

OCKLYNGE HILL ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY EASTBOURNE

by *Patricia M. Stevens*

In March 1970 a rescue excavation took place on the site of a known Anglo-Saxon cemetery on Ocklynge Hill, Eastbourne. Originally envisaged as a ten-day rescue excavation, the work extended over a period of four months due to the additional features uncovered; two medieval millsteads and the site of a horizontal windmill, not included in this report. A total of twenty-six skeletons were recovered in various states of preservation, in general without grave goods, only six having knives, being of the type usually associated with seventh century cemeteries. In an effort to put the discoveries into some order, the writer has produced a gazetteer of Anglo-Saxon sites in the Eastbourne area.

INTRODUCTION

Location

The Ocklynge Hill Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Eastbourne is situated at TV 595 008, on the A22, approximately 2.4 km north of Eastbourne town centre, just above the 60 m contour (Fig. 1).

The site now lies well within the Eastbourne borough boundary, but, at the time of the 1822 and 1909 discoveries of skeletal material, the cemetery was adjacent to the Parish boundary of Eastbourne and Willingdon partially on the Willingdon side. Eastbourne first extended their boundaries in 1911, to become a County Borough (Fig. 2).

The site of the cemetery, excavated in 1970, which the following report records, is now occupied by the development called 'Saxon Place'.

Topography

Ocklynge Hill is on a detached, Middle Chalk spur of the eastern escarpment of the South Downs overlooking Willingdon Levels to the east.

In medieval times the area would appear to have been open land with scrubby growth. Eastbourne Tithe Map (1842), shows the area as open farmland. The first development of the site took place in 1912, when numbers 99 and 101, Willingdon Road were built, but the greatest development has taken place since the last war, the area now being densely developed.

Historical background

It is clear that within Eastbourne we have two distinct nucleations of Anglo-Saxon burials, namely those of the Pagan period centred around Mill Gap and those of the transitional period on Ocklynge Hill. (Fig. 2).

The discoveries centred around Mill Gap would appear to be those of a Pagan cemetery; the graves in the main being furnished with elaborate grave goods and within the 30 m contour.

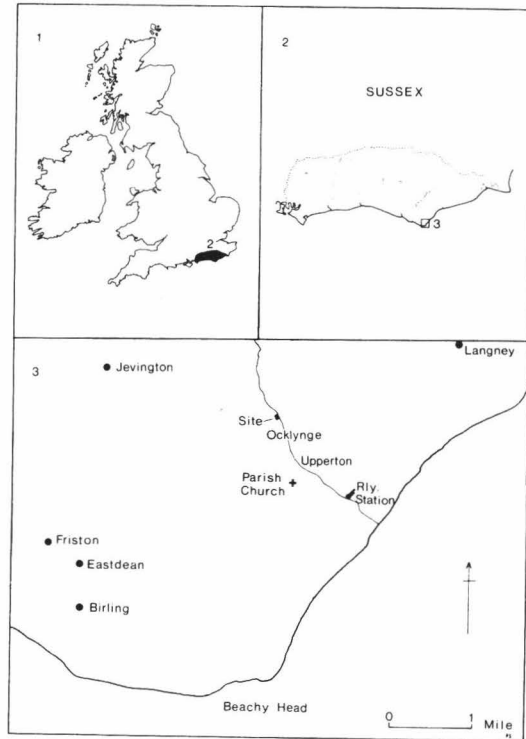


Fig. 1. Location of Ocklynge Hill Anglo Saxon Cemetery, Eastbourne.

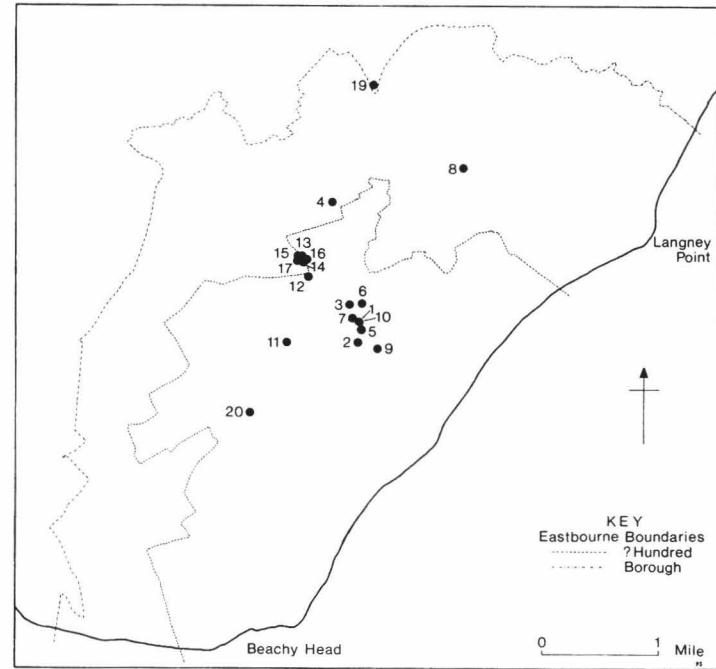


Fig. 2. Plan showing Anglo Saxon sites within, and close by the Eastbourne Borough Boundary.

Sites 12-17 are obviously all part of the same cemetery. Site 12, said to have stretched from Bakers Mill to the New cemetery (Ocklynge), was discovered during cutting away the crown of the hill. Budgen (1921) thought that the area of the discoveries was from Bakers Mill northwards to the crown of the hill. But, the evidence of the bones having been re-interred by the Rev. Dr. Brodie (Vicar of Eastbourne) suggest that the bones were found within the Parish of Eastbourne and not in the Parish of Willingdon, as would have been the case if Budgen's hypothesis were correct. The record of the 'black pottery', site 13, may refer to a fragment of Saxon pottery and not a complete pot. No Saxon pottery was discovered during the 1970 excavations, but two fragments of Iron Age pottery were found, so it may be that the earlier find was also Iron Age.

The other associated discoveries further support the theory that the area is probably a transitional or early Christian cemetery, formerly lying partly within Willingdon Parish.

Two possible habitation sites within the area are Kitcheners Furlong (site 6) and Enys Road (site 9).

In the outlying areas, but still close to the area under discussion Holly Grange (site 4) would appear to be the most important, where there appears to be the site of a possible Saxon tumulus, with a small cinerary urn nearby, together with other fragments and calcined human bone. It is possible that we have another cemetery and/or settlement site in this area. The escutcheon from a hanging bowl from an unlocated site in Willingdon, would also point to a settlement site.

