

## Excavations at Stanton Harcourt, Oxon., 1940

By W. F. GRIMES

THE work here described was undertaken in the summer of 1940 in connexion with activities involving the mutilation if not the actual destruction of many of the 'air-photography sites' for which Stanton Harcourt has become famous as a result of the air-photography of the late Major G. W. G. Allen. The area concerned lay to the south of Stanton Harcourt itself, in the angle formed by the junction of the Stanton Harcourt-Bablockhythe and Stanton Harcourt-Stanlake roads, thence extending south-westwards almost to Linch Hill and the River Windrush. It included therefore the three standing-stones known as The Devil's Quoits, which were Stanton Harcourt's chief claim to archaeological distinction before the day of the aeroplane. PL. I shows the eastern end of the area from the air, including the positions of the three Quoits.

The general character of the area is well known and calls for little comment. It forms part of the extensive gravel terrace which stretches along the west side of the Thames (here flowing roughly south to north) for several miles from Northmoor to Eynsham. With its extensions northwards to Cassington and south-westwards to Stanlake this tract has been one of the most prolific in crop-markings; the various gravel-pits opened up in it have produced a wide range of archaeological material extending over the whole of pre-historic and protohistoric times. But most of this unfortunately has been the outcome of scattered rescue-operations, with little or nothing in the way of controlled excavation; and the true nature of most of the markings which are a feature of the air-photographs therefore still remains a mystery. At Stanton Harcourt the chief site for both markings and finds is the area of the gravel-pit at Linch Hill (PL. X<sup>1</sup>). But this area did not fall within the boundaries of the work described, and further recent development of this pit has destroyed for ever all hope of learning more about it.

The map (FIG. 8) shows the distribution of sites in the area in question. It is based on a study of the available air-photographs. Something should be said of the general nature of the monuments.

The chief distinction to be drawn in the first place may be said to be between 'composite' and 'simple' marks.

The most outstanding of the latter is the large oval ditch with opposed entrances (site 1), which is both very much larger than any other single

<sup>1</sup> Illustrating Mr. D. N. Riley's paper.

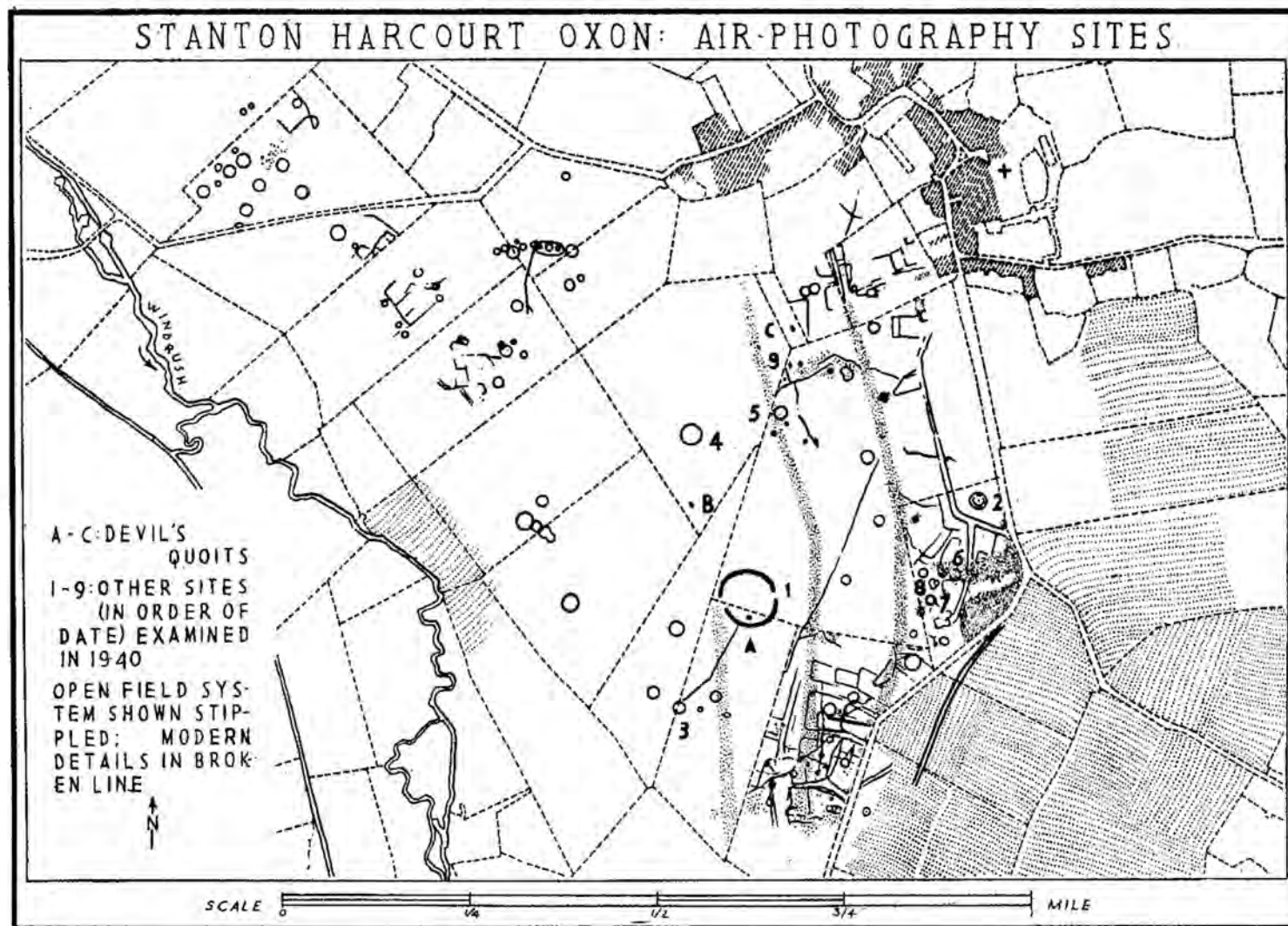


FIG. 8

PLAN OF THE AREA BETWEEN STANTON HARCOURT AND LYNCH HILL, SHOWING CROP-MARKS (pp. 19, 24)

*Based on the 6 in. O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.*

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site in the area and without a parallel for its form. Devil's Quoit A stands inside it.

But the large majority of the sites are of course ring-ditches.<sup>1</sup> They vary both in size and in arrangement: though they often occur in clusters, they are essentially single monuments. At least two series showing a tendency to form straight alignments will be observed, with the rings sometimes spaced, sometimes impinging on one another, sometimes with more complex forms made up of two or more rings. Of these the oval ditch enclosing three circles towards the north margin of the area is well-known; and there are also two examples of pear-shaped or irregular oval rings formed by the union of two incomplete circles. There is one double ring-ditch made up of concentric circles, the inner one broken in two places (site 2).

There is also a number of small enclosures of a less constant shape. They occur mainly, though not entirely, in the southern part, at Linch Hill corner (FIG. 9 and PL. II, A) and at Linch Hill itself. They are often quadrangular, but round or oval forms less regular than the ring-ditches are also found. Also in contrast to the ring-ditches they usually have entrance gaps. They are probably small settlement-enclosures; and their size (up to 60 or 70 ft. across) suggests that they may have held one or at most two small dwellings.

The remaining single enclosures are less certainly dwelling-sites and have more the appearance of isolated plots enclosed for agricultural or stock-folding purposes. They occur on the margins of the area, both north and south, and the outstanding type is of quadrangular form. The repetition of these quadrangular enclosures at Linch Hill is one of the remarkable features of the air-photographs of the Oxford region. In spite of their concentration each enclosure appears to be a separate entity which may be contemporary with one or more of its neighbours but is not structurally connected with it—nor is it necessarily connected with any of the linear marks in the same field.<sup>2</sup> Though best represented at Linch Hill, there are traces of similar enclosures near Stanton Harcourt village, and they also occur in other places with sufficient constancy to suggest that they should be recognized as a distinct

<sup>1</sup> I use the term 'ring-ditch' to mean what it says: a *closed* more-or-less circular mark on the air-photograph which may or may not on the ground (or as a result of excavation) show traces of an accompanying mound or bank. I cannot accept Mr. Atkinson's suggestion (*Oxoniensia*, VII, 34) that the expression should be used exclusively for ditches with external bank, which seems to me to offend against the principles that terminology should usually proceed from the simple to the complex; and that the complex should be named in terms of its most distinctive feature.

<sup>2</sup> Many of the marks intersect and therefore cancel one another out. But in any case it is important to remember that without external evidence mere proximity on the air-photograph is not sufficient to justify a conclusion that any of the marks are contemporary, especially in a heavily occupied area. The only safe test apart from excavation must be the recognizable relationship of the different parts in a coherent plan.

STANTON HARCOURT: CROP MARKS AT  
LINCH HILL CORNER

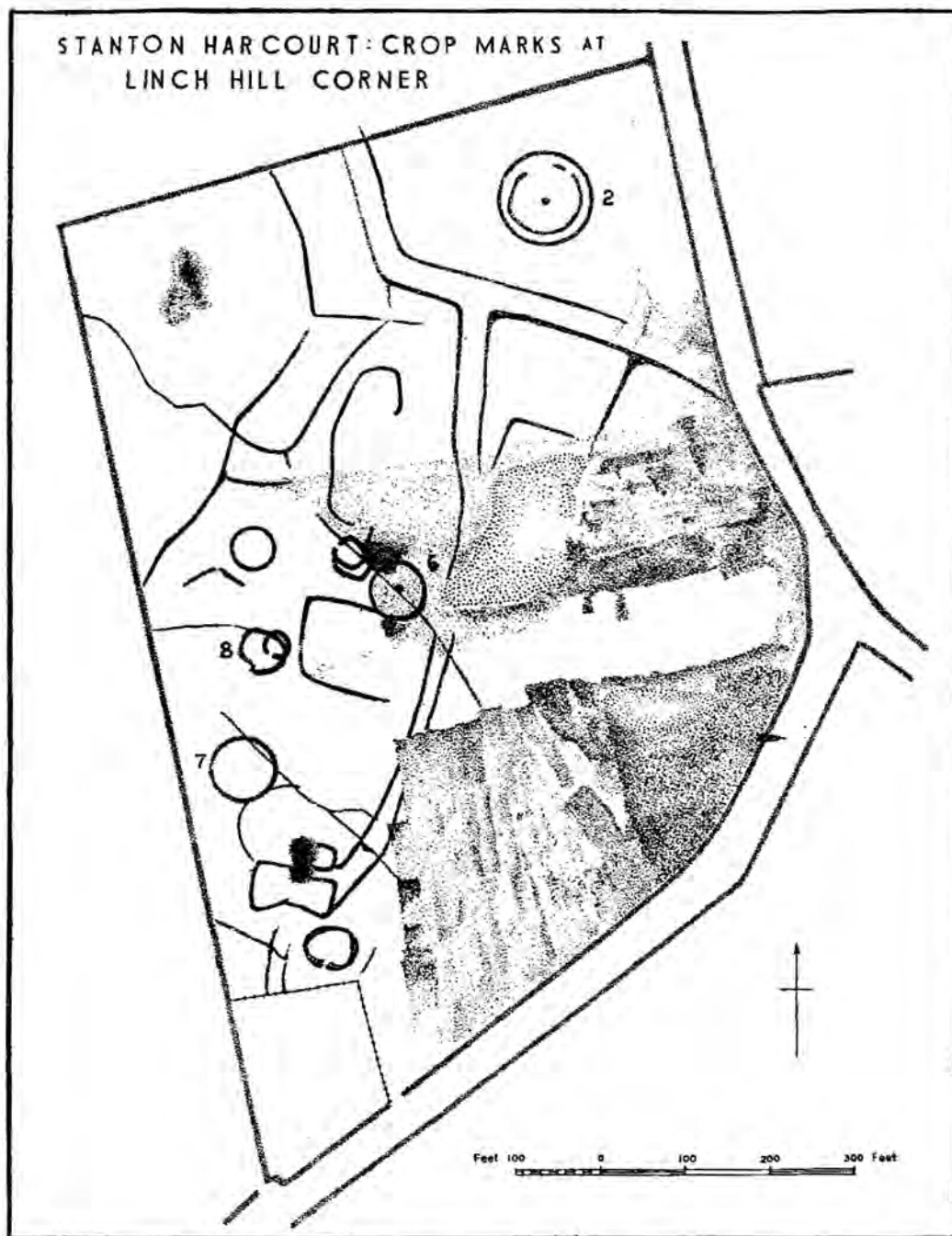


FIG. 9  
LINCH HILL CORNER: CROP-MARKS PLOTTED FROM THE AIR-PHOTOGRAPHS  
(pp. 21, 34 ff.)

