name may have originated with the finding of scattered human remains on the field's surface. Pancake Hill, probably referring to the barrow's shape, is another name for Highley Hill at Ashwell. The Royston long barrow is still called the Long Hill.

As Mr. L. V. Grinsell has said, conditions for the preservation of folklore in south-east England are most unfavourable³ and with the opening up in recent

¹ W. G. Smith, *Dunstable, its history and surroundings* (1904), 159.

² Highley Hill, *Place-Names of Herts.*, 57.

³ L. V. Grinsell, *Ancient Burial Mounds of England* (2nd ed.), 70.

years of country districts by train and buses, and with more attractive opportunities of employment in the numerous lowland towns, many country people have migrated citywards taking with them the old traditions of their districts. Mass education through radio and television has made them city-minded, consequently many local folk tales have been forgotten. Even so, some folklore becomes 'modernised', and new stories are constantly appearing.

Perhaps the most famous folk story relating to barrows in the Chilterns was told of the Six Hills at Stevenage.¹ There are numerous versions of the story which is basically this:—

In a wood close to the Roman Road there used to be seven pits and a solitary barrow. One day the devil dug six spadefuls of earth from the wood and emptied them by the road, then he went back to the wood and dug the seventh pit. As he was returning to the road he tripped and dropped the last spadeful which made the last barrow in the wood. Unfortunately the wood and pits no longer exist due to the post-war sprawl of modern building.

A longer, but less well-known story, is that connected with the 'Hills of the Banners' at Redbourn. The Chronicle of Roger of Wendover relates how in 1178 a man in the town of St. Albans, by name, Robert, was awakened in the night by the ghost of St. Alban who commanded that Robert should follow him, and he would show him the spot where St. Amphibalus was buried. He led Robert along the Watling Street to Redbourn. 'In this place were two mounds called the Hills of the Banners . . . , St. Alban took the man to one of these mounds which he told him was the sepulchre of St. Amphibalus, and touching it with his finger he saw a cist, which, he was told, contained the bones of the saint. Next day the man told his story abroad, and it was carried to the abbot, who set a watch upon the mound until it was opened; for so many people crowded to the spot, that during the digging, it presented the appearance of a fair. At last the monkish barrow diggers discovered the bones. The holy martyr Amphibalus lay between two of his companions, whilst the third was found lying crossways in a place by itself. They also found near the place, six others of the martyrs making ten in all. Among other reliques of this champion of Christ were found two large knives, one in his skull and the other near his breast, confirming the account which was handed down from ancient times in the book of his martyrdom'.²

Wayting Hill at Hexton and the neighbouring Iron Age hill-fort at Ravensburgh Castle have long, though erroneously, been considered of Danish origin. The purple Pasque or Passion Flower (*anemone pulsatilla*) is considered to grow only where Danish blood has flowed; it is found at Knocking Knoll, Pegsdon and on Church Hill, Royston. Knocking Knoll is supposed to be hollow, and on certain days of the year it is said that you can hear an old man inside, knocking to be let out; a somewhat similar tradition exists nearby at Toddington in Bedfordshire where in a Norman motte called Conger Hill an old woman can be heard

¹ *Folklore*, XXVI, 156.

² Wright, *Essays on Archaeological Subjects* (1861), 285.

frying her pancakes every Shrove Tuesday. A warrior lies sleeping until the day when he can arise and march on to victory in Wayting Hill at Hexton, a name derived from Watch Hill.

