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EXCAVATIONS AT CALKE WOOD, WATTISFIELD, 1956

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With a foreword by Norman Smedley, M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.
(Curator of the Ipswich Museums)

FOREWORD

Calke Wood, with an area of some 25 acres, lies approximately one mile west of Rickinghall Inferior in West Suffolk, with the village of Wattisfield a mile to the west-south-west (Fig. 1). The area had produced nothing of note, archaeologically, until 1934-5, when the discovery of fragments of pottery on fields in the vicinity led to a systematic investigation of the district by Mr. Basil Brown (now a member of the staff of Ipswich Museum) and Mr. F. J. Watson of Messrs. Watson's Potteries.¹

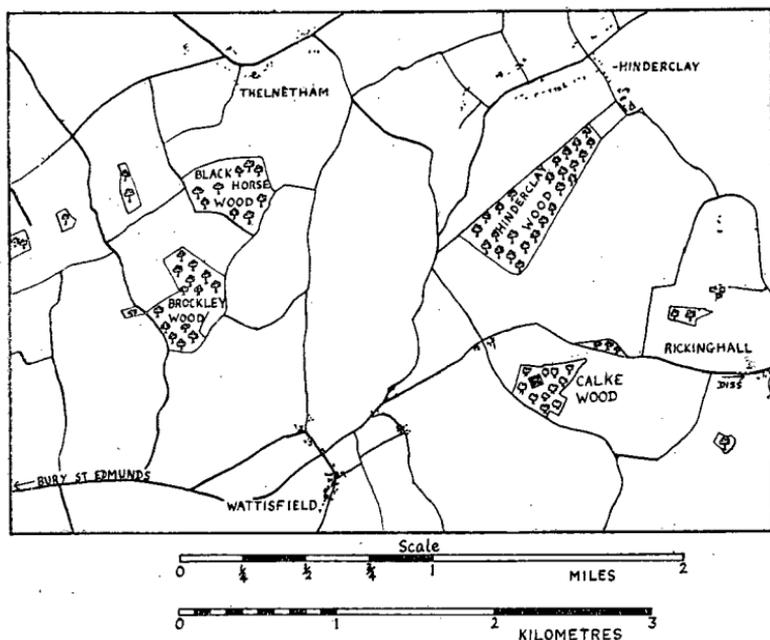


FIG. 1.—Area around Wattisfield. From the 6-in. map of the area and reproduced by permission of the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey.

¹ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxii (1936), pp. 179-97.

The first find of major importance in Calke Wood was that of a Romano-British urn of 2nd century A.D. date, found by one of Messrs. Watson's workmen near the entrance to the pit from which the firm is still taking its clay. Subsequent work in the vicinity revealed the presence of nine Romano-British kilns, and this number has now been increased to upwards of two dozen. In addition, evidence of pottery-making in Beaker, Iron Age and Mediaeval times has come from within a radius of approximately a mile of the site.

In a secondary pit in the wood was found a puzzling feature in the form of a shaft some 30 ft. deep, containing a few sherds of Beaker pottery,² and in the sides of the pit were to be seen occupation sites of Roman and earlier date. The work of men engaged in cutting clay in the larger pit was constantly hampered by the occurrence of silted-up shafts usually of a depth of approximately 15 ft., some with Romano-British sherds, others with evidence of Iron Age occupation.

Owing to other pre-occupations, it was not possible for the Ipswich Museum to carry out a systematic excavation of any of these areas at the time, but it was felt that the wood presented features of considerable archaeological interest, and problems calling for elucidation by carefully planned excavation.

The present writer invited the late Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, F.S.A., then Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, to visit the site and he promised to give it attention. In 1955 a preliminary survey of a part of the wood was carried out by the Ministry of Works and in 1956 an excavation took place under the direction of Mr. J. S. Wachter, B.Sc., F.S.A., under the auspices of the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate.

Mr. Wachter has also inspected the previous finds from the site.
N.S.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Calke Wood and its surroundings, as Mr. Smedley has described, is an area of considerable archaeological interest, having been used for a variety of purposes since prehistoric times. The rapid encroachment of commercial clay-digging in the wood led to a month's excavation being conducted by the writer in June 1956. The wood presents some complexity geologically (cf. p. 26).

² A shaft of similar type, with a considerable content of Beaker pottery and worked flints, was subsequently discovered in Cottage Field, on the opposite side of the lane to Calke Wood, and has been the subject of an excavation by the Ipswich Museum staff.

EXCAVATIONS AT CALKE WOOD, WATTISFIELD 3

Among the interesting features existing in the wood are a low bank enclosing a roughly rectangular area, and a series of shallow depressions vaguely circular in shape and anything up to 80 ft. in diameter (Fig. 2). The excavations were designed to section one of these depressions (No. 13), and also the bank at this point. It was hoped to gain dating evidence for these features and also some knowledge of the extensive Iron Age occupation of the area. Some information on this occupation was afforded by the excavations of Mr. Basil Brown, conducted on behalf of Ipswich Museum (Areas C, D,) and the opportunity has been taken to publish the pottery so obtained in this report (Fig. 3).

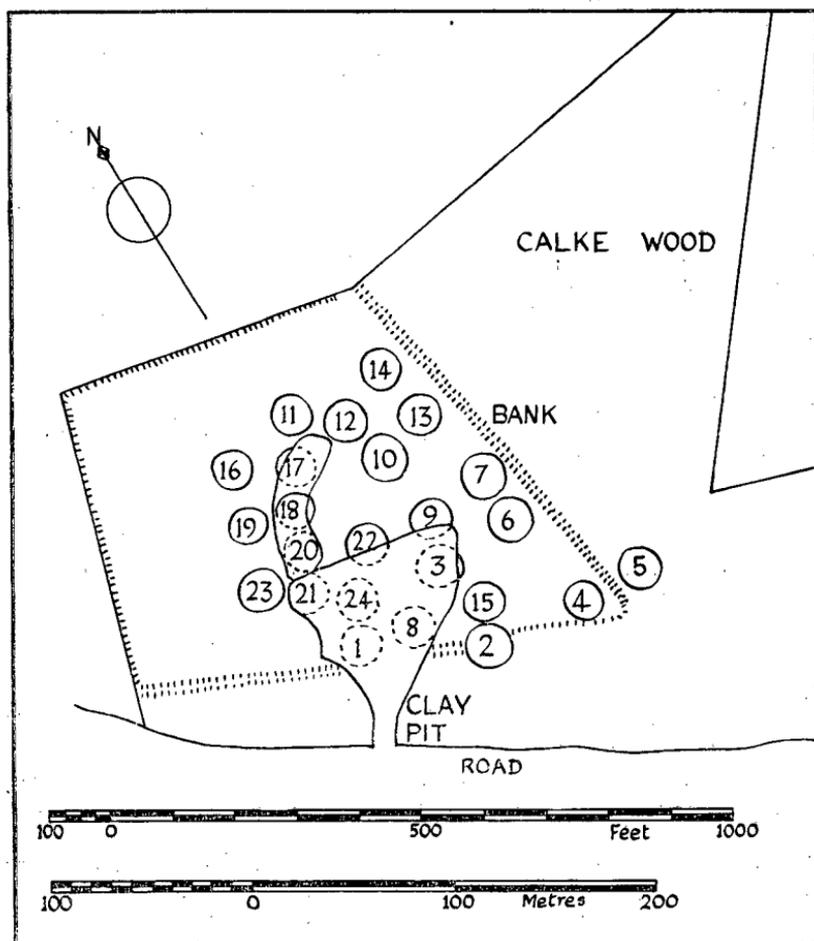


FIG. 2.—Calke Wood; showing the positions of the circular depressions.