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type which does not appear to be the same as the Romano-British farm and villa enclosures.<sup>1</sup>

The 'composite' marks are mostly the remains of lanes and field-systems. The most complete of these is on the eastern side of the area, where a long lane runs parallel with the modern road and at Linch Hill corner is flanked by small fields. There are traces of similar lanes and fields in the Linch Hill complex and of other small enclosures elsewhere. The date of such systems is by no means always certain, and some may well be comparatively recent, from the way in which they tie in with the mediaeval road-system.

Distinct from those are more erratic wandering marks which cannot be said very definitely to enclose anything. Some at least are probably water-courses, natural or man-made.<sup>2</sup>

Finally, there are in various parts of the area groups of spots which are generally taken to mark pits mainly of Iron Age date. Though they occur in close proximity to other marks their association with any of them has yet to be proved. Also across the site runs a series of three broad dark bands, roughly parallel with one another.

It is obvious that in these markings a variety of dates and purposes is represented.

Few of the monuments were visible on the ground except in favourable conditions as marks in the crop. The exceptions were the big ditch with its attendant bank (site 1), the large barrow (site 4) and the broad dark bands already mentioned. The last appeared as broad ridges consisting of a much greater depth of soil than was usual elsewhere. They resembled nothing as much as large headlands; but their purpose is in fact unexplained. The barrow consisted of a low, poorly-defined eminence in the middle of Barrow Hill field. The big ditch was equally poorly-defined, the ditch itself being almost invisible and the bank a shapeless ridge. The difficulty of defining and 'seeing' them clearly was added to by the presence, not only of the long ridges, but also of various natural undulations and slight features in the generally level surface of the surrounding ground.

The conditions under which the work was done in 1940 did not allow of a systematic plan of campaign. In the end the following sites were examined, here set out in chronological order:

- 1 and A-C. The great ditch and the three Devil's Quoits.
2. A double ring-ditch in the quarry field at Linch Hill corner.

<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, pls. XXI and XXII.

<sup>2</sup> It should perhaps be added that even the most complete of the air-photographs does not necessarily reveal all underground disturbance. There were many indications in various parts of the area of small gulleys and the like which were presumably too small to show as crop-marks.



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3. A small ring-ditch, 880 ft. south of 1.
4. The large barrow in the middle of Barrow Hill field.
5. A small ring-ditch south of Quoit C.
- 6 and 7. Two ring-ditches in the area south of 2.
8. A small irregular enclosure near 6 and 7.
9. The concentration of 'pits' which appeared on the air-photographs, at the angle of Barrow Hill field just south-east of Quoit C.

The work was carried out under the auspices and with the financial aid of the Ashmolean Museum and the then Office of Works. Of the sites, Quoit A, the small ring-ditches (3) and (5) and the large barrow (4) were examined by the Oxford University Archaeological Society under the general direction of Mr. D. B. Harden. These, with the exception of the Quoit will be the subject of a later report by Mr. Harden.

### I. THE DEVIL'S QUOITS AND THE GREAT DITCH

The first mention of the Quoits in the literature is apparently due to Aubrey, whose *Monumenta Britannica* (Bodl. MS. Top. gen. C.24, fo. 67) thus describes them: 'In Stanton Harcourt field in Com. Oxford southward from the Towne stand two great stones, called the Devill's Coytes: sixty-five paces distant from one another. The east stone is nine foot high, and as much broad: halfe a yard thick. The west stone is eight foot high and about six foot broad,  $\frac{1}{2}$  yard thick. Two or three Bowshotts from hence is a great Barrow.' He adds a footnote: 'One of these stones was taken down by a farmer about the year 1680 to make a bridge of.'

Plot (*Nat. Hist. Oxford* (1705), p. 350) thought the Devil's Coits were 'Appendices' to the barrow, 'but that they seem a little too far removed from it'.

Gough's edition of *Camden* (1769), i, 294 quotes Aubrey as the authority for part of his account, which however varies in important details: 'In the fields of Stanton Harcourt stood three great stones called the *Devil's Coits*, 65 paces asunder, but one of them was taken down several years ago to make a bridge. The third stone was smaller than the rest, and stood between the barrow and the church . . . .'

Much later J. Y. Akerman ('Ancient Limits of Wychwood Forest', *Archaeologia*, xxxvii (1858), 431) enlarges upon the tradition of the removal of the northernmost stone: it 'was once removed by an occupier of the land and laid across a water-course, where it served as a bridge over which wagons and carts for some time passed . . . it was restored to its old locality at the request of one of the Harcourt family. A groove in this stone, eight

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inches from the top, seven inches in width, and about three inches deep, is believed to have been caused by the wheels of the vehicles, when it lay prostrate<sup>1</sup>.

Subsequent accounts<sup>1</sup> of the stones are brief and add nothing to what is already known. Their wide spacing has been a difficulty to modern writers,

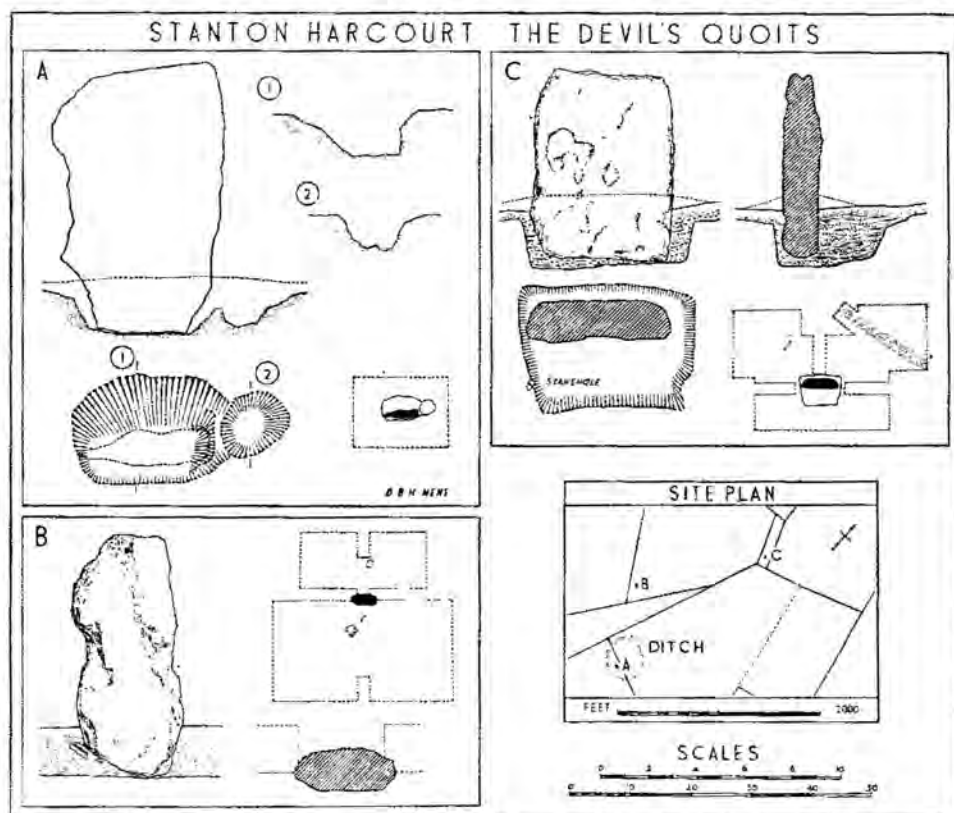


FIG. 10

### THE DEVIL'S QUOITS AS EXCAVATED (pp. 26 ff.)

*The site plan based on the 6in. O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.*

who because of it have not felt able to accept them as part of a circle. The southernmost Quoit, A, is 900 ft. from B and C, to the north, is 1,400 ft. from B in positions which would give the circle a radius of about 1,200 ft., several times greater than the largest circle known. But whatever the disagreements and uncertainties in the early accounts (which relate particularly to the

<sup>1</sup> Crawford, *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, p. 212.

third stone), it should already have been clear that the stones were not in their original relationship to one another. Aubrey states that the 'two' stones were 65 paces apart. Whether this applies to A and B (as his measurements suggest) or to B and C (as seems to be indicated by the story of the moved stone) it is clear that neither of the modern distances even approximates to 65 paces or about 195 ft. Even without excavation, therefore, it was fairly certain that some or all of the Quoits were not in their original positions. But before dealing with the results of excavation the stones themselves should be described (FIG. 10).

All three are composed of the local gravel conglomerate. Quoit A (south) was 8 ft. 6 ins. high, 7 ft. 1 in. in greatest width (tapering to 5 ft. 9 ins. at ground level), and 1 ft. 7 ins. thick. It is a slab-like stone with a straight but slightly oblique top. Its faces are more or less parallel; one edge is fairly regular, the other much less so. Quoit B (middle) was 8 ft. high, 4 ft. 3 ins. wide and 1 ft. 9 ins. thick. It is a less massive stone than A, with a marked waist at about half its height. Quoit C (north) was 6 ft. high, 5 ft. 10 ins. wide at ground level and 1 ft. 6 ins. thick. It is a squat, square slab. High up across its north-east face was a horizontal broad groove mentioned by Akerman. The modern position of this stone also agrees roughly with Gough's statement: if his barrow is our site no. 4, as seems certain, Quoit C may be said to 'lie between the barrow and the church'.

All three stones were excavated, and there was a marked contrast between Quoit A (PL. III, B, E) and the other two.

Quoit A was found to taper strongly below ground level. Rather less than 3 ft. of it were in the ground, giving it an overall length of 11 ft. 5 ins. Its hole was an irregular oblong in plan  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ft. by  $5\frac{1}{4}$  ft. with its long sides orientated approximately east and west. To the west of the main hole was an oval extension about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. across. The filling of this was entirely different from that of the main hole. On the evidence of subsequent work (see pp. 31, 61) it was dismissed as natural. The main hole had a vertical north face and a sloping ramp on the south (angle of slope about  $35^\circ$  from the horizontal). Its flat bottom was 1 ft. 10 ins. below the surface of the undisturbed gravel. Its filling was brown gravelly soil with many pieces of conglomerate (the largest up to 2 ft. 8 ins. long) as packing-stones.

A considerable area around Quoit B was cleared down to the gravel surface, but no signs of a ring-ditch or other disturbance were met with: only one or two small irregular holes which were probably natural. Before excavation the stone had appeared to stand on a broad, low ridge. Excavation showed this ridge to be composed of a greater depth than usual (2 ft.) of red-brown soil containing much gravel which got stiffer, darker in colour



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and more gravelly as it approached the undisturbed yellow gravel beneath. The brown soil was apparently a normal profile from the gravel to the modern plough. The outline of the stone-hole could not be recognized in it, and the heel of the stone did not penetrate to the gravel. There were two small packing-stones under its upward-sloping south shoulder, but none against either face. A patch of soft soil also under the shoulder was probably due to burrowing animals.

Quoit C was found to have been set up in a large rectangular hole nearly 7 ft. by slightly over 5 ft., its four sides nearly vertical and its bottom flat. Its filling was loosely compacted gravel with patches of soil in places, the material being particularly loose against the sides of and under the stone. The stone was very much to the east side of its pit. Two feet of it were below the surface, giving it an overall length of about 8 ft. Exposure of its east face revealed a second groove just below ground level. This was parallel with the first and the two were 4 ft. 8-10 ins. apart, centre to centre. Near the north-west corner of the pit a small hole penetrated several inches obliquely into the gravel. It may have held a small stake to prop the stone in position while the hole was being filled. Here too an area of the gravel surface around the stone was examined. The only features revealed were a straight, shallow palisade trench and an irregular hole on the east side. Neither appeared to be related to the stone.

