EXCAVATIONS AT HASCOMBE CAMP, GODALMING.

June—July 1931.

BY

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Introductory.

IN April 1931 a generous offer was made to me by Lord Onslow, our President, to finance excavations at Hascombe Camp, so that an attempt might be made, on the lines of the work at Holmbury Camp in 1930, to date its occupation. Mr. Joseph Godman, of Park Hatch, kindly consented, and the permission of H.M. Office of Works was obtained, the Camp being scheduled as a public monument. I secured three excellent diggers—A. W. Brumham of Hascombe, A. Stemp of Bramley, and G. Colven of Fishersgate,—who while shifting tons of soil kept a keen look-out for the minutiæ of evidence. In all cases we went down to "dead earth." Mr. W. King, of Abinger Hammer, again, as at Holmbury, lent two useful huts, which, under the supervision of Mr. J. Cooper, of Lox Hill, were brought by lorry to the *White Horse*, hauled up the steep and rough north slope of the hill by two stout farm horses, and erected. They were an absolute necessity in this out-of-the-way place, though on the whole we had such good weather that the men did not lose a quarter of an hour in the whole four weeks. The site is overgrown with bracken—much of it 7 feet high—and brambles, the clearing of which was no inconsiderable part of our work. I have to thank Mr. H. C. Cardew-Rendle of Godalming for faithful assistance from beginning to end of the "dig," and not least for photographs illustrating this article. The work was inspected by Lord Onslow, and a party of the Surrey Archæological Society,

organized by Miss O. M. Heath, came up on Saturday, 11 July.

Hascombe Camp, on the Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand, is situated at the south-west end of a high ridge extending from the Godalming road at Lox Hill to Creek Copse, *i.e.* south-west to north-east. This summit, about 1,440 yards long and all above the 600-feet contour, is a feature well seen from many parts of the Weald, its straight wooded line making against

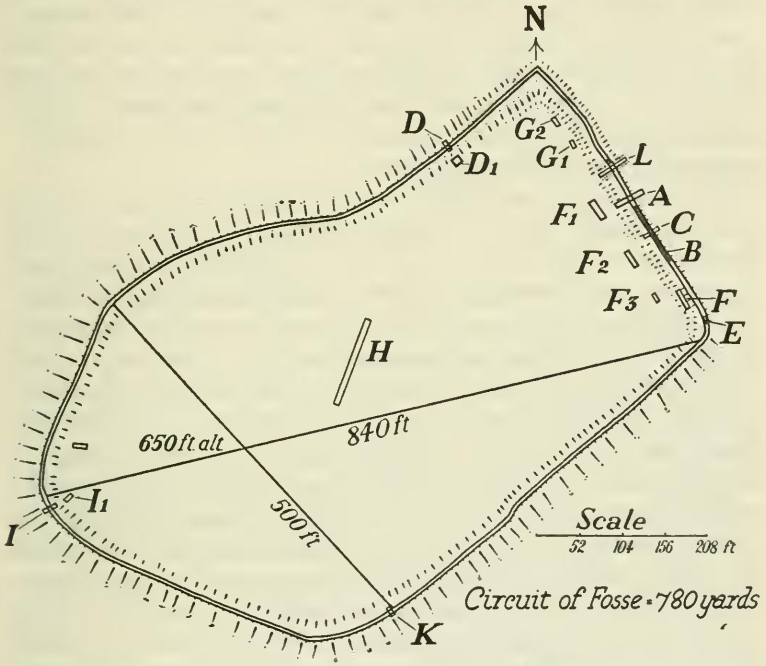

FIG. 1.—PLAN OF HASCOMBE CAMP.

the sky a notable landmark from south and south-west. The site of the camp was admirably chosen at the south-west end (645 feet) of this sand ridge: a moderate amount of spade-work served to make it highly defensible. On south-east, south-west, and north-west the sides are naturally so steep that two banks and a ditch would make the ascent of the highest 30 feet very difficult. The camp is fitted with remarkable neatness into the 600-feet contour. Across the more level north-east side it was found necessary to throw up a vallum

with the material dug from the fosse outside it. The entrance is to the north of the middle of this side, interrupting vallum and fosse so as to come in on a level with the interior area. It is guarded on either side by a bank, now little more than 3 feet high, and is about 12 feet wide. About 1,000 feet north-east of the entrance, on the same ridge, is Telegraph Hill, now well tree'd, but when clear in earlier times admirably suited for a signal station over the Weald, capable of transmitting a message direct to Holmbury and to Anstiebury further east. From 1796 to 1820 there was here a signalling station worked on the black-and-white shutter system, communicating with Blackdown (south-west) and Bexley Heath (north-east). This had been preceded by a beacon a little lower on the south slope, presumably in Elizabethan times.

