

AN EARLY BRITISH AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE SITE ON HIGHDOLE HILL, NEAR TELSCOMBE

BY G. A. HOLLEYMAN

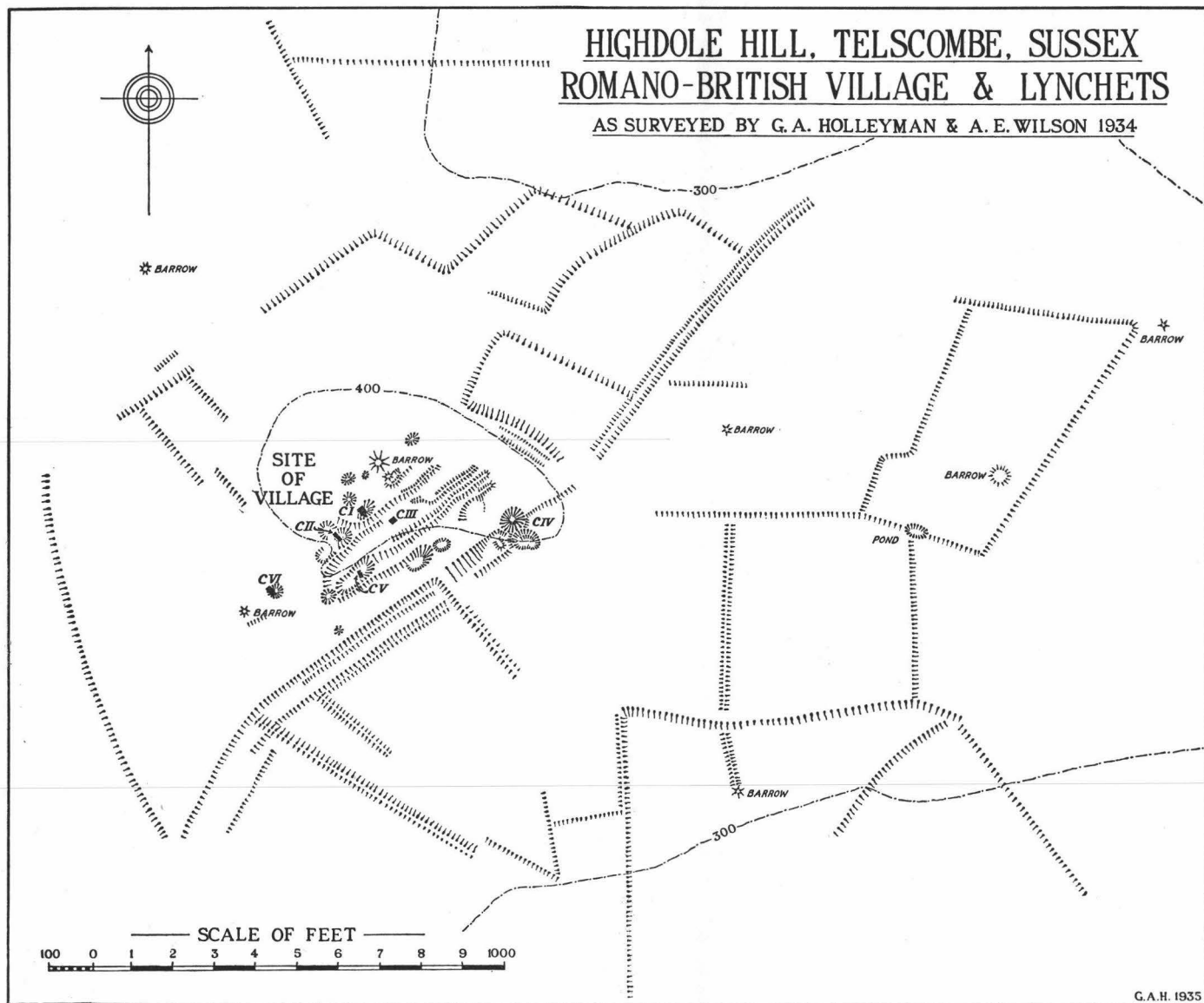
HIGHDOLE HILL lies five miles to the east of Brighton and one mile north-north-west of Telscombe. It is one of the higher points on the long north-to-south ridge which joins the main northern escarpment of the Downs above Kingston-by-Lewes and terminates at the cliff edge in the south. From its summit, which attains a height of 400 ft., the observer commands a splendid view embracing the white cliffs of Seaford Head and a broad stretch of the English Channel to the south and Mount Caburn to the north-east.

The site of the village rests on the crown of the hill and comprises a series of shallow circular depressions varying from 20 ft. to 50 ft. in diameter. Some slight bank-like formations are also apparent, although their purpose is rather obscure. Two of them appear to form a vague roadway running through the settlement from north-east to south-west, but their use as such is discounted by the finding of a dwelling-pit (Cutting III) midway between them. At the eastern end of the site two deeper pits are to be seen, apparently breaching a lynchet. As a trial trench (Cutting IV) in the northernmost one yielded only mediæval sherds, it seems probable that these were constructed long after the village was deserted.

Well-preserved lynchets, enclosing typical Celtic fields, completely surround the site. Many of them are of considerable dimensions, with their vertical heights ranging from 6 to 15 ft., showing that the fields they delimit must have been under the plough for long periods of time. A double-lynchet road runs into the village from the north-east, while a rather mutilated example

HIGHDOLE HILL, TELSCOMBE, SUSSEX ROMANO-BRITISH VILLAGE & LYNCHETS

AS SURVEYED BY G. A. HOLLEYMAN & A. E. WILSON 1934



skirts its southern side and runs away towards the south-west.

These lynchets do not constitute a single isolated group. They form part of a large group which extends eastwards over the whole of Fore Hill and northwards in a continuous belt to Iford Hill.¹ Integrally associated with these fields are two other occupation sites of Romano-British date, several double-lynchet roads, and a well-preserved stretch of bivallate road.

