

‘to the Great Common ... for a little spade exercise’

GRAHAM BIERTON

Introduction

‘On Sunday 23rd August 1868, Revd Charles Kerry of Smalley, Co Derby, having been appointed to the Curacy of Puttenham by the Rev W A Duckworth, Rector, officiated for the first time in Puttenham Church: and on 15th October 1868, the said Charles Kerry, Clerk, was duly licenced to the said curacy of Puttenham . . .’ (Kerry 1868-77 (hereafter *Journal*), 2, 154).

Thus, in his journal, the Rev Charles Kerry recorded his introduction to Puttenham where he remained as curate until 1877, when he ‘removed from Puttenham to Surbiton in the Parish of Kingston, Surrey, having accepted the curacy of S Marks in that place’ (*Journal*, 12, 185). During these years at Puttenham he completed eleven handwritten volumes, numbered 2 to 12, containing – among much else – notes of his prehistoric and Roman discoveries in west Surrey which form the basis of this essay.

Kerry was never a member of the Surrey Archaeological Society, but there is one paper under his name in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* (Kerry 1880, 192-202). Published after he had become Vicar of Matfen in Northumberland, this was the transcription of a paper read by him at Elstead parish church to members of the Surrey Archaeological Society during the Annual Meeting of 1876.

Elsewhere in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* Frank Lasham tells us that Kerry made the first collection of Neolithic implements from the district around Puttenham (Lasham 1893, 249), and also refers to some of Kerry’s discoveries (Lasham 1895, 148-9, 153-4) – perhaps having attended a lecture given by Kerry in January 1870 describing the history and antiquities of Puttenham, or perhaps from reading a newspaper report of this lecture; an undated cutting from an unidentified newspaper describing the lecture in detail survives in Kerry’s journal (4, 130). Additionally, at some time during this century, Dr Wilfrid Hooper made notes from Kerry’s manuscripts (an overall collection of 21 volumes written between 1865 and 1895; now preserved in the Local Studies Library at Derby, accession numbers 4665 – 4685) and certain of these notes are published in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* (Clark & Nichols 1960, 50-1; Grinsell 1963, 84).

In 1970 the Surrey Archaeological Society obtained photocopies of Kerry’s volumes 2 to 12, and from these it can be seen that Hooper’s notes are not exact copies of Kerry’s words. Although most of the differences are of a minor nature, there are actual errors in these published extracts – including a number of incorrect personal names, suggesting perhaps that Hooper’s handwriting is less easy to read than Kerry’s.

Opportunity is taken here to republish these extracts in Kerry’s actual words; and also to make available a selection of his other writings of an archaeological nature, some of which may still prove useful to future workers. Kerry’s journals are not diaries; they tell us much about his – mainly antiquarian – interests but little about his day to day activities. The format of this essay is, therefore, one of subject matter. Kerry’s varied methods of describing dates have been reduced to a consistent one; metric equivalents of his measurements have been included; a few obvious errors have been corrected and certain abbreviations have been expanded. Other than this the words and spelling are Kerry’s – the punctuation sometimes is not.

Earthworks

Kerry examined a number of earthworks that he described as barrows or tumuli and recorded opening, or at least digging into, eight of them. The majority are situated on heathland and, in more recent years, two mounds on heathland at Thursley Common, when excavated, were found to be natural stabilised dunes though indistinguishable in external appearance from round barrows. One was found to be cut about the centre, presumably by antiquarians, though no record could be found (Corcoran 1961, 87–91).

Kerry does not report digging into any mounds on Thursley Common. However, to assist future excavators who might unknowingly re-examine other mounds he worked on, mention is made here of all earthworks described in his journals.

Tumulus, Hog's Back

On OS maps before 1895 a tumulus was marked at SU 9261 4825 (Grinsell 1987, 25). Kerry recorded in his journal, obviously from hearsay, that this tumulus was destroyed in 1817 and Hooper's version of this entry was published by Grinsell (1963, 84). Kerry actually wrote the following –

'On the top of the Downs, on the south side of the highway in a line with the western extremity of the village of Puttenham, and about 200 yards [183m] to the east of the milestone, formerly existed a large barrow, with the usual cavity at the summit. The tumulus measured about 17 yards [15.5m] in diameter at the base, and the bowl shaped opening at the top was about 6 feet [1.8m] wide and 2 feet 6 inches [0.75m] in depth.

'The winter of 1817 was a very severe one, and many of the labourers in consequence were thrown out of employment. It was, therefore, resolved by the ratepayers for the sake of affording relief to these men, that the mound should be removed – the soil carted into the fields, whilst the stone screenings should be employed for the repairs of the roads.

