

51

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LII

JANUARY 1958 TO DECEMBER 1958

CAMBRIDGE
DEIGHTON BELL

1959

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LII

JANUARY 1958 TO DECEMBER 1958

CAMBRIDGE
DEIGHTON BELL

1959

*Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (incorporating the Cambs and Hunts
Archaeological Society) by Deighton Bell, 13 Trinity Street, Cambridge*

*Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge
(Brooke Crutchley, University Printer)*

CONTENTS

<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1958-9</i>	<i>page vi</i>
<i>Report of the Council for the Year 1957</i>	vii
<i>Summary of Accounts for the Year 1957</i>	viii
A Beaker from Ely <i>By D. H. TRUMP</i>	I
Excavations at Whiteley Hill, Barley, Herts <i>By J. C. WILKERSON and M. D. CRA'STER</i>	2
A New Hoard of Romano-British Pewter from Icklingham <i>By JOAN LIVERSIDGE, M.LITT., F.S.A.</i>	6
A Roman Well at Exning, Suffolk <i>By DAVID E. JOHNSTON</i>	II
A Group of Romano-British Pottery with an Owner's Mark <i>By B. R. HARTLEY and E. STANDEN</i>	21
A Romano-British Farm at St Ives <i>By H. J. M. GREEN</i>	23
William Allington of Horseheath, Speaker in the Parliament of 1429-30. Paper I <i>By J. S. ROSKELL</i>	30
William Allington of Bottisham, Speaker in the Parliaments of 1472-5 and 1478. Paper II <i>By J. S. ROSKELL</i>	43
A Medieval Leather Box from Ellington, Hunts <i>By G. H. S. BUSHNELL</i>	56
Excavations on the Wandlebury Figures <i>By T. C. LETHBRIDGE and C. F. TEBBUTT</i>	58
Further Finds on the Arbury Road Estate <i>By W. H. C. FRENCH</i>	69
<i>Index</i>	73

EXCAVATIONS AT WHITELEY HILL, BARLEY, HERTS

J. C. WILKERSON AND M. D. CRA'STER

IN January 1957 a series of circular soil marks around Whiteley Hill, on the road between Royston and Barkway, were examined and sections dug across each of them.

At the top of the hill, surrounding the bench-mark (Nat. Grid ref. 375393), is a small circle, possibly a ploughed out barrow (F on plan, Fig. 1). South of this are two large concentric circles, approximately 80 yards and 160 yards in diameter; these are probably the ditches of an Iron Age hill-fort. There are two other possible barrow circles just outside the outer ditch, one to the east (C on plan), and the other, D, to the south; a fourth lay $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east-north-east.

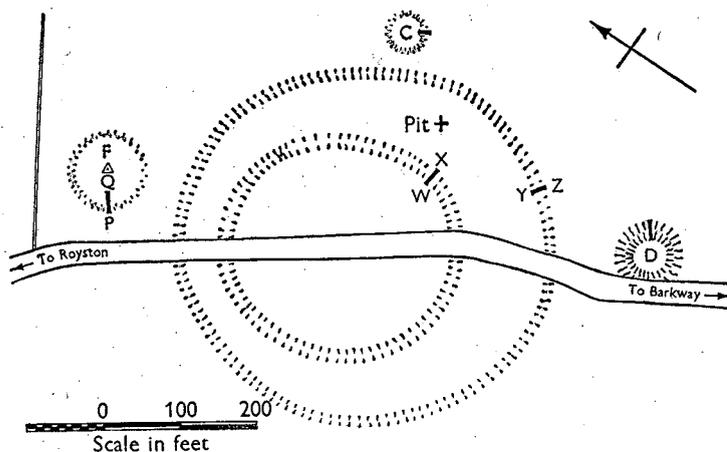


Fig. 1.

The sections across the barrow ditches yielded little information. Barrow C had a ditch 9 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep; an antler was found in the bottom, a Romano-British potsherd in the top-soil, and there were flint flakes throughout the filling.

Barrow D had a wide shallow ditch, 20 ft. across and 3 ft. in depth; the ditch filling included 12 in. of dark soil, containing numerous fragments of Romano-British pottery.

Barrow F is on a natural hummock, surrounded by a shallow ditch 18 in. deep (Fig. 2). A cobbled hearth had been put across the inner lip of the filled-in ditch, and the black soil above this yielded Romano-British potsherds.