The ghost of a horseman has often been seen near the barrows in Tingley Wood at Pirton. Tingley is derived from the words assembly-hill, and probably refers to one of the barrows standing on the parish and county boundary, which must have been a meeting place of some importance. The Tingley barrows were first recorded by William Stukeley but all except one have been lost due to reafforestation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank Mr. Anthony J. Hales for preparing the maps for me, and for proving an admirable companion when visiting more distant barrow groups. Mrs. Alison Young has checked my list of barrows of the western Chilterns, and Mr. L. V. Grinsell and Mr. Nicholas Thomas read the paper in typescript. For research facilities I am indebted to the Haddon Library, Cambridge and its Librarian, Miss Mary Thatcher.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TABLE OF RECORDED BARROWS:

- A.B.M.E.(2): Ancient Burial Mounds of England, 2nd ed. (1952), L. V. Grinsell.*
Arch: Archaeologia.
B.A.A.S.: Beds. Architectural and Archaeological Society.
Beds. Arch.: Bedfordshire Archaeologist.
B.H.R.S.: Beds. Historical Records Society Transactions.
B.A.Assoc.: British Archaeological Association Journal.
B.A.P.: Bronze Age Pottery: Abercromby (1912).
E.M.S.B.: Early Man in South Buckinghamshire; J. F. Head (1955).
E.H.A.S.T.: East Herts. Archaeological Society Transactions.
G.A.A.P.: Major George Allen Collection of Aerial Photographs, stored at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
J.B.A.A.: Journal British Archaeological Association.
St.J.A.P.: J. K. St. Joseph Collection of Aerial Photographs, Cambridge.
M.A.E.C.: Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.
N.C.: Numismatic Chronicle (New Series).
Nunn Mss.: Edmund Nunn Manuscripts, Haddon Library, M.A.E.C.
R. Bucks.: Records of Buckinghamshire.
R.C.H.M.B.: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Buckinghamshire.
St.A.A.S.T.: St. Albans Architectural and Archaeological Society Trans.
W. G. Smith: Man the Primeval Savage (1894).

LONG BARROWS

PARISH	County No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions in feet			Orientation (larger end first)	Other Details
				Length	Width	Height		
BEDFORDSHIRE								
Dunstable	21	Union St.	TL/012222	100	—	—	E.—W.	Destroyed. Stukeley, <i>Itinerarium Curiosum</i> (1724), 109
Streatley	22	Galley Hill 200 yards N. Dray's Ditch	TL/086268	300	40	—	E.—W.	Destruction witnessed by A. Cumberland about 1900. Rediscovered from air. J.F.D. Icknield Way curves round eastern end of it
Pegsdon	13	Knocking Knoll	TL/133311	100	—	10	W.—E.	Cut in two by ploughing. Now resembles large bowl-barrow. Opened W. Ransom, c. 1855
Luton	28	Biscot Mill	TL/079232	—	—	—	—	Destroyed, exact position not known. Probably on site of Biscot Mill Public House. Jadeite axe found near by, now in Luton Museum. Austin, <i>History of Luton</i> (1928), 15
Leagrave	20	N.W. of Waulud's Bank	TL/057247	100	60	2—3	E.—W.	Possible long barrow much ploughed. Now under grass in recreation ground
HERTFORDSHIRE								
Royston	26	On Royston Heath Golf Course	TL/342402	110	56	7	E.—W.	Earthen long barrow in good preservation, opened by Nunn in 1855 and C. W. Phillips in 1935: <i>P.P.S.</i> , I, 101. Finds: M.A.E.C.