'During the course of the work several interesting remains were discovered: amongst the rest were human bones, coins, fragments of iron – amongst which was one resembling an 'oven peel' (probably a shield) with fragments of pottery most likely the remains of an urn.

'Old Sam Harding of Wanborough brought a jaw bone with the teeth to Mr Fludder's smithy in Puttenham. Carpenter Smith's brother Daniel assisted in filling the carts, and the soil for the most part was carried into the Great Down Field – now part of Mr Hewett's farm.

'On Saturday 6th November 1869, accompanied by Mr Denly, I dug a hole about 16 inches [0.4m] in depth and 4 feet [1.2m] wide in the remains of this barrow – near the spot where The Surrey Archaeological Society about 12 years ago relinquished their labours, and was rewarded by the discovery of a human bone' (*Journal*, 3, 40).

Hooper's version differs more in presentation than in meaning. He tended to abbreviate both words and phrases, yet once added a phrase of his own, telling how old Sam Harding 'took an active part in the work'. He also stated that Kerry's own trench was 14 feet [4.27m] wide.

The Surrey Archaeological Society 'executed their labours' during the Annual General Meeting of 1858, when 'a barrow, or tumulus, situated at Wanborough, was opened under the superintendence of a Committee of the Society, and a large party of Members and Visitors were present at the operation' (Anon 1864, xxv).

There is some confusion here, for a barrow situated about 1100m to the east of that described by Kerry was excavated in 1966 and found to be intersected by a well cut trench that was presumed to be that made in 1858 (Clark 1966). Comparison of the locational

descriptions suggests that the barrow excavated by Clark is more likely to be the one that received this attention, but the matter is now academic for both have been destroyed.

Earthworks, Puttenham Heath

On Puttenham Heath stands Frowsbury Mound, a bowl-barrow and Scheduled Ancient Monument (Grinsell 1987, 25). Two instances of Surrey barrows being used as vantage points for the placing of a windmill are recorded by Grinsell (1987, 11) and this may have been a third; for Kerry, again from hearsay evidence, said in his 1870 lecture that deep trenches were made near the centre of this mound in 1817 when the foundations of an old windmill were dug up for road materials (*Journal*, 4, 130).

About 200m to the south was a roughly circular earth bank with outer ditch about 18m in diameter, probably a tree clump circle (Grinsell 1987, 25). Called 'The Ring' by Kerry, he dug a hole of unrecorded size about its centre in January 1870. 'About a foot [0.3m] below the surface was a stratum of darkish coloured earth in which we found a horse's tooth and a bone which seemed to me like the small bone of a man's arm - it was certainly no part of the skeleton of a horse. At the same depth we picked up several calcined flints though only once I fancied I saw traces of fire. In the same hole we dug up portions of tile, though as one lay so very near the surface I much doubt whether they are of any great antiquity' (*Journal*, 4, 5). No trace of an earth ring was seen during a perambulation of the area by F G Aldsworth, OS archaeology field investigator, in 1966 (SMR). It has perhaps been destroyed for the changing requirements of the golf course in which it stood.

Tumuli, near Caesar's Camp, Aldershot

In June 1870 Kerry examined two mounds 'at the far end of what I believe is termed Lady House Common, not far from the road leading from Hale to Crondall', perhaps part of the group shown on OS maps centred on SU 822 493 a short distance into Hampshire.

At one mound he made 'a grave like opening as near the centre as I could ascertain, about 2 feet 6 inches [0.75m] wide and 5 feet [1.5m] long'. This mound was entirely composed of sand and Kerry's description of the section suggests it to be a stabilised dune.

The second mound presented the same features with the addition of a layer of large natural blocks of flint lying at the centre just beneath the surface (*Journal*, 4, 120-1). Kerry also noted that there were several disturbed blocks of flint lying on a nearby mound, suggesting perhaps that someone had previously investigated there.

Tumuli, Charles Hill, Elstead

Centred on SU 889 443 are a group of tumuli which Kerry visited in November 1870, returning a month later to open three of them in one day. These, too, from Kerry's description, give the impression of being no more than stabilised dunes (Kerry 1880, 193; Grinsell 1987, 36).

Tumulus, Furze Field, Seale

Probably on the same day that he dug at The Ring, Kerry also investigated this mound. He dug a hole of unrecorded size in the top, found the composition to be 'stratified and exceedingly compact, abounding in flints' and decided it was a natural elevation (*Journal*, 4, 5).

Later the same year he paid a further visit to this mound and made an inspection of the surface. He 'noticed a considerable quantity of calcined flints; picked up two flint instruments or arrowheads, one long, the other nearly circular, observed fragments of

pottery . . . ; collected a quantity of calcined bones which lay scattered in minute fragments all over the mound (among these was a molar of some large quadruped, horse, I believe). Hence, I conclude this is a tumulus or barrow' (*Journal*, 4, 93).

