

The bowl is 24.6 cm. in diameter and 11 cm. deep. Its three escutcheons (PL. XXIV) are all identical, 5.2 cm. in diameter, and clearly belong to the group known as the developed trumpet-pattern series, being very closely paralleled for instance by the example from Hitchin in the Victoria & Albert Museum, except that the central spiral roundel is replaced by a void of the same diameter as the three surrounding spiral scrolls. The print from the inside of the bowl, however, retains the central pattern. The bowl contained a cremation and the remains of a glass palm-cup which had been partially burnt but of which sufficient survived to permit reconstruction (H. 3.2 cm., Max. D. 7.2 cm., D. rim 5.6 cm.). Two other detached escutcheons have been recovered from the cemetery both of which had apparently been burnt sufficiently to fuse the enamel on the decoration but these are of the more normal trumpet-pattern design with a solid scroll in the centre. The second Loveden Hill hanging-bowl (which also contained a cremation) is 29.8 cm. diameter and 12 cm. deep. Its escutcheons are 5 cm. diameter and have coarse linear decoration consisting of a large, flaccid, ill-drawn swastika, the ends of which are worked into a series of six spiral loops. The outside base print is of similar design, but with a milled raised rim.

Clearly, therefore, Haseloff's argument (*ibid.*, p. 76) needs modification, at least at one end of the time-scale, since hanging-bowls with escutcheons with open or inlaid central panels are to be found in the context of the pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery and, what is more, they seem to be contemporary with the more usual developed trumpet-pattern series.

Hand washing seems to be a very prosaic use for such beautiful objects as these large hanging-bowls, particularly those with inner prints on which a good deal of craftsmanship has been lavished. The presence of a glass drinking-vessel⁵ in the Loveden Hill example seems to suggest a possible use for these vessels. Could they not have been containers for drink to grace the top table—a more elegant version, in fact, of the large wooden iron-and-bronze-bound mead bucket, an example of which is associated with the Loveden bowl?

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EXCAVATION OF A HOUSE AND MALT KILN AT BARROW, RUTLAND (PL. XXV; FIG. 50)

Excavation of a mound in 1959 said to be the site of a post mill mentioned in a fourteenth-century document⁶ at Barrow (Rutland) revealed a rectangular stone structure 30 ft. long by 17 ft. wide externally (PL. XXV, A; FIG. 50). There was no indication of the original height of the rubble-filled walls, the mound itself being entirely formed of waste material. At the western end they were about 3 ft. thick, but the east boundary was merely a 'ghost' wall, almost all the facing stones having been removed. The interior of the walls was much more carefully faced than the exterior. There were obvious signs of repair or rebuilding, particularly on the north side, where a different type of limestone was used and pieces of flag-stone were inserted apparently to correct the level of the courses.

The construction-trenches for the walls provided very meagre dating evidence in the shape of a few early medieval sherds, among them fragments of St. Neots and Thetford ware. Other sherds showed typical early medieval sagging bases. There were no fragments of rim. These finds do no more than suggest a date between the tenth and the twelfth centuries for the building.

Its function must remain conjectural, for subsequent developments left no trace of an original floor level. Apart from fragments of stone flagging both in the walls them-

[⁵ Always assuming that these cones *were* drinking vessels. I have suggested (*Dark-age Britain: studies presented to E. T. Leeds* (1956), p. 157) that some of them at least may have been used as lamp-glasses. From this point of view the presence of a glass container in the Loveden Hill bowl might lead to a revival of the theory that the bowls themselves were used as lighting appliances. Ed.]

⁶ The original document dated 5 Jan. 1318, is one of a series dealing with sales or exchanges of land in Barrow (Rutland), B.R.A. 889; Cambridge County Record Office R 54.32.