The conclusion seems to be that Quoit A occupies its original hole, the form of which, as well as the packing-stones used with it, is in keeping with the normal practice of the ancients in setting up monoliths. On the other hand neither Stone B nor Stone C can be said to be normal: the former is set up in a deposit due to recent activity; the hole and filling of the latter are quite different in character. B and C therefore in their present positions must be regarded as modern. The second groove on C is some confirmation of the story that the stone has spent part of its life as a bridge over which carts passed: the grooves can hardly be natural and their distance apart is about right, although there is no trace between them of wear by the hooves of draught animals. But whether its position in 1940 was in anything more than a general sense its position before it was used as a bridge we have no means of knowing.

If, however, excavation has made a certainty of the probability that the Quoits in their present positions were not part of a circle, air-photography has produced an alternative explanation. Photographs taken by the Royal Air Force in 1929 and now in the Ordnance Survey collection showed that Quoit A stood inside the south margin of an unusually large oval ditch with entrances opening to east and west. The existence of this ditch was abundantly confirmed by photographs taken subsequently by Major G. W. G. Allen

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(PL. II, B, C). With the clues provided by the photographs it was now possible to recognize on the ground that certain undulations in this area were not natural, but the remains of a much-ploughed-out external bank to the ditch. The possibility next to be tested by excavation was that this *ensemble* was the ruins of an embanked stone circle, to which Quoits B and C might once

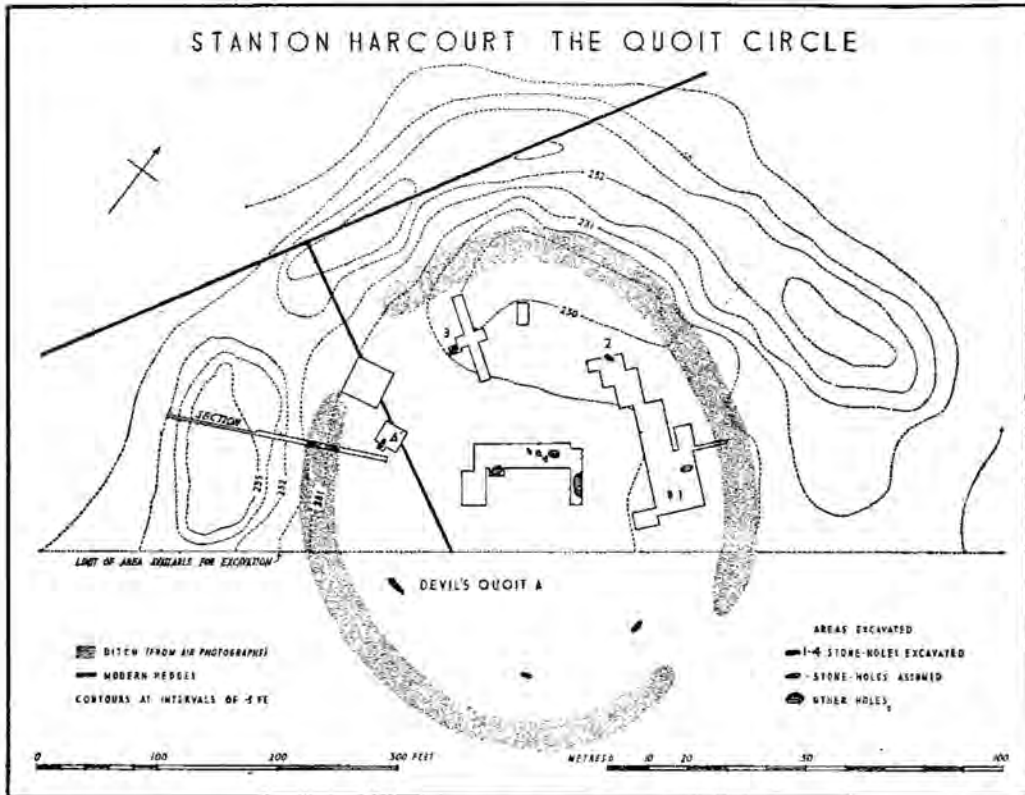


FIG. 11  
THE QUOIT CIRCLE: PLAN (pp. 28 ft.)

have belonged. About two-thirds of the area of the monument were available for examination.

An essential preliminary to the excavation of such a site was a contoured plan, as the only way of giving definition to an earthwork which otherwise remained indefinable. The result (FIG. 11) showed that prolonged ploughing had not in fact destroyed the essential unity of ditch and bank: the

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crop-mark of the former, plotted from the air-photographs, fitted well into the contours.

A single cutting was made through the bank and ditch on the south side, about 110 ft. west of the position of Quoit A.

The ditch (PL. III, A and FIG. 12) was a massive excavation, a broad U in section,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep and 24 ft. wide. The gentler upward shelving of the solid gravel beyond the steep sides is probably due to gravitational weathering. The surface of the ditch sides was soft and loose.

The filling of the ditch calls for little comment. A small quantity of coarse gravelly silt on the bottom and against the lower sides was succeeded by layers of more earthy silt, sometimes red, sometimes yellow or grey in

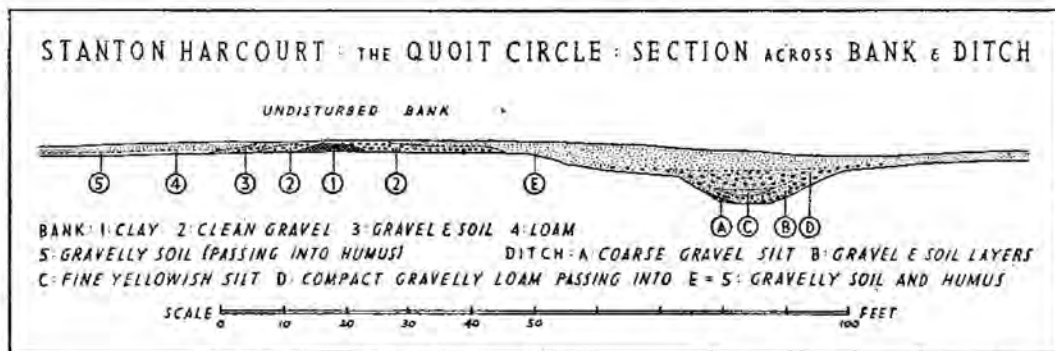


FIG. 12

THE QUOIT CIRCLE : SECTION THROUGH EARTHWORK (p. 29 f.)

colour and extending down both sides.  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ft. above the ditch-bottom these were capped by a lenticular layer of fine yellowish silt a foot thick at the middle. The remainder of the section was made up of a compact gravelly loam which tended to become less stony towards the surface, extending up the shelving margins of the ditch and merging into the plough-soil. The only finds were a few fragments of indeterminate animal bone from the ditch bottom and a flint flake from the compact gravelly filling above the middle of the ditch.

Between the ditch and the beginning of the bank there was a shelving berm 27 ft. wide. Although the bank had been so ploughed out that barely 18 ins. of it remained, its base was so well preserved that there could be no doubt as to its original extent and character. Its junction with the underlying original humus, here about 9 ins. thick, was clearly marked.

The core of the bank consisted of a heap of mixed clay and gravel

about 12 ft. wide and tapering out to within 4 ins. of the present surface. The gravel occurred in the heap in the form of narrow broken bands, and there were also several pieces of conglomerate, one a large piece 12 ins. wide. It is probable that this soil-and-gravel heap is the product of the first stripping of the top soil from the site of the ditch, serving also to mark out the course of the bank. Against this core on both sides was heaped the clean gravel derived from the ditch to form the main body of the bank. This gravel was of a somewhat coarse texture. On the inside it was the only deposit, being succeeded by the brown gravelly plough-soil; but on the outside it was overlaid by a finer gravel containing a certain amount of soil, but clearly different from the plough-soil above it and probably part of the original bank. The overall width of the bank was 46 ft., the soil-and-gravel core being towards the outside rather than at the true centre.

In its complete state, therefore, the earthwork must have been a fairly impressive spectacle. The overall width of bank and ditch must have been little short of 100 ft., the overall vertical measurement in the neighbourhood of 12-14 ft. The diameters of the whole site in its spread state are difficult to estimate; but the crop-mark of the ditch as plotted from the air-photographs is about 390 ft. (north-south) by 420 ft. (east-west).

Apart from Quoit A, already described, the first problem calling for investigation in the area inside the earthwork was set by crop-marks which appeared in one of Major Allen's oblique air-photographs (PL. II, c). This showed at the centre of the enclosure a number of 'circular' marks disposed as if they might be the holes of a small circle of uprights, their regular outline suggesting timber posts rather than monoliths.

To settle this question the position of the markings was established as accurately as possible on the ground and an area stripped to the gravel, as shown on the accompanying site plan (FIG. 11).

The holes revealed in this excavation were found to be of two types. The smaller ones (five in all) were irregular elongated ovals in outline, up to 6 ft. long by about 4 ft. broad and 1-2 ft. deep. Their layout was haphazard. Their filling was in all cases compact brown soil. One of them by reason of its shape might have made a good stone-hole, but the others appeared to be too shallow, with sides too widely splayed. There was no sign of packing-stones, and nothing to indicate whether they were of natural or of artificial origin.

The three large holes were evidently the cause of some of the markings in the air-photographs. They also were irregular ovals, but broader in proportion (about 10 ft. by 8 ft. in the two completely exposed; the third must have been rather larger). Their filling was the same and a section of one

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is shown in PL. III, C. A layer of about 9 ins. of brown soil passed downwards into a compact mixture of fine sandy material containing patches of coarser gravel, which in places was hard and difficult to dig. The normal colour of this lower filling was light grey, more rarely pale yellow; but there were usually patches of darker grey or brown, with many vertical brown streaks. The surface of the lower filling was irregular and pitted. A feature of the large pits was the unevenness of their floors, which were penetrated by many holes and broken by bosses of gravel which at times almost divided the main pit into distinct parts. The surface of the gravel was bound by a grey-white lime-like deposit making it in many places as hard as stone. These features, combined with others, such as the absence of packing-stones, left no doubt that the holes had not been dug by man. Their origin was therefore a geological problem, and my thanks are due to Dr. K. S. Sandford, who at Mr. Harden's suggestion visited the site and supplied the accompanying notes and comments upon them (APPENDIX I). It will be seen that Dr. Sandford regards the holes and their filling as due to unequal decomposition of the gravel by the removal of its lime constituents. The complete explanation of these phenomena is not yet known, but they may possibly be due to the former action of trees. The holes, therefore, are not without a certain environmental interest and it would be desirable that further examples should be sectioned and examined by a competent quaternary geologist if they occur on other gravel sites in the Thames valley. In this respect, therefore, the results were archaeologically negative, and the so-called circle at the centre of the earthwork must be regarded as non-existent.

The alternative was that Quoit A might be the last surviving member of a larger stone-circle. To test this possibility an area of ground on the east side of the enclosure was uncovered. The discovery of one and then of another stone-hole in the gravel 125 ft. apart (the whole of the area between them having been stripped) provided clues which led in due course to the recovery of the remaining stone-holes in the area available for examination. In the end five such stone-holes were found, including that which had held Quoit A. As FIG. 13 and PL. III, B, D, F show, they were slot-like, with usually a sloping ramp on the outside to facilitate the erection of the stone. In all cases the broad faces looked towards the centre of the enclosure. Stone-hole no. 3 was wider and less regular than the others, perhaps because the gravel in which it was dug was abnormally loose.

The details of the stone-holes are as follows:

1. 6 ft. long by 2 ft. wide by about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep. Sides slope inwards, but no definite ramp. East end not very clearly defined, the undisturbed gravel floor rising gently to the general level. Bottom of hole irregular,



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with slight central longitudinal ridge. Filling normal brown soil, with packing-stones concentrated against outside wall of pit. Packing-stones mostly conglomerate, but also a number of quartzite and other water-worn pebbles.

2. 5 ft. 10 ins. long by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide by about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep (below gravel surface). Well-cut hole with good ramp on outside. Filling gravelly brown soil with pieces of conglomerate, probably packing-stones, throughout.