Furze Field, together with two neighbouring fields, subsequently became a plantation. The whole of this area is now a single field, under grass, with a newly created plantation around two of its edges. No mound appears to have survived these changes and no attempt is made here to guess what it represented other than to suggest that the composition described by Kerry does not sound like that of a stabilised dune.

Tumuli, Frensham Common

On a hilltop between the Great and Little Ponds stands a small group of tumuli. That there were once many more around the Great Pond (Baker & Minchen 1948, 33) was considered not to inspire confidence (Grinsell 1987, 36) but Kerry's description of a visit to the locality does lend weight to the statement.

'On Easter Monday, 18th April 1870, accompanied by Revd W A Duckworth and the Miss Sumners, I went to Frensham Pond. Mr Duckworth pulled us down the lake and when we arrived at the lower end, owing to the shallowness of the water, we were unable to land near the Tumulus. I was resolved, however, to examine it; so, having taken off my stockings and boots, tied my coat tails round my waist, with my stick under my arm, my boots in my mouth and my trowsers supported by my hands, I came safely to land, to the great amusement of the ladies . . . To my sorrow I found the Barrow had been examined, a trench having been made from the north to the centre, where a considerable quantity of soil (or rather sand) had been removed. I did not make any enquiries but I think the research could not have been a successful one, for the excavation does not appear to have been made in the place most likely to repay the labour of investigation. The centre remains untouched. There is another Barrow close by, and these two including two groups on the neighbouring hills make ten tumuli visible from the cricket ground' (*Journal*, 4, 103-4).

Tumulus, Polstead in Compton

The previously described mounds were all situated on the chalk or heathlands. Here, however, Kerry examined a mound in an area close to the junction of the Atherfield Clay and Hythe Beds of the Peasmarsh anticline.

He wrote of a large peaty swamp in a coppice lying in a direct line between Compton church and Polstead farm, but nearer the latter. From this locality issue two streams one of which had, at the time of writing (1871), recently been enlarged to form a watercress bed. 'The soil and peat thrown out of this latter contain British Pottery (half baked and mingled with pounded flint etc), flint instruments and numerous animal bones and teeth (? horses).'

Higher up, and in the coppice, was a large pond head, in the centre of which was 'a rising ground perhaps 40 yards [36.6m] in diameter as if an ancient island' and which was covered with fragments of burnt flint.

'Out of the pond bason, and adjoining the island, rises a conical mound about 4ft 6in [1.4m] high and 6 yards [5.5m] in diameter at the base. Suspecting this from its form to be a barrow in spite of its remarkable situation, on Monday 23rd October 1871, accompanied by Mr Baker of Polstead Farm, I opened the mound.

'The result was as follows - outer turf, 12 inches [0.3m]; calcined matter like burnt bones intermixed with soil and burnt flints, 10 inches [0.25m]; burnt rushes and other matter carbonized and mingled with peat soil, 12 inches [0.3m]; pure peat with burnt flints, 12 inches [0.3m]; a horizontal layer of stakes some of which were 2.5

inches [0.06m] in diameter – below the natural surface, sand mingled with burnt flints; sand bed; stake driven into the sand vertically' (*Journal*, 5, 68–9).

The coppice is presumably Bummoor Copse, and investigation at the bases of uprooted trees and at rabbit scrapings has revealed fragments of burnt flint and a few flint flakes. Kerry's topographical description is confusing and neither island nor mound has yet been located by the writer.

Worked flints

In many journal entries, particularly in 1870, Kerry recorded finding or being presented with flint implements. These were chiefly obtained from the parish of Puttenham, but also from the neighbouring parishes of Seale and Wanborough and occasionally further afield.

The journals give inadequate details to enable a full appreciation of the collection to be made. Typical entries simply name fields and their contents – Moors Vere produced '9 excellent barbs of grey flint of good size – one very symmetrical, about 2 inches [0.05m] long' (*Journal*, 4, 87); and from Sandy Wheatlands 'I brought home thirty good specimens of arrow and spear heads, barbs etc and I suppose William Allden who accompanied me must have found almost as many' (*Journal*, 4, 87). Several days later Kerry was collecting with Sam Allden, William's brother, at Lascombs where they found 'at least 40 good specimens' (*Journal*, 4, 86). Several such entries are accompanied by sketches and a facsimile of a typical page is reproduced as fig 1.

It would be hazardous to read too much into these entries, numerous though they are, for, in September 1870, Kerry wrote 'My flint finds at the foot of the Downs and in the vicinity of the Wanbro' spring have been so numerous during the last few months that I have been unable to keep any record of the particular specimens' (*Journal*, 4, 119). However, the pattern indicated from his recorded find spots shows them to be widespread throughout Puttenham with a limited westwards extension into Seale.