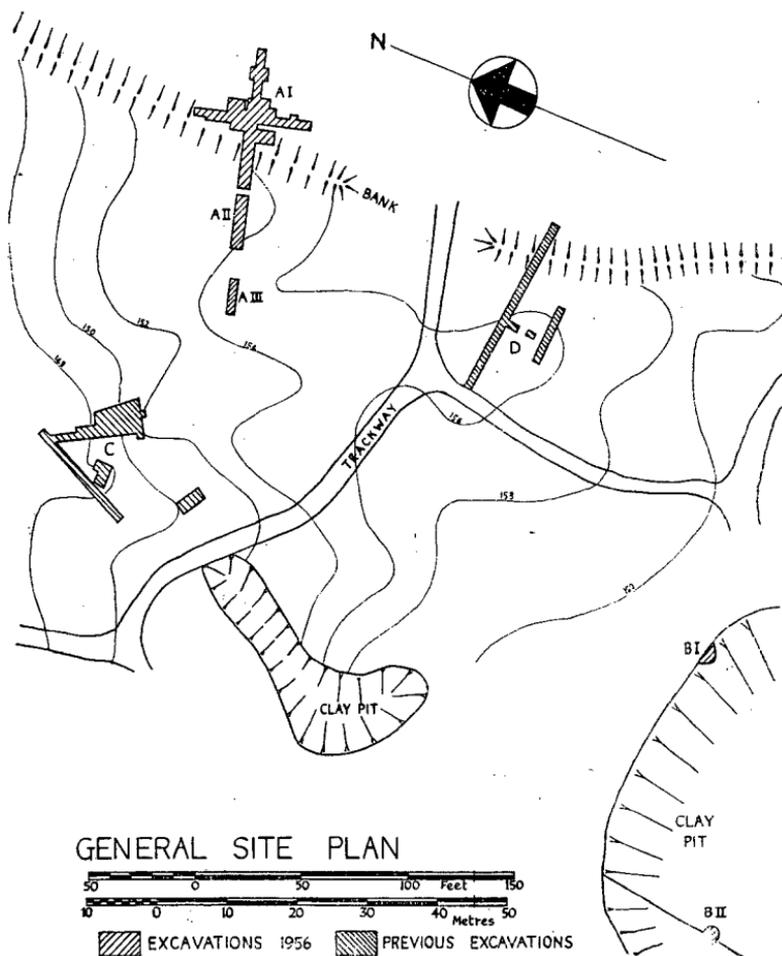


FIG. 3.—General site plan of excavations.

Briefly the results of the 1956 excavations may be summarised as follows. The presence of a hearth of Roman date below the bank shows conclusively that it is not prehistoric. Since there was no ditch in association with it, it seems likely to have been a hedge bank. The depression, which was sectioned from east to west, covered a series of deep pits, presumably dug to obtain clay in prehistoric times. The fillings of these pits produced nothing later than Iron Age sherds. It was perhaps unfortunate that this depression was situated on the very edge of a clay deposit, and a different state of affairs might be found nearer the centre, although

from observation of other depressions destroyed during the modern clay-digging operations, they would all appear to be of a similar nature.

Of more interest was the uncovering of part of a hut. This hut was situated to the east of the clay deposit, which occurs here, and was in fact on sand. Although at the present time this area presents a largely level surface, it must have been subject to considerable erosion, since the higher part of the hut had completely disappeared; it must originally have been built on quite a steep slope. The surviving features included three large post-holes, together with sundry smaller ones; a clay floor, and a low bank bounding the area to the south. The three larger post-holes were roughly in line: the timbers in all the post-holes had been replaced once. From the very limited occupation-material found on the floor, a date *c.* 300 B.C. can be ascribed to this structure. The reconstruction presents some difficulties, particularly owing to the small size of the part recovered: this is dealt with fully on p.11.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXCAVATIONS

THE BANK AND ROMAN OCCUPATION (Fig. 4; Section ABC, Fig. 5)

The bank was composed of two layers; the upper layer (layer 6) only existed on the west side and was a clean, brownish-yellow, sandy loam, rather looser in texture than the layer below it. It contained some fragments of Roman brick and one or two large flints. The main body of the bank (layer 5) was a hard brownish-yellow loam. Below the bank was a thick layer (4) of fine white sand, which did not continue the full length of the trench. It had the appearance of a wind-blown or water-borne accumulation, possibly the result of erosion of the higher part of the hill.

Into layer 4 had been cut a hearth, or fire-pit. This pit was roughly oval in shape, its greater diameter being 3 ft. 10 in., and its smaller 2 ft. 6 in.; the maximum depth was 1 ft. 3 in. The filling was divided into two parts; an upper composed of a mixture of greyish sand and charcoal, and the lower 4 in. being almost pure fragmentary charcoal. This lower filling contained pottery of Roman type, dated to the early 4th cent. A.D. It also included the fragments of moulds (p. 24), some small pieces of burnt clay, possibly daub, and part of a bronze pin or needle.

Seemingly connected with this hearth were four post-holes, P.H.1, P.H.2, P.H.3 and P.H.4. The filling of all these was much the same and consisted of uniform purplish-grey sand. No packing material was discernible. Their main characteristics were as follows:

PLAN A I and II

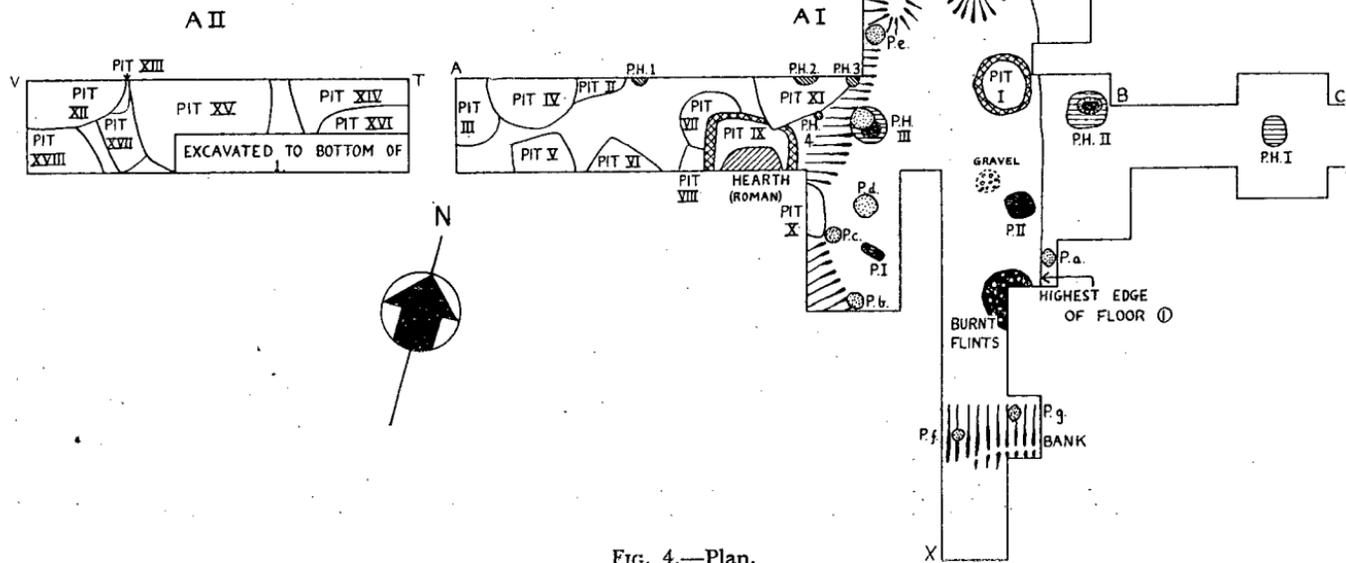
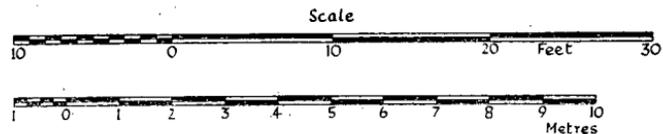


FIG. 4.—Plan.