Of the three camps which seem to have formed a related trio, Anstiebury has the largest acreage (c. 11½ acres), and Hascombe the smallest (c. 5¾ acres): Holmbury is medial both in position and extent (c. 8 acres), but rises the highest of the three (857 feet). The south view from Hascombe Camp over the Weald is very fine, commanding the South Downs from west of Arundel Park to the Ouse gap at Lewes and Mount Caburn. A smoke signal from such prehistoric settlements as those on Wolstanbury and Chanctonbury could be easily seen on Hascombe on most days of the year, and, more exceptionally, on the Caburn. The Long Valley at Farnham and Crooksbury stand up boldly to the north-west, and nearly the whole length of the Hog's Back and the North Downs to near Ranmore are plainly visible. Than Hascombe Camp there are few better examples of the high long-viewed places on sand or chalk affected by Neolithic and Iron-Age peoples for their villages. We failed to locate a near water supply. At present the nearest known is about a quarter-mile down the north-east slope, an unfailing pool, not on clay (which does not crop out north in the Hascombe valley; though on the south side the juncture of clay and sand is about 300 feet below the hill-top), but apparently forced up through the sand by natural pressure. The absence of water from the interior, however, is not really a very disturbing factor, for, as Mr. C. Hawkes points out (*Antiquity*, March 1931), in such camps "regular sieges were plainly undreamed of," and normally there would be little

difficulty in fetching water from outside. A little way down the north-west slope, just below the 500-feet contour line, a flint arrow-head was found in 1880, but its character is not recorded. Three years later was found a flint scraper on the south slope, below the 300-feet contour, and many broken flints may still be found there, suggesting that there may have been a flint factory just below the sand, as there was in a precisely similar situation at Bedham which faces Hascombe on the other (south) side of the Weald. In the possession of Mr. Joseph Godman is a collection of worked flints found in the near neighbourhood of the camp—arrow-heads, both leaf-shaped (?Neolithic), and barbed and tanged (?Bronze Age), and other flint implements. It may reasonably be assumed that there was some settlement of ?Neolithic and later flint-using people. Lieut.-Colonel Godwin Austen is reported to have found rounded flint pebbles, such as we found, either in or near the camp.

The archæological lore about Hascombe Camp I found very limited. Aubrey makes a brief passing reference to it (*Mon. Brit.*, iii, 153). The Surrey Archæological Society visited the place on 23 July, 1895 (*S.A.C.*, XIII, ix). No excavation of any sort, systematic or sporadic, is recorded. In 1895 Mr. Frank Lasham (*S.A.C.*, XII) stated that "no excavations have ever been made in the camp." In Vol. XIII (1896) Mr. R. Nevill is reported to have advanced the opinion that "the camp is of Roman origin, as it is quadrangular in form, and dates from the earliest period of the Roman occupation"; and Mr. Mill Stephenson puts it at a far later date. There seem to have been no real grounds for either surmise. Of the two angles made by the westerly returns from the north-east side, that on the north is practically a right angle, that on the south is slightly obtuse; there are no other angles at all, but a series of curves. The earthworks are typically pre-Roman of the late Early Iron Age, and we found not a vestige of anything Roman or of a later age. Wide of the mark also was the authoritative pronouncement in *A Schedule of the Antiquities in Surrey* (by P. M. Johnstone, R. Nevill, H. E. Malden and others, 1913), that Hascombe "is a good Neolithic Camp." It has none of the characteristics now known to mark the Neolithic camps that have been investigated. The only

really pertinent remark I can find recorded is that of Mr. Lasham (*S.A.C.*, XII, 156), *viz.* that "the camp at Hascombe would surely repay some investigation."

The difficulties of making a start soon revealed themselves and perhaps explain why the site has not been tackled before. It is both high and remote, reached by a fifteen-minutes' walk up a stiff slope from the nearest road at the *White Horse*, Hascombe. Of the diggers, one only was local, one had to be lodged in the neighbourhood, and one came from Bramley. Personally I had to go to and fro from Horsham, fifteen miles away, every day; and much clearing work had to be done before we could see where to start.

Ad Rem.

Hascombe proved to be a companion camp to Holmbury (see *S.A.C.*, XXXVIII, pt. 2, pp. 156 *seq.*), resembling it very closely in the evidence it produced, and it may be conveniently treated under the same headings: (i) the earthworks, (ii) trenches and holes dug, and the evidence they yielded, (iii) the "finds" (now with Mr. Joseph Godman and in the Guildford Museum), and (iv) Hascombe in historical setting.

(i) The Earthworks (Fig. 1).

The easiest way to get a notion of the size and shape of the camp is to walk round the terrace path, from 15 to 30 feet below the camp level. The periphery so measured and along the north-east fosse is about 780 yards, the contained area comprising about $5\frac{3}{4}$ acres. The area is fairly level, with a slight trend down from south to north, but the south-west end rises to a rounded hillock, with an elevation of 645 feet. The defence of the north-east end consists of a very slight exterior back (probably levelled down as elsewhere) and a deep fosse cut down through the sandstone rock in a series of steps to 9 feet below the original level and 21 feet across the top. Inside this the vallum was piled on a base 41 feet wide, now 4 feet 8 inches high, probably at least 6 feet as originally made and surmounted with a wooden stockade, the post-holes of which we failed to find. The fluid sand of the top $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 feet has silted down on either side: moreover, roots of bracken and trees blacken the subsoil so much as to

