

# A Gazetteer of Neolithic and Bronze Age Sites and Antiquities in Bedfordshire

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THIS gazetteer of pre-Iron Age material from Bedfordshire was prepared in 1952 and incorporated in an address given that year to the South Bedfordshire Archaeological Society, of which the writer was President. It was subsequently published in the *Bedfordshire Archaeologist*, 1, 3, 1956. Since that time much excavation and research have taken place in the county and the classification and dating of these phases of our prehistory have undergone considerable change. This new Gazetteer has therefore been compiled in a form which takes into account the newly defined threefold division of our Neolithic; and it also includes the results of extensive excavations by J. F. Dyer and by the Manshead Society, directed by C. L. Matthews. To both of these the writer is deeply indebted for information and advice. He also wishes to acknowledge help freely given by G. C. Dunning, C. E. Freeman and F. W. Kuhlicke.

## THE TOPOGRAPHICAL SETTING

Bedfordshire has four major geological divisions, the Chalk in the south, the Gault Clay, the Lower Greensand and in the north the Oxford and Boulder Clay. To these should be added the great sheets of river gravel spread by the Ouse, the Ivel and their tributaries, while there is a small but important outcrop of Oolite north-west of Bedford.

In the south, the Icknield Way runs across the Chalk, suggesting that this must have been almost as open in prehistoric times as it is to-day; and it avoids the clay-with-flints that covers the Chalk in the southernmost part of the county. The River Ivel gave access to the easily cleared Greensand and to those patches of glacial and river gravels that are to be found towards the centre of the county. In the north the Ouse gravels provided man with attractive country to open up, even though the clays north and south were quite impassable.

In Bedfordshire occupation was concentrated upon the Chalk and Greensand and followed the courses of the rivers and the Icknield Way. The areas of clay are devoid of the relics of occupation: but the alluvial deposits on either side of the Ouse, particularly around Bedford, and the Oolite and Cornbrash in the north-west were thickly populated by early man.

The picture of prehistoric occupation presented by this distribution is what we would expect. Where it is free from clay-with-flints, Chalk offered attractive hunting ground and pasture. It was, too, readily cleared and cultivated. The light,

porous soils of the Greensand were likewise easily opened up by these early farmers. Gault and Oxford Clay, however, were impenetrable: where the former was reached, this was achieved by Iron Age settlers, on deposits of gravel around Leighton Buzzard and Toddington.

Watling Street cuts across the south-west corner of our county, following the Chalk and Greensand because they happen to be in its path. By Roman times the clays could be developed with the aid of the more efficient equipment that was available. Ermine Street, to the east of our county, negotiates the clay lands lying in its path. If Roman finds were plotted on the map we should doubtless see an opening up of the northern half of Bedfordshire. But it is noteworthy that the map of *Domesday* manors suggests that the Saxons had not been attracted to cultivate the Oxford Clays. They utilised these areas very sparsely: even then their manors were often placed near rivers, whose alluvial deposits and gravel sheets had been lived on, as we have seen, from Neolithic times.

#### NEOLITHIC SITES AND REMAINS (C. 3500-1650 B.C.)

During the last ten years, research upon extant material, and fresh discoveries made with the spade and in field work, have altered our conception of the British Neolithic and enormously increased its content. The conception of a primary, Western Neolithic culture imposed, by cross Channel migration, upon the remnants of a Mesolithic population of hunter-fishers, and the emergence of various secondary, local Neolithic cultures which included elements from across the North Sea, remains basically sound. It has become clear, however, that much of the secondary Neolithic was more closely interwoven with and derived from the Western elements than had been thought, and that the length in time of the whole period was very much greater than Professor Piggott had allowed when he outlined it in 1954 (since that time Neolithic chronology in these Islands and generally in Europe has been given precision by a series of absolute dates obtained by the radio-carbon method). At present the earliest Neolithic remains in Bedfordshire are considered to belong to the Middle phase, since there is no direct evidence of earlier date for any of the long barrows nor for the causewayed camp of Maiden Bower. The variety of pottery styles listed in the Gazetteer, and the diversity of burial and ritual sites which have been excavated in recent years, reflect the geographical position of the county. For its southern chalk lands belong to the Chilterns, an area of fertile land where in Neolithic times, cultural streams from East Anglia, Wessex and ultimately the Irish Sea area were mingling, with additional influence from the Thames Valley and from the chalk lands of south-east England. Windmill Hill, Abingdon, Whiteleaf-Mildenhall and Ebbsfleet wares have all been recovered from the Luton-Dunstable area.



Together with the five long barrows which have been recorded, stands the slight mound on Dunstable Downs which may belong to the class of mortuary enclosure which recent research has shown to be an integral feature of the unchambered long barrow burial rite in England. It is also permissible, perhaps, to interpret a straight length of ditch interrupted by a causeway at Kempston, Bedford, as one side of a *cursus*, the type of ceremonial avenue intimately associated with unchambered long barrows, at least in Southern England, and often situated close to rivers. The Kempston *cursus*, if such this is, has yielded a Bell Beaker from its filling but this presumably represents a *terminus ante quem* for the date of construction of the earthwork.

In the area of Streatley, where the site of a possible causeway camp at Maulden Firs is currently under investigation, a group of Middle Neolithic ritual and burial sites has been uncovered with characteristics which cannot at present be matched outside the Chilterns. The structure excavated by Sir Lindsay Scott at Whiteleaf, Bucks.<sup>1</sup> belongs to this complex, whose features include mortuary structures within circular ditched enclosures, alignments of pits incorporating burials, and the practice of interring corpses already partly disintegrated through exposure.