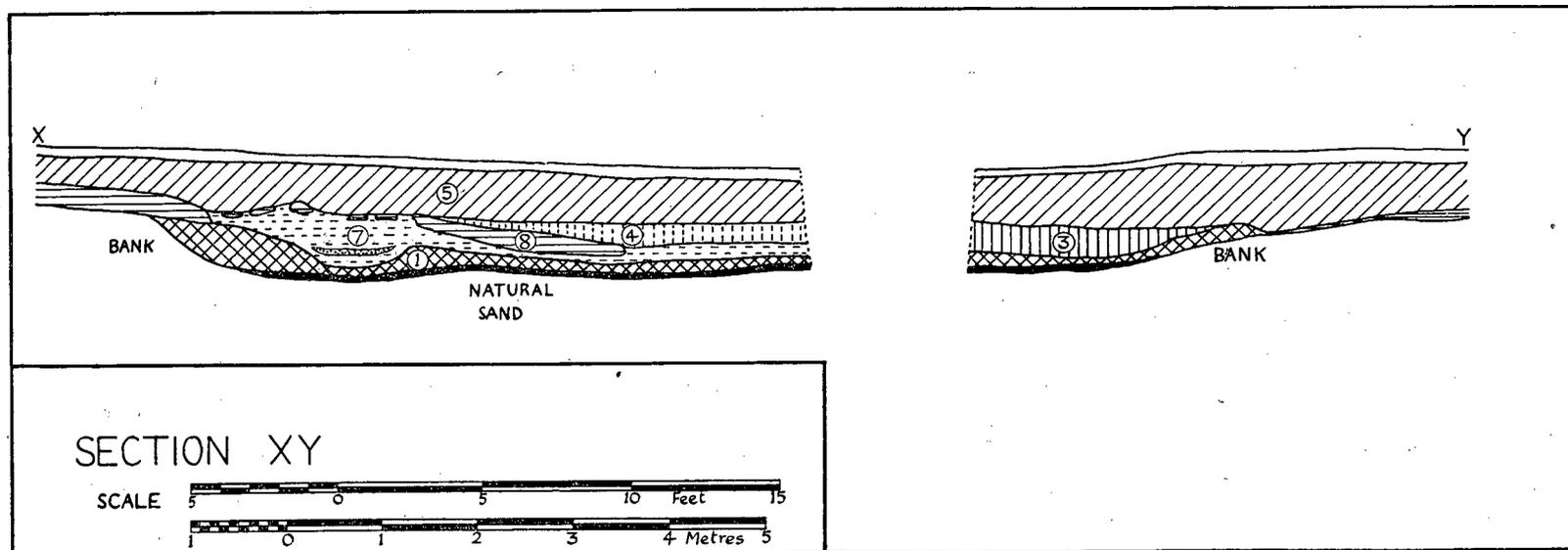
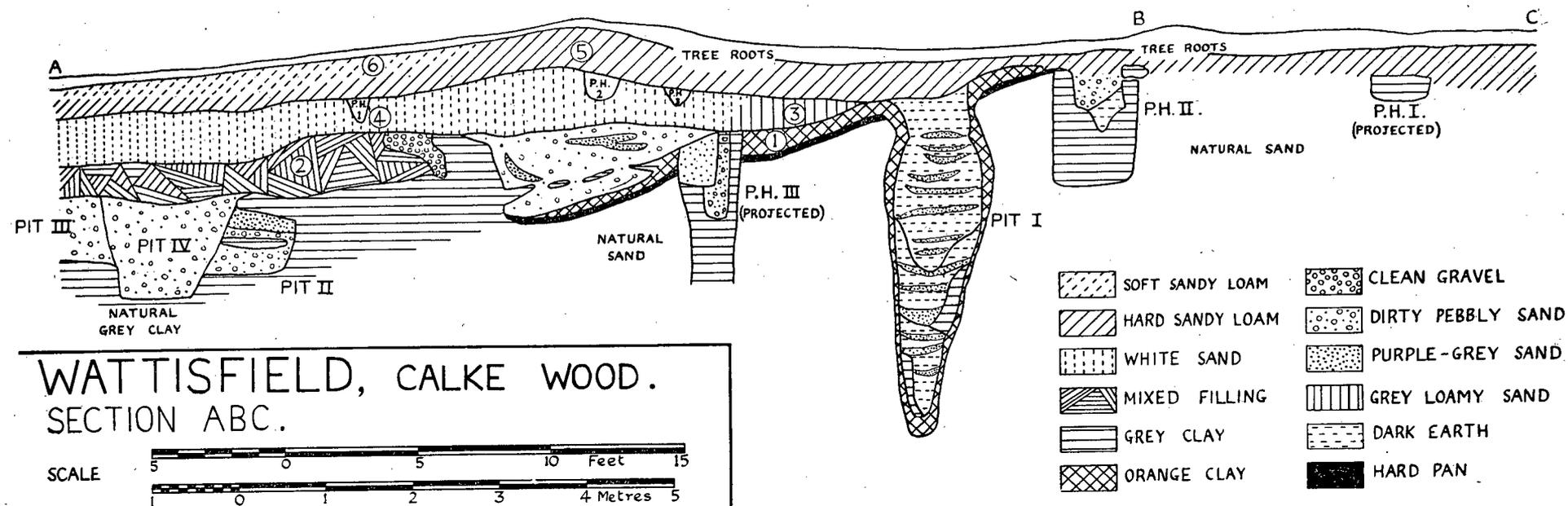


FIG. 5.—Sections ABC and XY.

- P.H.1. 10 in. in diameter at the top, tapering to a rounded point, 11 in. deep.
- P.H.2. 1 ft. 6 in. in diameter at the top, with almost vertical sides and rounded bottom, 1 ft. deep.
- P.H.3. 9 in. in diameter at the top, tapering abruptly to a rounded point, 8 in. deep.
- P.H.4. 6 in. in diameter at the top, tapering to a point, 8 in. deep.

THE PITS (Figs. 4, 5, 6).

Most of the pits uncovered seemed to have been dug for the sole purpose of obtaining clay. Two exceptions are Pits I and IX which will be considered later.

The remainder presented a remarkable sameness in respect of their fillings and, indeed, it was exceedingly difficult in some cases to distinguish between them. The fact that there was a difference in the fillings suggests that some of the earlier pits had already been filled before further digging took place. In this case much wasted effort must have occurred in re-excavating the contents before the clay level was finally reached.

The fillings were composed of a mixture of dirty yellow gravel, grey and yellow clay, interspersed with pockets and thin bands of purplish-grey sand. This purplish colour is known to be associated with vegetable matter, so it is possible that these layers were formed on some temporary surface by vegetable litter and other organic matter. Where they occur in continuous layers in these pits they probably represent a break in the filling-in process; thus a thick layer of this material at the bottom of Pit XI suggests that it was left open for some time.

The deepest pit was Pit XI, apart from Pit I which is of a different character, and the bottom was 10 ft. below the modern ground surface. The absence of any later material than the few Iron Age sherds found among the contents of these pits, suggests that here all clay digging had ceased by the end of this period.

It is interesting to note that little attempt was made to extract the clay from beneath the gravel deposit in the centre of the wood. The distribution of the depressions (Fig. 2) shows only two in this area (nos. 10, 22), and incidentally, only one (no. 5) where sand is known to appear. No sign of pits was observed in A.III, where the gravel appeared.

Pit I (Plate I).

This pit presents many problems: in the first place it is dug into sand and not clay: secondly, its great depth, 15 ft. below the modern surface, and the clay lining suggest that it was constructed for a definite purpose. Stratigraphically it must be either contemporary with, or later than the hut floor around it. The almost sterile filling produced only six fragments of Iron Age pottery.

The pit was 2 ft. 4 in. in diameter at the mouth which was very slightly oval in shape. It widened to 3 ft. 4 in. at a point 6 ft. below the modern surface. Thereafter it tapered to a minimum diameter of *c.* 6 in. at the bottom. It was lined from top to bottom with orange clay, which was somewhat thicker at the top and the bottom than in the middle. The greatest thickness of this lining was 6 in. and in places this thinned to as little as 2 in.

The filling was composed of alternating layers of dark loamy sand and thinner layers of purplish-grey sand. The darker layers contained many pebbles all covered with a black stain, of which specks also occurred throughout these layers. These alternating layers are apparently consistent with having been laid by sedimentation in water (cf. p. 27). This presupposes that the pit was filled with water at the time filling-up was occurring, each pair of layers, one light and one dark, representing only one addition of solid material. This filling-up process, therefore, probably occurred when the higher part of the hill was being eroded in the period between the Iron Age and Roman occupations of the site, and each pair of layers represents a further chapter in the erosion of the hill.

It is doubtful whether this conclusion of a water-filled pit can be carried a stage further to say that it was used by the inhabitants for water-storage. Owing to geological factors, wells and springs are likely to be plentiful in the area and collection of surface water would seem unnecessary. There also arises the difficulty of how the water was collected, as no ditches or gullies were found leading to the mouth of the pit. Is it possible that it is in fact an abortive attempt at digging a well? Here reference must be made to the two hitherto unexplained shafts in the vicinity which Mr. Smedley mentioned in his introduction. But in these two cases they undoubtedly date to an earlier period than the one at present under consideration.

The absence of any appreciable quantities of pottery in the filling of the pit seems to suggest that it was dug after occupation of the site ceased.