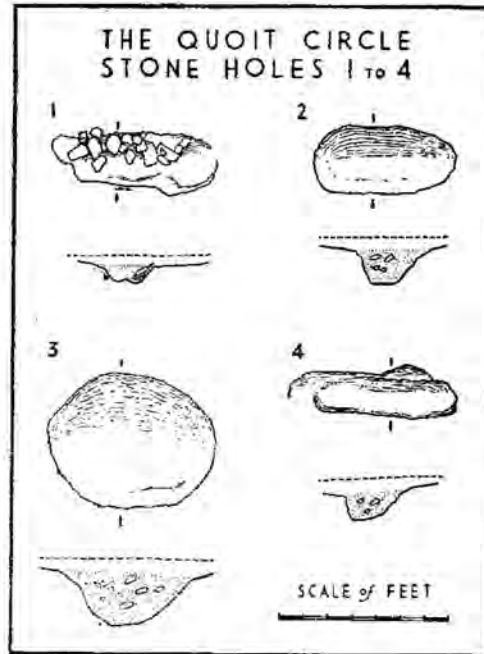


FIG. 13  
THE QUOIT CIRCLE : EXCAVATED STONE  
HOLES ; PLANS AND SECTIONS (p. 31 f.)

3. 7 ft. long by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide by about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  ft. deep below gravel surface. A large oval hole dug in loose gravel, which made it difficult to empty without disturbing the sides. Ramp on outside. Filling brown soil (containing one small layer of clean gravel towards top) with pieces of conglomerate.

4. Margins disturbed by subsequent digging. Length 6-7 ft., width 2 ft. 6-9 ins., depth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. below gravel surface. Ramp on outside. Filling of brown soil containing a little conglomerate.

In addition to these normal stone-holes there was on the east side 21 ft.

north of no. 1 an elongated oval hollow, obviously artificial, in the gravel. This pit was 9 ft. long by just over 4 ft. wide, its depth below the gravel surface being about 1 ft. 4 ins. It appeared to be divided by a poorly-defined, transverse ridge, which was accompanied by two slight constrictions in the plan, suggesting that the hole had been dug in two parts. The filling consisted entirely of pieces of conglomerate with soil between. The stone was all of a purple-red colour, probably through having been burnt; and the walls of the pit also showed signs of burning, especially on the west side, where also was a certain amount of charcoal. The whole suggested a pit for breaking up conglomerate masses by fire, rather as the sarsens in the chalk country were treated. Yet it hardly seems that such a troublesome procedure would have been necessary with the conglomerate, which is obviously a very different material from the Wiltshire sandstone. It is impossible to say whether the stone so broken was originally one from the circle and the date of its destruction is also unknown; but it is of interest to note that some fragments of similarly burnt conglomerate are built into the structure of Stanton Harcourt church. Is it possible that this material also came from the 'circle' and was suitably treated before being turned to ecclesiastical use?

The last investigation on this site was the examination of part of the west entrance. It was found to be featureless.

To sum up, therefore, the southernmost of the three Devil's Quoits and the earthwork within which it stood, were the only visible remains of a stone circle—or more truly oval (its diameters being 280 and 250 ft.)—of the 'embanked' type. The ditch and external bank were of massive proportions compared with the other sites in the area. Within them the four stone-holes found were well spaced out in a single ring, the spacing suggesting that the complete number of stones originally was seven. Without wishing to argue that the number of such stones was governed by any kind of rule, it is possible that fewer stones than usual were employed here because of the stonelessness of the region.

There seems no cause for doubt that the other two Devil's Quoits were derived from this site, having been erected in their modern positions in more recent times. If Aubrey's account can be taken at its face value, i.e. that two of the Quoits were 65 paces apart and 2 or 3 bowshots from the Barrow, while the third had been 'taken down in 1680 for a bridge', it seems as if Quoit B was in its original place when Aubrey wrote. Two of the other holes, viz. no. 3 and an unexcavated one, are just about 65 paces from Quoit A, and Quoits in all these positions would be just about 2 or 3 bowshots from the Barrow. But it is curious, if so, that there is no record in the later literature of Quoit B's removal to its modern position. An

endeavour to see whether Quoits B and C fitted a particular stone-hole yielded no profitable result.

No evidence was found bearing on the date of the circle. But its presence in a locality rich in signs of beaker-occupation suggests that its date is probably the same as that of other examples of the type, which appears to have been introduced by the beaker-people.

## II. THE DOUBLE RING-DITCH AT LINCH HILL CORNER (SITE 2)

The double ring-ditch in its north-east corner is a feature in most of the air-photographs of the heavily crop-marked field which takes up the south-east corner of the main area, in the angle of the Stanton Harcourt-Stanlake road (FIG. 9, PL. II, A). The exceptionally dry summer of 1940 made it a prominent feature on the ground before the barley crop was cut. The indications were of a fairly large central 'spot', enclosed by a double ring, the inner member of which appeared to be both narrower and less regular than the outer. A feature of the inner ring was a double break on its north side. These characters were of course only visible in the crop: the area inside the ditches was slightly irregular but showed no sign of a barrow; there was no trace of the ditches themselves.

The ditches were examined and the central burial-pit located by means of an east-west cutting, with another short radial cutting at right angles across the ditches on the south. Only the western half of the main cutting was taken right out, in an attempt to decide whether there were any traces of a covering mound. There were in fact only 9-12 ins. of soil overlying the yellow gravel, and while this cover tended to be more gravelly towards its base, this was obviously a normal change. If a mound ever existed within the ditches it has now been completely removed.

As the sections (FIG. 14 and PL. IV, c) show, the ditches where exposed varied in profile and dimensions, but the outer ditch was everywhere the larger. The width of the latter was fairly uniform (8-9 ft.); but on the west it was V-sectioned and 2½ ft. deep, while on the east and north-east it was a broad U, about 2 ft. deep. On the west side the inner ditch was 5½ ft. wide by 1½ ft. deep; on the east it was little more than a gulley, 3 ft. wide with a depth of about 9 ins. The sections call for no special comment, the fillings being a quick gravelly silt (usually containing a thin layer of brown soil towards its base) succeeded by a more earthy silt of a uniform brown colour, topped by about 8 ins. of humus. The division of slow and quick silting was well defined, the surface of the former sagging with the ditch bottom. The coarse silt was heavily impregnated with lime. On the east

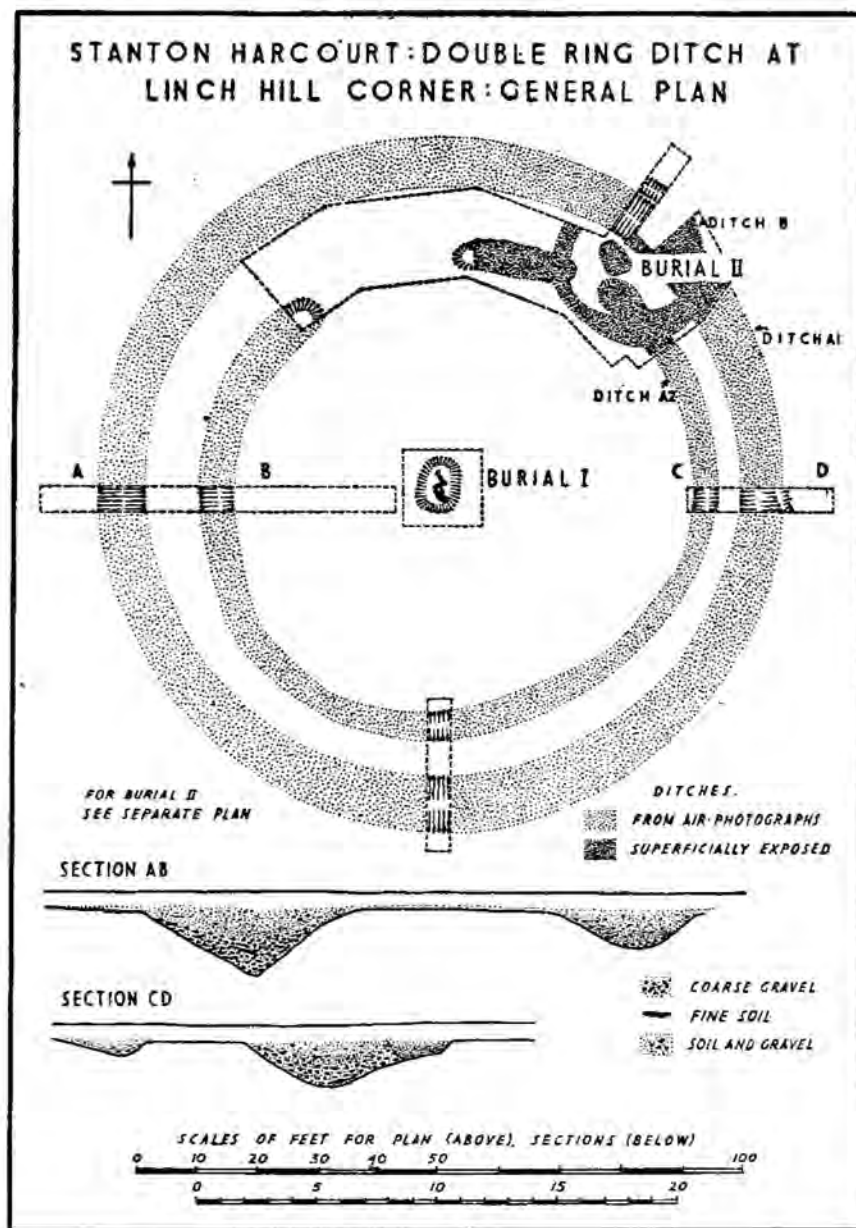


FIG. 14

DOUBLE RING-DITCH AT LINCH HILL CORNER: GENERAL PLAN (pp. 34 ff.)

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side the outer lip of the outer ditch was cut by a small gulley belonging apparently to an occupation-site of some kind to the east. The overall diameter of the outer ring was 116 ft., of the inner 86 ft.

The burial-pit was unusually large, slightly under 10 ft. by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ft., with its longer axis roughly north-south. Its sides sloped gently inwards to a level bottom  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft. below the gravel surface. The filling of the pit consisted of gravel which contained small patches of soil but was otherwise clean, obviously the material thrown out from the digging of the pit in the first place. In addition a layer of brown earth covered most of the floor and extended partly up the side of the pit.

This deposit may have been intentional and the crouched burial in the pit may have been placed on it. The bones as found were encased in the loam, which immediately around them was redder and stiffer than elsewhere. A somewhat similar feature has been observed recently during the excavation of some megalithic burial-chambers.

The skeleton (PL. IV, A) lay half on its back, on its right side with head to south, towards the south end of the burial-pit. The legs were drawn up at right angles to the spine and folded over to the east. The right arm was slightly flexed, the finger bones lying on and near the pelvis; the left was bent at right angles, the bones of the hand being in the hollow of the right arm. The skull, though complete, was badly broken. It had presumably been propped up originally by the wall of the pit, but had fallen over eastwards on to its face, taking with it the neck bones. The jaws, however, had remained in their natural position in relation both to one another and to the remainder of the skeleton. The result of the skull having assumed this position was to give the skeleton an appearance of greater height than it really possessed.

The condition of the bones was poor. The ribs and small bones generally were badly decayed, the spongy bones very friable, and the limb bones badly fissured and cracked.

This and the following skeleton have been kindly examined by Mr. L. F. Cowley of the National Museum of Wales, whose report is attached as APPENDIX II. From this it will be seen that the individual was a young woman about 5 ft. 3 ins. in height, whose cephalic index 'shows that she was nearer the longheads than the roundheads'.

A flint knife and jet slider (FIG. 15a, b) were found together on the floor of the grave against the left forearm. The knife is made from a blade of grey-patinated flint, 2.9 ins. long, 0.9 in. wide, 0.25 in. thick; its straight sides are almost parallel, its bulbar end rounded, its distal end almost square. Its cutting edge has been produced by good working in the upper face, with a limited amount of flaking confined to the edge on the under (bulbar) side.