The Late Neolithic in the county is represented by structures belonging to the makers of Peterborough and Grooved wares. The enigmatic earthwork of Waulud's Bank, Leagrave, has yielded Grooved ware and is described elsewhere in this *Journal*. So far without parallel in Britain—an enclosure defined by a large rampart with outer ditch, in low lying ground and controlling a natural water supply—this site might yet serve as a prototype for Early/Middle Bronze Age enclosures like that at Ram's Hill, Uffington, Berks.<sup>2</sup>

Part of a ditch with a hearth pit at Eaton Socon was associated with Peterborough pottery, and further sherds of this ware, classic examples of the Mortlake style, have been found without association on the Ouse gravels at Kempston.

A series of burials has been found in Bedfordshire, all but one unassociated with datable grave-goods or other finds, but which probably belongs to the Late Neolithic. Barrow No. 5 in the Five Knolls barrow cemetery on Dunstable Downs covered the crouched skeleton of a woman buried in an oval pit and provided with a flint blade-flake whose edge had been ground down. This burial matches closely the inhumation from Lynch Hill Corner, Stanton Harcourt (Oxon.), which was stratigraphically earlier than a barrow containing a late form of Bell Beaker.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*P.P.S.* XX, 1954, 212ff.

<sup>2</sup>*Ant. J.* XX, 1940, 467ff.

<sup>3</sup>W. F. Grimes, *Excavations on Defence Sites, 1939-45*, H.M.S.O., 1960, 154ff.

J. F. Dyer's barrow no. 14 on Galley Hill may also belong to the Late Neolithic, although an earlier phase for it is not ruled out since a shallow pit containing the dismembered remains of two young men found beneath it recalls certain features of the Middle Neolithic sites at Barton Hill, Streatley.

The contracted inhumation of the well-known woman and child (imaginatively surrounded with fossil sea-urchins by Worthington Smith), and of a boy, on Dunstable Downs, and the similar burial of a man in Albion Street, Dunstable, represent the rite of individual inhumation burial in a contracted position which became popular in Britain with the arrival of colonists from northern Europe and the Rhine who made Beakers and already knew metal. The woman and child were associated with fragments of two Beakers and had been placed in one of six or seven pits, some containing cremations, which surrounded a central grave. The boy lay beneath a barrow situated a short distance south of the last. The mound was 46 feet in diameter and covered a central grave with pits arranged round it. There was no ditch, for the mound was composed of topsoil scraped up from round about. The only pit which had not been disturbed in antiquity contained the crouched skeleton of a boy aged 14-16; also in the grave were five flint tools, a nodule of iron pyrites and a group of potsherds representing a small vessel whose shoulder had been decorated with a series of circular reed-like impressions. The recurring feature of pits surrounding a central grave has been found many times in areas of Britain supporting large Beaker populations and its discovery in the Chilterns is not unexpected. To these should perhaps be added the crouched inhumations reported by C. L. Matthews at Totternhoe and on West Street Downs, Dunstable. On his recommendation these have been listed as Early Bronze Age in the *Gazetteer* (Nos. 5 and 6, p. 30), but their resemblance to certain burials of the Late Neolithic should not be ignored.

The area of major Beaker settlement in Bedfordshire was along the banks of the Ouse about Bedford, with extensions further west at Turvey and south-east around Shefford and Clifton, close to a tributary of the River Ivel. These settlements suggest entry to the area by river from the north-east, whereas the Beaker remains on the chalk lands of the Chilterns, already described, represent movement by land along the Icknield Way.

The establishment of Beaker people in Bedfordshire seems to have been late, for only three examples of Bell Beaker pottery have so far been found here, the vessel from the ditch at Kempston and sherds from Dunstable Downs and Blows Downs, Caddington. The slate bracer from Sandy is also, of course, a type of object associated with Bell Beakers.

There remain the Long-Necked Beakers from the county, which have been described by G. C. Dunning in 1938 and F. W. Kuhlicke in 1950.<sup>1</sup> All except one

<sup>1</sup>*Ant. J.* XVIII, 1938, 284ff; *Beds. Magazine*, No. 2, Winter 1949-50, 105-6.



were stray finds, although close to the two vessels from the Fenlake area a flint leaf-shaped knife of Beaker type was also discovered. The Beaker from Clifton was found in circumstances which, if obscure, nevertheless suggest that it was associated with one of four skeletons of adults and one of a child.

#### THE EARLY AND MIDDLE BRONZE AGE (C. 1650-950 B.C.)

Recent excavations by J. F. Dyer and C. L. Matthews have established two main centres of population in the county at the beginning of the Bronze Age. The activities of the Manshead Society around Dunstable have shown that the well-known barrow cemetery on Dunstable Downs, the Five Knolls, is part of a larger concentration of burial structures and habitation sites extending north-west to Totternhoe. At Marina Drive, Dunstable<sup>1</sup> a grooved knife of bronze with two rivets has been found in a barrow with a cremation, the first typical Early Bronze Age grave to be recorded in the county. Cremations have been found in the three barrows or ring-ditches so far excavated here on the Totternhoe ridge by the Manshead Society, and a recurring feature has been the discovery of so-called ritual pits lying just outside the limits of the barrows.

J. F. Dyer's study of barrows in the Chilterns<sup>2</sup> has established the existence of two probable pond-barrows on the east side of the triple bell-barrow and two bowl-barrows constituting the Five Knolls cemetery. Here the presence of a Late Neolithic round barrow at the north end of the group (No. 5) demonstrates that continuity between barrows of successive periods in cemeteries that is also a feature of the great barrow groups in Wessex.

The second concentration of Early Bronze Age barrows and related structures extends from Galley Hill, north of Luton, to Barton Hill Farm, and, like the Five Knolls, it is close to the Icknield Way. The four bowl-barrows on Galley Hill are currently under examination by excavation. So far, the discovery of dismembered but articulated remains of two young men beneath No. 14 appears to link the group to the Barton Hill ritual sites and we have already suggested that this burial may be Late Neolithic (above, p. 19). Since writing in 1956, crop marks representing two barrows have been located from the air between Galley Hill and Barton Hill and serve to emphasise the strength of Early Bronze Age occupation hereabouts.