Scattered over the whole site, both barrows and hill-fort, were quantities of flint

flakes and Romano-British pottery. Two scrapers were found within the area of the hill-fort. Since these are all surface finds and extremely fragmentary, they provide no dating evidence.

The circular fort ditches are bisected by the modern road, and no signs of the original entrance were found.

The outer ditch (Fig. 2) was 6 ft. deep and 12 ft. wide, with sides sloping down to a width of 7 in. at the bottom. Except for the top 2 to 3 ft., it was filled with clean chalk containing very little humus, which appeared to have fallen in from the inner edge. No pottery or other debris was found. This circle had apparently had a bank on its inner side, which had rapidly fallen back into the ditch, filling up the larger part of it.

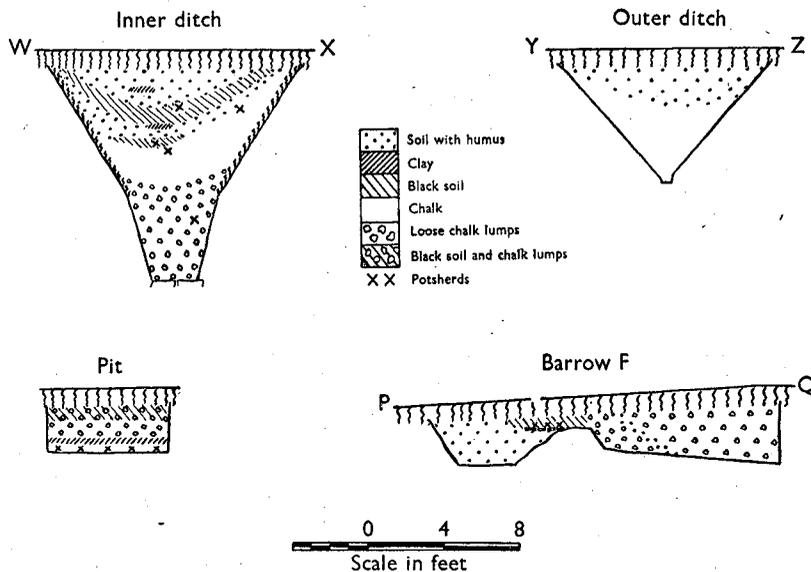


Fig. 2.

The inner circle proved to be a larger ditch, 14 ft. in width and 12 ft. deep, with sides sloping steeply to the bottom, which was 2 ft. wide and cut in solid chalk. No signs of any post-holes were seen on the edges of the ditch. The bottom 5 ft. contained no humus or signs of silting, and were filled with loosely packed lumps of clean chalk; this suggests that the ditch was kept cleaned out at first, and that when the initial filling took place, it was very rapid. This lowest layer contained animal bones, including those of cow; near the top of it several large sherds of an Iron Age A pot (Fig. 3) were found. This is of black-brown burnished ware, with a slightly angular shoulder, and a row of small depressions just below the rim.

Above the initial filling, the sides of the ditch had had time to accumulate several inches of humus. Nevertheless the second layer still consisted of comparatively clean chalk, apparently pushed in from the outer edge, as if it had been banked on that side. The top of this layer contained some abraded fragments of coarse buff pottery, decorated with cord impressions, and probably Bronze Age.

Above this, the ditch seems to have filled up much more gradually judging from several layers of dark earth and clay containing snail shells, ash and potsherds, and suggesting fairly long periods of later occupation. The lower black earth layer produced some small sherds of coarse gritted ware, possibly Iron Age. Near the top of the upper black layer was a rim fragment of Romano-British type.

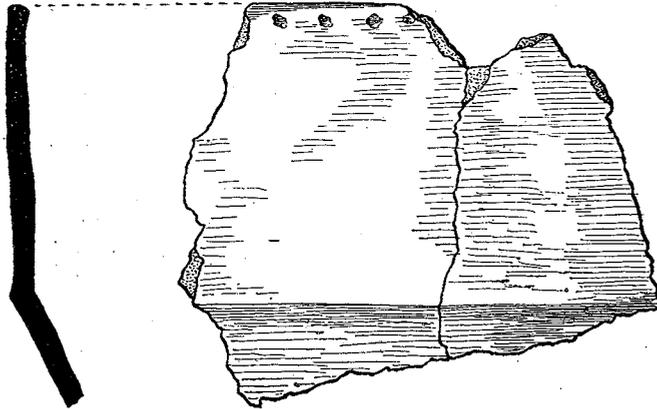


Fig. 3 (scale: $\frac{1}{2}$).