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions Diam. in paces	Height in feet	Other Details
BEDFORDSHIRE						
Dunstable	1	Five Knolls Group	TL/006209	19	6	Probably unexcavated
Dunstable	5	Ditto	TL/006211	20	5	Secondary Neo. contracted burial. Polished flint knife; M.B.A. inverted cinerary urn. 98 Saxon intrusive burials. Opened B.A.A.S. 1850, also Dunning & Wheeler, <i>Arch. J.</i> LXXXVIII, 193ff. Finds: Luton Mus.
Dunstable	8	Site of Golf Club House	TL/008204	14	8	Destroyed. Woman and child burial with echini. Finds: Luton Mus. <i>W. G. Smith</i> , frontispiece
Dunstable	9	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of No. 8	TL/008199	14	8	Destroyed. Contracted burial of boy. Finds: Luton Mus. <i>W. G. Smith</i> , 332
Dunstable	10	Albion St., Dunstable	TL/013221	—	6	Destroyed. Crouched male. <i>W. G. Smith</i> , 330
Dunstable	11	S.W. Maiden Bower	SP/995218	40	0	Crop-mark, St. J.A.P.
Dunstable	12	S. of Five Knolls	TL/006208	10	1	Beacon site. 'Scraped'
Dunstable	29	Marina Drive	TL/001210	—	—	Destroyed: Circular flat-bottomed ditch. Cremation in urn. Wessex type ogival knife with 2 rivets. Finds: Luton Mus. <i>Dunstable Borough Gazette</i> , 2 May, 1958
Pegsdon	14	Tingley Plantation	TL/133304	20	3—4	Overgrown: unexcavated (?)
Streatley	15	Galley Hill 1	TL/092271	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	On hillside overlooking Icknield Way
Streatley	16	Galley Hill 2	TL/092271	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Streatley	17	Galley Hill 3	TL/092270	20	5	Saxon intrusives: Dyer, <i>Beds. Arch.</i> I, 39 ff.
Streatley	18	Galley Hill 4	TL/092269	14	2	Mutilated by Home Guard, 1940
Streatley	26	Galley Hill 5	TL/086274	13	—	Ploughed out: R.A.F. air photo
Streatley	27	Galley Hill 6	TL/092276	26	—	Ploughed out: D. M. Edwards air photo
Streatley	30	Barton Hill 1	TL/094282	33	—	Ploughed out: Circular flat bottomed ditch with causeway. 2 crouched burials and mortuary enclosure. Sec. Neo. ware. Interim note: P.P.S. XX, 228
Streatley	31	Barton Hill 2	TL/095281	33	—	Ploughed out: Circular flat bottomed ditch. Circular turf hut (?). E.B.A. urn fragments

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions Diam. in paces Height in feet		Other Details
Caddington	23	Caddington to Dunstable Road	TL/052193	—	—	Destroyed. 'Windmill Heap'. Contained Saxon pottery. <i>W. G. Smith</i> , 61
Clifton	24	In field three miles from Shefford	—	—	—	Inhumation, secondary cremation in urn. (Beaker?) <i>B. A. Assoc.</i> IV, 57. Destroyed 1848
Clifton	25	Ditto	—	—	—	Destroyed. <i>B. A. Assoc.</i> IV, 57. May have contained beaker found in 1819: <i>B.H.R.S.</i> IX, 1
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE						
Aldbury	29	Aldbury Nowers	SP/950131	30	6	Possible barrow. Cut into on S. by track
Bledlow	1	Wain Hill	SP/773011	20	7	'The Cop', 'scraped barrow' excavated by J. F. Head. Possible crouched burial. Secondary cremation without urn. <i>R. Bucks.</i> XIII, 313
Bennett End	24	On trackway opposite Bennett End Farm	SP/782971	10	3	Possible barrow. <i>E.M.S.B.</i> 56
Ellesborough	2	Beacon Hill, Chequers	SP/836062	8	3	'Scraped barrow'. Urn fragments. Opened B. Burgess. <i>R. Bucks.</i> I, 141
Great Hampden	25	On Grim's Ditch in Oaken Grove	SP/856020	30	12	Indications of opening. Saxon (?) <i>R. Bucks.</i> I, 138
Great Hampden	26	Ditto	SP/857020	30	13	Large central hollow. Saxon (?) <i>R. Bucks.</i> I, 138
Ivinghoe 1	4	Beacon Hill	SP/960168	23	3½	Ditched
Ivinghoe 2	5	E. of I. A. Camp	SP/963168	14	1½	Ditched
Ivinghoe 3	6	On Gallows Hill	SP/969171	30	4	Air photos show 4 others beside No. 3 on Gallows Hill. All very close
Ivinghoe 4	7	300 yds. S. Beacon Hill	SP/960166	14	2	
Ivinghoe 5	8	On summit, 500 yds. S. Beacon	SP/959164	15	5—6	Ditched
Ivinghoe 6	31	E. of no. 8	SP/960164	14	3	'Scraped'. (Not shown on maps)