make recognition of holes, even if they still existed, almost impossible. This is the fifth E.I.A. camp on sand in which post-holes have eluded me. The length of vallum and fosse on the north-east side is 410 feet, but both are interrupted at 100 feet from the north end by an entrance, 12 feet wide and 60 feet long, closed in by banks now only 3 feet high, but rising to the height of the vallum at the west end. The bank, vallum and fosse on the north side are all set about 6 feet east of the corresponding system on the south side. Thus, entering from the east, you find an overlap on your right (north) of 6 feet, but at the inner end of this barbican there is an overlap of 6 foot on the left (south) side. The original level of the road was 1 foot 9 inches below the present level. Stones had rolled down on it from both banks, but there is no sign of systematic hardening : indeed, from the colour of the sand it may be conjectured that it was grass-grown. We found here two fragments (top and bottom stones) of a beehive quern, and more sling and hand-missile pebbles—between 30 and 40—than in any other place. They appear to be scattered remains of a collection of ammunition conveniently kept on the entrance banks.

At the north-east corner the vallum returns south-west at a right angle. From this corner the inner bank is preserved for a few yards only along the north side, but gradually peters out on to the level. It has been destroyed, but has left traces here and there. Parallel with it, the outer bank is also seen raised a foot or so above the general level. Along here the sagging terrace suggested a fosse, and this we successfully proved in three places—north side, west end, and south side (trenches D, I, and K). It is scarped out of the sandstone like that on the north-east, averaging a depth of 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet below the modern surface. The infill was quite obvious, consisting of loose stones, of which the heaviest had of course found their way to the bottom. A great deal of pottery and much burnt material were found at the bottom of K. Fig. 2 gives a fair idea of what the original defences were. Mounting the steep hill-side the attack would have to negotiate a bank some 5 feet high and its stockade. Previously in dead ground, it would here for the first time be exposed to volleys of missiles—hand-thrown stones, sling pebbles, flint-headed arrows, and iron-tipped spears. Sur-

viving this, it must descend into a fosse 5 feet deep, clamber out of this and up 15–30 feet of the next steep slope, and finally over the inner bank with its stockade, before setting foot inside the camp. The whole system was a very formidable proposition. At the south end of the north-east side the inner bank, fosse and outer bank have now been lost on the steep south slope, probably demolished to admit a pathway. The greatest length of the camp area is c. 840 feet east to west, and its greatest width over the high ground at the south-west end c. 500 feet. The proving of a fosse concealed by the terrace

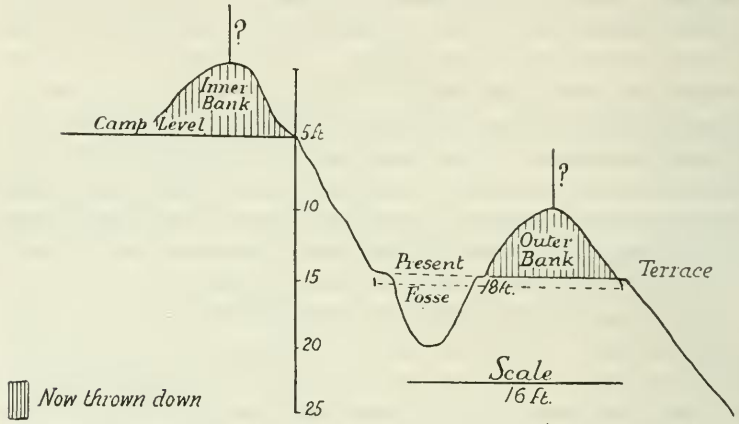

FIG. 2.—SECTION THROUGH N.W. DEFENCES RECONSTRUCTED.

walk goes to confirm what I suspected but had not time to prove, that the south scarp at Holmbury was similarly defended.

Possible Celtic ways down from the camp were (i) north-east, turning east, to Nore Farm, and so into the Weald in the direction of Cranleigh and Holmbury; (ii) No. i forking towards the Guildford gap at Peasmarsh and so to the ancient east-to-west route along the North Downs; (iii) down the south slope, west of Park Hatch, towards Dunsfold; (iv) north-west into the Hascombe valley.

(ii) The Digging of Trenches and Holes.

A. Through north-east vallum and fosse, 12 yards south-east of entrance, in length 62 feet level (Fig. 3). In the vallum what had been the original level before piling stood out quite clearly,

being of a whiter as contrasted with the yellower sand above it. In the middle of the vallum the original level rises 1 foot 6 inches above datum line, and the height of the piling above it, *i.e.* the vallum as it now is, is 4 feet 8 inches. The base measures 41 feet through. The fosse wall drops by 8 steps to a flat trough or gulley 1 foot 3 inches to 1 foot 6 inches wide at the bottom, and a few inches deep. This carried off water along the slope from south to north.[1] On the other (east) side the fosse wall rises more steeply in 6 steps. The cutting of such a fosse appears to me to imply the use of strong iron tools. The present top of the fosse is only 1 foot 8 inches below the level datum line, but its bottom as originally cut was 9 feet below it. The first pieces of La Tène III pottery were found in the vallum exactly on the original level, and other pieces 4 feet 6 inches down in the fosse. Chipped flints were found