The site was first discovered by the writer early in 1934 and surveyed, with the assistance of Dr. A. E. Wilson, in the following June. During the last two weeks in August 1935 the writer, on behalf of the Brighton and Hove Archæological Society, with the joint assistance of Dr. A. E. Wilson and a party of volunteers, made a series of six trial cuttings with the object of finding hut floors. Evidence of three dwellings was found in the area examined, together with a series of objects and pottery about to be described.

THE HUT FLOORS

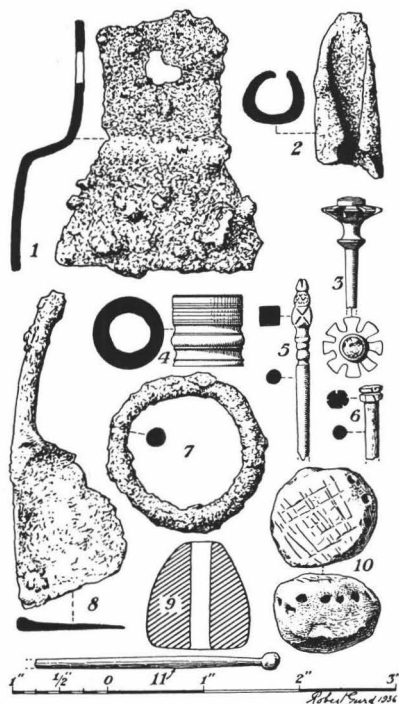
Cutting I. This revealed a shallow circular depression 13 ft. in diameter. The filling exhibited no stratification, the depth of turf, mould, and chalk rubble covering the solid chalk varying from 6 to 12 in. Two slightly deeper depressions were encountered, one near the centre of the floor, which may have served as a socket for a central post, and the other, 5 ft. from the first, which contained a small quantity of charcoal. No post-holes or other features were discovered in this or the other cuttings to throw any light on the construction of the huts. Besides a large amount of sherds the following objects were found:

The head of a Roman bronze pin (Fig. 3). A radiate design consisting of eight rays with a centre decorated with blue enamel of which traces still remain. Mr. Reginald Smith and Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes, of the British Museum, put its date at late first to second century A.D., and add that it is a very unusual design, no parallels having been traced.

Several fragments of Roman blue glass.

¹ G. A. Holleyman, *Antiquity*, ix. 443-54.

Iron objects. These comprise about 50 nails and bolts, several nondescript pieces of thin metal, some pierced with nail holes (Fig. 1), which must have served as door-fittings, a flat elongated object, 4 in. long by 1 in. wide, with a flange on one side which was probably a knife-blade, and a small socket (Fig. 2) which had formed part of a lance-head or agricultural implement.



FIGS. 1-11. HIGHDOLE: METAL AND BONE OBJECTS.

A few small fragments of Roman tiles.

Four quartzite oval pebbles. Their lengths are $3\frac{1}{2}$, 3, $2\frac{1}{2}$, and 2 in. respectively. These bear no trace of abrasions suggesting use as hammer-stones.

A few pebbles of the size attributed to sling stones.

Several fragments of Lower Greensand rotary-querns, representing both top and bottom stones.

In addition to the above were found numerous calcined flints, marine mollusca shells, and much animal bone, including the antler of a red deer with one tine sawn off.

Cutting III. This was made into gently sloping ground 70 ft. to the east of Cutting I. There was no surface

evidence of its position except a patch of thickly growing grass, which when percussed sounded hollow. The area of the cutting was $16\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 13 ft. and revealed a circular dwelling-pit 13 ft. in diameter, with regular sloping sides and a central depth below the surface of 2 ft. 9 in. The filling consisted of chalk rubble and mould, unstratified, through which were distributed hundreds of flint nodules. The presence of the latter in such numbers may be due to their having been banked round the perimeter of the hut as a foundation wall for the superstructure. This pit yielded by far the greater number of the finds. Pottery, marine shells, animal bone, and calcined flints were abundant. The following objects were also found:

A small carved chalk drum (Fig. 10).¹

A carved bone hair-pin (Fig. 11) of a type common throughout the Roman occupation.

A few small pieces of Roman blue glass.

Several fragments of Lower Greensand rotary-querns, including part of the hopper of an upper stone.

Numerous nails and nondescript iron objects which were most probably door-fittings, also a curved object 3 in. long with one end flattened into a blade 1 in. wide (Fig. 8) which may have been a knife or razor.

Several fragments of Roman tiles and a portion of a hollow hypocaust brick.

Portion of a broken quartzite hammer stone.

A quartzite whetstone 7 in. long by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. square. As the ends were abraded it was probably used as a hammer-stone as well.

Cutting VI. This was a trench roughly 24 ft. long by $8\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide cut into a large circular depression 200 ft. to the south-west of Cutting II. It revealed the solid chalk at the western end descending rapidly to a depth of 2 ft. 6 in. and then sloping gently upwards towards the east. The filling was of unstratified chalk rubble and mould.

The usual quota of animal bone, marine mollusca, and calcined flints were unearthed together with a quantity of sherds belonging principally to La Tène III

¹ A possible parallel is from an Early Iron Age A to Romano-British site on Cold Kitchen Hill, Wilts. (See *Catalogue of Devizes Museum*, part 2, 2nd ed. 1934, p. 124.)

types. A handful of iron nails, several pieces of Lower Greensand rotary-querns, and a clay spindle-whorl (Fig. 9) were the only other finds of note.

OTHER CUTTINGS

Cutting II. An exploratory trench, 15 ft. long by 8 ft. wide, in a circular hollow between Cuttings I and VI and 75 ft. from the former. It revealed a gently sloping chalk floor with a maximum central depth of 2 ft. 6 in. The filling differed from those of the other cuttings in consisting of a homogeneous fine chalk rubble or silt below the turf and humus. It was thought at first that the hollow had once been used as a pond or water catchment, but the examination of the mollusca (see Mr. A. S. Kennard's report) gave no support to this theory. It is possible, however, that it was for some time used as a sump. Objects were found at all depths but principally at the bottom and just below the turf. Besides the usual sherds, &c., were found:

Two bone hair-pins (Figs. 5 and 6) with the shanks broken off.