An attempt was made to locate flints collected by Kerry and the Allden brothers in west Surrey museums but with little success. A number of flints at Charterhouse can be linked with Kerry, while there is a single flint at Farnham from an Allden collection and a number at Godalming donated by S Allden. In view of the small amount of material located, no attempt was made to appraise it for this essay. However, an earlier appraisal by F G Aldsworth, OS archaeology field investigator, details nine Neolithic flints and two Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowheads at Charterhouse donated by Kerry from sites in Puttenham and Seale (SMR). Small though the numbers may be, especially when compared with the vast numbers Kerry obviously collected, the pattern does reflect that described by others for the Seale area (Oakley, Rankine & Lowther 1939, 96–7). Furthermore Kerry's own descriptions and sketches, where recognisable, seem to represent chiefly Neolithic and Bronze Age types. Clearly Kerry's flint records are of little or no value today, but let this brief review end with an example of his prose to remind us that he cannot truly be judged by the standards of today.

'15th October 1871. Received from William Mullard a fine but rude specimen of a celt . . . manifestly of the remotest antiquity and from its character seems more allied to the drift instruments rather than to the so called 'Neolithic' forms. The type is indicative of a most barbarous age, and the mind which could conceive and adopt so uncouth an instrument must have been but slightly removed from the intellectual capacity of the 'brutes that perish' ' (*Journal*, 5, 63).

Bronze Age hoard, Crooksbury Hill

This hoard, found in 1857, was said to consist of three palstaves and two socketed axes according to the *Illustrated London News* for that year (Phillips 1967, 29), though it was

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Battle Axe &c -

The Battle axe (dug up on Waubro' Common with the urns and calcined bones, in the year 1865) was presented to me by Morton Sumner Esq on Easter Eve 1870 -

On this day I picked up many flints of various forms in the field above the Little Common occupied by Mr James Hewett. with them were two flints ~~described~~ of the class described by Bateman as "Kidney Shaped" - very carefully chipped.



The same day Sam. Allden found a very fine arrow head with stem and barbs complete in the field to the S. E. of Turner's cottage, called "Barnfield". This is the only barbed arrow head which has been found in this parish since I have devoted any attention to this species of Celtic antiquities. April 16. 1870 - CK.



A similar one though larger was picked up in Ashaws by Alexander. This is now in my collection February 1. 1871. CK.

Fig 1. A typical page from Charles Kerry's *Journal* (4, 102), including drawings of barbed and tanged arrowheads

subsequently suggested that these five objects may not represent the whole hoard (Oakley, Rankine & Lowther 1939, 163). Indeed displayed at the Annual General Meeting of the Surrey Archaeological Society in 1858 was 'a case containing about twenty-five Bronze Celts and other Reliques found at Crooksbury, near Farnham, Exhibited by J Hewitt, Esq, of Winchfield' (Anon 1864, xxiv-xxv).

Kerry corresponded with one E Hewett of St Leonards on Sea, copying into his journals two letters from Hewett (*Journal*, 8, 83; 8, 87) but not his own letters. In his first letter, dated 9th December 1873, Hewett writes 'The celts in my possession were found at Seale. There were 29, every one of which is different. They are very perfect specimens. Mr Franks of the British Museum borrowed a photograph of them which he has not yet returned. If you like to write and ask him to forward it to you, you are quite welcome to do so'. A postscript, noting that there was a short account and engravings of some of the objects in the *Illustrated London News*, confirms that this collection was the Crooksbury Hill hoard. The second letter, a month later, answers a query from Kerry and adds that Mr Franks had stated that every known type was represented in the collection.

The photograph cannot be traced at the British Museum, neither was any part of the hoard acquired by that museum (S Needham, pers comm). Two socketed axes matching those illustrated in the *Illustrated London News* are in Guildford Museum and are presumed to come from the hoard, though they have no documented history (Oakley, Rankine & Lowther 1939, 163), and a palstave provenanced to Crooksbury Hill was located in the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (Needham 1980, 45). This last came with the Foster bequest, and he had bought it at the sale of the collection of W C Borlase, the Cornish antiquary (S Needham, pers comm). This, sadly, seems to point to the dispersal of the original Hewitt/Hewett collection, one far larger than satisfactorily recorded in the literature.

The Romano-British period

Kerry's main collection of Romano-British material consisted of previously disturbed pottery from an area of Wanborough Common and material that he excavated on Puttenham Common. The objects are lost but descriptions and sketches of some of the pottery are found in the journals.