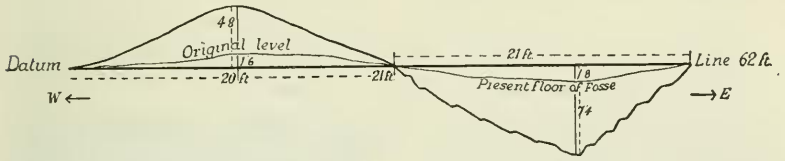

FIG. 3.—CROSS-SECTION THROUGH N.E. VALLUM AND FOSSE—A.

scattered about throughout the vallum, presumably thrown up with it from the original surface. The pottery is beyond doubt of E.I.A., and the associated flints of the same date. At 2 feet 8 inches above the fosse bottom was a burnt layer, 1 foot thick, consisting of charcoal, wood ashes, and fragments of pottery. The fosse had silted up with big stones to a height of 2 feet 8 inches before the burnt material had been thrown out over the vallum in this part of the fosse; there were no signs of débris above this. The top 4 feet 8 inches we may reckon as the work of about 2,000 years, the silting becoming slower and slower as banks wore down and the fosse floor became more level, and as both became grass-grown. The vallum was very probably faced, though I think not securely, with big stones taken from the fosse, a large proportion of which had rolled down into the fosse; those that were left on the bank we had to dig through in sections A and C.

[1] Compare the channel in the ditch N. of Hadrian's Wall.

B, begun 10 feet south-east of A, with a view of searching the bottom of the fosse for a good length, was laid out for 105 feet, 6 feet 6 inches wide for the first 38 feet, and 7 feet 6 inches wide for the remainder. The whole was dug for several feet down from the top, but to the bottom for 52 feet only from the north-west end. In this stretch the average depth of the bottom from the present top was 6 feet 6 inches. At 38 feet from the north-west end another section C was dug across vallum and fosse, and it was in this and for some feet south of it at 1½ feet from the bottom that we found considerable remains of at least two pots of La Tène III date. No doubt broken when thrown away, they were still further fractured by falling stones, between which the pieces were found wedged. With them were two hand-crushers, one a big natural flint, the other shaped out of hard dark-brown ironstone. At 3 feet down on the west or camp side of the slope of C was a neat little flint saw and some flint flakes. These finds on the eighth day of digging were encouraging, for evidence, like Coleridge's Spring, "comes slowly up this way." Here and there in most trenches and holes we found rounded grey flint pebbles, apparently imported, as at Holmbury, from the bed of Woolwich pebbles which is a natural deposit in three places on the North Downs east of St. Martha's.

E, at the south end, produced nothing but charcoal, well-burnt sandstone, and a flint plane. F, along the top of the vallum, represents a vain attempt to find post-holes. F 1, 2, 3, and G 1 and 2 just inside the vallum were intended to find signs of habitation in the snug protected quarter; it was in a similar position at Holmbury that most habitation vestiges were found. In F 1 sherds of pot, charcoal, burnt sandstone, many flint flakes and chips were found 1 foot 6 inches to 2 feet down; and a biggish piece of ironstone (Carrstone, locally called "Blackheath stone"). This ore came from Hydon's Ball, c. 2 miles west, and was perhaps smelted in the camp. The habitation level was c. 1 foot 6 inches down, marked by a brownish sand, originally grass-grown, which extends about 1 foot deeper, where the undisturbed yellow sand was in evidence. Below this in most parts of the camp is the sandstone rock. In F 2 were signs of a hearth, and at one point a pit seems to have been dug through the rock to a depth of 4 feet. At the bottom

(*Photo : H. C. Cardew-Rendle*)

Through vallum, looking east.

(*Photo : H. C. Cardew-Rendle*)

Stepped fosse, looking east.

(*Photo : H. C. Cardew-Rendle*

East fosse, looking north.

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(*Photo: H. C. Cardew-Rendle*)

Fireplace in G. 2.

(*Photo: H. C. Cardew-Rendle*)

Entrance, looking west.

PLATE XVII

of this was a burnt layer, above which 2 inches of sand; on this another burnt layer and above it another thin layer of sand, on top of which yet another burnt layer. This was a fire-pit. The bottom of it, being below the general rock level, collected the water from the slope down from the south and from the vallum (east), and for once the sand here was very wet. In G 1 and 2 were burnt stones of hearth, charcoal and other remains of fire and pottery sherds, with flint flakes and pebbles. The hearth in G 2 was 1 foot 8 inches down, and consisted of four stones laid flat in a shallow hole with one set upright on the west edge. As at Holmbury, most of the cooking was done under the vallum. Digging in the vallum and fosse north of the entrance was unproductive.