Reason for excavation

All the previous discoveries of burials in the area were chance finds and apart from the excavation of the two skulls in 1921 and the skull excavated by Karl Wilkinson at the same time, there had been no planned archaeological excavation.

The opportunity to excavate arose when the two houses, 99 and 101 Willingdon Road were demolished prior to redevelopment. The excavation was undertaken at the request of the Research Committee of the Sussex Archaeological Society, and the attempt was made to excavate and record as much that remained as possible. The site was dug entirely without funds, the Research Committee having none available for rescue excavation.

Method

The earlier discoveries had been made mainly during roadworks and prior to building on the plots to be excavated. In order to cover as much of the area as possible in the time available, trenches were first cut in the front garden of the two plots, and later, random trenches were dug in the two plots (Fig. 3). The excavated areas were all hand-dug by volunteers with further assistance from boys from the fifth and sixth forms of the Eastbourne Grammar School. The first burials discovered, numbers 1-6, were all fragmentary, lying between 5 and 8 cm below the surface. The burials 7-20, were found between 18 and 25 cm below the present ground level (Fig. 4). The remainder were uncovered by workmen when digging the foundations, after removing a concrete path which we had been unable to dispose of, having no funds.

Money was collected in a site donations box, and enough was collected to pay for a tin wheelbarrow and a machine to backfill the site.

While the excavations were in progress, Mr. Bob Rushbridge of Lower Willingdon, made a colour cine film, recording aspects of the work.

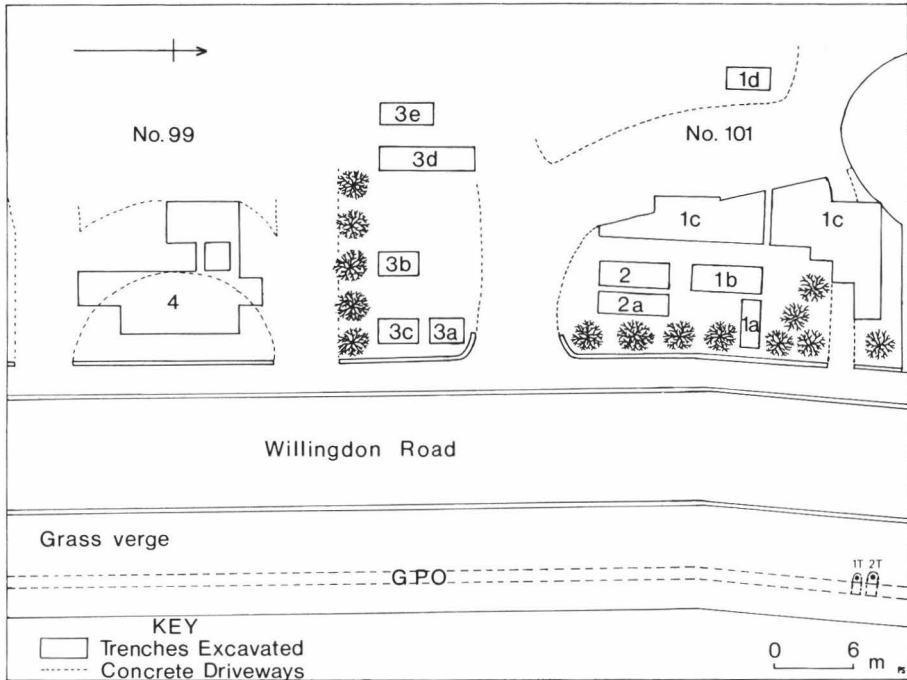


Fig. 3. General Plan showing areas excavated relating to the Anglo Saxon cemetery.

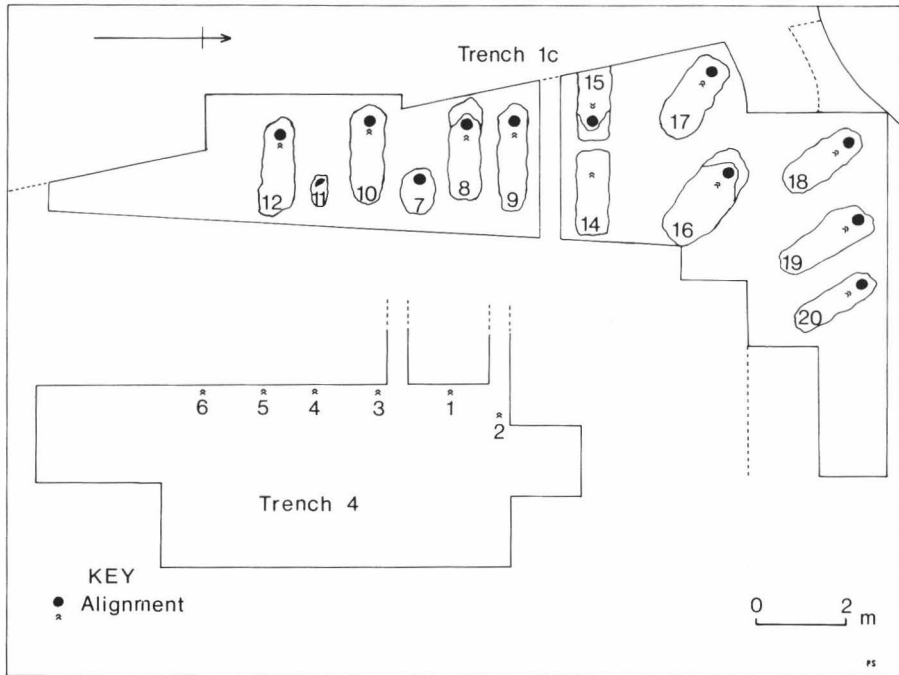


Fig. 4. Distribution plan of the burials and their alignment.