Kerry also noted the presence of Romano-British pottery seen while he was collecting flints and, presuming every location is recorded, the distribution of this material is found to be largely restricted to the vicinity of the greensand ridge that lies south of and runs parallel to the chalk ridge of the Hogs Back. From west of Seale to east of Puttenham this ridge also largely coincides with the division within the Folkestone Beds into sandy beds to the north and loamy beds to the south. The importance of the loamy beds in this locality during this period is stressed by Clark & Nichols (1960, 42-71), and the addition of Kerry's unpublished finds gives added emphasis to this feature. The style of his reporting, however, can assist little with the dating of the various sites within the period.

Romano-British presence, Wanborough Common

In discussing this site Clark and Nichols published Hooper's version of a journal entry (Clark & Nichols 1960, 50). Kerry's actual words, written in 1869, were as follows -

'About six or seven years ago Mr Morton Sumner, wishing to plant a portion of Wanborough Common, caused the plot (now enclosed by a ditch) adjoining Puttenham Common near the highway to be deeply dug or 'trenched'. The youths employed were Arthur Avenell, Cecil Caesar, and Hen Woodham. About the centre of the peice Avenell came upon a cist of Bargate stone containing two urns filled with calcined or charred bones, one of which was removed whole to the Priory, and is

now in the possession of Mr Sumner. The stones forming the cist were dug up and removed before any survey could be made' (*Journal*, 3, 33).

Wanborough Common adjoins Puttenham Heath, not Puttenham Common. The enclosed plot is now occupied by a house and its garden. Kerry examined the locality and 'picked up no less than twenty four fragments of pottery of a very early period' among which were rim sherds from five vessels and part of the base of a sixth (*Journal*, 3, 34). He later recovered material from the original discovery, which he learned had been placed under a thorn bush near the road and covered with slabs of stone, and was able 'to join together considerable portions of twelve different vases of varying quality and design' (*Journal*, 3, 47). Later still he dug a trench of unrecorded size in the vicinity and found 'several good specimens of pottery (Roman), burnt chalk stones, a piece of a millstone, and a fine, hard gritstone greatly resembling a painter's 'muller', which, besides its obvious designation, had also been employed for a whetstone' (*Journal*, 4, 17).

Kerry gave the pottery that he had recovered from the site to John Nealds of Guildford, and we learn from the newspaper report of his 1870 lecture that the two urns containing the calcined bones 'were for some time preserved in Mr Sumner's buildings, but they are not now to be found' (*Journal*, 4, 130). Nealds was obviously a wide-ranging collector, exhibiting at the Surrey Archaeological Society Annual General Meeting of 1855 'ancient Coins, Seals, Tiles, Keys etc, and two Singular Cannon-balls discovered in excavating for the Railway near Guildford' (Anon 1858, xxv). Nothing of his collection has been located in west Surrey museums, and today all we have from this site are Kerry's drawings (figs 2, 3).

The relationship of this pottery with the cremation urns, if any, can never be recovered. It is perhaps tempting to suggest that some of this material represents accessory vessels; indeed, isolated cremation urns, some with accessory vessels, have been found not too far away (Clark & Nichols 1960, 49; Elsley 1909, 200; Harrison 1968, 138-9). Further than this, however, it is not wise, at present, to speculate.

Romano-British presence, Puttenham Common

Kerry's investigations here followed hard on the heels of his discoveries at Wanborough Common, when he learned from Mr George Allden of 'a certain spot on the great common at no great distance from the Roman camp' where his sons had found many similar fragments (*Journal*, 3, 41).

The 'Roman camp' is, in fact, Hillbury Iron Age hillfort, and the 'certain spot' lies some 300m away. Here Kerry was taken by William and Sam Allden, and 'we soon found enough to reward us for the search. Not content with what lay on the surface I dug several holes in the places where the pieces most abounded, for some time without much success. At length, however, we came to fragments of burnt clay, charcoal and other traces of fires . . . the lower stone of a quern . . . several pieces of brick or red tiles . . . The most remarkable fragment of pottery was a portion of the base of a colander or strainer with numerous small perforations' (*Journal*, 3, 41-3).

Kerry returned to the site on the following day with two different companions - one being the grave digger. 'We resumed the work at the most profitable of the holes made the day before, and had no reason to find fault with our selection; more bricks, more burnt clay and several specimens of superior black pottery were turned up at almost every graft' (*Journal*, 3, 43). On the two days were found 'no less than forty five different specimens of the rims or lips of earthen vessels of various sizes, with fragments of the bases of fourteen. Few of the objects were more than two feet [0.6m] beneath the surface, and none of any particular interest were found at a less depth. The ground we turned over would be comprised within a square of five feet' [1.5m] (*Journal*, 3, 45).