L. The long axis of the entrance points midway between east and east-north-east (Fig. 4). The entrance was thoroughly explored with a trench 66 feet long, 15 feet broad at either end, narrowing to 9 feet in the centre. Undisturbed sand was reached on the average at 2 feet 2 inches down, the ancient level being about 1 foot 6 inches below the modern level. It was not deliberately hardened with stone, but there were enough sandstones naturally *in situ* to keep it fairly hard, and a large number of stones had rolled down on to it from the side banks. A relatively large number of sling and hand-throwing pebbles, between 30 and 40, were found here, some scraps of pottery, a good many broken flints, two parts of a beehive quern, and some thin top pieces of Bargate stone brought from the other side of the Hascombe valley. Holes for gate-posts we failed to find, but there was one big flat stone, roughly circular, which had been broken into four equal parts, which appeared to have supported the bottom of a post. This was at the narrowest part of the entrance, roughly in the middle of its length, and here the gate may have been. On the old level also were some concreted lumps of ash, sand and charcoal (Fig. 5).

The simple, though, I believe, unique character of this entrance accords with the type of pottery found, both justifying the assignment of the camp to the earliest of the Celtic invaders (Mr. Hawkes's type A).

D. This was a first attempt to prove that the present terrace walk was originally a fosse. It was suggested by the trough

in the ground where the leaves had collected to a considerable depth and by remains of a bank outside it, and was completely

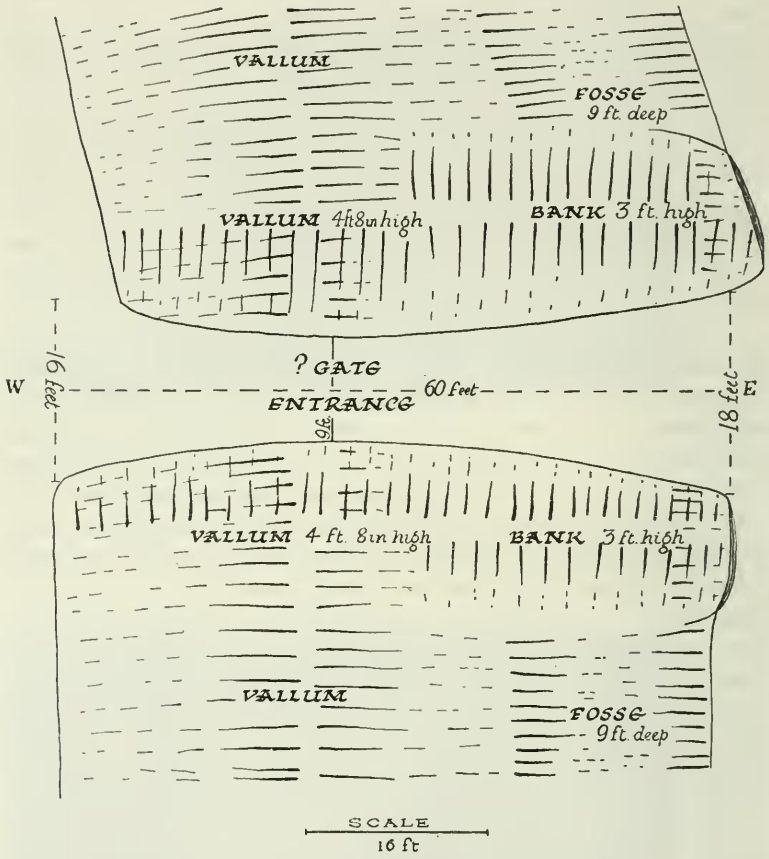

FIG. 4.—PLAN OF ENTRANCE OF HASCOMBE CAMP.

successful, as the shape and depth of the fosse came out quite clearly. The fosse was 5 feet 4 inches down from the modern top, steeper on the south (camp) side than on the north, and

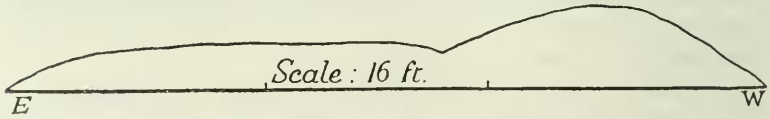

FIG. 5.—S. ENTRANCE BANK: SECTION.

14 feet 6 inches across the top ; the filling was a mass of loose stones. At 3 feet down the north slope were found some pieces of iron slag associated with charcoal and pieces of burnt sandstone. Hoping to find signs of a hearth for the smelting of iron, we dug D 2 on the camp level. We found no more iron slag, but one lump of sandstone completely covered with green glaze (*cf.* Trench I), very similar to that I have always found on the sites of mediæval glass furnaces. In this case great heat had cooked out the silica of the stone on to its surface. There had evidently been furnace heat, something much greater than that of an ordinary hearth for cooking. There were here another piece of carrstone and two or three pot-boiler flints glossy with silica ; but we failed to find the site of a bloomery. Other " finds " here were sling pebbles, flint flakes and cores, and certain remains of the inner bank. Two more trenches were dug to make quite sure of the fosse—I at the west end, and K on the south side. Both these corroborated the fosse, and showed it cut, as B, through the rock by a series of steps : they were 5 feet deep from the terrace level. I 1 dug in the interior was unproductive, but in I were potsherds, including two rims and pot-boiler flints, and on the bottom a concreted layer of burnt sand mixed with wood ashes in association with charcoal. Finally, a piece of sandstone with green glaze, as in D 2. Much fire-making must have been done actually in the fosse.