Pit IX

This pit differed from the majority in that it too had a clay lining. The filling was sealed by layer 8, and the bottom only just penetrated the natural sand and was also lined. The lining was more uniform than that of Pit I, and varied from 4 in. to 6 in. in thickness.

The filling was very mixed and was similar to the majority of pits, but also included some burnt flints and charcoal.

The purpose of this pit is obscure, but it may have been used as a silo for storing grain, or even surface-collected water.

THE HUT (Figs. 4, 5)

The structure appears to represent two phases of building, and the post-holes can be classified under two main headings.

1. Those which contained timbers that must have been main structural members, and as such, were set deeply in the ground, with a great depth of clay beneath them and well packed with clay around them.

2. Smaller and shallower impressions with no packing material. These were more of the nature of having contained additional props to the roof. While penetrating the floor, they did not usually penetrate the natural sand beneath.

All the above post-holes can again be classified into two types according to the nature of their filling. Some of them were filled with a tight packing of dirty pebbly sand, while others were only loosely filled with purplish-grey sand, the only exception being P.H.II. The former type appear to belong to the earlier building; the tightly packed filling representing an attempt to make good the floor after the posts were renewed.

P.H. I.

Only the stump of the clay packing remained in situ, surviving to a depth of *c.* 1 ft.

P.H. II. (Plate II)

This post-hole survived almost in its entirety. The packing was made-up of grey clay and the original hole dug to receive it was 4 ft. 8 in. deep and *c.* 2 ft. 6 in. in diameter. The earlier post penetrated this packing to a depth of *c.* 2 ft. 6 in. and tapered roughly to a point. It was oval in shape with diameters of 6 in. and 1 ft. The later post only penetrated to a depth of 1 ft. 8 in., was the same shape and had diameters of 1 ft. and 1 ft. 9 in. The filling of the earlier post-hole was a mixture of dark earth and charcoal containing a few sherds of indeterminate pottery; while that of the later one was composed of dirty, pebbly loam.

P.H. III. (Plates III, IV)

It was not found possible to determine the full depth of the hole dug to take this post, but it was over 5 ft. The diameter was 2 ft. 3 in. At the base of the earlier post had been placed some very large flints, the greatest being a flat block *c.* 9 in. × 7 in. × 4 in. This post was sunk into the packing to a depth of 3 ft. 4 in. and was 1 ft. 2 in. in diameter. The later post only penetrated to a depth of 2 ft. and was 2 ft. in diameter.

The remaining post-holes are not worth individual treatment in the above manner, except for P.I. (Plate V). Here the timber must have been very roughly worked into a rectangular shape 7 in. by 1 ft. 4 in.

The Floor and Occupation

The floor of the hut was made of greyish-orange clay, exceedingly tough to dig. In places it was up to 1 ft. thick. Beneath the floor, and separating it from the undisturbed sand was a layer of hard-pan 2 in. to 3 in. thick (cf. p. 28).

The occupation over the floor was very sparse, the only appreciable concentration appearing in layer 7 (Section XY, Fig. 5). In this region there was also an area of burnt and crackled flints, mixed with a little charcoal. There was, however, no actual evidence of burning on this spot. A discontinuous layer of grey clay (layer 8) covered much of the occupation layer.

The Banks

Two banks were uncovered which seemed to have some connection with the hut. That to the south appeared to be its southern boundary and was only 1 ft. 6 in. high. It had been partially recessed into the undisturbed sand and was made of grey clay, joining without a break on to the floor (Plate VI).

The other bank, to the west of the hut area, was even more negligible and had a maximum height of only 8 in. It was again made up of grey clay and terminated at its south end in a post-hole, P.c, and at its north end on the edge of a shallow hollow.

The Ditches

There was a suggestion of a shallow ditch on the west side of the hut. It seems the only possible explanation for the continuance of the clay floor to a level so much below that of the top of the undisturbed clay. It had, however, been so much disturbed by later clay digging that little could be made of it.

The other ditch, or hollow, was to the north of the hut (Plate VII). It was shallow, being only 2 ft. in depth below the original ground surface at this point, and was U-shaped in section. Only 21 ft. in length, it was completely self-contained. The bottom was covered by a very thin layer of grey clay. The filling was a uniform, yellow, loamy sand. On the bottom were three small sherds of Iron Age pottery.

Reconstruction

It is difficult to imagine the type of structure to which the above features belonged. One must assume that the three large posts represented by the post-holes P.H.I, P.H.II and P.H.III were designed to carry the main weight of the building, the remaining posts being merely subsidiary props. It is difficult to fit the three central posts into any known type of Iron Age hut. If they were part of an irregular circle, the diameter would be very large, in the neighbourhood of 80 ft., this is not, however, abnormally large, when one considers Little Woodbury.³ There are arguments against a hut of this type, mainly because the south bank draws a sharp line between occupation with floor to the north of it, and absolutely nothing to the south. In the same manner the north hollow seems to mark the end of occupation in that direction, and indeed the number of sherds from its vicinity was noticeably fewer than elsewhere.

The subsidiary post-holes, in particular, P.b, P.c, P.d, and P.e make a roughly straight line with P.H.III, running north-south and at right angles to the south bank. This latter showed no noticeable curve, although admittedly only a short length was uncovered.

Another alternative could be considered if one assumed that P.H.II was a centre post of a conventional circular hut. This would give a diameter of about 25 ft.; rather small, when one considers the extremely solid nature of the three main posts. This would also raise the question of why only two of the outer circle of posts are substantial. To build a hut of this type on a slope such as existed at the time, the posts forming the walls would need to be much shorter on the higher side than on the lower side of the gradient, so as to give roughly level eaves, without which it would be almost impossible to roof it. The evidence suggests, however, that the actual post which would have been highest up the slope in this case was in fact a large and substantial one. This would be unnecessary in the round type of structure postulated.

The only alternative to the foregoing suggestions, which do not seem to fit the facts, is a form of rectangular hut with a ridge roof, the ridge being supported on the main line of central posts. It is possible that if this was in fact the type of structure, the ridge may have run back level into the hillside. If this was so, the post furthest down the hill would have had to carry the heaviest load, thereby requiring the most substantial packing. In fact the depth of clay packing beneath the post in P.H.III was greater than that in P.H.II and possibly, also, in P.H.I. The lack of posts covering

³ *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, vi, pp. 30ff.

the west end in this reconstruction, as applied to the earlier building, might suggest that it was left open. When the hut was subsequently rebuilt this gable was then closed in. So far, no mention has been made of the north hollow. This could be interpreted as an entrance, perhaps in the second phase of the building's existence, when the gable end was closed in.

This last effort at reconstruction which seemingly fits the evidence is the least acceptable, since it postulates a rectangular Iron Age hut. Suggestions for the existence of this type of structure have been put forward, notably at Park Brow,⁴ in Sussex. Professor Clarke found traces of a rectangular enclosure at Micklemoor Hill, West Harling,⁵ a site only seven miles to the north of Calke Wood, but the complete plan was not recovered, and it was not proved to have been a hut. Square or oblong granaries are, however, not infrequently found; the type was first recognised at Little Woodbury, and the above-mentioned structure at Park Brow is best explained so. Similar buildings have recently been excavated at Muntham Court, Sussex.

RESCUE WORK (Fig. 3)

While the above excavations were in progress, the opportunity was taken to examine two pits which were exposed during the course of commercial clay working. These pits B.I (Plate VIII) and B.II were of the same type as those examined during the excavations, with very similar fillings. B.II was bag-shaped and appeared to be a hybrid of Bersu types E and F.⁶ (Fig. 6).

THE FINDS

POTTERY

The Iron Age pottery from the 1956 excavations was both meagre in quantity and poor in quality. Few sherds were large enough to gain much information about the form of the vessels and many were badly abraded. However, the inclusion in this report of the pottery from Mr. Basil Brown's excavations has enabled some opinion to be formed of the Iron Age occupation of the area.

⁴ *Arch.*, LXXVI, 32.

⁵ *P.P.S.*, XIX, 13.

⁶ *P.P.S.*, VI, 49.