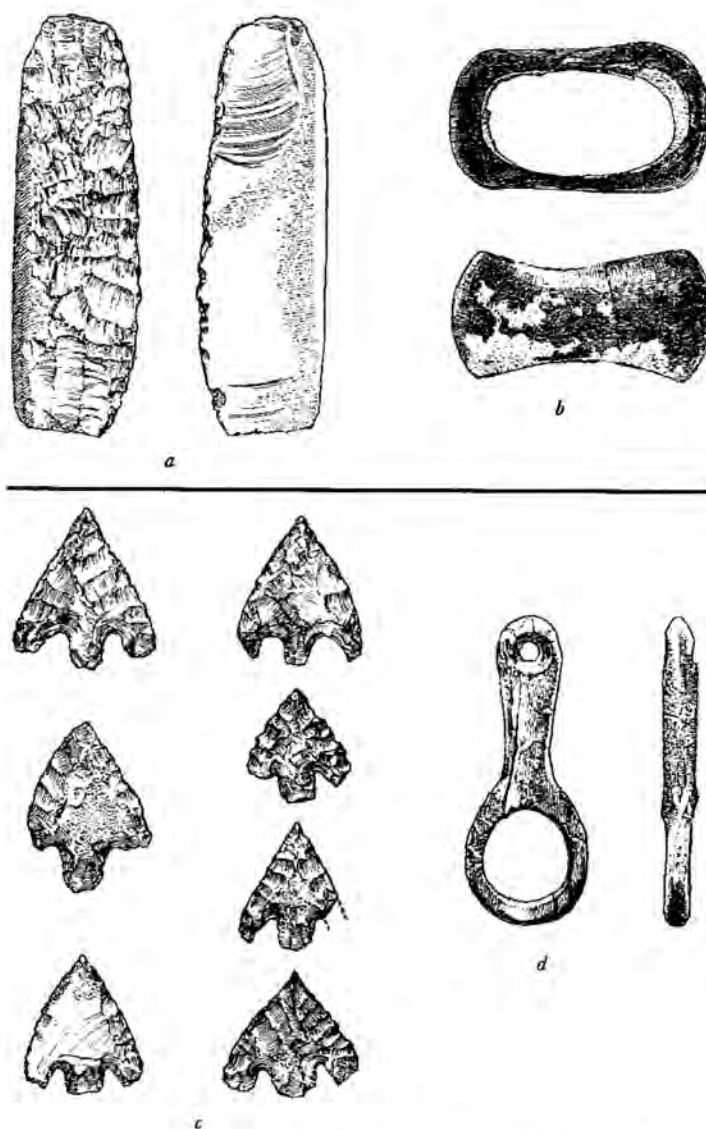


FIG. 15

DOUBLE RING-DITCH AT LINCH HILL CORNER

- a, b.* Flint knife and jet slider from Burial I (p. 36).  
*c, d.* Flint arrowheads and bone ring-pendant from Burial II (p. 43).  
 Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

But the edge has evidently seen considerable use, which has left it blurred and rounded. The back has been blunted and bevelled by fine grinding, and the greater part of the bulbar face has been similarly treated.

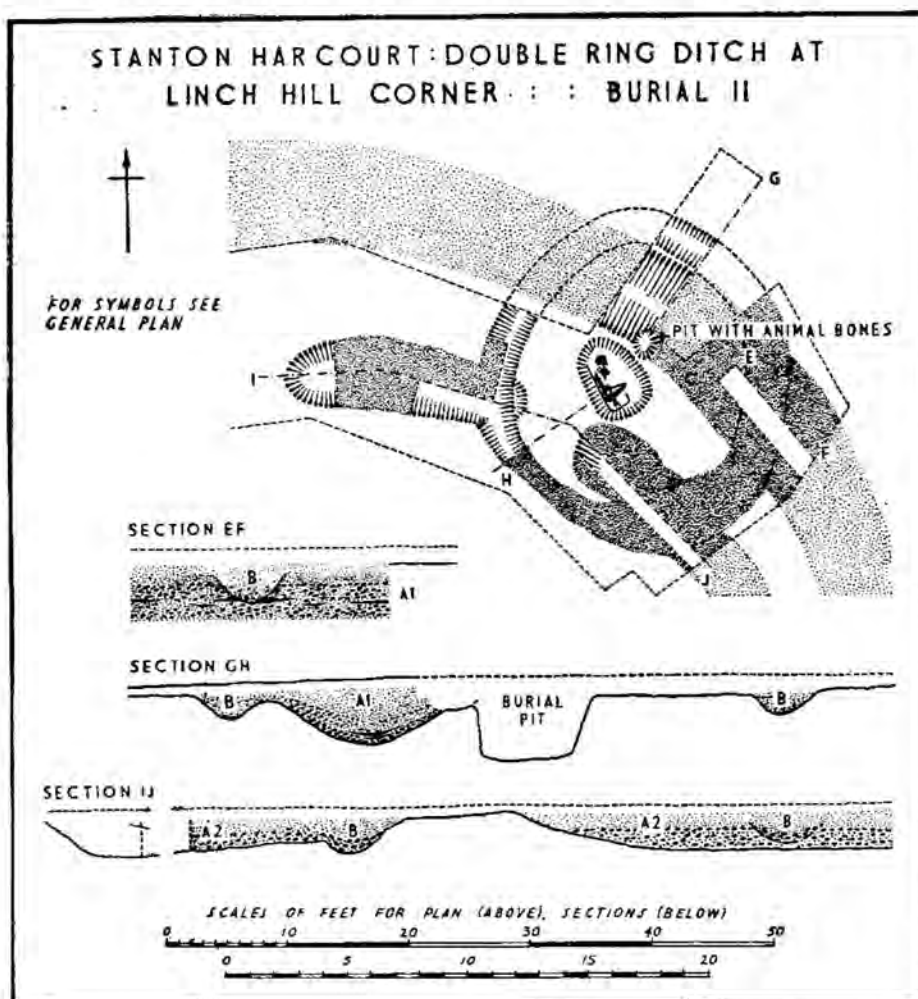


FIG. 16  
DOUBLE RING-DITCH AT LINCH HILL CORNER: BURIAL II; PLAN AND SECTIONS  
(p. 39)

The slider is of characteristic form, 1.8 ins. long, 1.05 ins. wide and 0.9 in. deep (0.65 in. at the contracted waist). The drying effect of the

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

atmosphere caused a certain amount of warping and crazing immediately after the slider was found, but one face was practically unaffected. The light patches in the drawing are an accretion of lime derived from the gravel. I have to thank Dr. H. J. Plenderleith for repairing and treating this specimen (as well as the bone pendant described later) and for confirming that the material is jet.

It remained to examine the breaks in the north sector of the inner ditch which were mentioned at the beginning of this section. The stripping of this area as shown in the plan confirmed the existence of the causeways, but produced no evidence as to their purpose. An unexpected discovery, however, was that of another burial-pit with its own small enclosing ring-ditch intersecting the larger ditches (FIG. 16 and PL. IV, B). The pit lay in the space between the two large ditches almost opposite the more easterly of the two causeways. No certainly recognizable trace of it or of its attendant ring-ditch appears in any of the air-photographs.

The event showed that this burial was secondary to the one already described. Its ditch was smaller and much less regular than either of the other two, enclosing an oval area about  $28\frac{1}{2}$  ft. (NW.-SE.) by  $25\frac{1}{2}$  ft. (NE.-SW.). Its dimensions were much more uniform: the four sections exposed had a constant width of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ft., and a depth of about a foot, with a flat U-profile.

The points of intersection of earlier and later ditches were carefully examined and it is on the evidence of these that the secondary date of the small ring-ditch is established. To simplify the description in what follows, therefore, the large primary ditches, outer and inner, are labelled A1 and A2 respectively, the small secondary ditch B.

In the belief that changes in the ditch-fillings would provide structural evidence bearing on the problem, a right-angled cutting was made through the west intersection of B and A2. In this, B was found to have been dug deeper than A2, its U-shaped bottom cutting into the profile of the larger ditch; but this fact in itself is of course no indication that B was the later. While, however, the filling of B was uniform and showed no sign of disturbance, the filling of A2 had clearly been cut through by B. In the longitudinal section through A2 the silting of the small ditch showed lighter and almost pale purple in colour against the dark brown of the large ditch. The differentiation ceased on the side 6-8 ins. down from the gravel surface. Exactly similar conditions were observed in the longitudinal cutting through A2 on the east side, except that here A2 was rather deeper as originally cut, and the complete section of B was therefore visible in its filling.

The small ditch B was, if anything, more clearly defined at its east intersection with A1, perhaps because the stratification of the larger outer

ditch was itself more strongly marked. The division of the silting of A<sub>1</sub> into a lower coarse gravel (with patches of fine silt) and an upper more earthy layer has already been observed in describing the double ring. This difference appeared also in the present cutting, with the natural variation that in a section cut longitudinally *along* a ditch the layers must appear in horizontal bands, instead of sagging with the profile of the ditch as they do in a cross-section. The filling of B was here of a lighter brown colour and consisted of soil and pebbles very much like the slow silt in the upper part of A<sub>1</sub>. The distinction between B and A<sub>1</sub> was clearly marked in the lower silt of A<sub>1</sub>, but the former was much less definite in the upper silt and finally faded out completely about 6-8 ins. below the gravel surface.

The only other section cut was on the north-east side (PL. IV, c), where B passes outside A<sub>1</sub> and the two are divided by a narrow ridge which denies contact between their lower fillings. A<sub>1</sub> here showed the usual sagging deposit of coarse silt with patches of earthy silt in it, succeeded by pebbly silt. The filling of B rather resembled this material, but with its much higher pebble content is actually the equivalent of the coarse silting of the large ditch.

In regard to the ditches, therefore, the conclusion seems to be that the ditch B accompanying the secondary burial was dug after the process of quick silting of the larger ditches had been completed and the process of slower silting commenced. By this time the ditches A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> would have appeared as comparatively shallow hollows. Their modern depth of probably little more than 6 ins. below the level of the undisturbed gravel surface may approximate to their depth then; but there is no way of knowing, here or elsewhere to what extent that surface has been reduced to its present level by ploughing.

On the inner lip of A<sub>1</sub>, cutting through its silt and directly beside the burial-pit, was a small hollow which contained a few bones, including part of the skull, of a sheep. The pit did not appear to be due to any kind of domestic activity, and must be assumed to have contained a ritual offering to do with the dead person.

The crouched burial (FIG. 17 and PL. IV, D) here was apparently made in a small wooden box or coffin set rather to the south-west side of the pit, the gravel walls of which were very loose and unstable. Traces of the coffin remained in the form of a thin dark line of carbonized wood down the west side and round the south end. The north end having gone, the full length of the coffin could not be determined; it actually remained to a length of slightly over 4 ft., or 5 ft. if an isolated patch of carbonized wood beyond the head of the skeleton on the north-east side can be regarded as in its original

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

position. (This patch, like another larger one near the feet, may have been part of the floor of the coffin.) The width of the coffin was 1 ft. 9-10 ins.

The body had been set in a very much crouched-up position, on its left side with head to north. The legs were closely drawn up and 'in the air', having originally rested against the side of the coffin. The feet were crossed,

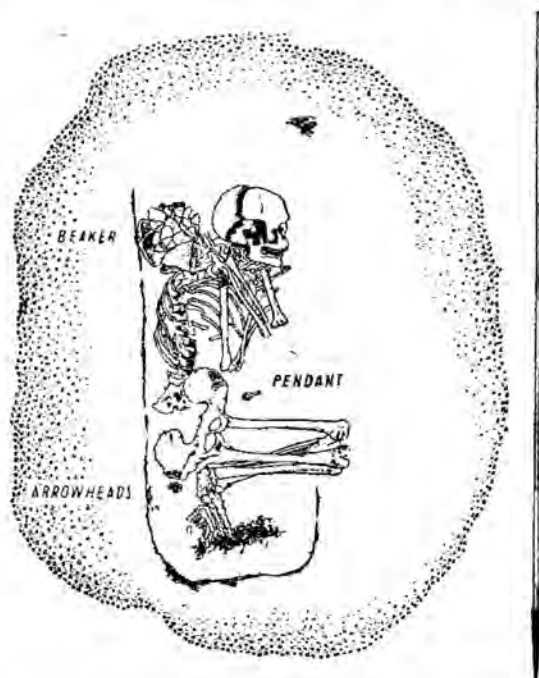


FIG. 17  
DOUBLE RING-DITCH AT LINCH HILL CORNER :  
BURIAL II, SHOWING OUTLINE OF REMAINS OF  
COFFIN (p. 40). (Scale of feet.)

with the left foot on top of the right. The spinal column was curved in a flat S, and the lower vertebrae and the pelvis were deranged. The shoulders and ribs had collapsed. The arms were closely folded across the front, so that the hands must have rested on the shoulders: the finger-bones in consequence were mingled with the bones of the shoulders. The skull had been broken and moved by pressure: there was a large crack across the cranium, and the jaws were out of position.