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions		Other Details
				Diam. in paces	Height in feet	
Monks Risborough	9	Above Whiteleaf Cross	SP/822040	40	8	Neolithic, with timber structure. Excavated by Sir Lindsay Scott. Notes in <i>P.P.S.</i> , 1935, 1936, <i>R.Bucks.</i> XV, 298 Petrie, <i>Hill Figures of England</i> , 13. Childe and Smith, <i>P.P.S.</i> (1954), 212
Monks Risborough	11	N. end Whiteleaf Ridge	SP/821043	13	3½—4	'Scraped barrow'
Pitstone (near Aldbury)	12	700 yds. N. 100 yds. E. Monument in Ashridge Park	SP/971137	30	6—8	'Moneybury Hill', probably Saxon, suggestion of berm. Coin of Cunobelin, <i>N.C.</i> , X, 128
Saunderton 1	13	South of Molines Factory	SP/808984	20	—	Ploughed out
Saunderton 2	14	North Molines Factory	SP/807988	—	—	Opened prior to 1854: <i>R.Bucks.</i> I, 21
Saunderton 3	15		SP/806988	—	—	Opened with no result: <i>R.Bucks.</i> , <i>ibid.</i> Might be bell barrow
Saunderton 4	16		SP/805989	—	—	Air photo: <i>E.M.S.B.</i> , 53
Saunderton 5	17	E. Carpenter's Arms, Saunderton Lee	SP/804998	—	—	St.J.A.P.: <i>E.M.S.B.</i> , 53
Saunderton 6	18	Under railway embankment, E. of Carpenter's Arms	SP/806998	—	—	<i>E.M.S.B.</i> , 53
Stokenchurch	27 28	S. Collier's Lane	SP/765973?	—	—	Destroyed. 'Banky Burrowfield'. "Moderate size and height". <i>Bodleian Lib.M.S.</i> , Gough Oxon. 47
Taplow	30	Taplow Court	SU/906824	27	15	Saxon. Primary male burial, rectangular grave. Finds: B.M., Reading Museum. <i>J.B.A.A.</i> XL, 61-71
West Wycombe	22	W. corner of West Wycombe Park	SP/826946	—	—	Planted with trees. <i>R.C.H.M.B.</i> , 322
Wycombe Marsh	23	In Barrow Croft Field	SP/885914	—	—	2 inverted M.B.A. urns and pigmy cup. <i>P.S.A.</i> XII, 347; <i>B.A.P.</i> Pl. LXXXI, fig. 264; <i>R.Bucks.</i> VI, 259. Finds: B.M.

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions Diam. in Height paces in feet		Other Details
CAMBRIDGESHIRE						
Litlington	6	Limlow Hill	TL/323418	30	12—14	Destroyed. <i>Arch.</i> , XXVI (1836), 374-6
Litlington	10		TL/324416	—	—	Cropmark
Litlington	11	N. of Lim- low Hill	TL/323419	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Litlington	12	W. of High- field Cottages	TL/318410	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Litlington	13		TL/319410	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Litlington	14	300 yds. N. of Horse and Groom	TL/319399	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Litlington	15		TL/319400	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Melbourn	1	Highest point of hill and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile S.W. of Heath Farm	TL/383414	18	2	Cinerary urns and incense cup, opened R. C. Neville: <i>Sepulchra Exposita</i> , 17
Melbourn	2		TL/384414	20	$\frac{1}{2}$	Urn. cremation in shallow pit. Neville, <i>ibid.</i> , 24
Melbourn	3		TL/383414	24	1	Fallow deer antler, Saxon intrusive. Neville, <i>ibid.</i> , 26
Melbourn	4		TL/383415	15	$\frac{3}{4}$	Neville, <i>ibid.</i> , 21
Melbourn	5		TL/383415	17	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Neville, <i>ibid.</i> , 21
Melbourn	7	Goffer's Knoll	TL/392424	20	4	Hearth with cremation. Neville, <i>ibid.</i> , 84
Melbourn	8	$\frac{1}{4}$ ml. E. of Heath Farm	TL/391417	20	4	Marked on 6" O.S. maps
Odsey	9	100 yds. south Highley Hill and the railway	TL/288376	15	4	Ploughed down, with turf core (?)
Steeple Morden	16	E. of Upper Gatley Farm	TL/298408	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Steeple Morden	17		TL/298408	—	—	G.A.A.P.