A lathe-turned bone ring (Fig. 4) which may have formed the pommel of a knife.

Some fragments of Lower Greensand rotary querns.

Portion of what appears to be the bottom stone of a Lower Greensand saddle-quern exhibiting a worn concave surface. This is by no means an isolated example of a saddle-quern in a Romano-British settlement. Specimens have been found on Wolstonbury Hill¹ and in Arundel Park,² in Sussex, as well as elsewhere.

Five flint hammer-stones, three spherical, two oblong, all showing abrasions.

Base of a shed red deer's antler, with a smooth face where it had been severed from the upper portion.

Cutting IV. A small trial trench into the deep hollow at the eastern end of the settlement. The filling was of Tertiary clay, flints, and pebbles, with a sprinkling of green-glazed mediæval sherds. No comprehensive examination of the site was made but it was probably that of a mediæval shepherd's hut.

Cutting V. This was opened in a large oblong depression 150 ft. south of Cutting I. The solid chalk was en-

¹ S.A.C. LXXVI. 39.

² Report of the Proc. of the Littlehampton Nature and Archaeology Circle, 1926-7.

countered at an average depth of 9 in. Beyond the usual Romano-British sherds were found an iron ring (Fig. 7), $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter and two Roman bronze coins of the third century A.D.

THE COINS

The two bronze coins taken from Cutting V have been identified by Mr. H. Mattingley, of the British Museum, as (1) Gallienus, A.D. 253-68, and (2) a very corroded specimen of what was probably a radiate coin, dating about A.D. 270.

THE CHARCOAL

Mr. J. C. Maby, B.Sc., has examined the charcoals found and reports as follows:

Woods Identified.

<i>Corylus avellana</i> (Hazel)	Mature wood	9
	Knotty wood	2
<i>Populus sp.</i> (Poplar)	Mature, but collapsed tangentially	1
	Early formed wood	7
	Mature wood	3
<i>Quercus sp.</i> (Common Oak)	Early formed wood	2
	Mature wood	9
	Part of a knot	1

And numerous additional chips and small fragments of Oak and Hazel.

REPORT ON THE ANIMAL REMAINS

BY DR. J. WILFRED JACKSON

The animals represented are:

Sheep. Numerous upper and lower teeth belong to this animal.

Ox. Represented by loose teeth (upper and lower); vertebrae; a small atlas; fragments of a large horn-core; fragments of scapulae and pelves; a right femur (larger than the Glastonbury and other Early Iron Age sites), the full length is 326 mm.; the proximal end of another left femur; a left radius and part of the ulna, full length 300 mm. (larger than the Glastonbury, &c.); the distal end of another radius; two small metacarpals like those from Glastonbury, one is 186 mm. in length, the other 171 mm.; the proximal end of another and larger metacarpal, also the distal end of a further example (these two portions are larger than those from Glastonbury, &c., and suggest that a small type like the Celtic ox was used for food purposes, also a larger animal, perhaps imported); five astragali (two are the same as others from Glastonbury; the others are larger), their lengths are 57, 63, 67, 67, and 66 mm.

Horse. A small form is represented by a few loose teeth; a pastern

bone, length 75 mm.; a hoof-core; two imperfect tibiae; and a radius with a length of 310 mm. Small horses have been found on Roman and earlier sites.

Pig. Fragments of jaws with teeth; loose teeth (upper and lower); loose incisors; and a few broken bones.

Dog. Fragment of a premaxilla with canine and third incisor teeth; also the proximal part of a radius. It is not possible to identify the breed.

Red Deer. One complete antler and one fragment.

Wild Boar. Four tusks.

All the above are similar to other remains from Roman sites, but their imperfect nature makes it impossible to compare them fully.

REPORT ON THE MOLLUSCA

BY A. S. KENNARD, A.L.S., F.G.S.

Several samples of soil and a number of specimens, all of Romano-British age, were submitted to me. The soil was washed and yielded a fair number of the smaller species.

Non-Marine Mollusca

Ten species were represented, viz.:

<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linn.)	.	.	.	.	common
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Drap.)	.	.	.	.	very rare
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	.	.	.	.	common
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Mull.)	.	.	.	.	very rare
<i>Arion</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	common
<i>Limax</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	very rare
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i> (Linn.)	.	.	.	.	rare
<i>Theba cartusiana</i> (Mull.)	.	.	.	.	very rare
<i>Xerophila itala</i> (Linn.)	.	.	.	.	"
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Linn.)	.	.	.	.	common

The conditions indicated are grassland with some coarse herbage and a rainfall similar to that of the present time. It is interesting to note the total absence of *Helix aspersa* Mull., a species usually associated with Romano-British occupation and used as food.

Marine Mollusca

Nine species were present, viz.:

Limpet	<i>Patella vulgata</i> (Linn.)	.	.	abundant
Winkle	<i>Littorina littorea</i> (Linn.)	.	.	"
Dog Whelk	<i>Nucella lapillus</i> (Linn.)	.	.	very rare
	<i>Nassarius reticulata</i> (Linn.)	.	.	"
Mussel	<i>Mytilus edulis</i> (Linn.)	.	.	abundant
Oyster	<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (Linn.)	.	.	abundant
Scallop	<i>Pecten maximus</i> (Linn.)	.	.	very rare
Cockle	<i>Cardium</i> sp.	.	.	"
	<i>Pophia</i> sp.	.	.	"

The Limpets, Mussels, Oysters, and Winkles are undoubtedly food debris. The remainder are all probably adventitious. The Dog Whelks and *Nassarius reticulata* may have been accidentally collected with the Winkles but they can hardly be termed edible. Only one valve of the Scallop was found, and this may well have been a dead shell picked up on the shore and used for domestic purposes. I have not seen it from any other Romano-British site, but since it is rather a deep-water form it is unlikely to occur, except dead, to shore collecting.