Here, as in the first skeleton, the general condition of the smaller and



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more spongy bones was poor, but the limb bones, except in the arms, were better. Mr. Cowley reports that 'the skeleton was that of a young man with a cephalic index of 75 and a height of 5 ft. 7-9 ins.'. He draws attention to a gap in the dentition 'caused by wear through constantly holding some object between the upper and lower teeth on the left side' and comments on its possible causes.

Associated with the skeleton were a beaker, practically complete but



FIG. 18

DOUBLE RING-DITCH AT LINCH HILL CORNER :  
BEAKER FROM BURIAL II (p. 42). Sc.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

in fragments, behind the head, where it had been laid on its side with its base against the wall of the coffin ; seven flint arrowheads, in a group at the base of the pelvis and again near the side of the coffin ; and a bone ring-pendant, from the floor in the angle between pelvis and left thigh bone.

The beaker (FIG. 18) is 6.7 ins. high and 5.7 ins. in diameter at the mouth. It is of good well-fired ware, with a fairly smooth red-brown surface. The flattened S-curve of its profile brings it into Abercromby's B type. The

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

modelling is somewhat uneven and the surface has in consequence a certain bulginess. The decoration is a series of horizontal open herringbones of finger-nail impressions.

The seven barbed and tanged arrowheads (FIG. 15c) are all of normal 'beaker' type and call for no special comment. All are of grey-white patinated flint. Apart from accidentally damaged barbs, they show the usual variation in outline.

The bone pendant is 2.15 ins. long. In form it resembles a diminutive hand-glass (FIG. 15d): the flattened-oval-sectioned shank expands towards the top to accommodate a counter-sunk hole for suspension, while its lower end becomes a flat oval disc with large open centre. The bone is cracked in several places, but its general condition is good. The find is of some interest as the first to be recorded in this country of a type which has been found over a wide area on the continent. Here I have to thank Professor Gordon Childe, who has come to my help by supplying the following note:

'I illustrate in the 2nd edition of *Dawn* (fig. 34, 2) a gold variant of your pendant, 3 cm. long, which comes from Dimini and belongs to the Thessalian (?) neolithic B culture. The metal in this example does not constitute a closed ring, but the turned-out ends overlap and are pierced for suspension. Parallels for this form occur in the Gumelnița culture of Wallachia. More like yours is a stone specimen found by Schliemann at Troy and assigned to Troy II-V. Then there is one from Tordos in Transylvania (*Dawn*, fig. 43). There are quite a lot in bone (or even amber) in Sweden in the Stone Cist period (e.g. Forssander, *Der Ostskandinavische Norden*, taf. xxrv), and a few in central Germany with Corded Ware or Globular Amphorae (e.g. Brögger, *Der arktische Stenålder*, p. 266). One occurred with a beaker in Bohemia (Jicin: Schráníl, *Vorgeschichte B.u.M.*, taf. xvi, 14). But this was much less typical, 4 cm. long, with no differentiation into perforated shank and ring. Instead, all the elements were fused into a triangular or wedge-shaped plate the ends of which were rounded off. There are some in amber from Schwarzort in East Prussia, but some of the Swedish ones seem to be most like yours. The general horizon of the type is Copper Age: Danubian III and overlap to IV (= Neolithic IV in Montelius' old system for the north of Europe).'

The cultural and chronological implications of these two burial-groups are not without interest. Burial I, on the one hand, appears to be associated with the Peterborough—Food-Vessel complex. For not only is the jet industry, with its home in Yorkshire, part of the Food-Vessel culture, but also the slider

is peculiar to the Peterborough—Food-Vessel group, or at any rate occurs rarely, if at all, with beakers. In addition, the long narrow knife with a large part of its surface treated by grinding, may well belong to the series of polished knives which are a well-known feature of the Peterborough culture. The home of the burial-group as a whole therefore is essentially northern and eastern; and the Stanton Harcourt slider is a link in the chain of communication which brought Yorkshire jet southwards into Wessex.

The affinities of the beaker are less certain. That it is a B type has already been obvious enough; and the smooth profile and outward-flaring rim (less pronounced than often) place it typologically in the B1 series. But B1 beakers occur in eastern England as well as in the south. The eastern examples probably have a more mixed continental origin, some coming immediately from the Rhineland and Low Countries, while a few, like the majority of the southern (Wessex) beakers, may have originated in Brittany.

The ring-pendant might therefore justify the placing of this beaker in the eastern group; for, as Childe's note indicates, these pendants have a central and north European, rather than an Atlantic, distribution. Nevertheless, I am still inclined to think that the beaker belongs in fact to the Wessex series, although I confess that this opinion is based on characters such as quality of ware, which are of uncertain value and so poorly defined as to be almost subjective.

For either conclusion there would in any case be precedent. The Thames obviously provided a route inland for those beaker folk who entered the country by way of the east coast, or the Icknield Way could have brought them from East Anglia. And there is abundant evidence in beakers from the Oxford area that the movement which brought the Wessex B beakers penetrated, probably at a fairly advanced stage, to this part of the Thames valley from the south.

Whatever the origin of the beaker, however, the two groups bring before us once again the vexed problem of the chronological relationships of beaker and food-vessel cultures. The accumulated evidence is now generally taken to mean that while there was probably a certain overlap of beakers and food-vessels in certain areas, the order was usually that of food-vessels succeeding beakers. Here, however, the process seems to be reversed, with the beaker burial coming second.

The answer probably is that the primary burial here is unusually early. On this point the jet slider is important. The type appears to be amongst the earliest products of the jet industry. In Yorkshire it has occurred only with otherwise barren inhumation-burials. But in the Gop Cave, Flintshire, two examples were found with Peterborough pottery and a polished flint

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

knife ; and they have also occurred in segmented cists of the Clyde-Carlingford group.

The latter finds cannot of course be regarded as water-tight pieces of evidence : the sliders may be secondary and later, like the beakers and food-vessels which have been found in other tombs. But the Welsh find seems satisfactory enough, and carries with it the possibility that while the main phase of the jet industry belongs to the Food-Vessel—A-beaker overlap, its beginnings may actually have been one of the activities of the Peterborough folk. When we remember the part played by these people in the exploitation of other raw materials this in itself need not surprise us ; but it is some support for the idea that our double ring-ditch and its burial may be very early in the series. Might it even be of Peterborough date ? Of pure Peterborough burials little or nothing is at present known ; the possibility that this may be one is strengthened by the character of the associated flint knife, in which the use of polishing recalls the well-known Peterborough polished knives, and by the already recorded presence of Peterborough elements amongst the population in the immediate locality.

It should be added that in the present state of our knowledge the amount of silting accumulated in the primary ditches before the secondary ditch was dug does not help us to determine the interval of time between the two burials. The interval may not in fact have been a long one : in some conditions at least the silting up of these small ditches in the gravel seems to have been accomplished fairly quickly (see below, p. 60). But further observation on other sites is needed before the evidence of silting can be turned to use, if that is ever possible.

### III, IV. RING-DITCHES AT LINCH HILL CORNER (SITES 6 AND 7)

It was found possible to examine two ring-ditches in this field to the south-south-west of site no. 2 (FIG. 19). The first lay on the edge of the area disturbed by gravel-digging, which took up the whole of the south-east part of the field. It was a very well-defined mark even in the cut crop, and its centre, where also a disturbed area showed, was readily determined.

An east-west cutting showed no trace of a mound in the half that was completely taken out : the only deposit overlying the gravel was pebbly plough-soil. The ditch was found to be a flattened U in section, 8 ft. wide on the east, 11 ft. wide on the west, and 3 ft. 6-9 ins. deep below the modern surface. Its overall diameter was 80 ft. The filling was normal : coarse silting in the lower part, succeeded by alternating bands of brown soil and gravel, which in turn passed into the modern plough-soil. To north and south

the ditch had been destroyed by gravel-digging : there was no sign of it in the cuttings taken out.

At the centre the gravel had been scraped to a depth of at least 6 ins., resulting in the almost complete destruction of the cremation-deposit, which had occupied a shallow oval pit just south-east of the measured centre. All that remained was a patch of 'burnt' material about 2 ft. across and a couple of inches deep. Probably derived from it was a small quantity of burnt bones in the brown soil just above the gravel surface to the west.

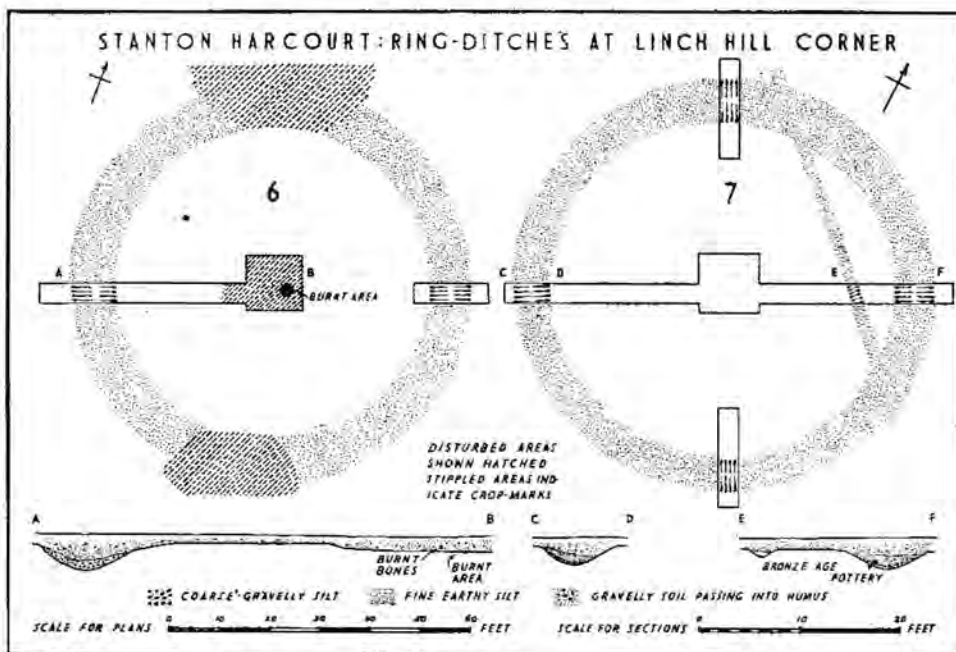


FIG. 19  
LINCH HILL CORNER: PLANS AND SECTIONS OF RING-DITCHES  
(SITES 6 and 7). (pp. 45 ff.)

The second ring-ditch was 260 ft. south-west of that last described. This was a well-defined crop-mark, showing no sign of disturbance by gravel-digging. The air-photographs show the mark of a small gulley or trench cutting obliquely across its eastern side. The results of the usual trial-cuttings and clearance of a small area at the centre were indeterminate, inasmuch as no evidence of date or purpose was found apart from a few pieces of (probably late) Bronze Age pottery in the slow silting of the western ditch. The ditch



## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

was a broad U in section, 8 ft. across and 2-3 ft. deep, with a normal filling. Its overall diameter was almost 84 ft. The central area was quite barren. The intrusive gully mentioned above was found in the east-west cutting to be U-sectioned, about 3 ft. wide and a foot deep.

The results from these two sites are therefore consistent with those obtained from other ring-ditches in the Thames valley. Those which have been definitely used as burial-places cover the whole of the Bronze Age. The dates, as well as the purpose of those which have not been used (at any rate in the 'normal' way) for burial call for further consideration.

### V. AN OCCUPATION-SITE AT LINCH HILL CORNER (SITE 8)

The small enclosures, probably settlement-sites, which are one of the distinctive types on the air-photographs, have already been mentioned.