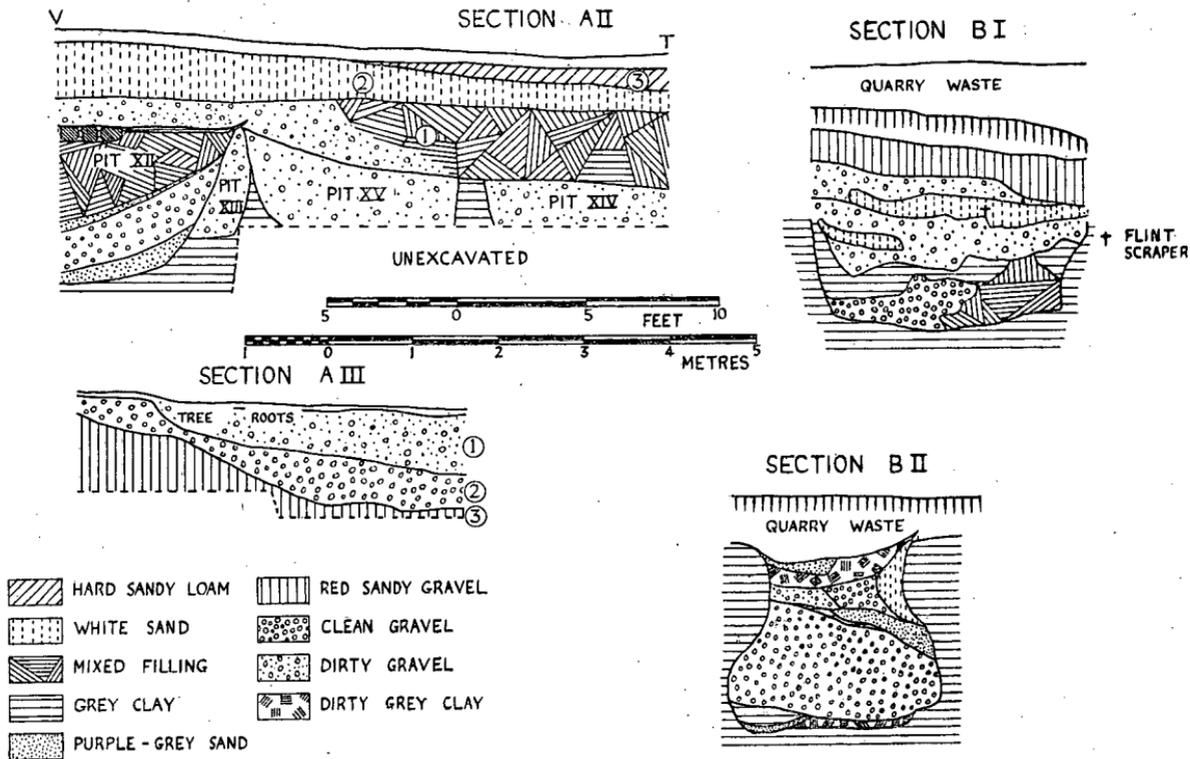


FIG. 6.—Sections.

ROMAN POTTERY (Fig. 7)

From the Romano-British hearth, A.I.

1. Flanged bowl in soft, white, pipeclay ware: very worn; probably black, colour-coated surface originally.
 2. Cooking pot in very hard, sandy, grey ware: four parallel, tooled lines on the shoulder.
 3. Bowl in black ware, red in section: rim thickens slightly and has a groove beneath it.
 5. Rim of cooking pot in very soft, greyish-buff ware: rim strongly undercut.
 6. Similar rim to 5, but smaller vessel.
- From the bank, A.I., layer 7.
4. Base of vessel in very soft, red, sandy ware.

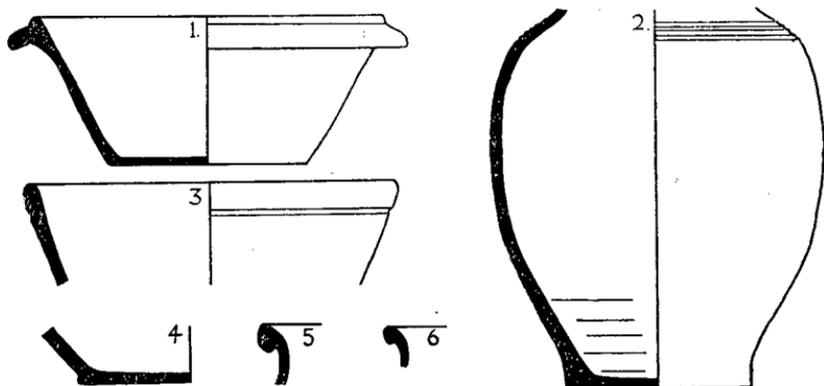


FIG. 7.—Roman pottery from 4th century A.D. hearth. (¼).

Parallels for 1 and 3 can be found at Icklingham⁷ where they occurred with a coin of Carausius, and for 1 at Arbury Road, Cambridge⁸ where it is dated to the early 4th cent. A.D. The cooking pots, 5 and 6, are usually dated earlier. They occur in an Hadrianic context at Needham, Norfolk;⁹ while more degenerate forms with weaker shoulders, of which ours seem to be closer parallels, occur in late 2nd cent. A.D. contexts.¹⁰ The shoulder grooves on 2 are also paralleled by these later forms, but there appears to be no reason why these forms should not have continued into the 4th century.¹¹ A date *c.* 300 A.D. would

⁷ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, xxiv (1949), 173, nos. iv, viii.

⁸ *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, XLVIII, 34, no. 54.

⁹ *Norfolk Arch.*, xxviii, 199, no. 66.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 209, nos. 117, 119.

¹¹ As occurred at Leicester where they are dated as late as the first quarter of the 4th cent. *Jewry Wall*, Fig. 52, 41.

therefore seem reasonable in view of the presence of flanged bowls represented by 1. These bowls do not seem to appear much before this date in East Anglia.

IRON AGE POTTERY

Mr. Sheppard Frere, M.A., F.S.A., has very kindly examined all the pottery of this type from Calke Wood, and his report is included at the end of the descriptive passages.

A summary of the distribution of the pottery is shown in the following table. This does not include material from either of Mr. Brown's excavations, but of these, Area C was the most prolific. As far as possible classification is by form and decoration, but this can only be approximate, as it is difficult to determine form and type of vessel from the small fragments available. In addition, Mr. F. J. Watson, F.R.S.A., has kindly examined samples of pottery submitted to him, from a technical aspect and in conjunction with samples of the different clays in the neighbourhood. (cf. p. 28).

Iron Age Pottery—Distribution Table

<i>Where found</i>		<i>Decorated sherds</i>		<i>Plain rims</i>	<i>Bases</i>	<i>Others</i>
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Layer or pit</i>	<i>Rims</i>	<i>Others</i>			
A.I.	5	—	—	—	—	18
A.I.	4	—	4	—	—	52
A.I.	2	—	—	—	—	74
A.I.	7	2	2	1	2	116
A.I.	P.H.II (1st period)	1	—	—	—	9
A.I.	P.H.II (2nd period)	—	—	—	—	10
A.I.	P.H.III (2nd period)	—	—	—	—	3
A.I.	North Hollow	—	—	—	—	3
A.I.	? West ditch	1	—	—	—	12
A.I.	Area of burnt flints	—	—	1	—	7
A.I.	Pit I	—	—	1	—	5
A.I.	Pit II	—	—	—	1	13
A.I.	Pit IV	1	—	1	1	20
A.I.	Pit V	—	—	—	—	2
A.I.	Pit VI	—	—	—	—	1
A.I.	Pit VII	—	—	—	—	18
A.I.	Pit IX	—	1	1	—	16
A.I.	Pit X	—	1	1	1	14
A.II	Topsoil	—	—	—	—	1
A.II	3	—	—	—	—	1
A.II	Pit XIII	—	1	—	—	2

It can be seen from this table that the majority of the sherds were found in A.I., with extraordinarily little from A.II, and nothing from A.III. The major concentration from A.I was in layer 7, the occupation on the floor of the hut.

Undecorated Carinated Bowls (Fig. 8)

7. Rim of bowl in smooth, slightly sandy, reddish-grey ware: lightly gritted with small flint grit. Well made with a good finish. From A.I, Pit I.
8. Bowl in fine, lightly gritted ware: red outside, black inside: slightly polished exterior and sharp carination. From Area C. (Plate IX, 1)
9. Rim of bowl in smooth, lightly gritted, grey ware. From Area C. (Plate IX, 7)
10. Rim of bowl in smooth, red ware: black internally: little small grit. From Area C.
11. Carinated bowl with flaring lip in well made, smooth, slightly burnished, black ware: no grit. From Area C.
12. Carinated bowl in soft, gritted, black ware with flaring lip: thickens abruptly below carination. From Depression 2.