Kerry recorded visiting this site on thirteen further occasions over the next five months,

on the first of which he made a survey of the ground 'with a view to discover the extent of pottery remains' (*Journal*, 3, 46). Such a survey could never be made today, for the surface of the ground is largely obscured by bracken. Visible animal activity seems rare at this time and inspection of the few scrapings on a number of occasions has proved fruitless.

Kerry and his helpers continued to dig in the general vicinity of the first discovery, frequently encountering floors or pavements of various materials at no more than half the depth of the earlier holes, but no walls are recorded. We read of 'a hearth consisting of a layer of small burnt stones between two upright larger ones' (*Journal*, 3, 46), 'a pavement . . . of bricks, chalk and ironstone' (*Journal*, 3, 158), 'another floor of rough stones, mainly of chalk blackened by the action of fire' (*Journal*, 3, 159) and a floor of slabs of Bargate and ironstone with the spaces between the larger stones filled in with fragments of rough pottery and smaller pieces of ironstone (*Journal*, 4, 71).

A few sketches of pottery accompany these journal entries but represent only a fraction of the material recovered. Bead rimmed jars of large diameter, other jars and bowls of various types and the rim of a mortarium can be identified, while decorated body sherds show zig-zags, chevrons and latticed patterns (figs 2, 3).

In 1947 the plateau was ploughed, and at this time stone artefacts and pottery both answering closely to Kerry's description of his finds were collected. Most of the pottery was dated to the last years of the 1st century and the first half of the 2nd century, though it was said that some of the pieces could have belonged to the latter half of the 2nd or even the 3rd century (Clark & Nichols 1960, 57-60). Kerry's finds, from bead rims to strainers, could perhaps fill the whole of the suggested period.

A few days after Kerry's last recorded visit to this site on the Hillbury plateau he 'discovered the remains of a Roman settlement on the lower ground . . . Here to the west of the path and about 18 inches [0.45m] below the surface I found a rough chalk pavement and close by this a quantity of black mould as if once a heap of refuse. In this were many fragments of pottery of a more interesting and ornate character than any I had hitherto discovered on the Common' (*Journal*, 4, 72). After a second visit to the site he wrote that 'from the ornate and superior nature of the pottery in this locality I presume that the habitation of some superior officer was in the immediate vicinity' (*Journal*, 4, 74). The sketches are few but include decorated body sherds with combed chevron and scroll patterns, while one piece is described as seeming almost more British than Roman. Have we here, perhaps, examples of late pottery, decorated with the flowing curves that looked back to the native Belgic styles?

For the present this is a question that must await an answer. The site was presumed by Lasham (1895, 154) to be in the valley called Long Bottom, situated between the Hillbury plateau and the greensand ridge. Perhaps only about 250m from the site upon the plateau, it would be in terrain equally smothered with bracken and equally unrewarding to the fieldwalker.

Romano-British presence west of Puttenham Common

Hillbury and Long Bottom are both situated on ground that today is certainly not suitable for cultivation but is at no great distance from the fertile greensand ridge. To the west, however, Kerry recorded finds of Romano-British pottery in fields that sit virtually astride this ridge. At a location some 800m or so westwards of Long Bottom he noted 'the footprints of the conquering Roman - fragments of Samian and coarser pottery testifying to his presence' (*Journal*, 4, 82). The material can probably be linked with Romano-British pottery discovered both on the surface and in every level during the excavation of a medieval site close by (Money 1943, 117).

At a similar distance still further to the west Kerry had pointed out to him 'a spot . . . abounding with fragments of Roman pottery'. Here, during the course of one afternoon, he found 'many good specimens of rims very like those discovered on Hillbury' (*Journal*,

No 5

(Wanborough)

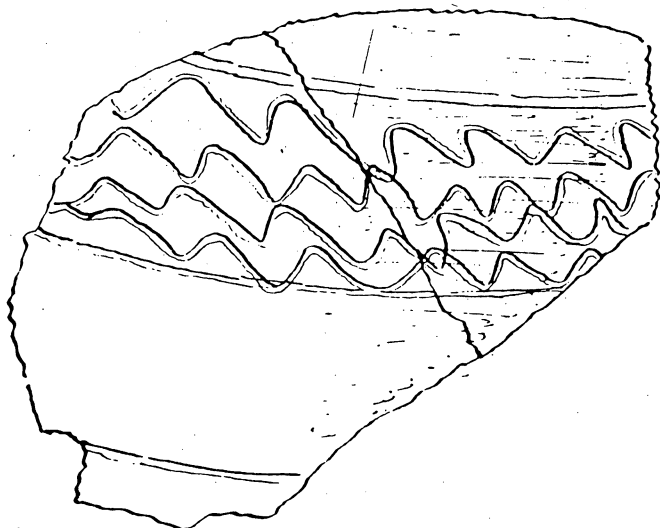
53

Part of the rim, with four pieces
of the body of a vase.