REPORT ON THE POTTERY FROM HIGHDOLE, TELSCOMBE, AND A NOTE ON FINGER-TIP IMPRESSION WARES

BY MISS C. M. PRESTON

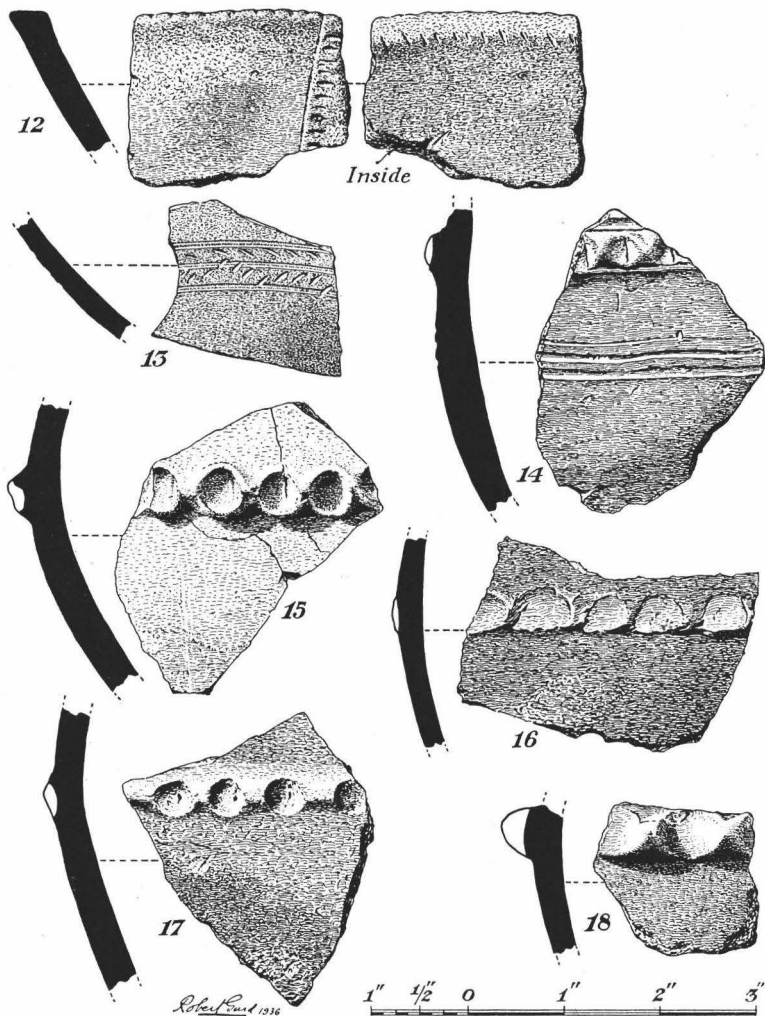
Cutting I. The pottery from this cutting was very fragmentary and few pieces are worthy of comment. The fragments include cooking-pots, both early and late, one mortarium rim of hammer-headed type (see Cutting III, No. 4), one sherd of a small strainer, rim of gritty black-ledged bowl, and a light grey ware imitation of Samian form 38. There is also a considerable quantity of coarse native finger-tip impression ware (see Figs. 14-18). This will be discussed at the end of the report.

One other sherd is of interest and is illustrated in Fig. 12. It is a slanted rim with narrow, shallow indentations on both inner and outer lips. A vertical groove runs down the nearly straight side, and slightly to the right of this is a parallel line of horizontal impressions. The ware is red and sandy. Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes examined this and described it as an Iron Age 'AB' type, the small influence of 'B' being responsible for the paste and shape of rim. Exact analogies are not forthcoming, but it is apparently comparable to the similar class of ware from St. Catherine's Hill.

Cutting II. The two levels found in this cutting are found, on examination, to have no chronological significance. Early and late wares were found in both levels and will be described together.

- (1) Fragment of flat rim of Iron Age 'A' type and paste. This represents the only definitely 'A' ware from the site, although very coarse, hand-made sherds were also found in Cutting VI.
- (2) Rim of wide-mouthed vessel with remains of two low cordons round the neck. For analogies see *Swarling*, pl. ix. Exhibits strong Belgic influence.
- (3) Bowl with horizontal flange. Brown clay with grey core. (Fig. 20.)
- (4) Widely splayed mouth of clay bottle. Rim slightly undercut. Fine grey clay with darker surface.
- (5) Straight-sided dish. Coarse grey ware with blackened exterior surface and grey interior.
- (6) Thick heavy rim of large vessel. Coarse red ware. Native, but Roman influence in the paste.

- (7) Fragment of greyish ware with applied strip of finger-tip decoration. Paste Romanized.
 (8) Widely recurved rim. Pinkish buff ware containing fine grits.



FIGS. 12-18. HIGHDOLE: IRON AGE POTTERY.

- (9) Fragment of a small mortarium with flange missing. Upright rim with central round the upper surface. Slightly micaceous, gritty buff ware, with larger grits on the interior. Third or fourth century.

- (10) Strainer. Red ware, with base square on the outside and rounded inside.
- (11) Slightly thickened rim of wide-shouldered cooking-pot. Coarse red ware. (Fig. 29.)
- (12) Recurved and slightly undercut rim. Light grey, very hard fabric with fine gritted surface. Late Roman.
- (13) Wide flat rim of hard grey ware.
- (14) Rim fragment of beaker or thumb pot. Very fine light brown paste. Late second century. (Fig. 30.)
- (15) Rim of flanged bowl. Gritty grey ware with black surfaces. (Fig. 19.)
- (16) Flat horizontal rim of straight-sided bowl. Grey-buff ware with grey, slightly micaceous surface.

Cutting III.