Excavation of Drays Ditches, a complex linear earthwork immediately south-west of Galley Hill<sup>3</sup>, has revealed evidence of some sort of continuity extending from a Bronze Age period represented by a flat-bottomed ditch

<sup>1</sup>C. L. Matthews, *Ancient Dunstable*, 1963, 16ff; *B.A.J.* 1, 1962, 25ff.

<sup>2</sup>*Arch. J.* CXVI, 1959, 1ff.

<sup>3</sup>*Ant. J.* XLI, 1961, 34ff.

containing Collared Urn sherds to the Iron Age, when a series of V-shaped ditches and palisades replaced the earlier structure. This sequence resembles closely the succession of boundary ditches on Snail Down (Wilts.) excavated by the writer in 1957.<sup>1</sup>

Domestic sites of the period are represented by a discovery of unusual interest at Totternhoe. Here C. L. Matthews has recorded traces of a circular hut, 23 ft in diameter, associated with a pit which had been submitted to intense heat, and a series of indeterminate timber structures represented by post-holes arranged in pairs and in groups of four. The presence of Collared Urn sherds among the 92 fragments of pottery found with these structures suggests the *possibility* of an Early or Middle Bronze Age date for this hut and furnace pit. The group of reputed hut depressions on Blows Downs, examined by Worthington Smith in 1888, may also belong to this period, but his finds of potsherds and flints have not survived for assessment.

Unassociated pottery, Collared Urns, Food Vessels and Bucket Urns of Devrim ware fill out this picture of the earlier Bronze Age occupation of the county and make it clear that occupation was not restricted to the chalk. A series of finds from the gravels of the Ouse shows that settlement in the area of Bedford was continued well into the Bronze Age by makers of these later wares. Of sixteen examples of Collared Urns from the county, four belong to the primary series recently defined by I. H. Longworth,<sup>2</sup> and together with the so-called Food Vessels from New Harroden, Heath and Newnham Walls Field, and the Incense Cup from Leighton Buzzard, they represent the first phase of Bronze Age occupation in Bedfordshire. The Five Knolls cemetery, with its specialised barrow forms, and perhaps the Galley Hill group, were probably contemporary.

The majority of stone implements found in Bedfordshire have been omitted from the Gazetteer, but in recording the extent of the Early Bronze Age settlement mention should be made of the two well-finished flint arrowheads of Wessex style<sup>3</sup> found at Legrave, on the Icknield Way, and a third of the same unmistakable type from Maiden Bower. Moreover J. F. Dyer has identified the two flint daggers of Danish Early Bronze Age type in the British Museum, which were found on the Luton-Dunstable road—the Icknield Way—in 1951. These help to fill out the distribution of such Scandinavian finds in south-eastern England plotted by Piggott in 1938<sup>4</sup>.

The distribution of Middle Bronze Age material in the county has a noticeable concentration in the south, most of the Devrim wares occurring at

<sup>1</sup> *Wilts. Arch. Mag.* LVII, 1958, 8, Sites VI/VII.

<sup>2</sup> *P.P.S.* XXVII, 1961, 263ff.

<sup>3</sup> Discussed by S. Piggott in *Culture and Environment*, 1963, 77-8.

<sup>4</sup> *P.P.S.* IV, 1938, 81, fig 16.

Toddington and Streatley, with early, low-flanged palstaves at Chalton and Silsoe and a socket looped spearhead of Brewis's Class IV at Sundon. Yet a similar spearhead and Devrim pottery from Kempston show that the Ouse gravels continued to attract settlers.

In the Late Bronze Age (c. 950-500 B.C.), the bronzes have a wider distribution in the county. The only substantial hoard, including sixty socketed axes of English type, was found at Wymington in the north-west of Bedfordshire, with socketed axes from Eaton Ford and Oakley also north of Bedford. A small hoard from Ickwell Bury and two isolated finds of Irish bag-shaped socketed axes from Biggleswade again lie north of the chalk.

The concentration of Bronze Age material around Dunstable and Luton continued through this late period. Two groups of smiths' bronze scrap have been found near Toddington, with (but not associated) a socketed axe and two leaf-shaped spears with peg-holes through the sockets from Toddington itself. Chalton has also yielded a socketed axe.

The most important Late Bronze Age site was found by C. L. Matthews at Totternhoe, before the Second World War.<sup>1</sup> Here occupation material, which overlay a V-shaped ditch, included a vase-headed bronze pin of Alpine style and flat-rimmed pottery which must belong to the 6th century B.C. The ditch was thus earlier. With J. F. Dyer's crematorium, or ritual site at Cople, near Bedford, this survey is brought to a close, for while its flat-rimmed pottery recalls the vessels from Totternhoe, a blue glass bead of La Tène culture suggests that the use of this site extended well into the Iron Age.

The material described in this survey, representative of a wide variety of Neolithic and Bronze Age cultures, reflects the commanding geographical position of Bedfordshire. Continued research by fieldwork and excavation should throw valuable light upon the cultural connections between East Anglia, Wessex and the south-east in these periods of our prehistory.

<sup>1</sup>*Ant. J.* XX, 1940, 487ff.



## A GAZETTEER OF NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGE SITES AND ANTIQUITIES IN BEDFORDSHIRE

A letter or name in brackets placed after references indicates the present whereabouts of finds: numbers in brackets which follow the names of long and round barrows are those adopted by J. F. Dyer in his paper on barrows of the Chilterns (*Arch. J.* CXVI, 1959, 1ff.). The following abbreviations have been used in the Gazetteer:

Museums and collections.

B	Bedford Museum (incorporating collections of Bedford Modern School).
B.M.	British Museum.
C	Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge.
D	Manshead Society, Dunstable.
J.F.D.	Private collection, J. F. Dyer, Luton.
L	Luton Museum.