A few such enclosures occurred at Linch Hill, where they have, however, been destroyed by gravel-digging. There are four at Linch Hill corner, but only one could be excavated: an apparently double example in which the ditch of a small enclosure overlay—or was overlaid by—the ditch of a larger. This site lay just north-west of a line joining the two ring-ditches last described. Owing to the destruction of the crop its first location caused some difficulty; but in the end the first cutting put down to identify it was found to be only a few feet east of the centre of the small enclosure.

It will be seen in the sequel that the ditches of this site were more complex than the air-photographs suggested. There can be no doubt that in other circumstances the best method of excavation would have been to uncover as much as possible of its area before sectional cuttings were attempted. This would probably have given a better general picture, thus allowing a simplification of the subsequent trench-system. The uncertain time factor, however, compelled the piecemeal cutting of sections, each of which had to be taken out completely as the only way of getting the maximum information out of each stage. In these circumstances most of the cuttings could only be planned in accordance with the probable layout of the site, rather than with possible structural or chronological problems, which might have been recognizable at an early stage if the layout of the site could have been seen as a whole.

FIG. 20 therefore shows the site in a stage which was not in fact achieved at any one time, with the ditches, as revealed by their fillings in the surface of the gravel, shown heavily shaded where they were exposed in the cuttings, the intervening areas being restored in lighter stippling. In FIG. 21 this is carried a stage further with the opening-up of the cuttings; and on the

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evidence so revealed an attempt has been made to restore the slopes for the whole site. It will be obvious, however, that in the unexcavated parts a certain margin of error is likely: the plan in this respect merely presents one of several possible pictures.

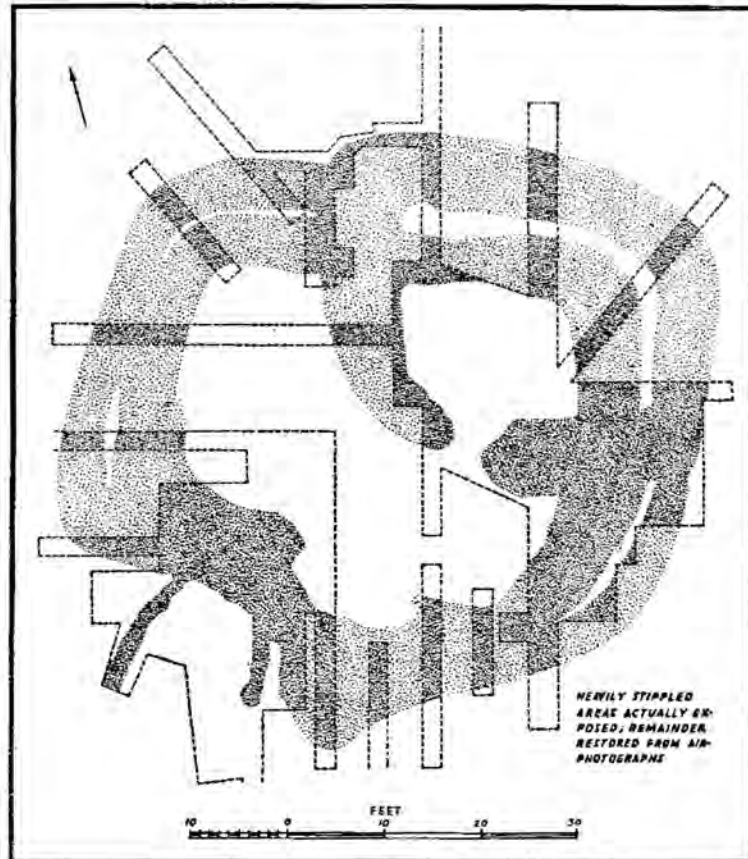


FIG. 20  
ENCLOSURE AT LYNCH HILL CORNER (SITE 8): PLAN OF  
FIRST PHASE OF EXCAVATION (p. 47)

The first general results to be observed are that the outlines of the enclosures agree with those of the air-photographs; that the intersecting ditches must indicate more than one period; and that the main ditch of the large enclosure in part at least was double. The evidence for the elucidation of these features could only be obtained from the sections. The sections

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

are illustrated in FIG. 22 and PL. V, B, C; the evidence and its results are shown summarized in FIG. 23, from which it will be seen that four periods at least are represented.

*Period I.* The first enclosure on the site was a simple one, rectilinear

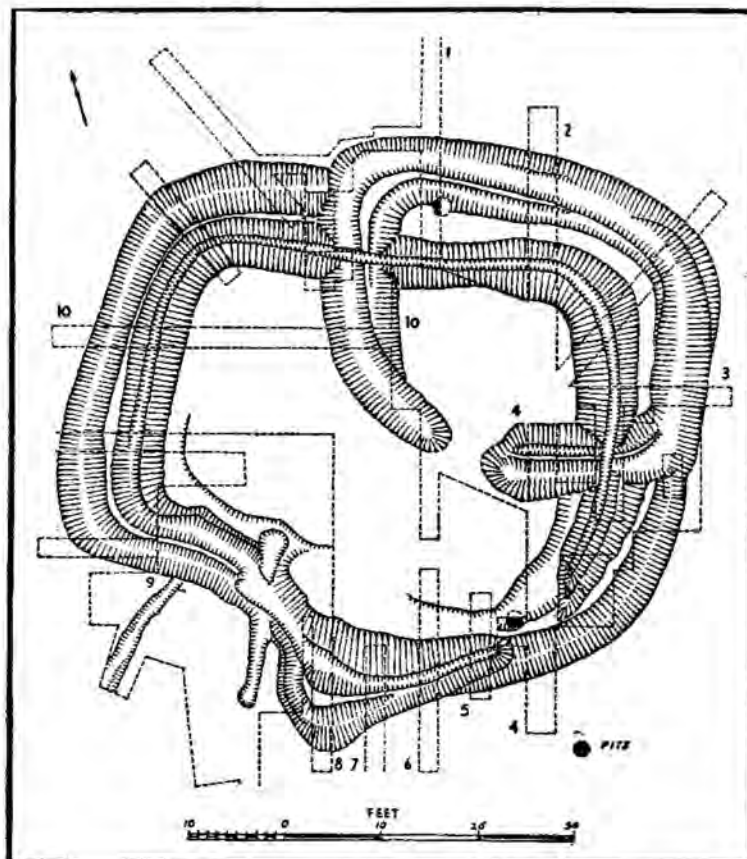


FIG. 21  
ENCLOSURE AT LINCH HILL CORNER (SITE 8) :  
RECONSTRUCTED PLAN BASED ON EXCAVATION (p. 47)  
(Note : Outside the actually excavated cuttings the slopes of the ditches  
are conjecturally restored.)

in outline except on the south-west, where there was a pronounced re-entrant, due possibly to the presence of some other activity just outside the area. The overall dimensions of the enclosure were about 54 ft. (east-west) by

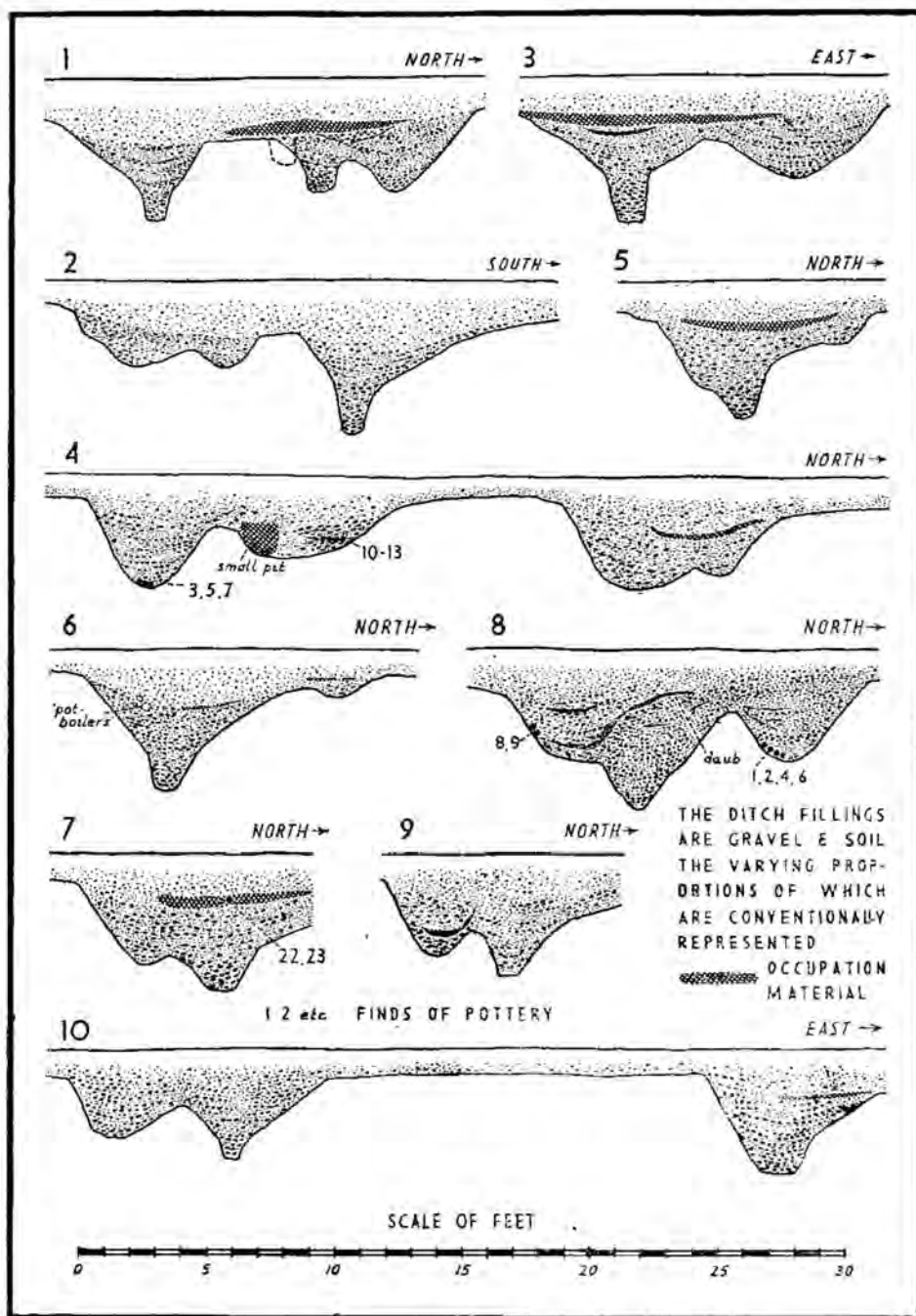


FIG. 22  
ENCLOSURE AT LINCH HILL CORNER: SECTIONS (pp. 49 ff.)