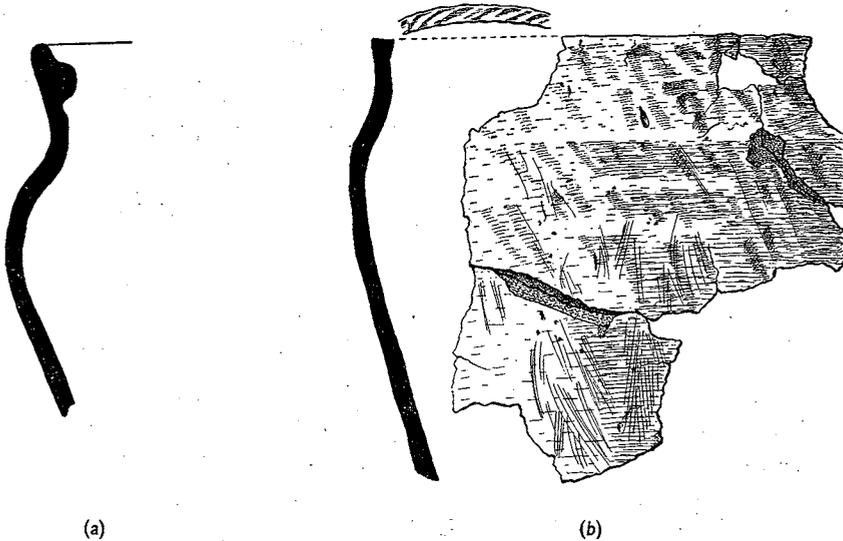


Fig. 4. Pots from pit in hill-fort (scale: $\frac{1}{3}$).

Since the inner circle seems to have had its bank on the outside, it would appear to have been made to keep something in, although the ditch was deeper than necessary for cattle or sheep; indeed there would have been a danger of their stampeding into it. It would have been an effective enclosure for human beings or wild animals.

In the area between the two ditches, a pit was found, 5 ft. across and 3 ft. deep, with straight sides (Fig. 2). A large quantity of sherds, being pieces of two Iron Age A

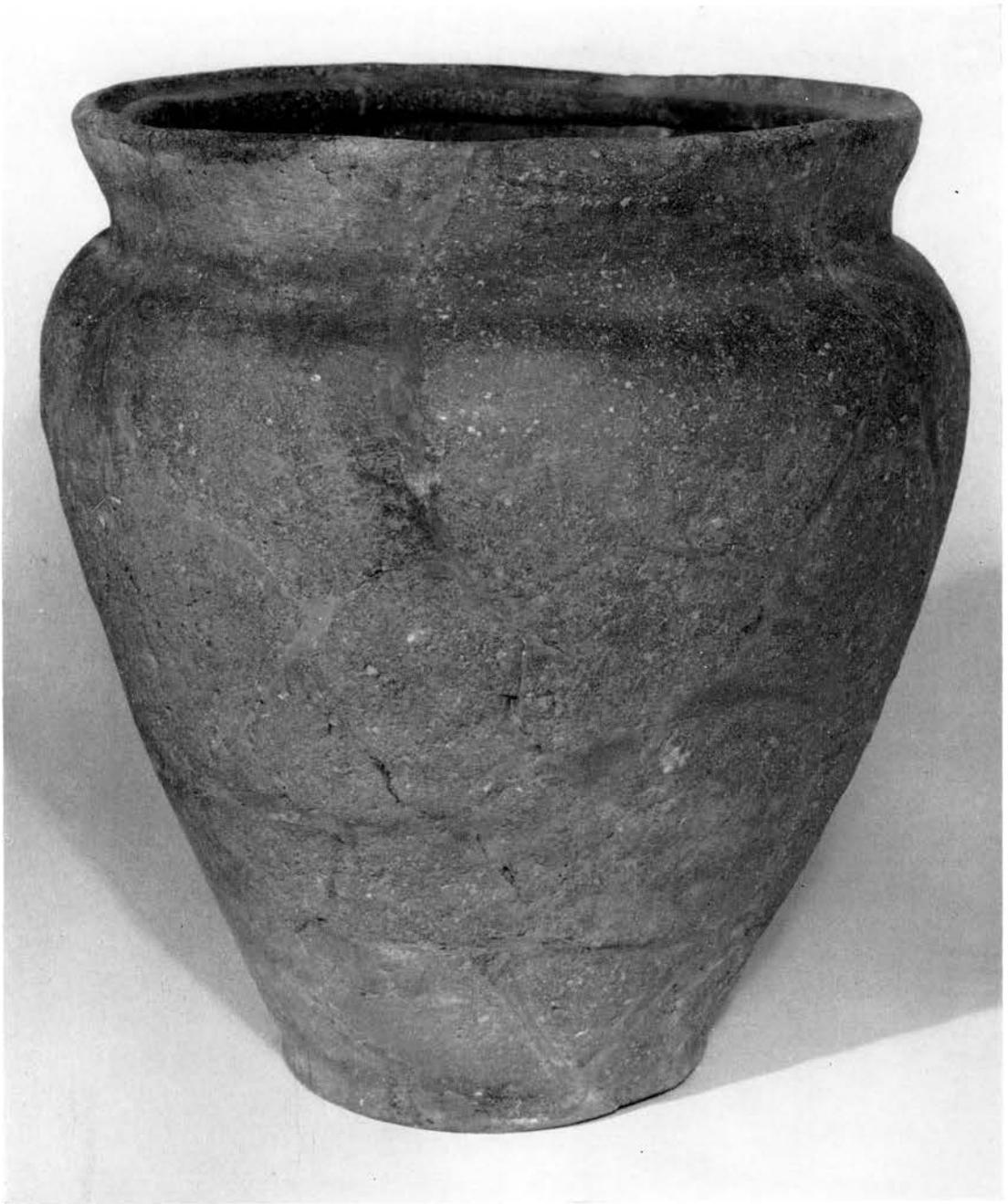
storage jars, lay on the bottom of the pit in a chalky fill, covered by a layer of clay 3 in. thick. If this was washed in from the surrounding earth, the pit must have been open for a considerable time, as the soil here contains very little clay. The rest of the pit was filled with small lumps of clean chalk. Near the surface this was mixed with black ash and contained numerous flint flakes.