Carinated Bowls bearing Decoration (Fig. 8)

13. Part of carination of bowl in smooth, very slightly polished red ware, grey internally. Four oblique lines above and two below the carination, incised before firing. From A.I, layer 4.
14. Shoulder of bowl in greyish-buff ware, with a little small flint grit. Oblique line above carination incised before firing. From Area C.
15. Section of a bowl in smooth, grey ware, having a horizontal groove just above the angle. From Area C.
16. Part of a bowl with concave neck above a carination: twin parallel grooves at the carination, halfway to the rim and just below it: fine smooth black ware, buff externally: little small grit. From Area C.
17. Possibly part of same bowl as 16. From Area C.
18. Sherd from body of bowl in smooth, grey ware: little very small grit. Decorated with a pattern of three oblique lines incised above a horizontal one. From Area D.
19. Sherd of bowl probably from above a carination, in smooth, lightly gritted, buff ware. Decorated with a pattern of shallow grooves in the form of concentric rectangles. From Area C. (Plate IX, 6)
20. Shoulder or neck sherd in reddish-buff ware with a little small grit: decorated with two wide horizontal furrows. From A.I, layer 4.

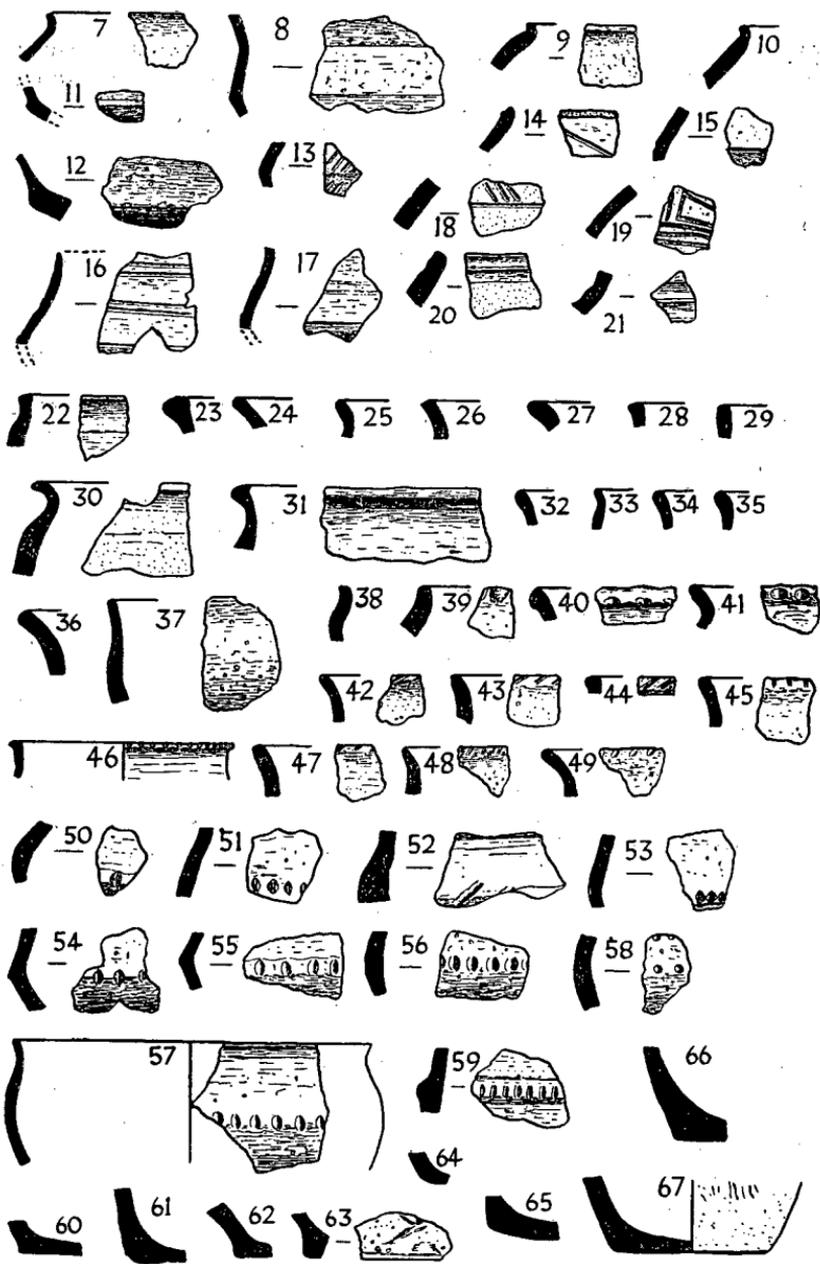


FIG. 8.—Iron Age Pottery (pp. 16-19). (‡).

21. Sherd in red, sandy buff ware, probably from just above a carination: lightly gritted, but with a good finish: two wide, shallow, horizontal grooves. From A.I, layer 7.

Situlate Jars with Undecorated Rims or Shoulders (Fig. 8)

22. Short, slightly thickening rim with a flattened top, in smooth, brownish-grey ware: little small grit. From A.I, Pit X.
- 23-29. Rims in greyish-buff or reddish-buff ware, containing medium amounts of small or average sized flint grits. 23 from A.I, Pit X, remainder from Area C.
30. Sharply everted rim in coarse, sandy, black ware, but with no grit: thickening at the shoulder. From Area C.
31. Rim sherd in soft, brownish-black ware: little medium grit: rather flattened: slightly hollow internally. From Depression 2.
32. Rim in soft, slightly sandy, grey ware: no grit. From Area C.
33. Tapering rim in coarse, gritted, buff ware. From Area C.
34. Rim in soft, gritted, black ware. From Area C.
35. Similar rim in soft, gritted, red ware. From Area C.
36. As 35. From Area C.
37. Rim and shoulder in coarse, red ware, black internally: rim slightly tapering: large grits. From Area C.
38. Shoulder sherd in smooth, ungritted, greyish-buff, ware. From Area C.

Situlate Jars with Finger-tip Impressions on the Outside of the Rim (Fig. 8)

39. Rim in smooth, black ware: little small grit. From Area C.
40. Rim in soft, black, lightly gritted ware. From Area C.
41. Rim in gritted, black ware; from Area C. (Plate IX, 10)

Situlate Jars with Finger-nail Impressions on the Outside of the Rim (Fig. 8)

42. Rim sherd in coarse, grey ware. From Area C.
43. Rim sherd in smooth, reddish-black ware: little small grit. From Area C.
44. Rim sherd of small vessel in black, gritted ware. From Area C.
45. Rim in coarse, gritted, reddish-black ware. From Area C.
46. Flattened rim and vertical neck fragment in fine, smooth, grey ware, red externally. The rim carries a series of diamond-shaped notches in place of the more normal finger-nail impressions. From Area C. (Plate IX, 4)
47. Rim in greyish-black, lightly gritted ware. From Area C. (Plate IX, 3)
48. Tapering rim in coarse, buff ware: little small grit. From Area C.
49. Rim in coarse, black, gritted ware. From Area C.

Situlate Jars with Decorated Shoulders (Fig. 8)

50. Sherd in coarse, black ware with medium flint grit: horizontal row of finger-tip impressions at the base of the shoulder. From Area C.
51. Sherd in blackish-buff ware: little grit: horizontal row of finger-tip impressions. From Area C.
52. Part of large situla in smooth, soft, red ware: no grit. Series of wide, oblique grooves on the base of the shoulder. From Depression 2.
53. Sherd in soft, red ware, black internally: lightly gritted. Closely spaced finger-tip impressions in a horizontal row on the shoulder. From Area C.
54. Sherd with somewhat sharper angle, otherwise similar to 53. From Area C.
55. Sherd in coarse, black ware, buff internally. Finger-tip impressions carried on a flattened band round the shoulder. From Area C. (Plate IX, 9)
56. Sherd in coarse, red, gritted ware: closely spaced finger-tip impressions on the shoulder. From Area C.
57. Section of rim and shoulder in reddish-grey ware: medium flint grit: thickens slightly at the shoulder which has a row of finger-tip impressions on it: rim tapering. From Area C. (Plate IX, 8)
58. Sherd in coarse, red, gritted ware: on the upper part of the shoulder are two parallel, vertical rows of small circular impressions, *c.* 0.05 in. deep, possibly made with a small stick. From Area C.