LIST OF BURIALS

GRAVE	SHAPE	ORIENT:	SEX	AGE	CONTENTS	FINDS
1	No grave	W-E	F	30	Very fragmentary—no remains below femur. Bones present: Lower jaw, R. arm lying by side, L. arm crossing from elbow to abdomen, hand in pelvis. The anterior dentition showed signs of mild enamel hypoplasia, possibly as a result of illness in childhood.	—
2	No grave	W-E	ind.	Ad.	Very fragmentary. Bones present: Distal femur (R. & L.), proximal (R. & L.), tibia and fibula, R. & L. patella.	—
3	No grave	—	ind.	Ad.	Unidentifiable fragments.	—
4	No grave	—	ind.	Ad.	Very fragmentary remains of tibia and/or fibula.	—
5	No grave	—	ind.	Juv.	Unidentifiable fragments.	—
6	No grave	W-E	?M	Ad.	Bones present: Distal (R. & L.) Tibia and fibula, some feet bones. Articular surfaces of most of the foot bones showed evidence of mild osteoarthritis.	Clay pipe stem
7	Scoop oval 76 x 71 cm	W-E	ind.	Inf. ?6 mth.	Lying on L. side. Bones present: fragmentary remains of skull, with remains of humerus and ?radius. The teeth indicate an age of not more than six months, and it is possible that this infant died at birth.	—
8	Well cut 183L x 58cm deep. Rectangular excavation for skull.	W-E	F	35	Bones present: Skull (pushed to R.), R. & L. humerus, radius and ulna, pelvic fragments, R. & L. femur, patella, tibia, fibula and feet (incomplete). Both arms lying across into pelvis. Of slender build and about 165 cm. in height. Oral health was fair, there being only slight calculus accumulation. There were indications of moderate periodontal recession. Of interest was the total destruction of both mastoid processes by an inflammatory erosive disease. Such chronic mastoiditis is not uncommon, and can lead to a variety of hearing disorders. Measurement: Tibia max. length—35.4 cm.	—
9	Rectangular Well cut 209 x 79 cm 76 cm deep Ill. Fig. 5	W-E	F	18-22	Skull crushed and broken due to pressure. R. arm straight by side, L. arm crossed from elbow, hand in pelvis. Bones present: R: ribs, clavicle, scapular, humerus, radius, ulna, hand (incomplete); L: humerus, radius, ulna, hand (incomplete), some ribs, lumbar vertebrae, sacrum, pelvis, R. & L. femur, patella, tibia, fibula, feet (incomplete). Of slender build, approx. 165 cm in height. The right mastoid region showed marked erosion and destruction, probably of pathological origin (c.f. burial 8). Measurements: Humerus max. length—31.7 cm. Radius max. length—22.7 cm.	Tanged knife— from L. side of burial, partially under pelvis. (Fig. 6).

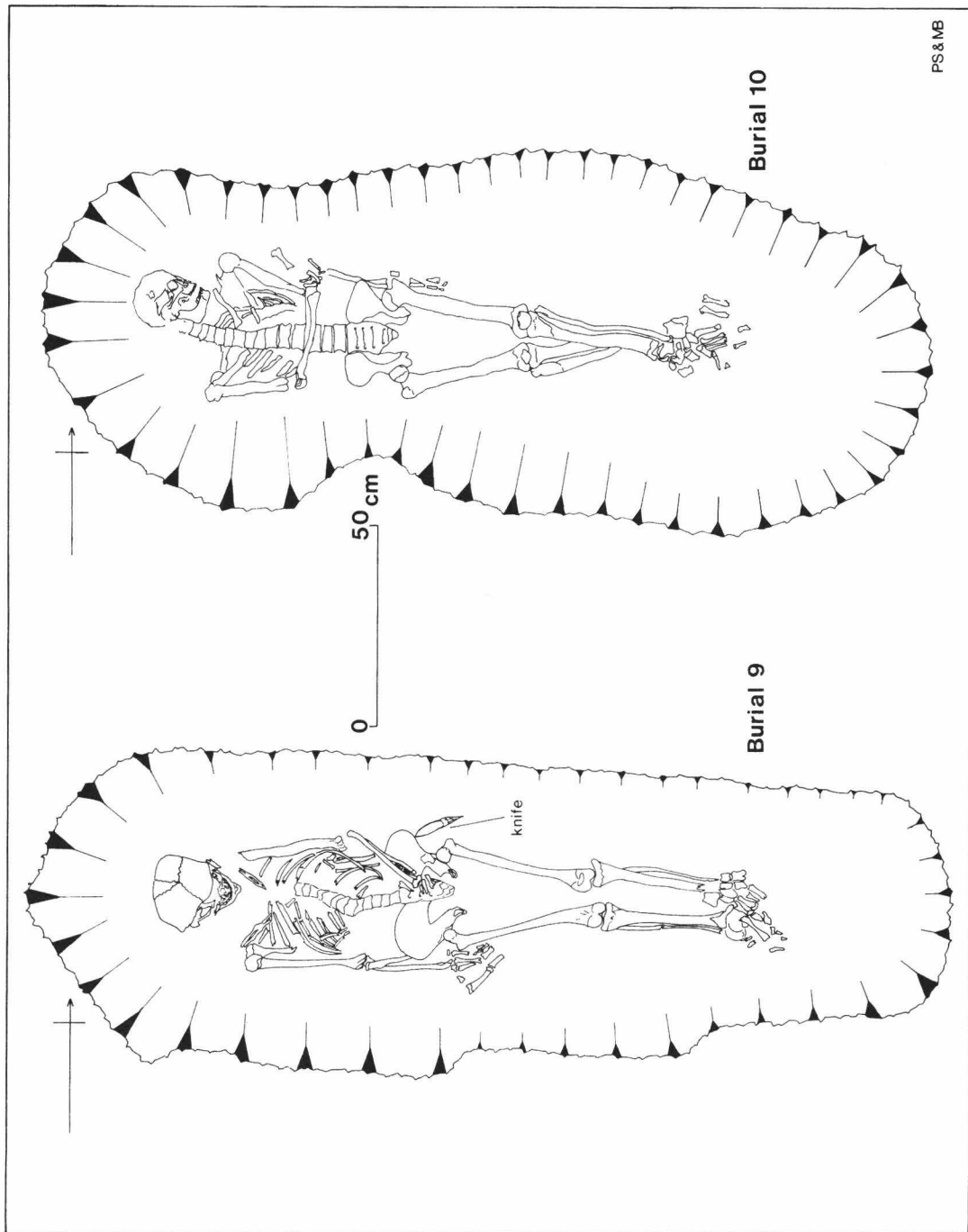


Fig. 5. Plan of Burials 9 and 10.