- (1) Fragment of hand-made soapy ware with two flat cordons. This shows distinct East Belgic influence, but is the only piece from this cutting to do so. It is probably an attempt at a pedestal urn.
- (2) *Finger-tip impressions.* Remains of at least six vessels decorated in this manner. The majority of the sherds appear to be pure native, although Roman influence is apparent to a varying degree in others. (Figs. 14-18.)

Coarse Wares

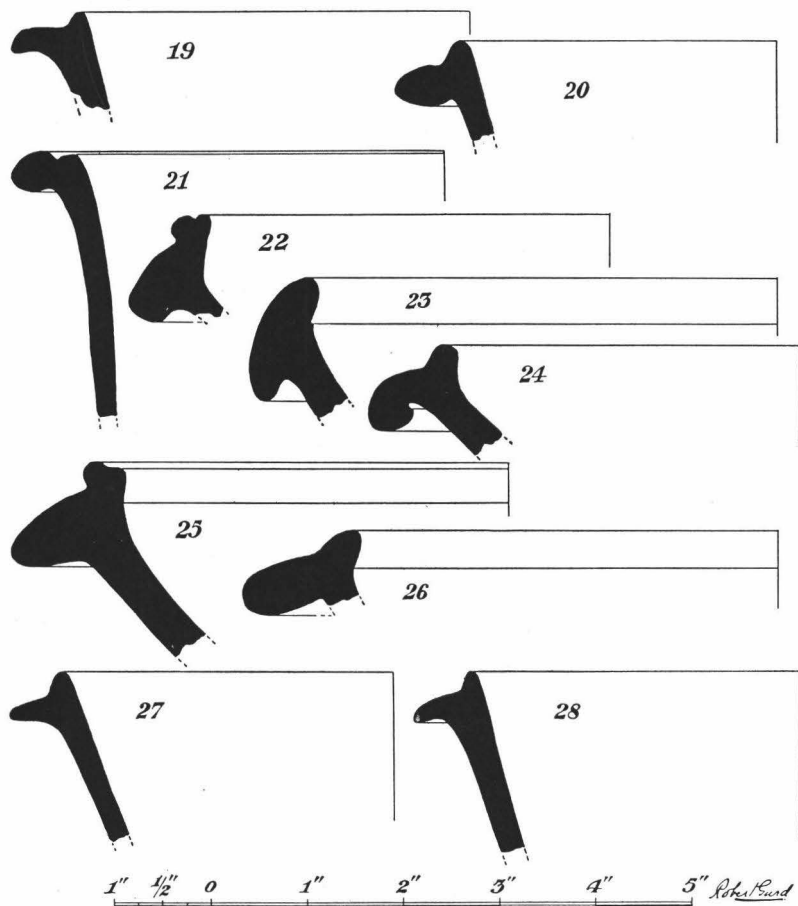
(a) *Mortaria.*

- (3) Vertical rim type. Probably late 3rd to 4th century date. See *Wroxeter*, p. 80, nos. 218-38. (Fig. 22.)
- (4) Hammer-headed type. Gritted pink ware. 3rd or 4th century. See *Silchester*, pl. LXV. 136. (Fig. 23.)
- (5) Rim bent down and bead rising above it. Late 2nd and 3rd centuries. (Fig. 24.)
- (6) Nearly horizontal rim. Fine buff ware. Probably 3rd century. (Fig. 26.)
- (7) Fine buff ware with heavily gritted interior. See *Wroxeter*, p. 79, no. 114, fig. 19. Probably 3rd century. (Fig. 25.)

(b) *Dishes and Bowls.*

- (8) Straight-sided ledged bowl. Fine grey core and black burnished surface. Fragments of at least three similar bowls were found. (Fig. 31.)
- (9) As above. Fine reddish-buff ware. This type is common in the 4th century, though it may have existed as early as the 2nd century. See M. R. Hull, *Arch. Journ.* LXXXIX. 230, fig. 4, no. 3. (Fig. 28.)
- (10) Similar to (8) but with ledge and rim at even height. See *Ashley Rails*, p. 40, nos. 9-14, pl. XII. (Fig. 21.)
- (11) Similar but with black burnished surface, decorated with narrow upright lattice pattern. See *Hengistbury Head*, pl. 25, nos. 16-19, p. 48. (Fig. 27.)

- (12) Rim of dish or lid with slightly curved sides and interior ledge. Hard grey clay with black surface. Very roughly turned, almost hand-made.



FIGS. 19-28. HIGHDOLE: ROMAN POTTERY.

- (13) Platter of hard rough grey clay, with blackened exterior. See *Richborough*, I, 103, no. 106. Undatable. (Fig. 33.)
- (14) Similar but with less pronounced curve in the side profile.
- (15) Shallow bowl of hard red clay, burnished on both faces, and with grey core. Imitation of Samian form 36, without decoration. Similar bowls have been found at Ashley Rails and other 4th-century sites. (Fig. 32.)
- (16) Bowl with flat rim. Pinkish-grey ware. Date doubtful.

- (17) Bowl with reeded rim. Pinkish-grey ware. This type of rim was common in the New Forest at Black Heath Meadow, and formed a distinctive production of the site. See report for this site, pl. XXII, p. 75, and pl. XI, no. 11. 3rd or 4th century.
- (18) Fragments of two strainers, both of coarse ware.

(c) *Cooking-pots and Jars.*

- (19) Fragments of two jars of dull red ware, with narrow, slightly curved rim, and broad shoulder.
- (20) Rim of olla. Hard grey ware. 4th century. See Wheeler, *Lydney*, 99, no. 57, fig. 27.
- (21) Rim of small cooking-vessel with widely recurved rim. Hard sandy clay with dull black surface. Probably 3rd century. See *Hengistbury Head*, p. 48, no. 21, pl. xxv.
- (22) Rim of wide-mouthed cooking-pot. Counter-sunk cordon at base of neck. Probably late 1st century. Compare *Silchester*, pl. LXXVIII, no. 6.
- (23) Rim of beaker. Date uncertain.