Material - fine clay

Colour - dark brown nearly black
towards the bottom merging into
light red.

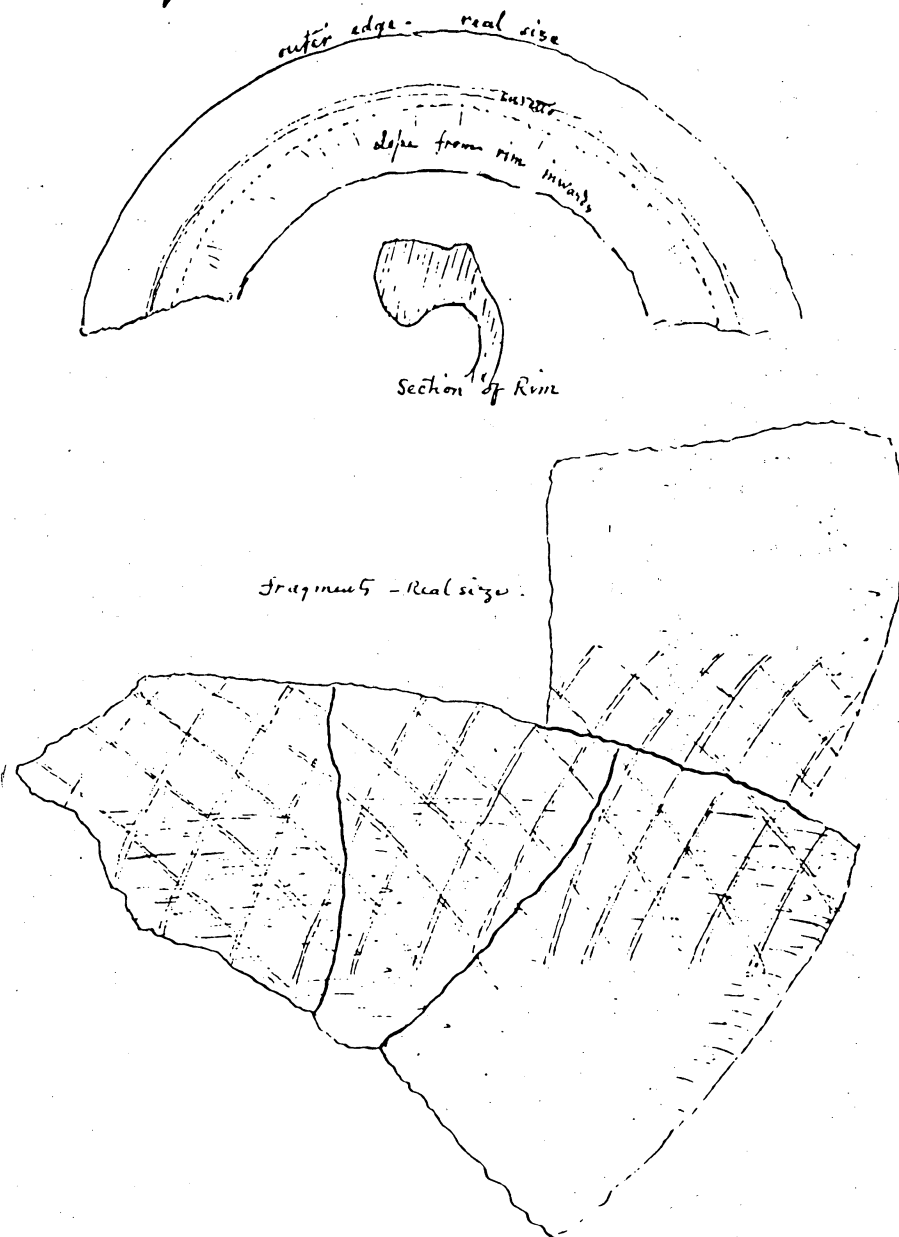
Round the centre is a belt of ornamented
work traced in the clay with a blunt
pointed instrument - The pattern consists
of three wavy lines confined within two
parallel even lines - The undulations of
the three inner lines are by no means
regular or uniform. The following
is an accurate copy



In the fragment here delineated, a
fourth line has been added: possibly the
lowest as it terminates in the upper
line to the left. The other pieces
have but three lines - wavy.

Fig 2. Charles Kerry's drawing of Romano-British pottery from Wanborough (Journal, 3, 53)

No. 6. ^{Wanborough Common} Consists of Half a Rim & seven pieces ⁵⁵
of the side of an urn.