GRAVE	SHAPE	ORIENT:	SEX	AGE	CONTENTS	FINDS
10	Rectangular fairly well cut. 188 cm long 66 cm deep Ill. Fig. 5	W-E	F	Over 50	Skull present but broken by vandals. L. arm straight by side, R. arm crossed from elbow across thorax, hand on L. elbow. Feet crossed L. over R. Bones present: R. & L. scapula and clavicle, humerus, radius, ulna, hands, ribs, vertebrae, sacrum, pelvis, R. & L. femur, patella, tibia, fibula and feet. About 160 cm in height, was markedly muscular. Oral health was remarkably good for such an age, there being only slight calculus accumulation and traces of enamel hypoplasia in the anterior dentition. Osteoarthritic damage was noted in the lumbar and sacro-iliac regions, and signs of rheumatoid arthritis in the right foot. Of interest was a small foramen in the right olecranon fossa. This is a common feature which is transmitted genetically. The most striking feature of the cranium was the considerable thickness of the vault. Intense, rather spicular, proliferation of the diploic tissue had reached a thickness of 20 mm in places. The nature of this proliferation resembled Pagets Disease, but in the absence of any corroborative pathology from the post-cranial skeleton, this vault thickening should probably be seen as a symptom of senile remodelling of the skeleton. Measurements: Femur max. length—41.5 cm Tibia max. length—34.5 cm	D-shaped metal buckle at a depth of 2.75 cm. above R. shoulder area. Pottery sherd probably Iron Age. Identified by M. G. Bell as similar to that from Bishopstone (Bell 1977) Fig. 6.
11	Shallow oval. 77 x 22 cm	W-E	ind.	Inf. ?less than 12 mnth.	Skull fragmentary, together with fragments of some long bones and ribs.	—
12	Fairly well cut rectangular 190 x 61 cm	W-E	M	30-35	Skull inclined to L., R. arm bent at elbow, hand in pelvis, L. arm laid across R. at wrist, hand in pelvis. Bones present: R. & L. scapula, clavicle, humerus, radius, ulna, hands (incomplete), ribs and vertebral fragments. R. & L. femur, patella, tibia, fibula, feet (incomplete). About 167 cm in height, this man suffered with rheumatoid arthritis, there being joint degeneration in both feet, and in the right hand and elbow. The right hip showed osteoarthritic damage. Of particular note was the complete blockage of the left auditory meatus by a bony ridge. Measurements: Humerus max. length—34.2 cm Fibula max. length—35.8 cm Radius max. length—25.0 cm Femur max. length—44.2 cm Tibia max. length—37.5 cm	—
14	Fairly well cut. Rectangular 175 x 61 cm 84 cm deep	W-E	M	Ad.	Disturbed burial, no skull. Bones present: R. & L. tibia and fibula, some ribs and vertebrae, and foot bones. Some foot bones and patella found in fill above foot of grave.	Tanged knife found on R. side of burial. Pottery sherd, probably Iron Age. Identified by M. G. Bell as fabric 5 in Bishopstone (Bell 1977). Fig. 6.
15	Well cut Rectangular with excavation for skull. 71 cm deep.	E-W	ind.	7	Skull collapsed on lifting. Bones present: Fragmentary remains of R. & L. humerus, L. clavicle and some ribs. The maxilla showed signs of mild periodontal recession. Two Wormian bones were noted in the right arm of the Lambdoidal suture. These are a genetic trait of unknown aetiology.	Tanged knife—L. hip area. Fig. 6. 2 clay pipe stem fragments. 2 18th century pottery fragments. William III half-penny from layer above grave.

GRAVE	SHAPE	ORIENT:	SEX	AGE	CONTENTS	FINDS
16	Well cut Rectangular with excavation for skull. 213 x 152 cm 71 cm deep.	WNW- ESE	F	20-22	Skull collapsed on lifting. R. arm bent at elbow, forearm across abdomen, hand under L. elbow. L. arm bent at elbow, forearm over R. with hand in pelvis. Bones present: R. & L. scapula, clavicle, humerus, radius, ulna, hands, ribs, vertebrae, pelvis. R. & L. femur, tibia, fibula, patella, feet bones (mixed). Skull inclined to L. This female stood some 183 cm in height. Muscular impressions were well pronounced on all long bones, indicating a powerful physique. Her teeth were in excellent condition. Measurements: Humerus max. length—36.0 cm Femur max. length—50.0 cm Tibia max. length—40.5 cm	?metal pin. Tanged knife L. shoulder area. Fragment of sheet lead on floor of grave, in skull excavation. Fig. 6.
17	Fairly well cut. Rectangular 157 x 102 cm 81 cm deep.	WNW- ESE	?F	7-8	Skull pushed to L. R. arm by side, L. arm crossing into pelvis. Bones present: R. & L. clavicle, humerus, radius, ulna, ribs, vertebrae, pelvis. R. & L. femur, tibia, fibula and feet, all in poor state of preservation. Both lower dm ₁ bore small protruberances of enamel on their labial surfaces. These did not appear to be pathological in origin.	Tanged knife— lying in pelvis. Fig. 6.
18	Fairly well cut. 182 x 92 cm 38 cm deep	WNW- ESE	F	40-45	Skull inclined slightly to R. Both arms laid with hands in pelvis. Bones present: R. & L. humerus, radius, ulna, hands. L. scapula, clavicle. Vertebrae, pelvis and ribs. R. & L. femur, patella, tibia, fibula and feet (mixed) 160 cm high. There was a moderate degree of periodontal recession, and slight dental calculus. The left mandibular condyle showed signs of osteoarthritic damage. Both external auditory meati bore small tori auditivi, a common genetic trait. The right olecranon fossa was perforated by a small foramen. Measurements: Fibula max. length—33.4 (est.) cm Tibia max. length—33.0 cm	Clay pipe stem.
19	Fairly well cut. 198 x 97 cm 38 cm deep	WNW- ESE	M	30-35	Skull turned to R.—mouth open. Both humeri by side of body, with forearms crossed R. over L., hands in pelvis. Bones present: R. & L. clavicle, humerus, radius, ulna and hands; ribs, vertebrae, pelvis, coccyx; R. & L. femur, patella, tibia, fibula and feet. Approximately 185 cm in height. A moderate degree of osteoarthritis was evident in the lumbar region. The distal ends of the R. radius and ulna bore small areas of inflammatory periostitis. This would be expected to accompany some trauma to this part of the body, although no such trauma could be identified. There was slight arthritic degeneration of the R. elbow. Measurements: Humerus max. length—37.5 cm Femur max. length—50.2 cm Ulna max. length—30.0 cm	Tanged knife Fig. 6. 4 flint pebbles from under skull.
20	Poorly cut 175 x 91 cm 28 cm deep	WNW- ESE	?M	approx. 6	Skull fairly intact. L. arm parallel to body, R. humerus by side, forearm crossed into pelvis. Bones present: L. clavicle, R. & L. scapula, humerus, radius, ulna, hands; vertebrae, ribs, pelvis, coccyx; R. & L. femur, tibia, R. fibula and foot. Bones fragmentary. The maxilla showed signs of periodontal recession.	—

AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF LEVELLING FOR BUILDING

21/22	No grave	?W-E	M	30	Bones lifted by workmen. Bones present: skull fragments, some long bones, and scapula. This burial was a muscular 172 cm in height. The L. scapula showed slight arthritic degeneration. Measurement: Tibia max. length—37.5 cm	—
23/24	No grave	?W-E	M F ind.	20- 25 6-7	The remains of three burials uncovered and pushed out of position by JCB. Bones present: skull fragments, some long bones and part of pelvis. A few adult teeth were located. A child of 6-7 years of age was identified by the presence of teeth.	—

GRAVE	SHAPE	ORIENT:	SEX	AGE	CONTENTS	FINDS
25/26	No grave	?W-E	M ind.	Ad. 8	The remains of two burials disturbed by JCB and recovered from spoil deposited by same. Bones present: skull fragments, pelvis and long bones; some feet and/or hand bones. The adult was of sturdy build, six teeth were located from this individual. The left elbow was markedly osteo-arthritic and bore a large entepicondylar exostosis. The second individual was represented by three teeth.	—
T2A	No grave	?	ind.	Ad.	Fragments of part of the feet bones of one individual in poor condition. No other bones or grave visible.	Fragments of bones of sheep (<i>Ovis aries</i> , L.)
From GPO CABLE TRENCH on East Side of Willingdon Road						
1T	Trench cutting through burial	W-E	ind.	?4	Incomplete, well preserved. Bones present: Part of skull with jaw in E facing section of trench. Some rib fragments and broken long bones.	—
2T	Trench cutting through burial	W-E	ind.	?4	Incomplete, well preserved. Bones present: Skull in E facing section of trench. Some ribs and long bones. The L. orbit showed a raised area of cribra orbitalis. This condition is fairly common, but its cause remains unknown.	—

HUMAN REMAINS (by T. P. O'Connor)

Remains from 28 burials were submitted for study. These were examined for information regarding, age at death, sex and pathology. Complete long bones were measured in order to allow some calculation of stature. Figures given for stature should be regarded as very approximate, as no allowance can be made for people with disproportionately sized limbs. Estimations of age at death are largely based on tooth eruption in juveniles and tooth attrition in adults.

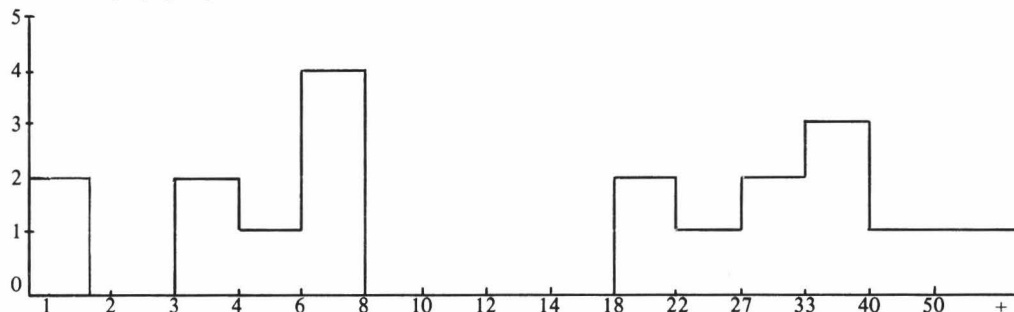
The health of this population appears to have been quite good. The incidence of dental caries is extremely low when compared with other pre-Medieval British populations. There were four cases of periodontal disease. This term covers several gum and jaw inflammations, and is often virtually endemic in early populations. Two cases of enamel hypoplasia were noted. These were not severe, but indicate some arrest of enamel growth during childhood. This could well have been due to illness, particularly bearing in mind the apparent concentration of deaths between three and eight years. This period of life can perhaps be seen as the time when a child begins to mix extensively with other children outside the family, and thus to contract infectious diseases. Life expectancy was not high, about nine-tenths of this group being dead by the age of forty. The occurrence of two cases of chronic mastoiditis is interesting, as is the occurrence of two perforated olecranon fossae. This latter phenomenon is one of the few skeletal traits which can definitely be said to be transmitted genetically. The same is probably true of tori auditivi, and Wormian bones (Burials 18 and 15). This group of skeletons serves to illustrate one of the major failings of palaeopathology. Burial 16 was the skeleton of a tall, powerfully built young woman, apparently in excellent health. Why she died it is impossible to say. There are very many soft tissue diseases which can kill without leaving a mark on the skeleton, and it seems that this range of diseases must be blamed for the demise of at least the younger individuals in this cemetery, as none had any obvious fatal pathology identifiable in the skeletal remains.

Summary

The major population statistics are listed below.

Total number of males	—	8 (7 adults, 1 immature)
Total number of females	—	8 (7 adults, 1 immature)
Indeterminate	—	12 (4 adult, 8 immature)
Average height of males	—	172 cm (average of 4)
Average height of females	—	162 cm (average of 4)

Distribution by age groups:



Proportion of carious teeth: total erupted teeth — 11:282

— 3.9%

GRAVE GOODS (by G. K. Craddock)

The majority of the graves in the cemetery were unfurnished; only six out of 28 contained grave goods. Only grave 16 contained anything in addition to an iron knife, namely three fragments of iron, and these were so corroded that it was impossible to determine their function. They may have been fragments of a single object. Several of the knives have sloping backs, and these appear frequently in late graves. (Hawkes and Meaney 1970). The other objects found with the burials were an iron nail and a piece of lead. Illustrations Fig. 6.

