

pled by a number of very small pellets. D. Allen records a stater of this type, found at Shefford in the British Museum, Evans Collection and another from the same site in the Ransom collection.

Allen has come to the conclusion that these coins, once ascribed to the Brigantes, were actually their precursors and belong to about 100 B.C. He

places the Coritanian territory as comprising Leicestershire, Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and possibly Derbyshire with an oppidum at Ratae (Leicester) and probably another at Lindum. Bedfordshire, it would seem, was on the fringe with the chief find at Shefford.

An Anglo-Saxon Grave from Biscot

DAVID H. KENNETT

In Bedford Museum are a group of objects said to have been found in an Anglo-Saxon grave at Biscot Mill, Luton, in the 1880s. The exact site is unknown. They were first noted in the *Bedford Modern School Museum Guide* of 1926¹, but it is not known to which of the two cemeteries of the area they relate². There are two spearheads, a knife and a shieldboss.

- 1 (fig 3a) Spearhead, iron, length 202mm (7.7in) with a leaf-shaped blade, and a split socket, which retains some wood. (3787)
- 2 (fig 3b) Spearhead, iron, lost most of socket length extant 118mm(4.6in), possibly a ridged blade, but this is not certain. (3788)
- 3 (fig 3c) Knife, Iron, end of blade broken off length extant 128mm (4.9in). (3789)
- 4 (fig 3d) Shieldboss, iron, originally five rivets to the wooden shield disc, but one now missing, distinct platform disc, diameter of boss 150mm (5.9in). (3790).

The grave group is not easily dated; insufficient research has so far been done to establish an exact chronology for all shield bosses which would possibly give some clue to the date of the grave group. The group is one of a number of grave groups with two spearheads, which are infrequent in cemeteries but are found in isolated burials³. Burials of the seventh century at Loddington, Northants⁴, and at Rodmead Down⁵ and Salisbury Racecourse⁶, Wilts., are examples of the latter but in contrast only grave 11 of the graves with weapons at Argyll Avenue, Luton⁷, had two spearheads and of the twenty-two graves with weapons at Kempston only two had two spears⁸.

NOTES

- 1 P.G. Langdon *Bedford Modern School Museum, Guide* (1926), pl.
- 2 W. Austin *et al*, 'A Saxon Cemetery at Luton, Beds.' *Ant J* 8 (1928), 177-192; R.K. Hagen,

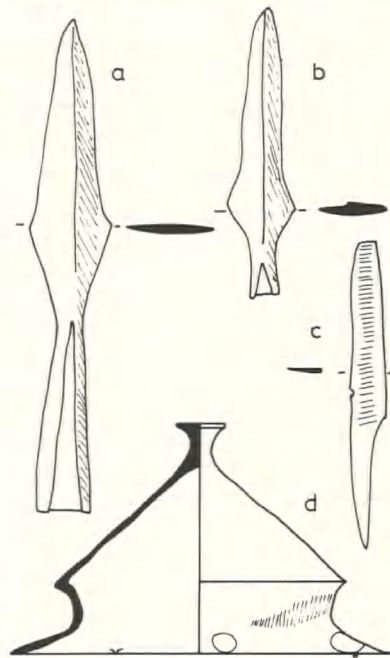


Fig. 3 Anglo-Saxon finds from Biscot (Scale $\frac{1}{3}$).

'Anglo Saxon Burials from the vicinity of Biscot Mill, Luton', *Beds Arch J* 6, 1971, 23-26.

- 3 For a discussion of these see D.H. Kennett 'The Anglo-Saxon grave from Battle Edge, near Burford Oxfordshire' *Oxoniensia* 34, (1969), 111-115.
- 4 Accessibly V.I. Evison, 'Sugar-loaf Shieldbosses', *Ant J* 43 (1963) 48 and fig 25. a-e.
- 5 Evison, 1963, 42 and fig 15-16.
- 6 Evison, 1963, 47 and fig. 29.
- 7 W. Austin *et al* 'A Saxon Cemetery at Luton, Beds.' *Ant J* 8 (1928), 177-192.
- 8 Graves 38 (11 Nov. 1863) and 75 (2 Feb. 1864) have two spearheads, the others have one; see D.H. Kennett *The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Kempston, Bedfordshire: a reconsideration* (1968 unpublished).