### References

<i>Ant. J.</i>	<i>Antiquaries Journal.</i>
<i>Arch.</i>	<i>Archaeologia.</i>
<i>Arch. J.</i>	<i>Archaeological Journal.</i>
<i>B.A.J.</i>	<i>Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal.</i>
<i>B.A.P.</i>	J. Abercromby, 1912. <i>A Study of the Bronze Age Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland and its Associated Grave Goods.</i>
<i>Beds. Arch.</i>	<i>Bedfordshire Archaeologist.</i>
<i>B.M.S.M.G.</i>	<i>Bedford Modern School Museum Illustrated Guide</i> , 1925.
Dyer.	<i>Arch. J.</i> CXVI, 1959, 1ff, "Barrows of the Chilterns".
Evans, <i>Bronze.</i>	J. Evans, <i>The Ancient Bronze Implements, Weapons and Ornaments of Great Britain and Ireland</i> , 1872.
Evans, <i>Stone.</i>	J. Evans, <i>The Ancient Stone Implements, Weapons and Ornaments of Great Britain</i> , 1872.
Matthews.	C. L. Matthews, <i>Ancient Dunstable</i> , 1963.
<i>P.P.S.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.</i>
<i>P.P.S.E.A.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia.</i>
<i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London.</i>
<i>V.C.H.</i>	<i>Victoria County History.</i>

### EARLY NEOLITHIC (C. 3500-2600 B.C.)

No sites or antiquities of our earliest Neolithic colonists have yet been found in the county although it is possible that some of the long barrows may have belonged to the first phase of the Neolithic.

### MIDDLE NEOLITHIC (C. 2600-2100 B.C.)

#### *Causewayed camps*

1. Maiden Bower, Dunstable. *V.C.H. Beds.* I, 1904, 169; *Arch. J.* LXXXVIII, 1931, 90-2; *P.P.S.* XX, 1954, 228; *Beds. Arch.* I, No. 2, 1955, 47ff. (L)



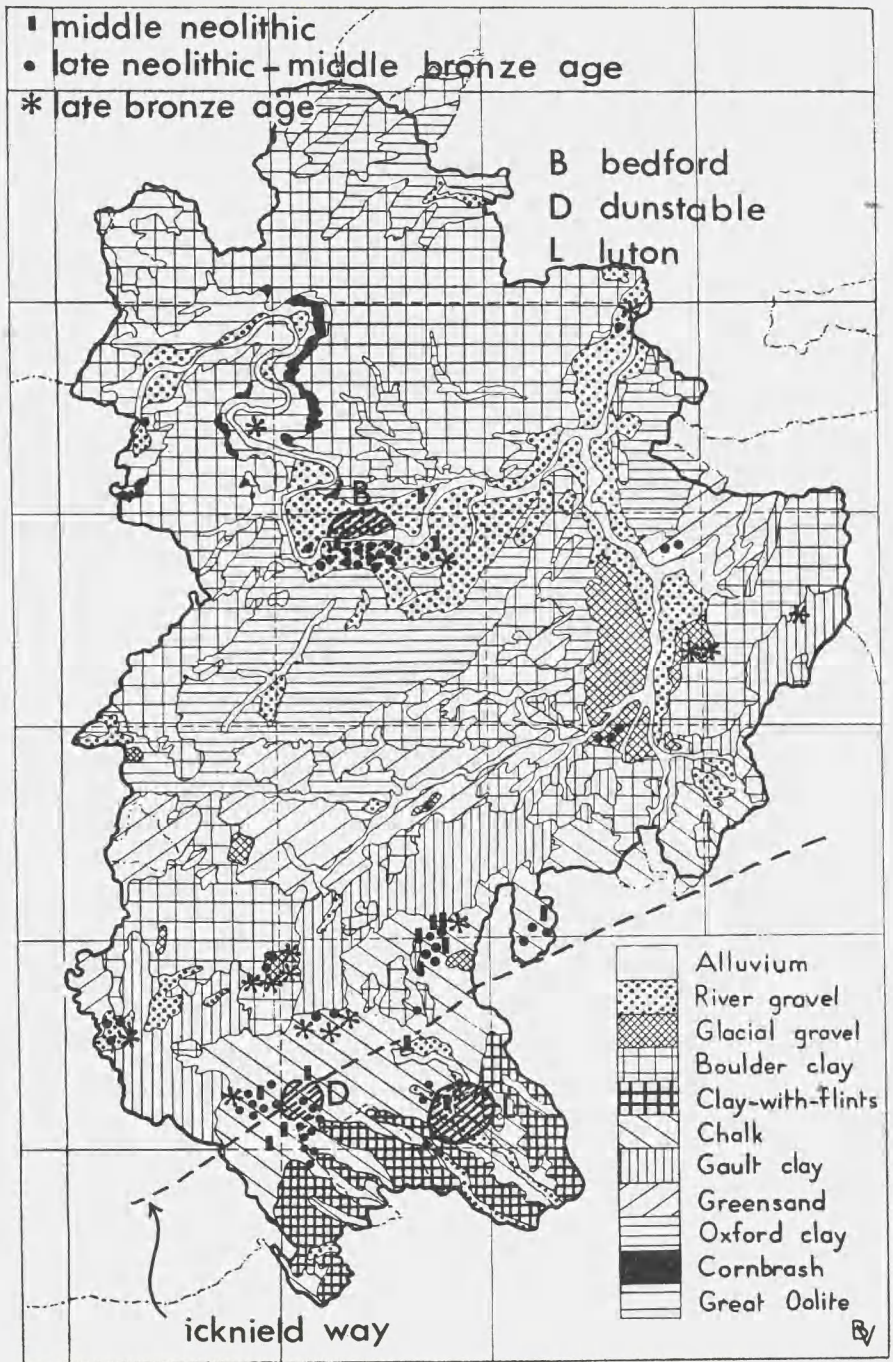


Fig 1. Distribution map of finds in the county.