(d) *Coloured and Rosette Stamped Wares.*

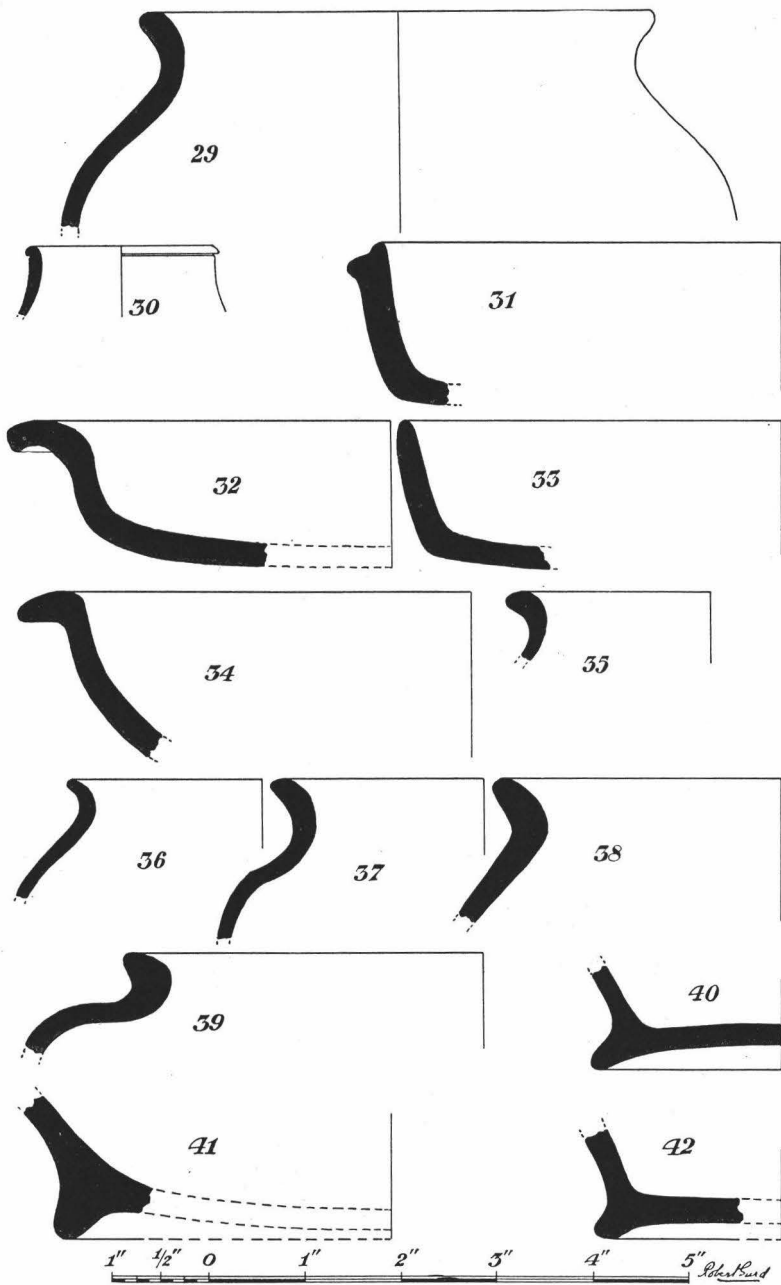
Several of these were probably imported from the New Forest, and may be ascribed to the third and fourth centuries.

- (24) Fragment of white clay vessel, painted with brown-red and yellow ochre. This method of ornamentation did not come into common use until the Constantine period. See *Silchester*, pl. iv and p. 127.
- (25) Bowl of parchment-coloured clay, with vestiges of brown-red ochre on the inside, and in stripes round the upper surface of the rim. See Crock Hill supplement to *Excavations in New Forest Roman Pottery Sites*, by Heywood Sumner, pl. 31, nos. 23 and 24. (Fig. 34.)
- (26) Numerous fragments of thumb-pots of fumed grey, red or fine purple or chocolate-coated ware. One rim shows a wide-mouthed variety, and several sherds are decorated with impressed roulette notches or comb-marked wavy grooves. One fragment of a lid.
- (27) Remains of one, and possibly two, vessels of fine buff ware, decorated with roulette stamped circles and semicircles, bosses, and roulette notches. Coated with reddish-brown slip. Like similar examples from the New Forest, these sherds are distinguished by a cream-coloured or buff body, and thin section.

For the Samian from this and the other cuttings see the report by Mr. J. A. Stanfield.

Cutting V.

- (1) Slightly recurved rim with almost upright neck. Coarse red ware. Probably first century.
- (2) One small fragment rouletted Castor or New Forest ware.



FIGS. 29-42. HIGHDOLE: ROMAN POTTERY.

- (3) Rim of imitation Samian form 31, in fine red micaceous ware. Roman, 3rd or 4th century.
- (4) Rounded and recurved rim with narrow upright neck. Fine grey ware. Probably 1st century. (Fig. 35.)
- (5) Slightly out-turned rim and nearly upright neck. Reddish-buff ware.

Cutting VI. The pottery from this cutting belongs principally to the usual La Tène III type of vessel found in east Sussex showing marked Kentish Belgic influence. Its shape is characterized by an everted rim, a broadly rounded shoulder descending to a pedestal-like base, with restrained ornamentation consisting of faintly incised dots, rectilinear and curvilinear lines and festoons. The other wares represented are of Early Roman types.