Colour - greyish yellow (stone colour)

The clay is of a finish compound -

Fig 3. Charles Kerry's drawing of Romano-British pottery from Wanborough Common (*Journal*, 3, 55)

4, 75). On lower ground nearby post-war ploughing revealed a small amount of pottery of late type (Clark & Nichols 1960, 47-8, 61). Here, with what Kerry described as Hillbury style pottery on the higher ground and later material on the lower, is the suggestion of a situation resembling that which possibly existed at Hillbury and Long Bottom.

Romano-British presence east of Puttenham Common

The apparent concentrations of material both on the Common and to the west cannot be matched further eastwards. Kerry noted the presence of small fragments of pottery in certain of the fields either side of Lascombe Lane, but the only hint of a concentration is in one field that 'abounds in early pottery' (*Journal*, 4, 86). One subsequent record is of a bead rimmed urn which was believed to have been found in the grounds of Lascombe farm, though on no stronger grounds than that it was made available in a sale held at that farm (Clark & Nichols 1960, 47). This general area is again closely associated with the loamy beds of the greensand ridge, and again 800m or so from Long Bottom.

Much further to the east is the scatter of cremation urns in the vicinity of Wanborough Common, after which the loamy beds run out with the start of the Peasmarsh anticline. The ridge continues, mainly within the sandy beds, though the southern slopes spread into the Hythe Beds.

Kerry ventures no further than Wanborough Common, and published Romano-British material south of the Hogs Back from hereon is scarce though it does include a Romanised building at Compton (Stephenson 1915, 41-50). This stands, however, no longer on the ridge, but at the foot of the south slope of the Hogs Back itself.

Romano-British presence north of the Hogs Back

Although he collected flints from the fields of Wanborough, Kerry was obviously less involved with the country north of the Hogs Back. Only once did he record the recovery of Romano-British material north of the chalk.

'For some time past as I have journeyed via Hogs Back between Puttenham and Guildford I have noticed a plot of ground, in the centre of the arable field to the west of the Brickyard Field behind the Surrey County Hospital, of much darker soil than the surrounding portions. The discoloration is analagous to the site of British occupation to the north east of Wanborough Manor house. This day, 20th October 1871, I visited this spot in Guildford Park and was pleased and gratified to find a considerable quantity of pottery of the Romano British period scattered on the surface. I picked up several fragments of rims of vessels . . . and presented them to Mr Neilds, wine merchant in Guildford, who takes a lively interest in the archaeology of this locality. On my way home I saw Capt James of the Ordnance Survey and informed him of the discovery. He said that Mr Albert Way, a friend of his, would be much pleased to hear of this circumstance as it was the only link hitherto discovered which connected the town of Guildford with so remote an age' (*Journal*, 5, 66-7).

The matter-of-fact mention of the occupation site near Wanborough Manor is unique within the journals. Captain Tredcroft occupied the manor in 1869 (*Journal*, 2, 234) and the site perhaps coincides with one known only from an equally matter-of-fact statement by Lasham who wrote of a 'Roman building, villa or temple' in a Major Tredcroft's garden in Wanborough (Lasham 1893, 248). This site awaits rediscovery; that at Guildford Park is presumably destroyed, much of that part of Guildford having been long built over.

Puttenham Common - return to Long Bottom

All of Kerry's previously described activities in the field took place between 1869 and 1871. After this there are hints in the journals of the rector's absence from the parish

during periods of ill health, when Kerry's time must have been fully occupied with his duties. The journals continue but filled more and more with transcriptions of documents, particularly the Puttenham church registers – for the register 'being the poor man's only memorial in this world is a sacred thing. One faint line of manuscript in these oft mouldering documents is usually the only record of a long life of hardship and affliction as bravely and nobly borne as the difficulties, exploits and sufferings of heroes perpetuated on the brass and marble of our stately cathedrals' (*Journal*, 10, unnumbered, preceding 1).

Once more, however, we find Kerry on Puttenham Common, though no longer with the enthusiasm of those earlier years. 'On Monday 19th October 1874, accompanied by Fred Sydenham, I went to the Great Common, more for a little spade exercise than with the expectation of making any discovery of antiquities' (*Journal*, 8, 136). They selected a spot near Kerry's earlier discoveries and dug a trench 'about four yards [3.7m] long and little more than two feet [0.6m] deep' but found nothing of great interest to them.

'Memdm. Topsey and Bruno went with me. I was much amazed by Bruno's behaviour. I suppose he was tired of waiting and wished to be moving onwards. As I was digging he came to the edge of the hole and sat on his tail, upright, placing his feet as often as he could on my shoulders. Not content with this he sprang on my back whilst stooping and there remained for about a minute; and afterwards, when Fred had taken the spade, he clasped my legs with his forefeet, looking upwards, every act of his saying most distinctly 'Come, let us go.' Of course, I did not remain after such an appeal' (*Journal*, 8, 137-8).

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