Situlate Jars with Decorated Neck Bands (Fig. 8)

59. Sherd of soft, gritted, red ware with an applied band, bearing a series of notches. From Area C. (Plate IX, 11)

Situlate Jars with Simple Bases (Fig. 8)

60. Flat base in coarse, reddish-buff ware: medium flint grit. From A.I, layer 7.
61. Flat base with rounded angle, in very coarse, greyish-black ware: some very large grits. From Area C.
62. Base in soft, coarse, lightly gritted ware, red in colour. From Area C.
63. Base sherd in heavily gritted, red ware. From Depression 2.
64. Base with rounded angle in soft, reddish-black gritted ware. From Area D.
65. Base sherd in red, heavily gritted ware. From Depression 2.
66. Base in even, granular, red ware: no grit. From Area C.
67. Large fragment of base similar to 66. From Area C. (Plate IX, 2)

Situlate Jars with Splayed Bases (Fig. 9)

68. Base in soft, reddish-buff ware: very coarse, with a little medium grit. From A.I, Pit II.
69. Base sherd in very soft, red ware: lightly gritted. There is a suggestion of a shallow groove just above the basal angle. From Area D.
70. Base sherd in very coarse, black ware, red externally; very large grits. From Area C.
71. Base sherd in granular, red ware, black internally: medium grits. From Area C.

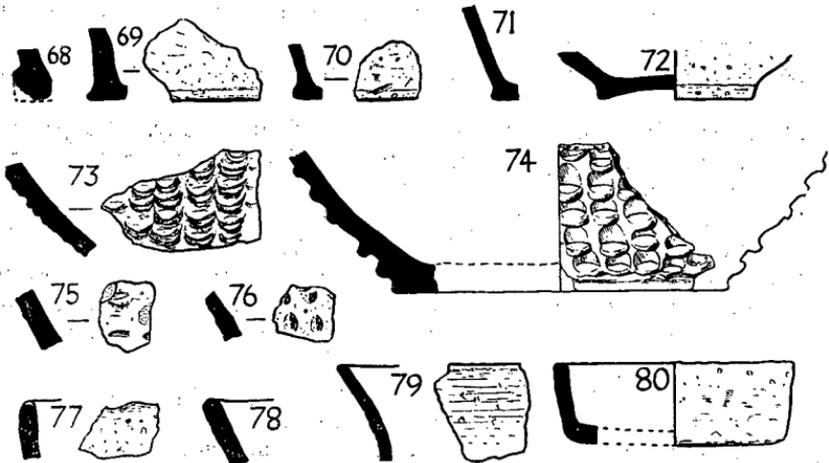


FIG. 9.—Iron Age Pottery (pp. 20, 21). (4).

Situlate Jars with Concave Bases (Fig. 9)

72. Base in coarse, reddish-black ware: medium grits: very obtuse internal basal angle. From Area C.

Situlate Jars with Overall Finger-tip or Finger-nail Impressions on the Body (Fig. 9)

73. Sherd of coarse, reddish-buff ware: vertical rows of contiguous finger-tip impressions. From Area C.
74. Base of large jar in coarse, red ware, heavily gritted, especially on the underside: vertical rows of deep, contiguous finger-tip impressions. From Area C. (Plate IX, 13)
75. Neck or body sherd in greyish-black ware, red externally: little small grit: haphazard pattern of finger-nail impressions. From Area C.
76. Sherd in smooth, sandy, red ware: lightly gritted: staggered finger-tip impressions arranged in rows. They are not as deeply made as those in 73 or 74. From Area D. (Plate IX, 12)

Bowls (Fig. 9)

77. Very uneven rim of bowl in greyish-black ware: no grit. From Depression 2.
78. Rim of Bowl in greyish-brown ware: little very small grit. From Area D.
79. Rim of bowl in smooth, ungritted, red ware. From Area C.
80. Small shallow bowl, rather square in shape: coarse, soft, red ware with a little grit. Possibly a lamp. From Area C.

Another small fragment, unfigured, has been shown by Mr. Biek to have had a thick slip of a different clay applied to its surface. The main body of the vessel is composed of the light-firing boulder clay, while the slip is composed of the normal red-firing clay. This cannot be described as a haematite wash, and the coating is much thicker, *c.* 1mm. thick (also cf. p. 28).

Mr. Frere has kindly made the following notes on the Iron Age pottery:

The pottery is all very fragmentary, few pieces exceeding 2 in. in longest dimension. It is correspondingly difficult to identify the forms of the vessels.

Ware

There are two classes of ware; the larger is coarse ware with medium to large flint grit and grey, buff, or reddish-brown in colour, the sherds ranging up to over $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in thickness. The fine ware has only a little small flint grit and is correspondingly more sandy; the sherds are mainly *c.* 0.2 in. in thickness.

Shape

The sherds are very small and not much can be said of their shape. There are carinated bowls, one, at least, with a fairly tall concave neck (16, 17). The coarse ware situlae appear to be not especially angular, to have short upright or in-sloping necks with flattened rims, recalling Mickle Moor Hill no. 42. Among the sherds obtained from this site previously, and now in Ipswich Museum, is a small bowl, square-shaped in plan (80), with upright sides, perhaps a lamp.

Decoration

The coarse ware is occasionally decorated with finger-tip or finger-nail impressions on the shoulder or edge of the rim; there does not seem to be any finger-nail cabling *on top of* the rims: where not decorated these are usually square-sectioned and flat. One sherd in Ipswich Museum shows a notched raised band at the base

of the neck (59; Plate IX, 11). One body fragment (73) is covered with finger-tip impressions arranged in contiguous vertical rows, and three quite large sections of the base and lower wall of an identical vessel are in Ipswich Museum (74; Plate IX, 13, 14, 15). The *fine ware* sometimes has a polished brownish-red surface. This does not appear to be a slip, nor is it a haematite wash, but merely a fine finish imparted to the finer material used for the body. These sherds probably come from carinated bowls. One sherd from the shoulder of such a bowl (14) bears shallow oblique lines incised before firing, recalling the chevron ornament on similar bowls at Fengate (F.1, F.2, etc.). Another, too small to figure, bears traces of a stroke-filled triangle incised before firing (cf. All Cannings Cross, Pl. 33, 4). Larger sherds (16, 17) are from a bowl with concave neck above a carination; twin parallel grooves suggest cordons at the carination, halfway to the rim, and just below it. The rim is tapering. These features again recall group R at Fengate. Other sherds (20, 21) suggest furrowed bowls of Wessex type; in one case (20) the sherd is *c.* 0.35 in. thick, and carries furrows 0.3 in. wide and *c.* 0.05 in. deep. A small sherd (13) comes from the sharp carination of a bowl, and shows parts of four oblique, slight lines incised before firing above the carination and two others below it. These again find parallels at Fengate. Another (11), in smooth, dark grey paste, comes from a carinated bowl with flaring lip of the type *Maiden Castle*, fig. 56, 5. This is an early form paralleled in a general way also at Long Wittenham¹² and Les Jogasses.¹³

Dating

Any attempt at placing the Wattisfield pottery in its chronological setting must rely on comparisons with the large and comparatively well-dated groups at Micklemoor Hill,¹⁴ and Fengate.¹⁵ A third comparative series is provided by the smaller group at Linton.¹⁶ Wattisfield is clearly later in date than Micklemoor Hill, or the earlier groups at Fengate. The use of finger-print ornament is restrained, except on some few pieces, nor are there present any applied bands,¹⁷ or of the bowls with sharp carinations,¹⁸ characteristic of that site. The best parallels to the linear ornament on the

¹² *Oxoniensia*, II, 5.

¹³ *Préhistoire*, v (1936), fig. 44, 58.

¹⁴ *P.P.S.*, XIX, 14.

¹⁵ *Arch. Journ.*, c, 188.

¹⁶ *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, XLVI, 34.

¹⁷ The raised band or cordon noted above, recalls the applied bands at Micklemoor Hill, but is much more skilfully moulded on, and serves merely to accentuate the shoulder: its decoration, too, is more neatly effected.

¹⁸ With two possible exceptions in Ipswich Museum (9, 10; Plate IX, 7).

bowls is provided by the A.2 pits at Fengate, though Pl. III, 5, of the Micklemoor Hill report shows that such ornament was sparingly present in the earliest groups of the area.