One of the storage jars (Museum no. 57. 68) from the pit was almost complete, although in many fragments (Pl. II, Fig. 4*a*). It is a strongly made, undecorated jar, with an inner ledge just below the rim.

Large parts of the second jar (Museum no. 57. 67) were also present (Fig. 4*b*). This is of very coarse, friable ware, buff outside and black within; it has been roughly smoothed and the diagonal lines made by the finger-tips are faintly visible. The outer surface also has many irregular scratches, and one grain impression, just above the shoulder.

Hans Helbaek reports that the grain is hulled barley, of medium size for the species; the imprint is of the ventral view, with the rachilla visible in part.

The finds from Whiteley Hill have been given to the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, where the large jar has been repaired and put on exhibition.



Height of pot is 13 in.

Iron Age storage jar from Barley.

PROCEEDINGS OF
THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

VOLUME LII
JANUARY 1958 TO DECEMBER 1958

20s. net.

CONTENTS

<i>Officers and Council of the Society 1958-1959</i>	page vi
<i>Report of the Council for the Year 1957</i>	vii
<i>Summary of Accounts for the Year 1957</i>	viii
A Beaker from Ely By D. H. TRUMP	I
Excavations at Whiteley Hill, Barley, Herts By J. C. WILKERSON and M. D. CRA'STER	2
A New Hoard of Romano-British Pewter from Icklingham By JOAN LIVERSIDGE, M.LITT., F.S.A.	6
A Roman Well at Exning, Suffolk By DAVID E. JOHNSTON	11
A Group of Romano-British Pottery with an Owner's Mark By B. R. HARTLEY and E. STANDEN	21
A Romano-British Farm at St Ives By H. J. M. GREEN	23
William Allington of Horseheath, Speaker in the Parliament of 1429-30. Paper I By J. S. ROSKELL	30
William Allington of Bottisham, Speaker in the Parliaments of 1472-5 and 1478. Paper II By J. S. ROSKELL	43
A Medieval Leather Box from Ellington, Hunts By G. H. S. BUSHNELL	56
Excavations on the Wandlebury Figures By T. C. LETHBRIDGE and C. F. TEBBUTT	58
Further Finds on the Arbury Road Estate By W. H. C. FRENCH	69
<i>Index</i>	73