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| 2. Maulden Firs, Streatley, TL/095277.  | At present being investigated by J. F. Dyer: no information available, August 1963.      |
| 3. Cardington, TL 093485; triple interrupted ditches. Romano-British pottery from trial trench. | <i>Beds. Arch.</i> I, No. 3, 1956, 94; <i>A matter of Time</i> , H.M.S.O., 1960, 54. (C) |

### Long Barrows

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|---|--|
| 1. Knocking Knoll, Pegsdon (13).  | <i>Beds. Arch.</i> I, No. 1, 1955, 14; Dyer, 14.   |
| 2. Waulud's Bank, Legrave (20).   | Dyer, 14.  |
| 3. Union Street, Dunstable (21).<br>(Also called Mill Bank, Mill Hill and Windmill Hill). | <i>Arch.</i> XXVII, 1838, 101; <i>Beds. Arch. ibid</i> 14; Dyer, 14. But declared to be a natural mound in Matthews, 13. |
| 4. Galley Hill, Streatley (22).   | Recently located from the air; <i>Beds. Arch. ibid</i> , 14; Dyer, 14.   |
| 5. Biscot Mill, Luton (28).   | <i>Beds. Arch. ibid</i> , 14; Dyer, 14. (Greenstone axes from nearby). (L)   |
| 6. Dunstable Downs (West Street Downs), perhaps a long mortuary enclosure.                | <i>Beds. Arch. ibid</i> , 14; Dyer 4.  |

### Ritual Structures

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| 1. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site I (30). A circular enclosure containing mortuary structure and inhumation burials.   | <i>B.A.J.</i> I, 1962, 1ff. (L)              |
| 2. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site II (31). Line of intersecting pits, inhumation burial and post hole etc.   | <i>B.A.J. ibid</i> , 8. Inf. J. F. Dyer. (L) |
| 3. Kempston, Bedford. Length of ditch interrupted by causeway perhaps part of a cursus: destroyed. Bell Beaker from filling (below, late Neolithic pottery). | <i>Ant. J.</i> XVIII, 1938, 284ff. (B)       |
| 4. Galley Hill, Streatley. Line of pits (? intersecting) on line, TL/095266-095271.  | Unpublished. Inf. J. F. Dyer.                |

### Pottery

#### A. Windmill Hill Ware.

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site II.                 | Unpublished. (J.F.D.)          |
| 2. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site III.                | <i>B.A.J.</i> I, 1962, 17. (L) |
| 3. Galley Hill, Streatley, No. 3, ware not certain. | Unpublished. (J.F.D.)          |
| 4. Galley Hill, Streatley, line of pits.            | Unpublished. (J.F.D.)          |

#### B. Abingdon Ware.

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|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Five Knolls, Dunstable, No. 2. | Unpublished. (L) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|

C. *Whiteleaf-Mildenhall Ware*.

1. Maiden Bower, Dunstable.
2. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site I.

*Arch. J.* LXXXVIII, 1931, 90ff. (L)  
*B.A.J.* I, 1962, 14ff. (L)

D. *Ebbsfleet Ware*

1. Five Knolls, Dunstable, No. 2.

Unpublished. (L)

*Other Objects*

1. Part of antler comb, Maiden Bower, Dunstable. *V.C.H. Beds.*, I, 1904, 169, fig. 60, (now lost).
2. Polished flint knife-blade. Five Knolls, Dunstable, No. 5 (Fig. 2) *Arch. J.* LXXXVIII, 1931, 196, fig. 2; *Beds. Arch.* I, No. 3, 1956, 75, fig. 4. (L)
3. Antler sleeve for flint blade, Goldington (R. Ouse). *Beds. Arch.* I, No. 1, 1955, 30. (B.M.)
4. Biconical bead, shale, Barton Hill Site I. *B.A.J.* I, 1962, 19. (L)

LATE NEOLITHIC (C. 2100-1650 B.C.)

*Barrows and burials*

1. Dunstable Downs (Gold Club House) (8). Contracted inhumations of woman and child, Beaker sherds in mound. Dyer, 15. (L.B)
2. Dunstable Downs (9). Contracted inhumation of boy. Dyer, 15. (L)
3. Albion Street, Dunstable (10). Contracted male inhumation, date not established. Dyer, 15.
4. Clifton. Long-necked Beaker, five inhumations. *Ant. J.* XVIII, 1938, 285; *Beds. Magazine*, Winter, 1949-50, 2, 104ff. (B)
5. Five Knolls, Dunstable Down No. 5 (5). But period within Neolithic not closely established. *Arch. J.* LXXXVIII, 1931, 193; Dyer, 15. (L)
6. Galley Hill, Streatley, No. 14 (17). But period within Neolithic not closely established. May have covered shallow pit containing dismembered but articulated remains of two young men. Dyer, 15. Inf. J. F. Dyer.

*Other Sites*

1. Waulud's Bank, Leagrave. Enclosure. This Volume, p. 1ff. (L)
2. Eaton Socon, near St. Neots. Ditch, hearth, etc. *Beds. Arch.* I, No. 2. 1955, 54-5. (C)



## Pottery

### A. Peterborough (Mortlake-Fengate) Wares.

1. Eaton Socon, Mortlake Ware. *Beds. Arch.* I, No. 2, 1955, 54ff. (C)
2. Kempston, Bedford. Mortlake Ware. *Arch. J.* LXXXVIII, 1931, 122, fig. 16. (B)
3. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site III. Mortlake and Fengate Wares. *B.A.J.* I, 1962, 17. (L)

### B. Rinyo - Clacton (Grooved) Ware.

1. Waulud's Bank, Leagrave. This volume, p. 1f. (L)

### C. Other Wares.

1. Foster's Pit, Kempston, Bedford. Hard, black rusticated (paired finger-nail) sherds. Unpublished. (B)
2. Dunstable Downs, Late Neolithic Barrow (Dyer's No. 9). Fragment of biconical vessel, circular impressions along shoulder; flint-gritted red ware. With inhumation of boy. Unpublished. (B)