STRUCTURE AT BARROW, RUTLAND

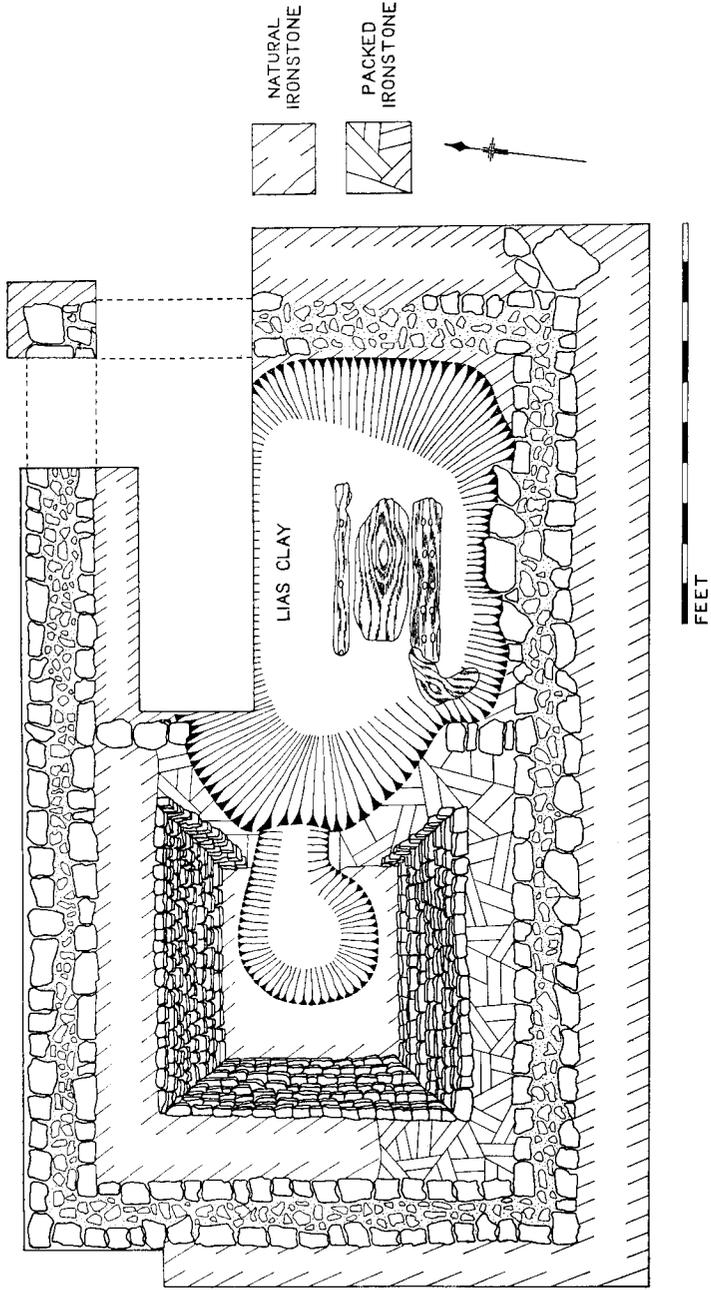


FIG. 50
BARROW, RUTLAND
Plan of the kiln (pp. 128 ff.)

selves and in the debris, particularly outside the south wall, nothing was found to suggest that the building was ever roofed. The dimensions could indicate a two-bayed building. The interior of the much robbed east wall showed signs of burning as does also the narrow ironstone bedding where it had not been removed when the cavity was hewn out.

The next development was the insertion of a rectangular kiln with battered walls into the western end of the original structure (PL. xxv, A; FIG. 50). There was no clue to its date, and no explicit evidence as to its purpose. It was oriented NW.—SE., with its flue facing into the NW. wind. This position was determined by that of the ruined building into which it was built, but it must imply that the process for which the kiln was used did not require a strong draught. Its rectangular floor measured $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from east to west and 5 ft. from north to south, and all four sides of the furnace sloped outwards at an angle of about 30° , each successive course of rough masonry being set back to form the batter. At their highest the walls stood $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high in 14 courses above the floor, and there was no clear evidence as to what their original height was. On three sides the substantial earlier walls formed a satisfactory support against the pressure of the sloping walls. The fourth, running over the flue (of which only traces of one side remained) was supported by a wall not bonded into the original walls and only one stone thick. Either this was not strong enough, or the adjacent cavity had so weakened it, that it had collapsed outwards leaving little of itself or of the kiln side. The fact that it was not bonded into the side walls (PL. xxv, B), is the main evidence for concluding that the kiln was no part of the original plan. The kiln's condition suggested considerable use, the side having been crudely repaired and the original natural ironstone floor lowered some 17 in. near the flue, presumably by the raking out of ash. The floor of the kiln was covered in clean ash to a depth of 3 in. suggesting burnt charcoal, and the sides of the kiln showed the typical pink of heated limestone.

The eastern end of the earlier structure was cut into by a stoke-hole (PL. xxv, C), which formed a roughly sloping cavity, slightly more than a foot deeper than the kiln floor and tapering down to an irregular bottom roughly 6 ft. by 4 ft. It was partly covered by rough timbers, including an oak beam with several holes, lying E.-W. some 9 ft. below the present ground level. A layer of black mud over this rough flooring suggested an interval of time before it became a refuse dump containing great quantities of pottery of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the bulk being inferior Victorian types, particularly coarse red kitchen ware. The whole may have been transported from elsewhere to fill up the hole, for there was no sign of stratification. The final levelling of the site was achieved by filling in with obstinate blue Upper Lias Clay possibly from the near-by farm-house which was extended and a cellar added round about the end of the eighteenth century.

The precise function of the kiln can only be deduced indirectly. It was not used for burning lime, making bricks or smelting iron, since there was no debris of any of those processes. It was not required to produce a high temperature, since it faced into the prevailing wind, as did a kiln of identical design excavated at Great Casterton, Rutland, only 12 miles away.⁷ Yet the Barrow kiln must have seen considerable use, judging by the depth of excavation made in clearing the ashes. The other significant fact is the absence of any permanent floor of stone. There is no reason to think that the structure had been robbed of stone after it fell into disuse, so that it must have functioned in something like the condition in which it was found. The only uses which appear to fit the facts are drying corn or malt.