K was very interesting. The bottom part of the fosse had been squared out into a sort of pit, on the flat floor of which was a large quantity of broken pottery, charcoal, and thoroughly burnt sand and sandstone over an area 5 feet square. There were also some small fragments of iron slag, one piece attached to a fragment of chalk which may have been used as a smelting flux. Though the signs are slight, I cannot avoid the conclusion that either smelting or forging of iron was done in this fosse. H was a long 5-feet-wide trench to find habitation signs in the middle of the camp area, but beyond a few sling pebbles, pot-boilers, and pieces of broken flint it yielded nothing ; no food bones, no pottery, no traces of pit dwellings. It showed, however, that the sandstone rock is generally about 2 feet 6 inches below the surface, and the top soil often barely 1 foot deep. Pit dwellings would have had to be cut out of the rock, but the

fosses prove that this would have been possible. We could have done little more by way of searching for them, because the ground is obstructed on all sides by the growth of young trees which naturally had to be respected. Still the traces of occupation were so scanty as to suggest only occasional use of the camp as a place of refuge. If this was so, where were the neighbouring villages for whose convenience Hascombe Camp was constructed? Possibly along the sand ridge both east and west, now so densely wooded as to make their discovery very difficult.

The sum of my experience in these E.I.A. camps is that the excavator need trouble little about the contained area, but should concentrate chiefly on vallum and fosse, especially the latter, and the ground close under the vallum which affords protection from north or east winds.

(iii) "FINDS."—(Now in the possession of Joseph Godman, Esq., Park Hatch, and Guildford Museum.)

(*a*) *Flint.*—Some 80–100 ovoid flint pebbles, weighing on the average about 2 oz., mostly blue-grey outside and blue or grey in section, were found scattered *passim*. They were imported from Woolwich or Reading Beds on the North Downs, at Netley, to the north-west of Netley, and near Ranmore. They seem to have been selected and used for two purposes—the smaller as sling stones, the larger as hand-throwing missiles. It is certain that they were also used as pot-boilers, as we found them fractured by heat. (*Cf.* Holmbury Report, *S.A.C.*, Vol. XXXVIII, pt. 2, p. 165.) Such ovoid sling pebbles (where pebbles were not available, clay pellets of the same shape were made) seem to have been valued, as Pitt-Rivers found 4, with hundreds of flint flakes, in barrow No. 9 in Scrubbity Copse, near Handley, Dorset. Was the dead man an expert flint-knapper or slinger?

Similar collections of pebbles have been found in E.I.A. camps at Mount Caburn, Cissbury, and the Trundle in Sussex; at Dry Hill, Surrey; and Hembury, Devon.

A fairly large quantity of worked and broken flints, cores and flakes, and five flint implements in association with E.I.A. pottery show that flint implements were made and

1. Flint crusher. 2. Ironstone crusher. 3. Green-glazed sandstone.
4. Carrstone. 5. Sling pebbles. 6. Hand-throwing pebbles.
See sections (iii) and (ii) B.

Flint implements found on the slopes of Hascombe Hill before 1931.

La Tène III pottery sherds. One marked X with perforated holes.
See section (iii) *c*.

used in the camp. These flints are not Neolithic work: Holmbury pointed to the same conclusion.

But that flints, either in Neolithic and Bronze Ages, or in the tradition of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, were worked or used on Hascombe hill can hardly be doubted in view of the specimens found on both its north and south slopes, and now in the possession of Mr. Godman. This can be paralleled, as Mr. C. Hawkes has pointed out (*Antiquity*, March 1931), in the E.I.A. camps (of his type A) of Eggardun, Loughton, Ambresbury Banks and War Ditches at Cherry

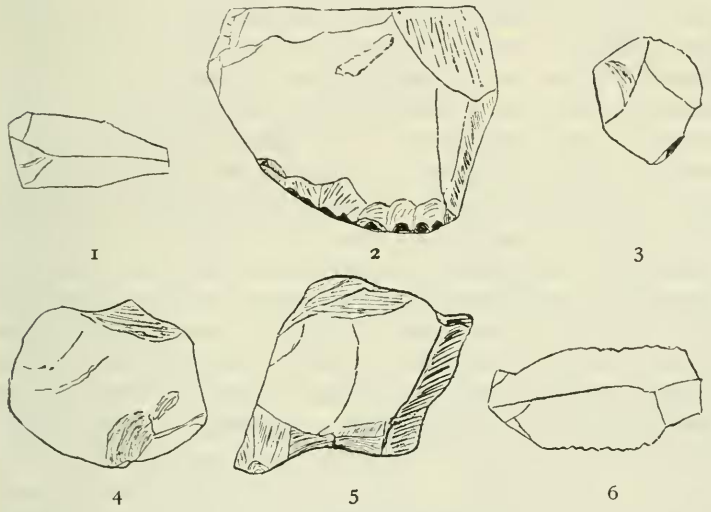

FIG. 6.—WORKED FLINTS.
(⅔ *actual size.*)

Hinton. Fig. 6 illustrates items found by us: two scrapers (2 and 4), a little serrated flake (6), flat on one side and bi-faceted on the other, a similarly formed knife (1), broken at the pointed end, and a rough-out for a leaf-shaped arrow-head (3). There are also a biggish hand-plane (5), with blue patina on the planing surface, and a light-grey core from which flakes have been taken on all sides.