Descriptions

- Grave 9 Tanged iron knife, broken in two pieces. Curved back; straight cutting edge. There appear to be fragments of wood attached to the tang. Very corroded.
Length 11.9 cm.
- Grave 14 Tanged iron knife, broken in two pieces. Appears to have a curved back and a straight blade, but corrosion is extreme.
Length 12.4 cm.
- Grave 15 Tanged iron knife, with curved back and straight blade. Very corroded.
Length 9.9 cm.
- Grave 16 Tanged iron knife broken into three pieces. Back curves gently towards the point. Straight cutting edge. Very corroded.
Length 10.0 cm.
Iron nail. Length 4.5 cm.
Fragment of iron, probably cylindrical in section. Very corroded. Length 3.0 cm.
Fragment of iron L-shaped. Two pieces fused together by corrosion. Both probably cylindrical in section. Length 4.0 cm.
Iron object, cylindrical in section. This object has a pronounced foot at one end, and a slight curve at the other. Object very corroded. Length 8.4 cm.
Fragment of lead. Length 3.3 cm.
- Grave 17 Tanged iron knife. The back curves immediately after the tang and gradually falls away to the point. Very corroded. Length 14.7 cm.
- Grave 19 Tanged iron knife, broken into two pieces. Back of the blade slightly curved. Cutting edge straight. Very corroded.
Length 11.0 cm.

CONCLUSIONS

In all, an area of approximately 85 square metres was excavated and from this we recovered twenty-six burials, eight male and eight female; in both cases, seven adult and one immature. Of the remainder there were four adult and eight immature of indeterminate sex. The range being eighteen adult and ten immature, the ages from one year or less to fifty plus. As only six of the burials had grave goods in the form of iron knives with sloping backs, and, apart from one burial the graves were aligned roughly W-E, it would seem fair to assume that the cemetery is probably of a late seventh century date.

The nearest similar cemetery to that at Ocklynge is Crane Down, Jevington (Holden 1969). The cemetery was on a spur of the downs just above the 90 m contour, and the graves were aligned

roughly W-E as at Eastbourne, and with few grave goods. Miss V. I. Evison, F.S.A., examined the evidence at Jevington and suggested that the cemetery might well be of a late seventh century date.

The extensive discoveries at Eastbourne, in the area between the 'new' cemetery (Ocklynge), and the crown of the hill, point to the fact that there must have been a large settlement in the area, or perhaps several smaller settlements. A large proportion of the burials would have been in Willingdon Parish (Fig. 2), but an equally large proportion was within the Parish of Eastbourne, and would have been within the boundary of the Hundred of Borne. The presence of Saxon burials on Parish Boundaries has been discussed with particular reference to Wiltshire by Desmond Bonney (1972), in whose opinion, they seem to reflect boundaries of a Roman or Iron Age date. It is interesting to note that Ocklynge cemetery is in close proximity to an established Iron Age site (Salvage c.1952) in Windmill Close, and that the two fragments discovered in the fill of two of the graves were also Iron Age. The odd burials away from the main cemetery at Ocklynge Hill, e.g. Holly Grange (site 4) lie very close to the boundary of the Hundred of Borne, perhaps reflecting the pattern that Bonney describes.

On the evidence of the discoveries of 1822 and 1909, Strickland (S.A.C. LII 1909) proffered the theory of a battle cemetery, because of the 'knives and spears' found "sticking" in the skulls and ribs of the skeletons. This theory can now be disputed with confidence. It is clear that when a body deteriorates, objects buried with it are likely to come in contact with the bones. In the case of the early discoveries it is more than likely that the remains of knives had fallen into positions which would give the appearance of the person having been stabbed. The theory can be further disputed, for the burials excavated in 1970 consisted of a normal range of men, women and children, some having lived to be quite elderly, and apparently in quite good health. There is no evidence of deliberate injury or weapons with any of the graves excavated. The apparent concentration of deaths in the three to eight year age group, was perhaps the time when a child began to mix with others outside the immediate family group. Death would probably have been caused by some soft tissue disease which would leave no evidence.

In general the burials had been carefully made. The graves were fairly well cut and in some cases a cranial scoop had been made. No associated structures were observed. There was some evidence of lack of care in burial (grave 8), where although the grave had been well cut, with a cranial scoop, the burial itself gave the impression of being placed in a grave perhaps not large enough. The skull, inclined to the right, had obviously been forced in. Burial 15, a child of about seven years, was the only contra-orientated interment. There was a cranial scoop, so there can be no doubt about its intended alignment. Such contrary alignments have been recorded in similar contexts, but as yet no satisfactory explanation has been forthcoming (Hawkes & Meaney 1970).

There was no overlapping of graves in the cemetery, so presumably they had been marked in some way.

The slight variations in alignment of the graves may be attributed to the time of year at which the burials took place. The alignment would therefore vary according to the seasonal position of the sun. If this is so, those burials aligned WNW-ESE would have taken place in early winter.

Turning from Ocklynge Hill, where there is no evidence for settlement, to the Mill Gap area, where between 1876 and 1961, we have discoveries which are certainly of a Pagan origin. Martin Bell (1978) states that 'Possibly the most complete sequence of Anglo-Saxon occupation on the downland has been uncovered as the result of building work on the Upperton ridge at Eastbourne.' The cemetery here is of a probable sixth century date, and some of the burials have elaborate grave goods. To the north-east of the cemetery, at Kitcheners Furlong (site 6), loom weights were