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions Diam. in Height paces in feet		Other Details
Steeple Morden	18	300 yds. N.W. of Thrift Farm	TL/313397	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Steeple Morden	19		TL/313397	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Steeple Morden	20		TL/314398	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Steeple Morden	21		TL/314398	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Steeple Morden	22	½ mile due west Jockey House	TL/307390	—	—	Marked on 6" O.S. map
HERTFORDSHIRE						
Ashwell	1	Highley Hill	TL/286379	14	6	'Pancake Hill.' G.A.A.P.: No. 4/34
Ashwell	2	½ mile N.W. Rlway. Stat.	TL/295388	—	—	Group of crop-mark ring ditches, possibly barrows: St.J.A.P.
Bygrave	41	½ mile S.W. Harepark Farm	TL/277363	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Bygrave	42	½ mile S.W. Harepark Farm	TL/277363	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Bygrave	43	½ mile S.W. Harepark Farm	TL/278364	—	—	G.A.A.P.
Codicote	52	Codicote Heath	TL/205183	—	—	Trenched. E.H.A.S.T., V., 39. Belgic, destroyed by quarrying
Gosmore	3	See O.S.map	TL/186273	10	12	Roman. E.H.A.S.T., V., 108
Great Gaddesden	4	In Golden Parsonage	TL/053125	—	—	Saxon (?), 'Golden Lowe' in 12th century. Grinsell: A.B.M. E.(2), 110
Harpenden	2	Close Pickford Mill on R. Lea 1 ml. N.E. town	TL/141158	16	20?	Stone coffin, pale green Roman glass bottle, 4 samian cups. V.C.H. Herts. IV, 153
Hexton	5	½ ml. S.W. of Hexton Church	TL/102299	14	6	'Wayting Hill': contained 'bones'. Gough, <i>Britannia</i> (1806), 66
Ippollits	53	Ashbrook	TL/205282	30	—	St.J.A.P.: ring-ditch. Probable barrow

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions Diam. in paces Height in feet		Other Details
Kelshall	6	$\frac{1}{2}$ ml. S.E. of Ashwell Railway Station	TL/300380	43N—S 23E—W	6	'Gallows Hill, Metley Hill, Bush Barrow'. Trenched 1934: W. P. Westell, <i>E.H.A.S.T.</i> , IX, 71
Kelshall	44	$\frac{1}{2}$ ml. N.E. of Heath Farm	TL/309386	—	—	G.A.A.P. Cf. <i>P.P.S.</i> II, 102, Pl. XXIII
Kelshall	45	100 yds. N. E. of Heath Farm	TL/308382	—	—	
Kelshall	46	200 yds. N. E. of Heath Farm	TL/309383	—	—	
Kelshall	47	$\frac{1}{2}$ ml. S.E. of Coombe Farm	TL/328375	—	—	
Kelshall	48	$\frac{1}{2}$ ml. S.E. of Coombe Farm	TL/327375	—	—	
Kelshall	49	$\frac{1}{2}$ ml. S.E. of Coombe Farm	TL/326376	—	—	
Kelshall	50	N.E. of Coombe Farm	TL/313381	—	—	
Kelshall	51	N.E. of Coombe Farm	TL/313382	—	—	
Kelshall	54	W. of Thrift Hill	TL/314383	—	—	St.J.A.P. Two adjoining barrows
Knebworth	7	In Graffridge Wood	TL/215209	10	4	
Knebworth	8	In Graffridge Wood	TL/217210	10	4	Opened 1869, cremation, Roman (?). <i>B.A. Assoc.</i> : XXVI, 260
Lilley Hoo	9	Telegraph Hill	TL/117287	15	4	'Mesmaknap'
Royston Heath 1	16	Royston Heath	TL/341402	20	4	Cremation in urn, bronze pin. Now in M.A.E.C. <i>Numm Mss.</i> No. 6
Royston Heath 2	17	Royston Heath	TL/341402	13	6	
Royston Heath 3	18	Royston Heath	TL/341402	23	12	Ditched