(*b*) *Stone Crushers*: four examples. 1. One weighs almost exactly 4 lb., and is shaped out from a dark-brown irony sand-stone, 4½ inches high with a base diameter of 5 inches. Being

conical, it is well adapted to a hand grip. 2. Another is a big natural flint, also conical in shape: weight just 3 lb. 3. A flattish lump of chert, discoidal. 4. A smaller flint with rounded top and flat base. I do not think 1 and 2 could have been used as weights, as they do not fit in with the presumed standard weights of the iron currency bars (Brit. Mus., *Guide to Early Iron Age*, 1925, p. 165).

(*c*) *Chert, Bargate Stone, Carrstone, etc.*—There were found many lumps of chert and Bargate stone (top-layer pieces, locally called "Jole"), which seem to have been imported for use, but no chert implements. (Though not strictly relevant here, it may be said that my surmise about there having been chert implements at Holmbury is confirmed by the finding by Miss D. Liddell of a chisel-shaped implement of chert at Chilworth Ring, near Southampton, in 1928.) Of carrstone we found several pieces. It is a brown siliceous ironstone, locally called "Blackheath stone," brought from Hydon's Ball, c. 2 miles westward. There are two types of it, both of which were represented in the camp. One type consists of heavy solid lumps found in squares and tubes: the other is in thinner contorted pieces with yellow sand adhering, but full of iron. The former would be here to smelt, and it is to this that Topley (*Geology of the Weald*) probably refers when he writes: "This contains a high percentage of iron . . . but it seems hardly suited to the purpose" (of smelting). The latter type, however, would be well suited for smelting, and it is easily broken up into small fragments. We found it in the furnace pit in K. It seems to be possible that iron was smelted in Hascombe Camp. On the other hand, the small pieces of iron slag found in D suggested to Mr. E. Straker (author of *Wealden Iron*, 1931), who came from Reigate to visit our excavations, that these are probably the result of forging, that is, hammering out from iron bars the impurities, rather than of smelting. It is worth while, then, to consider the likelihood that in E.I.A. iron may have been produced at a bloomery at Burningfold, in Dunsfold, down in the Weald about 2 miles away. The name Burningfold (or field)—if it carries its obvious meaning of soil showing signs of burning—is first recorded in 1229 (*Wealden Iron*), long before the establishment there of a Tudor furnace and forge in 1574. The district yields plenty of good

iron ore. If there was a bloomery here in pre-Roman times, it would explain two things: the presence in Hascombe Camp of iron for forging (just as iron slag at Saxonbury implied a bloomery in a neighbouring gill), and the later course of a supposed Roman road, called High Street (close N. of which was a Roman villa), from Pickhurst, Chiddingfold, to the iron works at Burningfold—a course otherwise difficult to explain.

(*d*) *Beehive Quernstones.*—Two big pieces of these were found in the entrance way, 1 foot 9 inches down, one of a nether stone with square hole for the bottom of an iron pivot, the other with socket groove for handle. These, and two other fragments, are of a hard conglomerate stone which is said to be derived from the Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand, but no one has yet recognized it as local. The date of the use of such querns is fairly well fixed as between c. 200 B.C. and A.D. 50. They were superseded by the flatter discoidal querns of the Romans. The nether stone measured: diameter of base, 12½ to 13 inches: pivot-hole roughly 1½ inches square. The upper stone: socket-hole for handle, length 4 inches, width 1¾ inches at the outside end, 1½ inches end at centre. Similar querns have been found at Hunsbury (near Northampton), Glastonbury, the Trundle, and Holmbury—all E.I.A. settlements. (See Holmbury, *S.A.C.*, XXXVIII, pt. 2, p. 163.) As, however, the Hunsbury and Glastonbury peoples belong to the South-Western Celtic immigration of about 300 B.C. (type B), it would appear that the Holmbury and Hascombe folk were influenced by the new-comers to this extent.

(*e*) *Pottery.*—About 150 fragments, two of them large parts of two pots, were found, all absolutely of one type, La Tène III, dating c. 150–1 B.C. The dating is corroborated by Mr. C. Hawkes, of the British Museum, and Mr. J. Dunning. It is hand-made, mostly black inside, and red or black outside, and of loose stringy texture, sometimes gritted with minute particles of flint, but always of a smooth, soapy surface. The average thickness of the side of a pot is $\frac{5}{16}$ inch.

