

in undisturbed soil derived from within 2 ft. of the modern land surface. The discovery was made probably in the summer of 1970 but not realizing the nature of the objects he had found, Mr. Olds kept the bracelets on a shelf in his home until late in 1972. It was only when the bracelets were shown to the Curator of Moyse's Hall Museum, Mr. Rowley Edwardson, F.S.A. that the true significance of the discovery was recognized. At an inquest held in Bury St. Edmunds on 6 March 1973 the bracelets were declared Treasure Trove and being of outstanding archaeological interest were acquired for the National Collection and are now in the British Museum (Reg. No. P. 1973, 3-1, 1 and 2).

The bracelets form a matching pair varying only slightly in size and weight and are made of gold of a high fineness (98%) with a little silver and copper and traces of silicon, magnesium and calcium. Both are undecorated and of oval penannular form, the hoops of approximately round section expanding slightly towards the terminals, each of which is of a simple, roughly spherical knobbed form.

Bracelet A has a maximum width across the hoop of 7.95 cm, a maximum rod thickness of 0.4 cm and weighs 55.28 gm. Bracelet B measures 7.9 cm across the hoop, has a maximum rod thickness of 0.3 cm and weighs 64.26 gm. Bracelet B carries a slight groove behind each terminal and there is a slight fracture in the hoop.

Knobbed terminals of this particular form have not previously been found in British Bronze Age gold work, but the general shape of the bracelets is close to the plain bracelets represented in the goldsmith's hoard from Towednack, Cornwall (*Man* xxxii (1932) p.222 pl. H, 3 and 4). The Towednack hoard can be dated to the Bishopsland phase (*Proc. Prehist. Soc.* xxx (1964) pp. 272ff.) of the Irish Bronze Age by the presence of twisted bar torcs. A date perhaps within the bracket 1200-900 B.C. might therefore be suggested for the Nowton bracelets.

I should like to thank Mr. Rowley Edwardson for first bringing this find to my attention and for much help and information concerning its discovery; Dr. A. E. A. Werner and his staff for kindly examining the bracelets in the British Museum Research Laboratory and providing an analysis of their metal content, and Mr. P. C. Compton for kindly drawing the location map, Fig. 50.

I. H. LONGWORTH

*A Roman Road at Saxtead.*—Practically all archaeological sites on arable land are rapidly being destroyed by modern methods of agriculture. Most of the stretches of Roman road visible as raised *aggers* or stony streaks in the plough soil in 1955, when Ivan Margary wrote his *Roman Roads in Britain*, are now, at best, recognisable only

from the air. It was therefore decided in 1972 to section one such stretch of road before it was still further obliterated.

The Roman road from Coddenham to Peasenhall (Margary's 34b, *op. cit.* p. 235) is covered for most of its route by modern roads, but from Saxtead Green to just south of Badingham the A.1120 swings to the north (O.S. One-Inch Map 137). For the last two miles the old line is marked by lanes and footpaths but from Saxtead Green to Dennington Corner there is now no surface indication of its presence. Mr. B. A. Collingwood of Wood Hall Farm had, however, over the years noticed a gravelly streak when he was ploughing and was able to locate it exactly.

A trench 35 ft. by 6 ft. was laid out at TM/26266478. The gravel surface had been destroyed by the plough; all that remained were a few flints in the clay subsoil which may have formed part of the foundation of the road. The flanking ditches were 21 ft. apart, 3 ft. wide and 2 ft. 6 ins. from the present ground level which was probably much the same in Roman times.

The clayey silt of the ditch fill had been stained orange, especially on the inner side, from the ferruginous sand washed down from the road metal.

There were no artifacts in this trench and in the hope of finding some datable material the two ditches were sectioned 70 yds. further east (TM/26206476). At this point, in the previous year, Mrs. V. M. Fox had found some pottery and an antoninianus of Gordian III (R.I.C. 151). The north ditch contained only the fragmentary skull of a pig and the upper part of a cooking pot with a rim of a basic shape which continued from the 2nd to the 4th century (Hull, *Colchester*, type 268A). A sooty pit, cut into the partly filled south ditch, contained some grey dishes and 3 sherds of 4th century colour-coated ware (Ipswich Museum, Reg. No. 1972-148). These date the adjacent occupation rather than the road.

The dimensions of this road correspond with those in the section cut across the Coddenham-Hacheston road at Otley in 1967 (*Proceedings*, xxxi, pp. 185-7). Here the ditches were 25 ft. apart and 4 ft. wide. The road metalling consisted of a layer of poor quality gravel 8 ins. thick. Although both roads had suffered from ploughing they had obviously never been of the standard of that sectioned at Long Melford in 1970 by T. Howlett and R. Avent. This, though only 21 ft. 6 ins. wide, consisted of hard packed gravel 32 ins. thick (*Proceedings*, xxxi, p. 99). It would be interesting to know if this high standard was confined to the area of the settlement or if it was maintained throughout its length.

I am grateful to my volunteer diggers and Mr. Collingwood, who filled in for us in addition to granting permission to excavate and placing his local knowledge at our disposal.

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