- (1) Wide pedestal base. Light grey with brownish interior, and underside of base is blackened. (Fig. 40.)
- (2) Thick pedestal base. Reddish-buff with grey core. (Fig. 41.)
- (3) Pedestal base. Slightly gritted black clay, with burnished outer surface. (Fig. 42.)
- (4) Smooth black ware. Cordon at base of rim. Compare *Swarling*, pl. ix, nos. 23 and 24.
- (5) Large vessel with thickened upright rim and no neck. (Fig. 38.)
- (6) Small pot with recurved rim, flattened on top. Grey ware with blackened surfaces. Wheel turned and like the others shows Kentish Belgic influence.
- (7) Widely out-turned rim of grey ware, with darker surfaces. Kentish Belgic influence. (Fig. 37.)
- (8) Rim with flat groove differentiating the shoulder from rim. Dark grey clay with burnished blackened outer surface. The rim is based on a pre-Roman bead rim. 1st century.
- (9) Part of a large vessel of greyish-brown soapy ware. Native and hand-made. Applied strip of wide thumb-prints.
- (10) Wide-mouthed and wide-shouldered vessel with narrow neck and recurved rim. Grey ware with mottled red and brown surfaces. Native but Romanized. 1st century A.D. (Fig. 39.)
- (11) Three fragments of strainer, probably all representing the same vessel, of coarse grey ware. Roman.
- (12) Widely recurved rim, with ledge at back of neck. Roman grey ware. *Collingwood*, type 68.
- (13) Rim of wide-shouldered pot. Fine brown-grey clay. Probably late 1st century. (Fig. 36.)
- (14) Several fragments of light grey ware with lightly scored double chevrons between shallow girth grooves. Typical La Tène III East Sussex wares as described above.

Finger-tip Impression Ware

In several of the cuttings coarse native sherds of soapy ware ornamented with finger-tip impressions were found (Figs. 14-18),

and although no two of these sherds are exactly similar, they are sufficiently of one type to permit of collective description.

In all cases the ware is coarse and of thick section, varying in colour, and both hand-made and wheel-turned examples are present. The sherds all show the decorated portion of the vessels, and no rims or bases were recovered. Varying degrees of Romanization are apparent in the fabric, and the ornamentation is either on an applied strip or on the body of the pot; it appears in most cases to have been



FIG. 43. NATIVE FINGER-TIP IMPRESSION VESSEL FROM HASSOCKS.
(LEWES MUSEUM.) $\frac{1}{2}$.

made with the finger-tip at fairly regular intervals, though on a few sherds wider impressions suggest that the thumb was used. A few pieces show decoration of diagonal slashes between horizontal girth grooves, and this may represent a stylized version of either the finger-tip decoration or the raised and slashed band, another Iron Age 'A' motif which recurred in La Tène III.

The presence at our present site of so much of this ware deserves attention. Of recent years it has been discovered on La Tène III and Romano-British sites, made of hard soapy ware characteristic of the period.

There is no evidence of occupation in La Tène II of the Brighton district (between the Ouse and Adur) and this fact makes it probable that the Iron Age 'A' feature carried on here as an unbroken tradition into the Belgic period.

The other sites in Sussex which have yielded finger-tip impression or slashed-band decoration in La Tène III times are as follows:

Ranscombe Camp. *Sussex Notes and Queries*, Nov. 1934.

Hassocks. In Lewes Museum. (Fig. 43.)

The Devil's Dyke.

Buckland Bank, Falmer. In Lewes Museum.

Horsted-Keynes.

Charlston Brow. *S.A.C.* LXXIV. 172, figs. 18-24.

The Caburn. *S.A.C.* LXVIII, pl. XIII, nos. 105, 108, and pl. XIV, no. 123.

Kingston Buci. *S.A.C.* LXXII. 197, fig. 24.

(For the redating of the sherds in question from the last three sites, I am indebted to Dr. E. Cecil Curwen and Mr. C. Hawkes.)

Outside Sussex the sites are less frequent, but typical sherds of similar nature have been found at Wheathampstead,¹ Pleshybury,² in Essex, and recently at Titsey, in Surrey, a pot has been found with finger-tip impressions above and below the maximum width.³ That these examples were the result of Belgic influence seems probable.

I am indebted to Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes for examining the native wares from this site, to Dr. R. Mortimer Wheeler for helpful advice, and to Dr. E. Cecil Curwen for the interest he has shown, and for permission to publish the pot from Hassocks.

SAMIAN POTTERY FROM HIGHDOLE

By J. A. STANFIELD

The greater part of the Samian pottery from this site is of Central Gaulish (Lezoux) manufacture, with a few fragments from the pottery of Rheinzabern, East Gaul. It can all be dated to the middle third of the second century A.D. Some of the sherds have been burnt, in one case (Fig. 44) clearly after breakage.

Among many fragments too small or too worn to recognize, are the following plain forms, the form numbers being Dragendorff's, unless otherwise stated:

The saucer-like dish, form 18, small.

Ditto, large.

Similar dish, Walters 79.

Higher walled, basin-like dish, form 31, and variants with a rouletted ring in the interior.

The conical cup, form 33.

The saucer-like dish with leaves *en barbotine* on rim, form 36.

The bowl with outside flange turned down, form 38.