The evidence for corn-drying kilns in post-Roman times suggests, as one might expect, that their use was confined to the wetter, western half of the country, where they

⁷ See Philip Corder, *The Roman Town and Villa of Great Casterton*, 3rd Report (forthcoming). Mr. R. Gilyard Beer has informed me of another kiln at Well, Yorks., which also faced east. I am much indebted to Mr. M. W. Barley for the following notes on the historical evidence for malt kilns and the furniture, and to Mr. B. Waters for redrawing the plan (FIG. 50).

were regularly used for drying oats. The kiln found in the thirteenth-century settlement at Beere, Devon, may well have been for corn drying, though there is no proof.⁸ Relatively modern kilns have been noted in Westmoreland⁹ and Wales; they are commonly associated with mills, and themselves occupy a building of two floors, the upper serving as the platform on which corn was spread. Documentary references have a similar distribution; that is, those from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are the most easterly and Northamptonshire the most southerly.¹⁰ An older form of construction was to spread the corn on bundles of straw supported by joists or 'kiln trees' at a considerable height above a smouldering fire of straw or turf.¹¹

Until the recent introduction of electricity, the malt kiln, whether commercial or domestic, had a permanent floor of tiles pierced with a regular pattern of small holes, but such tiles were most probably introduced only in the eighteenth century. Before that, the green malt was spread on a kiln 'hair'; i.e. a cloth woven of horse hair.¹² Many household inventories show that from the Tudor period and perhaps earlier, a 'hair' or 'kiln hair' was part of the equipment of most farmhouses.¹³ The hair cloth was originally devised for bolting or sieving flour, and its use in the malt kiln is probably a sixteenth-century development.¹⁴ Presumably the cloth was spread across a wooden frame, but there appears to be no evidence on that point, or on the question of the size of the cloth. The kiln at Casteron had two cavities or slots near the top of one wall, as if to rest either loose joists or part of the frame of a hair. Thus both the earlier corn kilns and the malt kilns differ from Romano-British corn-drying kilns not only in shape, which is not significant, but also in the absence of a permanent floor.

The best evidence for the function of both the Rutland kilns comes from the examination of corn found in the ashes of the Great Casterton example.¹⁵ Over 250 grains were counted, of which 6 could not be identified, but all the rest were barley. Since the structures were identical in design and virtually of the same size, it is certain that the Barrow kiln was also a malt kiln, for the presence of barley alone can only indicate the drying of malt.

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A BUILDING CONTRACT OF 1529

Among Lord Petre's family archives deposited in the Essex Record Office is an agreement of 1529 between William Skynner, a carpenter, and Bartholomew Linsted, last prior of St. Mary Overy, now Southwark cathedral, for the erection of a timber-framed gatehouse to the conventual buildings. The outer gatehouse, no longer standing, is illustrated in the London County Council, *Survey of London, Bankside*, xxii, pl. xxxix, which shows it in 1811 to have been a timber-framed and jettied building with a stone-faced archway. Although in the illustration part of the gateway is obscured behind a house abutting against it, the width of the gate and height of the loft approximate to

⁸ *Med. Archaeol.*, II (1958), 123-5.

⁹ For a kiln of the sixteenth or seventeenth century see R.C.H.M., *Westmorland* (1936), p. 193.

¹⁰ A 'Corne Kilne' is mentioned in a survey of Castleton, 1649; P.R.O., Parl. Surveys, Derbyshire, 12, 7. Richard Ashton of Chorley, Lancs., died in 1617 possessed of 'a Kilne with oats and other corn'; Preston Record Office WCW/A/1617. The Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire evidence came only from nineteenth-century glossaries of dialect words; they are quite specific, though the Northants. use of kilns was only after wet harvests; see references in Wright, *Engl. Dialect Dictionary*, s.v. 'kiln'. The Rutland reference there quoted refers only to 'drying in a kiln'—i.e. a malt kiln.

¹¹ *Antiquity*, xxv (1951), 198.

¹² See F. W. Steer, *Farmhouse and Cottage Inventories of Mid-Essex, 1635-1749* (Colchester, 1950), pp. 32-3.

¹³ E.g. Thomas Butler of Ormskirk, Lancs., 1596: 'one old hayre for the killne' (Preston R.O., WRW/B/1595); Durham examples appear in *Durham Wills and Inventories*, I (Surtees Soc.), pp. 139, 158; Essex examples in F. W. Steer, *op. cit.* in note 12, pp. 92, 123, etc.

¹⁴ The earliest reference noted is in a *York* inventory of 1410: 'de j cilicio pro hustrina cum ij furgones'; *Test. Ebor.*, III (Surtees Soc.), p. 49.

¹⁵ By Dr. K. W. Dent of the School of Agriculture, University of Nottingham.