### D. Beakers.

1. Kempston, Bedford, Bell Beaker; in filling of ? cursus ditch (above, Middle Neolithic ritual structures). *Ant. J.* XVIII 1938, 283-285. (B)
2. Kempston, Bedford, Long-Necked Beaker; stray find. *ibid.* pl. LVIII, 1. (B.M.)
3. Turvey Abbey, Long-Necked Beaker; stray find. *ibid.* pl. LVIII, 2. (B)
- 4 and 5. Fenlake-Cardington area, Bedford, two Long-Necked Beakers, other Beaker sherds and flint dagger of Beaker style; stray finds. *Beds. Magazine*, No. 2, Winter, 1949-50, 106. (B)
6. Shefford or Clifton, Long-Necked Beaker; stray find. *Beds. Historical Records Soc.* IX, 1; *Ant. J.* XVIII, 1938, 284, pl. LIX, 1; *Beds. Magazine* *ibid.*, 105. (Huntingdon Institute).
7. Clifton, Long-Necked Beaker; associated with one of 5 skeletons (above, Late Neolithic burials). *Ant. J.* *opp. cit.* pl. LIX, 2; *Beds. Magazine*, *ibid.* (B)
8. Dunstable Downs, Late Neo. burial 1, (Dyer, No. 8), Rouletted and rusticated sherds. W. G. Smith, *Man the Primeval Savage*, 1894, 337, fig. 237. (B)
9. Five Knolls, Dunstable, Bronze Age barrows 2 and 3. Sherds in mound. Unpublished. (L)
10. Blows Downs, Caddington, TL/050187. Corded Beaker sherd. Unpublished. Inf. C. L. Matthews. (L)

### Other objects

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| 1. | Wrist-guard, Sandy; bi-convex, $4\frac{3}{8}$ in. x $1\frac{3}{16}$ in., central counter-sunk hole at each end. Classic European Bell Beaker type. | Evans, <i>Stone</i> , 427. (Ashmolean Museum).   |
| 2. | Flint dagger, Fenlake-Cardington area, with Beakers 4 and 5.   | Above, Beaker Pottery, nos. 4 and 5. (B)   |
| 3. | Flint dagger, Kempston, Bedford. Stray find.   | <i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i> XXXII, 1919-20, 17, fig. 11; <i>P.P.S.E.A.</i> VI, 1931, 351. (B.M.)                                  |
| 4. | Flint dagger, Jackdaw Hill, Leighton Buzzard. Stray find.  | <i>Arch.</i> LXIX, 1920, 5; <i>Annual Rep. Camb. Mus. Arch. and Ethn.</i> , 1909, pl. ii; <i>P.P.S.E.A. ibid.</i> , 351. (C) |

### EARLY AND MIDDLE BRONZE AGE (C. 1650-1350: 1350-950 B.C.)

#### Barrows

- |     |   |  |  |                                    |
|-----|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Bowl-barrow (1)   | }  | Five Knolls, Dunstable Dyer, 15ff. (L) |                                    |
| 2.  | } Triple bell-barrow (2-4)  |  |  |                                    |
| 3.  |   |  |  |                                    |
| 4.  | } Pond-barrows (6, 7)   |  |  | } Late Neolithic, described above. |
| 5.  |   |  |  |                                    |
| 6.  |   |  |  |                                    |
| 7.  |   |  |  |                                    |
| 8.  | S. of Five Knolls, Dunstable (12).  | Dyer, 15.                                      |  |                                    |
| 9.  | S. W. Maiden Bower, Dunstable (11). Crop mark.  | Dyer, 15.                                      |  |                                    |
| 10. | Marina Drive, Dunstable (29) ? Ritual pit containing pig bones, potsherds and flints, lay not far from barrow (cf. below, No. 11).  | <i>B.A.J.</i> I, 1962, 25ff. Matthews, 19. (L) |  |                                    |
| 11. | Totternhoe Ridge, Dunstable. Ring ditch 20 ft. in diam. Primary crem. in urn within pit near centre; secondary crem. in miniature O.H.R. Urn in ditch; SP/989223. A ? ritual pit outside barrow 59 ft. S.E., like that close to No. 10 above. | Matthews, 17. (L)                              |  |                                    |
| 12. | } Barrow group, Galley Hill, Streatley (15-18). Dismembered but articulated remains of two young men beneath No. 14. No. 15 possibly enlarged in Iron Age.  | } Dyer, 15; inf. J. F. Dyer                    |  |                                    |
| 13. |   |  |  |                                    |
| 14. |   |  |  |                                    |
| 15. |   |  |  |                                    |
| 16. | Galley Hill, Streatley. Crop mark (26).   | Dyer, 15.                                      |  |                                    |
| 17. | Galley Hill, Streatley. Crop mark (27).   | Dyer, 15.                                      |  |                                    |
| 18. | } The Plantation, Leighton Buzzard<br>} SP/919272.  | } (B), (Torquay Museum)                        |  |                                    |
| 19. | } Bowl-barrows.<br>} ? Incense Cup and Food Vessel (below p. 73) from here. (fig. 2)  |  |  |                                    |
| 20. | Tingley Plantation, Pegsdon (14).   | Dyer, 15.                                      |  |                                    |
| 21. | Caddington (23).  | Dyer, 15.                                      |  |                                    |

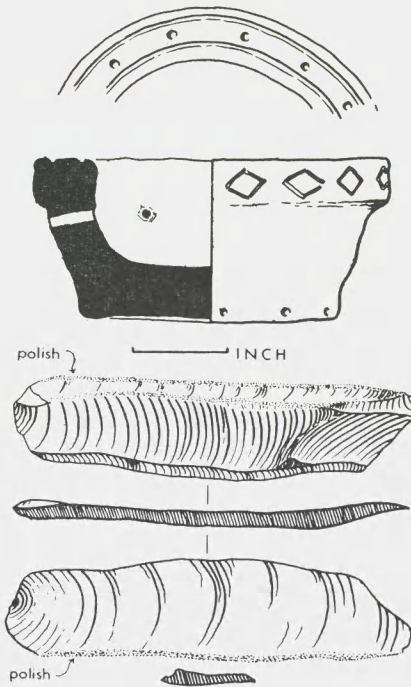


Fig 2. Incense Cup from Leighton Buzzard, and polished flint blade from Five Knolls, Dunstable Downs, no. 5. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