Linton, fig. 5, 33, shows a sherd with overall finger-printing, which provides a good parallel to 73 and 74. Miss Fell can quote only Marnian parallels to this sherd. If this suggestion could be sustained, the date would agree with the suggestion of Wessex influence made, for instance, by the furrowed sherds, 20 and 21. But it must be confessed that no other signs of Marnian influence can be detected in the Wattisfield collection, and the sherd in question itself is of a coarse, sandy, red ware, sparsely flint-gritted, giving no suggestion of B influence in its fabric. Is it possible, perhaps, that in East Anglia, the tradition of overall finger-printing survived and developed from such vessels as Micklemoor Hill 26 and 27?

This East Anglian group of earliest Iron Age immigrants had their origin, all authorities are agreed, in the southern provinces of the Netherlands and in Belgium. Parallels for this arrangement of finger-tip ornament do exist there, and seem to have come down from the traditions of the Urnfield culture. A particularly close parallel can be quoted from the Hallstatt cemetery of Uden¹⁹ so that the survival of similar treatment in the La Tène cemetery at Leval-Trahegnies²⁰ need have no relevance to East Anglia, especially in view of the primitive Iron Age A character of the paste of these sherds.

The conclusion provisionally to be reached then, is that the Wattisfield site represents a late A 1 phase, overlapping into the A 2 phase of the East Anglian Iron Age, and a suggested central date would be c. 300 B.C. or slightly earlier.

OTHER OBJECTS

Two objects of interest, of Iron Age date, were provided by Mr. Brown's excavations:

1. A truncated cone of baked clay, somewhat sandy and harsh to the touch, but containing no flint grit. A tapering hole is pierced in the top, presumably before firing, but this does not penetrate through to the base. On one side, part is cut away, but it is difficult to say whether by accident or intent. The base is flat. The purpose of this object is obscure. The hole seems too small for it to be classed as a lamp. It might be an unfinished loom-weight, discarded because in piercing the

¹⁹ M. E. Marien, *Oud-Belgie* (1952), 319-20, fig. 301.

²⁰ de Loc, *Belgique Ancienne* II, 197, fig. 105, 7; for an even better example from the Marne, cf. *British Museum Guide to Early Iron Age Antiquities*, (1925), Plate V, 8.

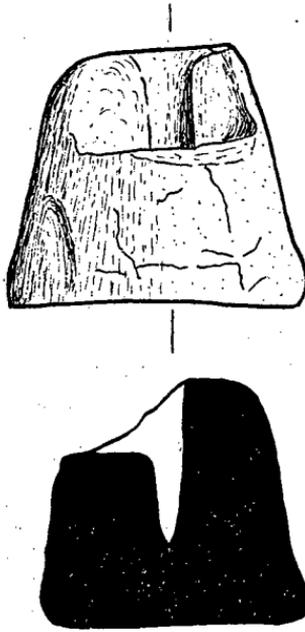


FIG. 10.—Clay object from area D. ($\frac{1}{2}$).

hole, part of the side was broken, but subsequently fired accidentally. (Plate X, Fig. 10)

2. A rather irregular lump of baked clay, containing much flint grit. The remains of two flat sides are discernible and these are set at an acute angle to each other. This would seem to suggest a large triangular loom-weight, but no trace of any holes remains. (Plate XI)

Roman Knife Moulds (Plate XII and Fig. 11: see also Appendix, p. 28)

These moulds were found in the early 4th cent. hearth in trench A.1. Although their presence would suggest metal-working in the area, no sign of slag was observed, either in the hearth or near it.

Parallels for bronze knives of this shape are difficult to find. Iron knives of this shape are fairly common and the following examples may be quoted: a number from the Roman villa at Stanton Chair, and another, larger example, with an antler handle has been found at the crossing of the River Thet by Peddar's Way.²¹ Another example is from Runcton Holme, Norfolk and is in Norwich Castle Museum.²²

²¹ All in Ipswich Museum. Information from Mr. Smedley.

²² Information from Mr. Rainbird Clarke.

Two bronze knives are illustrated in the London Museum Catalogue, but both these have handles and blades cast in one piece.²³ A further example and a much closer parallel is one in Colchester and Essex Museum.²⁴ Here the blade, though broken, was triangular in shape and its tang inserted into a bone handle. It is undated and was found on the site of the Colchester Union.

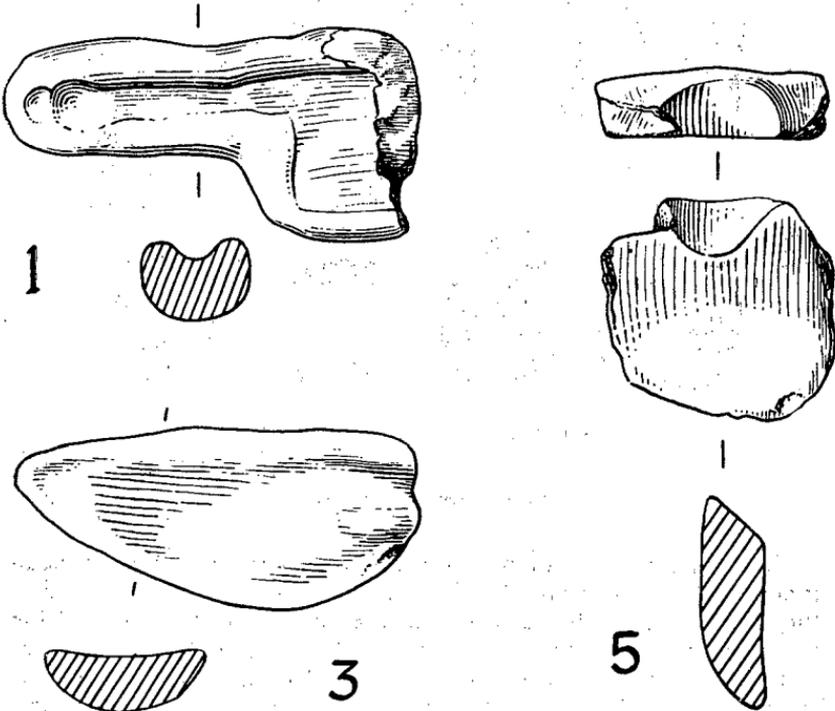


FIG. 11.—Roman knife-moulds from 4th century A.D. hearth. (3/8).

Flints (Fig. 12)

A few flint implements were found, widely scattered throughout the site.

- 1, 2. Scrapers from Pit B.II.
3. Small scraper from A.II, topsoil.
4. Roughly worked awl from A.I, layer 2.
5. Hammer-stone, roughly worked into a circular shape and bearing an abraded and highly comminuted line round its circumference. From A.I, topsoil.

²³ London Museum Catalogue No. 3 (1946), p. 78, 3; Plate XXXV, 7.

²⁴ Information from Mr. Hull.

6. Part of a core, later used as a hammer-stone. From A.I, Pit VII.

Many waste flakes were also recovered but only the above showed signs of secondary working. All could be of Late Bronze Age date.

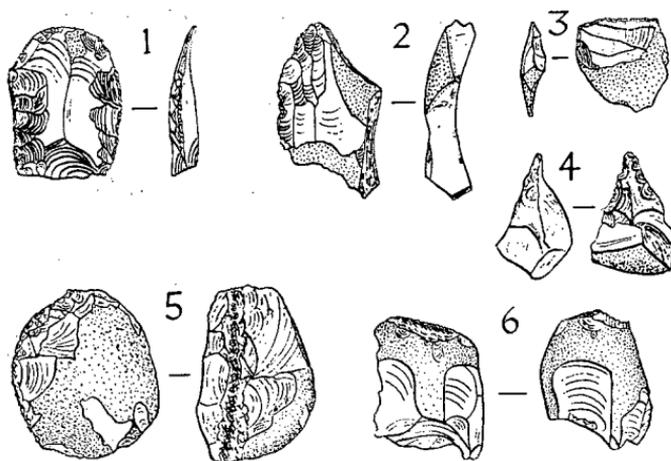


FIG. 12.—Flint implements. (½).

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APPENDIX

*Brief summary of Scientific Investigations**

The basic rock is the Chalk. Some of the eastern part of Calke Wood appears to be on Boulder Clay which overlies the Chalk to the east. Almost the whole of the Wood lies on mixed deposits of sand and gravel associated with the Glacial Drift. Such deposits