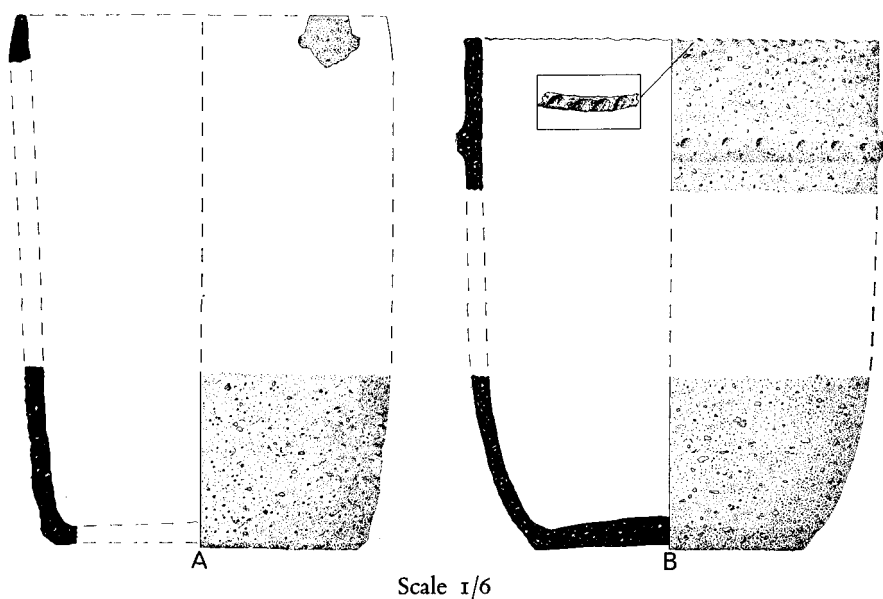


TWO BRONZE AGE URNS FROM KEMPTON PARK

DICK SHEPPARD

During the period 1971-1973 a series of excavations were carried out on Kempton Park racecourse (TQ 117699) in an attempt to locate the site of the royal medieval manor house that existed in the area between 1220-1374. Extensive remains of the seventeenth century house with its later additions were found but no feature found could be dated earlier than the sixteenth century. During the course of these excavations two Bronze Age urns of the Deverel-Rimbury type were found.

Urn A was found when cleaning the section of a machine dug trench. Only the bottom remained *in situ* the top half having been broken at some previous time, probably in the seventeenth century. It was found the "right way up" buried in brickearth with the base 510 mm below the present surface, just above natural gravel. The fabric is friable and contains a filler of crushed calcined flint. The outer surface has traces of slip and is brown in colour with patches of red. The interior also has traces of slip and is blackened. One plain rim sherd was found lying within the base. None of the body sherds found showed any form of decoration.



The second urn B was found 42 metres to the south-east of the previous urn when excavating an area between two seventeenth walls. There was seventeenth disturbance down to the top of the broken base which like the previous urn was the "right way up". It lay 700 mm below the present surface resting on natural gravel. This urn is larger than the first but the fabric is identical. It has a rim decorated with finger tip impressions together with a raised cordon decorated in the same manner.

It seems likely that these urns are remnants of a Bronze Age cemetery of the type recently discussed by Barrett.¹ The area around Urn B had been badly disturbed by the seventeenth century building so that there was no possibility of finding any more urns in this area. The area around Urn A appeared to be undisturbed but excavations over a wide area failed to produce any further evidence of a cemetery or of any other Bronze Age activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I would like to thank the members of the above groups for their help with the excavations especially Mrs. B. Eastop and Mr. K. Sudul; and Mike Cotton for drawing the urns.

NOTES

¹ Barrett J. C. "Four Bronze Age Cremation Cemeteries From Middlesex". *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol. Soc.* 27 (1973) 134.

BOOK REVIEWS

RALPH MERRIFIELD: *The Archaeology of London*, Heinemann Educational, 1975, £2.50. 96pp.

This attractively produced and well-illustrated little book is an introduction to the archaeology of the London region, ranging from the earliest appearance of man to the dawn of English civilization, when the pagan Saxons were converted in the seventh century. The second part of the book is a guide for those who wish to find visible traces of the past in the London region with lists of sites and museums to visit. There is a useful book list and the forty-five illustrations include some maps and time charts.

L.S.S.

DAVID GREEN: *The Gardens and Parks at Hampton Court and Bushy*, H.M.S.O. 40p. 47pp.

Part I deals with the historical development of the Hampton Court Gardens and Part II consists of a detailed guided tour around the gardens and parkland of Bushy. In conclusion the author surveys the natural history of the parks.

This is a superbly produced and extremely well illustrated little book. A joy to handle. Peter Forster of the information Directorate, Department of the Environment, is to be congratulated on the book design.

L.S.S.