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions		Other Details
				Diam. in paces	Height in feet	
Royston Heath 4	19	Royston Heath	TL/341403	20	10	Nine disarticulated skeletons, bone pin. <i>Numm Mss.</i> No. 4
Royston Heath 5	20	Royston Heath	TL/341403	16	10	Flint-lined grave, human bones and urn. In M.A.E.C. <i>Numm Mss.</i> No. 5
Royston Heath 6	21	Royston Heath	TL/342403	25	1	Cremation in hole. <i>Numm Mss.</i> No. 13
Royston Heath 7	22	Royston Heath	TL/341401	20	2	Flattened by Golf Course
Royston Heath 8	23	Royston Heath	TL/344403	17	6	'Earl's Hill.' (Iron seat on top)
Royston Heath 9	24	Royston Heath	TL/348401	20	10	Cremation in box. <i>Numm Mss.</i> No. 11
Royston Heath 10	25	Royston Heath	TL/347401	20	5	No finds recorded. <i>Numm Mss.</i> No. 12
Royston Heath 11	26	Royston Heath	TL/333400	14	4	Penn Hill, destroyed. Possible disc- barrow. <i>P.S.A.</i> (1st S.) IV, p. 5
Royston Heath 12	29	Near the Thrift	TL/320394?	10	6	Destroyed
Royston Heath 13	31	Church Hill	TL/332396	—	—	Destroyed
Royston	33	Few yds. N. of 'White Bear'	TL/355411	—	—	Destroyed. Nine burials, knife, spear, coins. <i>Numm Mss.</i>
Sandon 1	34	Deadman's Hill	TL/294371	—	—	Possible long barrow (?) G.A.A.P. <i>Antiquity</i> X, Pl. IV
Sandon 2	35	Deadman's Hill	TL/295371	—	—	G.A.A.P. <i>Antiquity</i> X, Pl. IV
Sandon 3	36	Deadman's Hill	TL/297369	—	—	
Sandon 4	37	Deadman's Hill	TL/297370	—	—	
Sandon 5	38	Deadman's Hill	TL/299369	—	—	
Sandon 6	39	Deadman's Hill	TL/299369	—	—	
Sandon 7	40	Deadman's Hill	TL/294367	—	—	

