

## A BEAKER BURIAL AT ASTON ON TRENT

By D. REANEY

**A**ERIAL photographs of this area show a complex of archaeological features, of which the most important are:

1. A concentric double ring ditch (Aston 1).
2. A smaller ring ditch to the N.W. of Aston 1.
3. A large single ring ditch about 200 yds. N. of Aston 1.
4. A small D-shaped enclosure cut by a linear ditch.
5. A cursus some hundreds of yards in length. The exact dimensions are yet to be determined. The other features mentioned above are all within this cursus.

In view of the close grouping of these sites, it is possible that they are contemporary and related to the beaker culture.

Excavation of the most important site (Aston 1) has revealed three phases:

- (a) Pre-barrow Neolithic.
- (b) Primary barrow (bell beaker).
- (c) Secondary enlargement (necked beaker).

There were also secondary burials, although these are represented only by fragments of pottery (food vessel and overhanging rim urn). Phases (b) and (c) had beakers associated with them.

The primary barrow was about 102 ft. in diameter, subsequently enlarged to about 115 ft. The primary burial was accompanied by a comb-impressed bell beaker, a polished stone wristguard and a flint arrowhead. After the barrow had been enlarged, a new ring ditch was dug. Associated with the secondary burial was a necked beaker. Underlying the barrow were traces of Neolithic occupation. Although the pits were mostly sterile, one appeared to be a "hearth", and carbonized grain was recovered from the sides and nearby. The grain has been provisionally identified as emmer and a sample submitted for C14 dating. Fragments of hazel nut were also present. The pottery included pieces of several Neolithic bowls and is most closely paralleled by material from Yorkshire.

EXCAVATIONS AT LITTLE CHESTER, DERBY,  
IN 1966

By MALCOLM TODD

**W**ORK at Little Chester in 1966, carried out by the Archaeological Research Group of the Society and other volunteers, was concentrated upon clarifying the relationship of Rykniel Street with the Roman defences. The road was shown to run approximately parallel to the eastern defences, making a junction with the Roman predecessor of Old