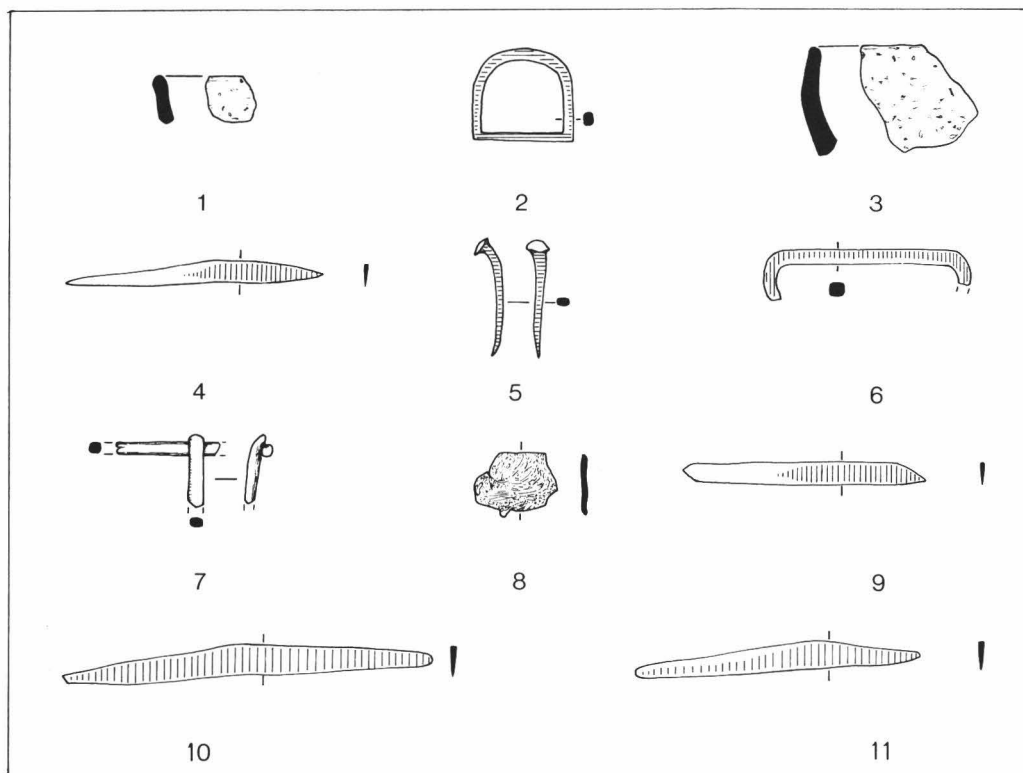


Fig. 6. Metalwork and pottery from the cemetery drawn by Mrs. Lysbeth Drewett, 1/3 natural size. Nos. 1 & 2 from Grave 10; No. 3 from Grave 14; No. 4 from Grave 15; Nos. 5-9 from Grave 16; No. 10 from Grave 17; and No. 11 from Grave 19.

discovered, and to the south, at Enys Road, loom weights and fragments of a late Saxon pottery vessel were recovered. These two sites, together with the scatter of Roman pottery and Saxon glass scattered over the western slopes of Upperton ridge enforce this theory.

The Parish Church of St. Mary was built between 1160 and 1180, and the church guide states that a wooden Saxon church stood on the site prior to the stone-built church. This is an unsupported hypothesis. Immediately opposite the church, archaeological excavations (the Eastbourne Urban Medieval Excavation Project) have been uncovering medieval foundations (Stevens 1978). No evidence of Saxon settlement of any kind has been discovered on this site. The writer feels that the Ocklynge Hill area is a more likely site for the church, especially taking into consideration the size of the cemetery.

Perhaps the movement of settlement was gradual and only completed with the building of the church at Borne. The area immediately north of the church was likely to have been swampy, as this is the area of the source of the Bourne Stream, therefore the settlement is most likely to have been on the Upperton slopes or the western slopes of Ocklynge Hill.

The skeletal remains and teeth charts, together with the metal-work, are deposited at Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer acknowledges with grateful thanks Martin Bell's initial enthusiasm, which led to the excavations taking place, and for his continued support both on site and during the preparation of this report.

Similarly, thanks are recorded to Murray Gordon Properties Ltd., who generously gave permission for the excavation of the site, and to the late Andrew Wilson, the site architect; to those who gave support and encouragement, particularly Eric Holden and the late Dr. Ratcliffe Densham, for his advice on the skeletal remains. Mr. T. P. O'Connor and Mrs. G. K. Craddock for their specialist reports, and Mrs. Lysbeth Drewett for drawing the metal work from the site.

Finally, the writer acknowledges her grateful thanks to all those who assisted on site, and in particular, Arthur Sayers, the late Mervyn Mander, the late Rodrick Concannon, Marion Suckling and students from the Eastbourne Grammar School.

Author: Patricia M. Stevens, 10 Calverley Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

REFERENCES

- Ade, C. 1848 'Anglo Saxon coins at Milton Street', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 1, 38-40.
- Argus, Evening* (1970) 24 March, 1 April, 6 April.
- Baldwin Brown, G. 1915 *The Arts in Early England* 4, 675, 684. John Murray; London.
- BH. Acc. Register A. Barbican House Accessions
 Register A: 27.80 D: 1977.6
 B: 55.47 E: 1977.6
 C: 49.19 F: ?27.213
 52.18 G: 39.14
- Bell, M. G. 1977 'Excavations at Bishopstone', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 115.
- Bell, M. G. 1978 'Saxon Settlements and Buildings in Sussex' *The South Saxons* (Ed. P. Brandon), 49. Chichester: Phillimore.
- Bell, M. G. 1979 'Saxon Sussex' *Archaeology in Sussex to AD 1500* (Ed. P. L. Drewett) C.B.A. Research Report No. 29.
- Bonney, D. 1972 'Early Boundaries in Wessex' in *Archaeology and the Landscape* (Ed. P. Fowler), 168. London: Baker.
- Bradley, R. 1968 *Sussex Archaeological Society Archaeology Map*.
- British Museum, *Department Medieval and Later Antiquities*.
- Budgen, W. 1921 *Eastbourne Chronicle* 30 April.
- Budgen, W. 1922 'An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 63, 241-3.
- Budgen, W. 1925 Reports of Local Secretaries in *Notes and Queries, Sussex Archaeological Collections* 66, 239.
- Budgen, W. 1926 'Anglo-Saxon Burials' in *Sussex Notes and Queries* 1, No. 4, 112.
- Chambers, G. F. 1910 *East Bourne Memories*, 8-9. *Chronicle* 1921a, 9 April, 30 April.
- Gazette*, 1970, *Eastbourne Gazette* 8 April.
- Guide* 1929, *Brief Guide to Exhibits in the Museum*, c. 1929.
- Hawkes, S. C. and Meaney, A. L. 1970 'Two Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries at Winnall' *The Society for Medieval Archaeology*, Monograph Series No. 4.
- Herald* 1970, *Eastbourne Herald* 4 April.
- Holden, E. W. 1969 'Anglo-Saxon Burials at Crane Down, Jevington' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 107, 126.
- Lower, M. A. 1848 'Square Leaded Cist from Willingdon' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 1, 160.
- Lower, M. A. 1866 'Square Leaded Cist from Willingdon' Illustration in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 18, 63.
- Meaney, A. 1964 *Gazetteer of Anglo-Saxon Burial Sites*, 248.
- Mortimore, W. J. 1953 'Friston Hill Skeleton' in *Sussex Notes and Queries* 13, Nos. 13 and 14, 290.
- Salvage, S. 1972 Windmill Close Iron Age Pottery on loan to Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society.
- Sussex Archaeological Society Research Committee Report (1961) in *Sussex Notes and Queries* 15, Nos. 11 & 12, 250.
- Spurrell, H. 1882 'Antiquarian Notes on the District' in *Transactions of the Eastbourne Natural History Society*, New Series 1, 30-31.
- Steer, J. 1970 Unpublished note presented to the author.
- Strickland, W. 1909 'A Supposed Battlefield near Eastbourne' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 52, 193.
- Stevens, L. 1978 'Jesus House and Vicarage Site' an Interim Report *Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society*.
- Stevens, P. M. 1971. *Sussex Archaeological Society Newsletter* 4, 2.
- 'Medieval Britain in 1970' in *Medieval Archaeology* 15, 134.
- 1929 'A Saxon Spearhead at Eastbourne' in *Sussex Notes and Queries* 2, No. 6, 193.
- Whitley, H. M. 1884 'Notice of a Cinerary Urn found at the Mill Gap, Eastbourne' in *Transactions of the Eastbourne Natural History Society*, New Series Vol. 1, 6.
- Whitley, H. M. 1890 'Recent Archaeological Discoveries in the Eastbourne District' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 37, 111-112.
- Whitley, H. M. 1893 'Notes on the History and Topography of Eastbourne' in *Transactions and Reports of the Eastbourne Natural History Society* New Series 2, 368.
- Whitley, H. M. 1894 'Recent finds of Pottery in the Eastbourne District' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 39, 94.
- Wilson, A. E. 1941 'The Early Saxon Settlements' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 82, 45.
- Woodford, C. 1972 *Portrait of Sussex* 17 and 82, London: Robert Hale.