ROUND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions Diam. in Height paces in feet		Other Details
Stevenage 1	10	Northern	TL/237237	27	11	'Six Hills', Roman barrows Gough, <i>Britannia</i> (1789), 343 Rev. H. Fowler, <i>St.A.A.S.T.</i> (1890-1), 40. Dug by Dr. Ducarel <i>Antiquity</i> X, 39
Stevenage 2	11	$\frac{1}{2}$ mile south Old Town Centre	TL/237237	19	9	
Stevenage 3	12		TL/237237	20	10	
Stevenage 4	13		TL/237236	21	8	
Stevenage 5	14		TL/237236	23	10	
Stevenage 6	15	Southern	TL/237236	23	8	
Tring	30	Tring Grove	SP/935128?	—	—	Destroyed. Arrowheads, wrist-guards, jet rings, etc. <i>Arch.</i> VIII, 429
Walsworth	28	150 yds. south Railway line	TL/205318	50	4	Cremation in box, 'Coarse clay urn' copper knife, 2 spearheads, skeleton. <i>E.H.A.S.T.</i> (1904). Opened twice in 1816
Walsworth	—	S.E. of Cadwell	TL/196320	—	—	Group of crop-mark circles, possibly barrows. <i>St.J.A.P.</i>
OXFORDSHIRE						
Adwell	1	On Adwell Cop	SU/703990	50	12	Urn. <i>V.C.H. Oxon</i> , II, 345. Overgrown. Scatter of Romano-British pottery
Chinnor	4	In wood, N. W. Chinnor Hill Cottages	SP/765003	26	4	Flint flakes on surface. Mrs. Alison Young suggests a Saxon origin
Chinnor	2 & 3	Summit of Chinnor Hill	SP/767006	—	7	Twin bowl-barrow? Enclosed in same ditch. Overall length 135 ft., width 75 ft. Iron spearhead, bronze chape found 1885. Possibly kidney-shaped barrow as at Whiteleaf, Bucks.
Watlington	5	Between Watcomb Manor and Cobditch	— — —	—	—	'Hounslow', not visited. J.F.D.

BELL BARROWS

PARISH	County No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions in feet					Other Details
				Mound		Berm	Ditch		
				Diam.	Height	Width	Width	Depth	
BEDFORDSHIRE									
Dunstable	2	Five Knolls Group	TL/006209	80	8	4	5	9"	Opened: Surgeons Anthropol. Soc. 1925. Sherds of Abingdon, Ebbsfleet, Beaker wares; now in Luton Museum
Dunstable	3	Five Knolls Group	TL/006210	52	6	10	5	9"	Opened B.A.A.S. 1850, <i>Man</i> XXVII, 12
Dunstable	4	Five Knolls Group	TL/006211	60	6	10	2½	9"	Barrows Nos. 2, 3 & 4 enclosed within same ditch
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE									
Saunderton	19	Lodge Hill	SP/788004	60	4	5	5	—	Ploughed down. Human bone fragments on surface: Head, <i>E.M.S.B.</i> , 5. One opened 1854: <i>R. Bucks.</i> Vol. I, 21
Saunderton	20	Lodge Hill	SP/788004	60	4	5	5	—	Fragments of beaker, flint saws, etc. Head, <i>E.M.S.B.</i> , 5. Entrance causeway through ditch in 19 and 20
Wendover	21	Bacombe Hill	SP/862072	50	3	25	5	—	Probable bell-barrow
HERTFORDSHIRE									
Royston Heath	32	Golf Course		100	15	—	—	—	Possible bell-barrow. Fyler's or Money Hill. Cremation in bipartite L.B.A. urn. Bronze ingots. Beldam, <i>P.J.A.</i> (2nd ser.) I, 306. Finds: M.A.E.C.
Steeple Morden	22	Beside Railway	TL/307390	—	—	—	—	—	Turf core: St.J.A.P.: NI 91

POND BARROWS

PARISH	No.	Locality	National Grid Ref.	Dimensions in feet				Other Details
				Enclosed area		Outer bank		
				Diam.	Depth	Width	Height	
BEDFORDSHIRE								
Dunstable 6	6	Five Knolls	TL/006210	18	1½	9	1	Stukeley, <i>Itinerarium Curiosum</i> 109: 'Close by are two round cavities'
Dunstable 7	7	Five Knolls	TL/006210	35	2	15	1½	Ditto
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE								
Monks Ris- borough	10	Whiteleaf Hill	SP/822 041	48	3	8	2½	Appearance of pond barrow, but cross-shaped depression may in- dicate windmill base
Wendover	21a	Bacombe Hill	SP/862072	24	1	6	1	On southern side of bell-barrow No. 21

*The Institute is much indebted to the Council for British Archaeology
for a grant towards the cost of publishing this paper*