22. Clifton (24) This or the barrow below may have yielded Beaker 6 (above). Dyer, 16.
23. Clifton (25). Dyer, 16.

In addition, two barrows, on Totternhoe Ridge, now ploughed flat and classified as ring-ditches, have been excavated by the Manshead Society, Dunstable within recent years and their Director of Excavations, Mr C. L. Matthews, has kindly supplied details (also recorded in the Society's publication *The Manshead Magazine*, No. 8, 1962):

24. Ring-ditch 60 ft. in diam. Unenclosed cremation in pit 2 ft. from centre; perhaps female. SP/986219.
25. Fifty yards from above. Ring-ditch c. 75 ft. in diam. All traces of burials ploughed away.

*Burials, secondary in barrows or barrows not recorded*

1. New Harroden, Cardington. Inhumation Unpublished. (B)  
(cephalic index 80.6) with undecorated O.H.R. Urn and accessory vessel.
2. Foulke's Pit, Kempston, Bedford. O.H.R. *Arch. J.* CVIII, 1951, 22, no. 1. (B.M.)  
Urn inverted over cremation.



3. Five Knolls, Dunstable Down; secondary cremation in O.H.R. Urn, in Late Neolithic round barrow 5 (Dyer's No. 5). Dyer, 15. (L)
4. Puddlehill, Dunstable, TL/009238. Crouched inhumation in oval grave, flints, potsherds. } Unpublished. Inf. C. L. Matthews.
5. Totternhoe, SP/989223. Crouched inhumation in oval grave. }
6. West Street Downs, Dunstable. Crouched inhumation. (? Bronze Age). *Dunstable Borough Gazette*, Sept. 1935.

### Ritual Sites

1. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site III (31). *B.A.J.* 1, 1962, 8ff. (L)

### Other Sites

1. Drays Ditches, Streatley. Ditch system (J. F. Dyer's A 1 and A 2). *Ant. J.* XLI, 1961, 34ff. (L)
2. Totternhoe, (SP. 988224). Traces of a hut and furnace pit associated with sherds of O.H.R. Urns and cordoned urns. Matthews, 20. Additional information, C. L. Matthews, and *The Manshead Magazine* No. 8, 1962.
3. Blow's Downs, Dunstable. Group of 24 hut depressions. Two examined by W. G. Smith in 1888. Unidentified pottery and flint scrapers. Excavations by Dunning in 1929 produced no further information. W. G. Smith, *Man the Primeval Savage*, 1894, 323ff.

### Pottery

#### A. Overhanging Rim Urns.

1. Five Knolls, Dunstable, Late Neolithic round barrow 5. *Arch. J.* LXXXVIII, 1931, 197, fig 3. (L)
2. Ditto; cord-decorated potsherds found in barrow mound. *Arch. J.* LXXXVIII, 1931, 209, fig 7 (called 'Saxon'). (L)
3. Ditto, Bronze Age barrow 2. Potsherd from mound. *B.A.J.* 1, 1962, 19. (L)
4. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site I. Intrusive sherds. *ibid.*, 14ff. (L)
5. Barton Hill, Streatley, Site III. Sherds of at least five vessels. *ibid.*, 16ff. (L)
6. Dray's Ditches, Streatley. Sherds of five decorated urns with fragments of other plain urns and one of Devrim type. *Ant. J.* XLI, 1961, 36. (L)
7. Foulke's Pit, Kempston, Bedford. (above, Burials, No. 2). *English Prehistoric Pottery* (Victoria and Albert Museum) 1952, No. 13; *P.P.S.* XXVII, 1961, 296, No. 105. (B.M.)

8. Kempston, Bedford. No details of find. *B.M.S.M.G.* pl. 7, top centre; *P.P.S. ibid.*, No. 107. (B)
9. Foulke's Pit, Kempston, Bedford. Sherds of two urns (tripartite, incised herringbone on collar). Unpublished. (B)
10. Kempston, Bedford. Said to be found with necklace of pebbles (lost). *P.P.S. ibid.* 296, No. 106. (Cartwright Museum, Bradford).
11. Totternhoe Ridge, Dunstable; miniature urn, secondary in barrow (No. 11). Matthews, 17, fig 4. (D)
12. New Harroden, Cardington. Undecorated urn and accessory vessel with inhumation (above, Burials, No. 1). Unpublished. (B)
13. Elstow, Bedford. *B.M.S.M.G.* pl. 7, top left. (B)
14. Newnham Walls Field, Bedford. Sherds of 3 urns, but one possibly a Food Vessel. *B.M.S.M.G.* pl. 7, bottom left and right; *P.P.S.* XXVII, 1961, 296, No. 108. (B)
15. Sandyhill. No records. *B.A.P.* II, No. 91. (Pitt-Rivers Museum, Dorset).  
Inf. J. F. Dyer. (J.F.D.)
16. Deacon Hill, Pegsdon. From hillwash exposed in Home Guard trench. Perhaps derived from site higher up.
17. West Street Downs, Dunstable, TL/007215. Cord impressed potsherds, flint gritted. Surface finds. Unpublished. Inf. C. L. Matthews. (L)
18. Knocking Knoll long barrow, Pegsdon, cord-impressed rim sherd found on surface. *This Journal*, p. 77

*B. Food Vessels.*

1. New Harroden, Bedford. Ht. 9 cms. 'Maggot-applied' herringbone dec. on upper half. Unpublished. (B)
2. Heath, Leighton Buzzard. *This Journal*, p.73. (Torquay Museum).
3. Newnham Walls Field, Bedford. Sherds, decorated vessel. *B.M.S.M.G.* pl. 7, bottom left and right. (B)