One pot, a bucket-shaped vessel, has a plain flat base with straight side sloping outward: the base had a diameter of c. 4½ inches, calculated from one-third of the curve. Others were bowls of rounded sides. In one rim fragment, ¾ inch below the rim are two small round perforated holes, ¾ inch

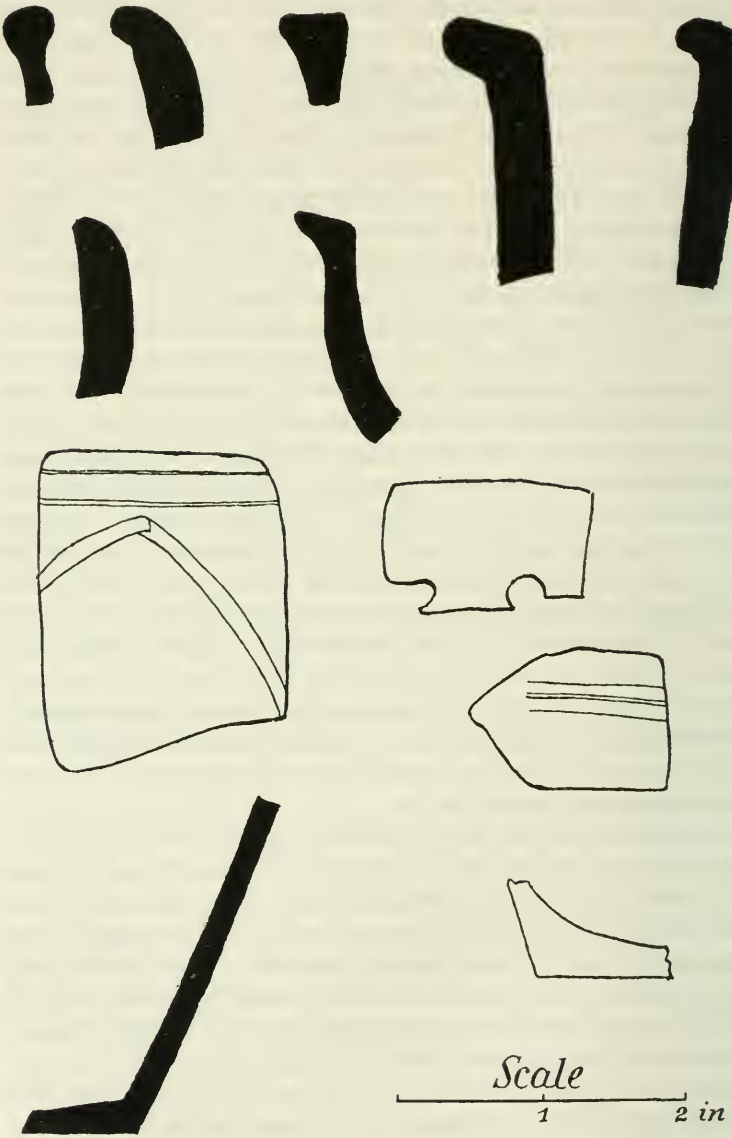

FIG. 7.—RIMS, ORNAMENTS, ETC., OF LA TÈNE III POTTERY.

apart, apparently intended for the two points of a hook for suspending a handle. *Ornament*: parallel incised lines under rim, and under these curves of double lines. *Rims*: one is a near approach to, though not quite the genuine Belgic bead rim introduced by the Belgic invaders who came soon after Cæsar's invasion into Hants and Berks.

There was found not a single fragment of Roman pottery or anything Roman to suggest occupation in Roman or immediately post-Roman times. There were no food bones; and yet once again I found no vestige of any iron implement. Sand seems to be inimical to the preservation of iron.

(iv) Historical Setting.

This Celtic pottery, resembling exactly that found at Saxonbury and Holmbury Camps, and generally much of that found at Mount Caburn, and at Findon Park village, is a native product, a slight improvement on native La Tène II. It occasionally shows the influence of, but is never identical with the real Belgic La Tène III. The people who inhabited these camps of the sandhills on the north boundary of the Weald were probably of the same race and essentially Hallstatt culture as the Celts of the Sussex Downs, *viz.* Brythonic Celts who had been established in south-east Britain from as far back as 500 or 600 B.C., who lived as tribal groups in hill-top citadels.

Broadly speaking, they belong to Sussex, which as a whole remained immune from the immigration of the Glastonbury folk who settled in Somerset about 300 B.C. Indirectly they were probably affected, though not dislodged by the two Belgian immigrations into south-east and south Britain in the first century B.C. The inhabitants of Hascombe Camp probably left their high village soon after the middle of the first century B.C. Tribal groups were by this time being unified under compulsion. Cunobeline became lord paramount over all the south and south-east of Britain, and hill-forts, like the Norman adulterine castles, became inconvenient. Did they make a new home in the near-by Weald at some such place as Dunsfold, or Cranleigh, or Bramley? Or did they make away westward by way of Guildford and Farnham? At any rate we have no proof that the site was again occupied at the end

of the Roman period from fear of Saxon invaders, or held by Saxons against Danes.

This excavation has once again proved the importance of investigating similar sites. As Sir Charles Peers says (*Antiq. Journ.*, July 1931, p. 222), " We have no reason to rest content with a quite unnecessary ignorance of the course of our native story." Anstiebury should be investigated.