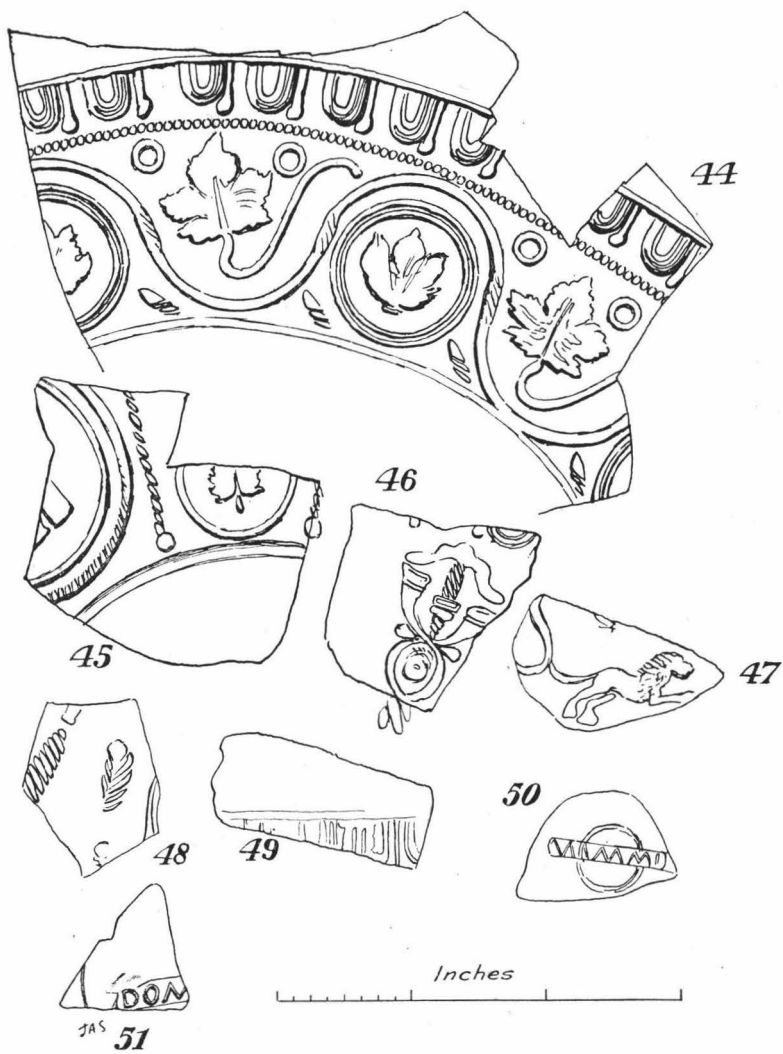
Similar bowl (later development of Curle II).

In addition, there is a handful of small fragments of a small jug (perhaps two) or vase, in all probability similar to those illustrated in 'Unusual forms of Terra Sigillata', *Arch. Journ.* xxxvi, fig. 12, 60 or fig. 14, 67.

¹ Wheeler, *Antiquity*, vi, fig. 13, nos. 17-19.

² *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.*, New Series, xiv, 231, pl. 3, fig. 8.

³ Information from Mr. G. C. Dunning.



SAMIAN POTTERY FROM HIGHDOLE.

There were the following potters' stamps:

MAMMI on form 33. The stamp of MAMMIVS of Lezoux. (Fig. 50.)
 DOM . . . on form 18. Probably the stamp of DOMITVS of Lezoux
 (Fig. 51.)

The decorated ware includes one piece of form 30 only, all the rest belong to form 37. The single example of form 30 consists of a part of the base and lower part of the vertical wall on which are small indications of a two-ring medallion, small free rings and bead rows. Lezoux ware of Antonine date. Not illustrated.

Form 37. The fragments comprised many small portions of rims, part of a footstand, and decorated pieces. The following are illustrated:

(FIG. 44.) Lezoux ware, Antonine. Within a meander punctuated by blurred spirally wound buds, alternate arrangements of double-ring medallions enclosing a leaf, and single vine leaves on tendrils. Two free rings in each upper concavity and two free spiral buds in each lower concavity.

(FIG. 45.) Lezoux ware, Antonine. Panel design with rope-like divisions as used by the potters PATERNVS and IVLLINVS among others. Large double-ring medallion containing a figure, probably the seated Cupid, Déch. 261, used by PATERNVS and others. Smaller single-ring medallion containing a leaf.

(FIG. 46.) East Gaulish ware, Antonine. The ornament is Ludowici 0.326 used by no less than thirteen Rheinabern potters, so that it is completely typical.

(FIG. 47.) Lezoux ware, Antonine. Free design. Tail of large animal, probably a lion, to left. Smaller lion to right.

(FIG. 48.) Lezoux ware, Hadrian Antonine. A large spiral bud and a leaflet are all that remain of the decoration. The leaf was much used by the potter BVTRIO, and to a less extent by ALBVCIVS.

(FIG. 49.) East Gaulish ware, Antonine. Part of ovolo, very badly moulded.

CONCLUSIONS

From the foregoing evidence the village on Highdole Hill must have been occupied continuously from shortly before the Roman Invasion until about the middle of the fourth century A.D. The excavation, although small and exploratory, revealed nothing to suggest that the history of the settlement was otherwise than peaceful from the date of its inception until its final desertion. The inhabitants practised agriculture and kept herds of sheep, oxen, and pigs. Horses and dogs were also used, and the remains of red deer and wild boars suggest that

hunting expeditions were occasionally made into the Weald.

The finding of native-made wares side by side with Roman pottery is interesting. How long native potters continued producing vessels embodying native traditions in shape and design in competition with Roman kilns is difficult to say; the association of finger-tip impression wares with a wide variety of purely Roman types principally belonging to the second and third centuries in Cutting III seems to imply that the practice continued (perhaps sporadically) well into the occupation.

The cause of the final abandonment of the site was not ascertained. Paucity of early fourth-century wares and the absence of late fourth-century forms and 'Thundersbarrow Ware'¹ would put its date at roughly A.D. 350. In 1934 the examination of a small village on Wolstonbury² nine miles N.W. of Highdole, showed that it was inhabited during the latter half of the fourth century only. Evidence from a small native settlement on Charlston Brow,³ five and a half miles to the east, puts the date of its final occupation at about A.D. 300. This seems to point to some movement going on among these downland peoples between A.D. 300 and 350. Saxon and other Low German tribes began to appear round the coasts of Britain and Gaul from A.D. 287 onwards⁴ and by 367 Roman authority was so weak that bands of Picts and Scots joined by Saxons were able to ravage almost the entire country. These troubles may not have directly affected the Southdown peoples, isolated as they were by the Weald, but indirectly they may have had an unsettling influence. Only by the excavation of many more of the unexamined Romano-British sites in Sussex can we hope to throw much light on this obscure problem.

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¹ *Antiq. Journ.* XIII. 146-9.

² *S.A.C.* LXXIV. 164-80.

³ *S.A.C.* LXXVI. 35-45.

⁴ Collingwood, *Roman Britain*, 39-40.

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