*C. Incense Cups.*

1. ? The Plantation, Leighton Buzzard. Perhaps from one of the barrows (above, Bronze Age Barrows, Nos. 18, 19). (fig 2) *Beds. Arch.* I, 3, 1956, 82, fig 6. (B)

*D. Accessory Vessels*

1. Totternhoe Ridge, Dunstable. (above, Bronze Age pottery, no. 11) Comb-decorated, lugged vessel with min. O.H.R. Urn. Matthews, 17, fig 4. (L)
2. New Harroden, Cardington. Found with O.H.R. Urn, above, Bronze Age pottery, No. 12. Ht. 6 in., plain flower-pot shape. Unpublished. (B)

*E. Devrim series of Middle Bronze Age*

1. Toddington, gravel pit adjoining Tebworth Road. Bucket Urn, ht. 8 in. *B.A.P. II*, No. 472; *Ant. J.* XIII, 1933, 442. (B.M.)
2. Toddington, same pit. Bucket Urn, diam. 10 in. *B.M.S.M.G.* pl. 7, row B, centre, p. 41-2. (B)
3. Dray's Ditches, Streatley. Associated with O.H.R. Urn sherds (above, Bronze Age, Other Sites, No. 1). *Ant. J.* XLI, 1961, 36. (L)
4. Kempston, Bedford. No details. Sherds. Unpublished. (B)

*Objects of Flint*

1. Arrowheads, Wessex Culture type, Lea-grave. *V.C.H. Beds.* I, 1904, 166-7; W. G. Smith, *Dunstable and its Surroundings*, 1904, 32. (? Lost)
2. Arrowhead, Wessex Culture type, Maiden Bower, Dunstable. Matthews, 19, fig 6. (D)
3. Two flint daggers, Danish type, Luton-Dunstable Road (TL 041224). *Beds. Arch.* I, 3, 1956, 84, fig 5 (B.M.)

*Objects of Bronze*

1. Knife-dagger; Marina Drive, Dunstable (see Bronze Age Barrows, No. 10). Matthews, 19, fig 6, but inaccurately drawn and scale wrong. (L)
2. Miniature flanged axe; Bedford. Unpublished. (C)
3. Awl, square tang, central expansion, circular section point; Sandy. Unpublished. (C)
4. Palstave, unlooped, shield pattern on blade; Silsoe. Unpublished. (L)
5. Palstave, looped; Chalton. Unpublished. (L)
6. Palstave, unlooped; Chalton. Unpublished. (L)
7. Palstave, unlooped; Chalton. *Beds. Arch.* I, No. 3, 1956, 64. (J.F.D.)
8. Spearhead, leaf-shaped blade, string-loops on shaft; Sundon. Said to be associated with human bones at depth of 6 ft. in chalk. Unpublished. (L)
9. Spearhead, leaf-shaped blade, string-loops on shaft; Kempston-Elstow. Unpublished. (B)

*Other Objects*

1. Ring money, Well Head. Gold on copper core. *Arch.* XXVII, 1838, 102. (Lost)

LATE BRONZE AGE (C. 950-500 B.C.)

*Sites*

1. Totternhoe. Occupation overlying V-shaped boundary ditch. Flat-rimmed storage jars *Ant. J.* XX, 1940, 487ff. (L)



- and Alpine vase-headed bronze pin of ultimate Late Bronze Age (? 6th Cent. B.C.).
2. Cople (TL/102497). Possible crematorium, or at least ritual site. Two inhumations within ditch 90 ft. in diam.; limestone footings of structure at centre. Flat-rimmed pottery and blue glass bead. Period perhaps running into Iron Age. Unpublished. Inf. J. F. Dyer. (B)
  3. Maulden Firs, Streatley, rectilinear enclosure 75 ft. x 45 ft., irregular U-shaped ditch; indeterminate pottery. Perhaps L.B.A. This Journal, p. 47. Inf. J. F. Dyer. (L)

### Pottery

1. Flat-rimmed wares: see above, late Bronze Age sites.
2. Indeterminate wares: see above *ibid.* No. 3.

### Bronzes

1. Socketed axe, Chalton. Two ribs around mouth. Unpublished. (L)
2. Socketed axe, Toddington. Rib around mouth. Unpublished. (Ashmolean Museum. Evans Coll.)
3. Socketed axe, Biggleswade. Bag-shaped Irish type. Unpublished. (C:Z4807)
4. Socketed axe, Biggleswade. Bag-shaped Irish type. Unpublished. (C:F.B.31)
5. Socketed axe, Oakley. Unpublished. (Peterborough Museum, now lost).
6. Socketed axe, Eaton Ford. Three ribs on face. *V.C.H. Hunts.* I, 1926, 208, pl. II, 9; *Ant. J.* XIX, 1939, 403.
7. Two leaf-shaped spearheads, Toddington. Lengths,  $7\frac{3}{4}$  in., 6 in.; peg-holes in sockets. Evans, *Bronze*, 321; *Arch.* XXVII, 1838, 105. (? Lost).
8. Leaf-shaped spearhead, Bedford. Greenwell/Brewis, Class V. *P.P.S.E.A.* VII, 1933, 161, pl. VII, 8b. (Lost)
9. Hoard, Park Close, Toddington. Raw material. *B.M.S.M.G.* pl. 5, right. (B)
10. Hoard, Fancott, Toddington. Raw material. *ibid.*, pl. 5, left. (B)
11. Hoard, Wymington. Sixty socketed axes, looped. Majority one or two ribs around mouth, one has three ribs on face. Also fragments and raw material. Evans, *Bronze*, 113, 466; *V.C.H. Northants.* I, 1902, 143; *B.M.S.M.G.* pl. 5. (B: cast in L)
12. Hoard, Ickwell Bury. Palstave (LBA type), socketed axe with rib around mouth, frag. ditto, raw material (bun-shaped ingots?). *Ant. J.* XXXIV, 1954, 232ff. (Destroyed).