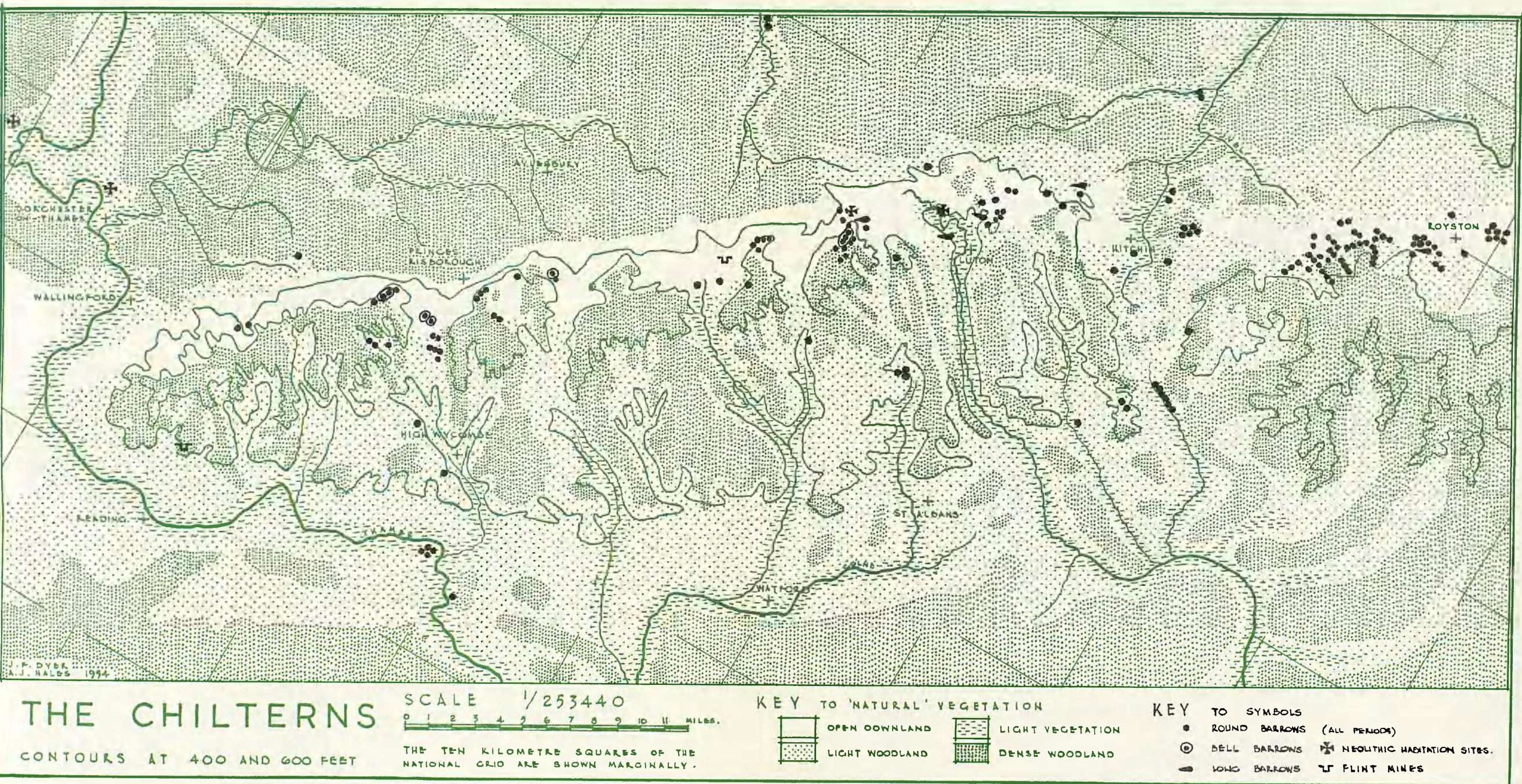


Fig. 2. Barrow distribution in the Chilterns

The reconstructed vegetation is based as far as possible on the published geological drift maps, but since sheets for some areas are unobtainable it has at times been necessary to base the vegetation on less extensive surveys carried out by the author.