GAZETTEER OF EARLY ANGLO-SAXON SITES IN EASTBOURNE			
1	603998	1822	The Grange site. Regularly spaced graves with knives, spear heads, umbos, bound wooden drinking bucket, armlet, stirrup and swords. Spurrell (1882) M. Whitley (1890) Guide (1929) Meany (1964)
2	601997	1884	Mill Gap-Carew Road area. Fragments of Saxon drinking vessels mixed with Roman pottery abundantly scattered over west slope of hill. M. Whitley (1884) M. Whitley (1890) Baldwin Brown (1915)
3	602001	1893	New road from St. Johns Mill to Tutts Barn. ?Pennanular brooch found when building road. M. Whitley (1893) M. Whitley (1894)
4	599016	pre 1925	Holly Grange, 'near south west entrance to Eastbourne Corporation Park' (Hampden Park). Small Anglo-Saxon cinerary urn and other fragments found. A small low mound recorded by Grinsell—?Saxon tumulus noted near the same site. The site cleared and redeveloped (1975) nothing further recovered. W. Budgen (1925)
5	604997	1926	Building at northern limit of Torfield Estate. Two skeletons recovered, with one small knife, aligned W-E. Found at a depth of about 92 cm. W. Budgen (1926) Meany (1964)
6	60350018	1927	Kitcheners Furlong. Four whole and two half loom weights found in a rubbish pit. BH. Acc. Register A: Bell (1979)
7	604998	1929	Top of St. Annes Road, on the east side by the enclosure wall of Eastbourne Waterworks Co. reservoir. A Saxon spear head and nearby part of a shield boss and two large studs and human teeth. SNQ (1926)
8	610028	1941	Hydneye—Saxon Cemetery recorded and said to have been excavated—no evidence to substantiate either comment. A. E. Wilson (1941)
9	606995	1955	Enys Road. Found during trenching, large fragments of pottery vessel with strap decoration and Saxon loom weights. BH. Acc. Register B: Bell (1979)
10	603998	1961	College of Further Education, St. Annes Road. An Anglo-Saxon sword and knife found during building operations on new site for college. SAS Research Com. (1961)
11	593995	c1968	At junction of Dacre Road and Victoria Drive. Two late Saxon body sherds found. R. Bradley (1968)
12	5950056	1822	Willingdon Road, Bakers Mill to new cemetery. Upwards of 100 skeletons discovered when the crown of the hill was being cut away for road improvement. A large number of 'carving knives' were found. The bones were collected and 'buried in a pit in the churchyard' by Dr. Brodie, the vicar. H. M. Whitley (1890) Chambers (1910) Baldwin Brown (1915) Budgen (1921) Meany (1964)
13	59510073	1909	Levelling at the top of Willingdon Road. Trench of skeletons about 61 cm below surface, shoulder to shoulder and a further row lying parallel with burials about 304 cm apart. Trench uncovered for a few hundred metres until it went under adjoining land. 'Many' skeletons recovered. One knife found and 'one example of black pottery vessel was found'. Budgen (1921) Budgen (1922) Meany (1964)
14	59490077	1921	Further levelling at Willingdon road about 122 cm from site 13. Seven or eight burials disturbed, feet pointing east, 146 to 156 cm deep and about 122 cm apart. Probably same row as those in site 13. 3 skulls recovered, one of these excavated and reconstructed by the late K. Wilkinson. Chronicle (1921a) Chronicle (1921b) W. Budgen (1922) BH. Acc. Register C:
15	59750045	1955	During building the turn-a-round at the south end of the service road to the bungalows immediately north of site 17. About six skeletons found at a depth of 76 cm, feet pointing east. Steer (1970)
16	5952008	1970	G.P.O. trench on east side of Willingdon Road. 2 skeletons recovered by workmen. Argus (1970) BH. Acc. Register D:
17	595008	1970	Rescue excavations on west side of Willingdon Road, after demolition of Nos. 99 and 101 Willingdon Road. Remains of 26 burials recovered, some with knives and two fragments of Iron Age pottery. Herald (1970) Gazette (1970) Argus (1970) Stevens (1971) Med. Archaeology (1972) Woodford (1972) BH. Acc. Register E:
FURTHER ANGLO-SAXON SITES—NEAR EASTBOURNE			
18			Milton Street. Anglo Saxon Coins found. C. Ade (1848)
19	c604031	1847	Square leaded cist with corded ornament found at Willingdon when the railway was extended from Polegate to Eastbourne. M. A. Lower (1848) M. A. Lower (1866) BH. Acc. Register F:
20	584990-572004	1894-5	Between Eastbourne Downs Golf Links and Willingdon Hill. 11 Saxon or Norman Spear heads found while excavating for flints. BH. Acc. Register G:
21	545999	c. 1953	Friston Forest. Skeleton found while digging post holes about 92 cm deep in chalk. No associated finds apart from two Early Iron Age pottery fragments. Burial thought to be Anglo Saxon. W. J. Mortimore (1953) Meany (1964)
22		c. 1958	Willingdon. Escutcheon from a hanging bowl, with scroll design, from unlocated site. 'On permanent loan' at British Museum. British Museum
23	56650315	1965-6	Crane Down, Jevington. Part of inhumation cemetery disturbed by chalk quarrying. Holden (1969)