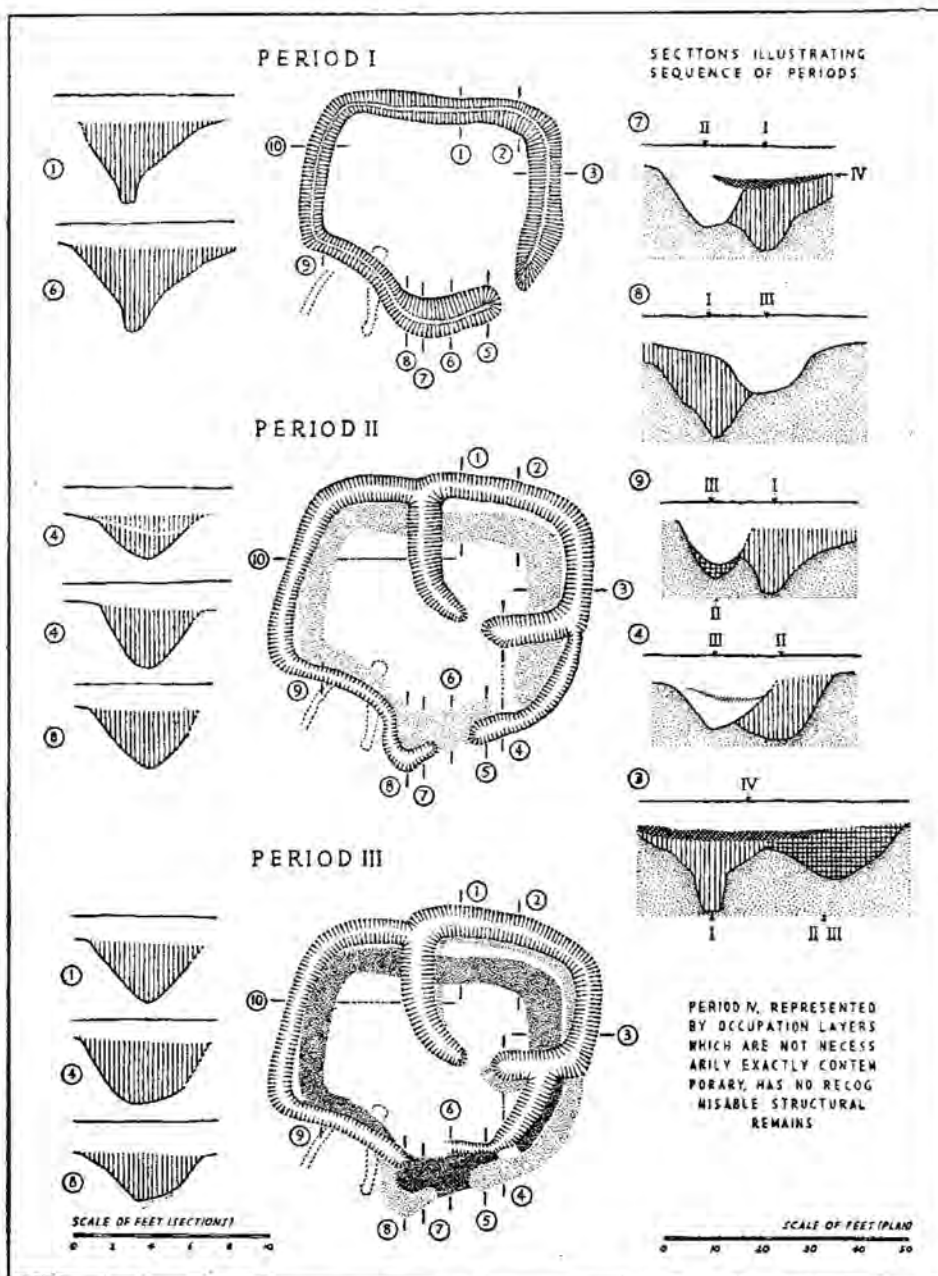


FIG. 23  
ENCLOSURE AT LINCH HILL CORNER : THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE  
(pp. 49 ff.)



50 ft. (north-south). The ditch was anything up to 8 ft. wide and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep below the gravel surface; its section was uniformly funnel-shaped, tapering with straight sides downwards from a broad mouth to a narrow vertical-walled lower part. The ditch might indeed have served to hold a palisade; but there was no sign of its having been so used, in the form of either decayed timber or packing materials. The ditch fillings were everywhere featureless: stratified layers of brown soil and gravel with some fine silt and occasional streaks of occupation-debris towards the top. In several sections (and in particular nos. 3, 5 and 7) the ditch was sealed by the more definite occupation-layer which is here taken to represent Period IV.

The Period I entrance was at the south-east angle of the enclosure. Only the east side of the entrance was actually found. The west side, which was of course between cuttings 4 and 5, had been destroyed by the ditches of later periods, but the east end of the funnel-shaped ditch was closed by a solid mass of natural gravel in cutting 4. To the west the funnel-shaped section was last encountered in cutting 5, and this must also have been near its end on this side. The gap left must in any case have been small: probably not more than about 6 ft., perhaps even less.

No evidence bearing on the date of this first enclosure was found. In this as in all subsequent periods the interior was blank and no pottery came from significant positions in the ditch itself. It is however unlikely to be earlier than the 1st century B.C., and might well belong to the latter part of that century.

*Period II.* The ditch of Period I had almost completely silted up before the Period II ditch was dug, appearing on the surface as a broad shallow hollow about a foot deep (below the surface of the gravel). The outline of the new enclosure followed generally that of Period I, even to the re-entrant on the south-west; but the second ditch lay almost entirely outside the first, and the area enclosed (64 ft. by 61 ft.) was therefore rather larger. Moreover, the new arrangement was double, consisting of a small irregular oval on the north-east, about 38 ft. by 32 ft. overall, to which a large court was attached, the whole resembling a mediaeval motte-and-bailey castle on a diminutive scale. A 4 ft. break in the inner ditch provided for communication between the two. The ditches throughout were of U-V section, up to 6 ft. in width and depth.

A peculiar feature of the outer ditch was a pronounced outward bend in its south side, which emphasized the re-entrant already mentioned. The reason for this was not apparent. The entrance to the outer enclosure appears to have been near, but just west of, the entrance to the Period I site. The reasons for locating the entrance here are to be found in sections 5, 6 and 7.

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

In both 5 and 7 the silting and profile of the Period I ditch were seen to be broken by the ditch of Period II. In 6, on the other hand, ditch and filling are undisturbed and it must be assumed that the Period II ditch did not extend as far as this. The exact points of its ending were however not determined: they are conjectural as shown on the plan, but cannot be very far out.

The relationship of Period I and II was clearly established. As well as the evidence of the outer ditches on the south side (sections 5, 7, 8, 9) some of which has already been mentioned, the intersections of the inner Period II enclosure and the Period I ditch showed the former cutting through the silting of the latter.

The evidence for the date of Period II consists of a small group of Belgic pottery (FIG. 24) from the gravel surface of the ditch in sections 4 and 8. The condition of this pottery indicates that it is probably truly contemporary with this phase in the occupation of the site: 1, for instance, must have been practically complete when it was discarded. It will be observed that small as the group is it contains bead-rim bowls and forms specifically recognized as belonging to the south-eastern (Aylesford-Swarling) Belgic group. All are wheel-made, and the absence of specifically Roman types suggests a pre-conquest date, perhaps late 1st century B.C.—early 1st century A.D. The dating of this pottery may well need modification, however, as more evidence accumulates in the upper Thames valley.

FIG. 24, NOS. 1-7

1. 'Necked' bowl. Fairly well-fired ware with brown core, brown to black burnished surface with three rough bands left around lower part below shoulder. Three holes in wall (bored obliquely downwards from inside after firing) at and just above foot-ring, with another in base. Practically complete. A well-known Belgic type, it is the commonest form on this site, occurring in all periods. This example seems to be typologically earlier than the rest, but the more generalized forms existed side by side with it, as 3 and 5 below show. Cutting 8.
2. Cordoned cup. Fairly hard-fired ware with grey-black surface and dark grey gritty core. Lower part missing: the foot may have been a low ring as shown, or a higher pedestal. Characteristic of the Aylesford-Swarling group. Cutting 8.
3. 'Necked' bowl of same type as 1. Fairly hard-fired ware with brown core, red-brown inner surface, and black outer surface. Cutting 4.

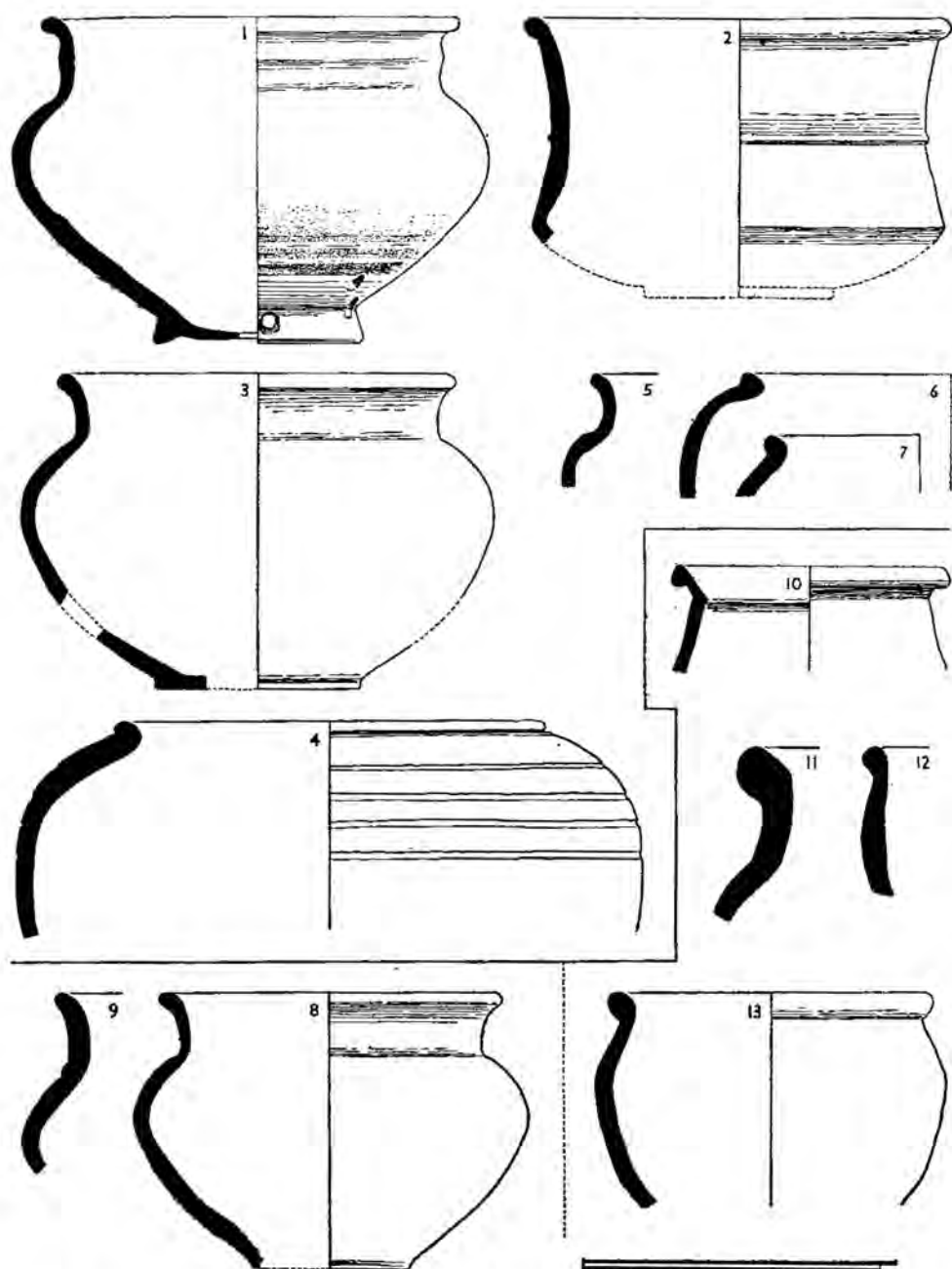


FIG. 24

ENCLOSURE AT LINCH HILL CORNER : POTTERY (pp. 53 ff.). Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
 1-7 Period II (1, 2, 4, 6, cutting 8; 3, 5, 7, cutting 4); 8, 9 Period III (cutting 8); 10-13 Period IV  
 (cutting 4)

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

4. Bead-rim bowl. Hard-fired grey ware with black surface. Four pronounced grooves on shoulder. Cutting 8.
5. 'Necked' bowl. Good ware with burnished 'bitumen-coated' outer surface. Dark core. Cutting 4.
6. Bead-rim bowl. Hard-fired ware with grey outer surface and lighter grey core. Cutting 8.
7. Bead-rim bowl. Hand-made, fairly hard-fired black gritty ware, with black surface. Cutting 4.

Sheep (or Goat), Ox and Calf were recognized by Mr. Cowley amongst the scanty animal remains from the Period II ditch-fillings.

*Period III.* Between Periods II and III there was once again time for the silting of the earlier ditches to become well advanced. Here for various reasons there were fewer contacts between the two; but the north portion of section 4 (east of the entrance to the inner enclosure) can be taken to indicate that when the Period III ditch was dug the ditch of Period II has silted up to form a broad hollow about a foot deep at its deepest part.

In any case, the plan of Period III closely followed that of its predecessor, in part even directly overlying it. This seems particularly to have been the case on the west side, where the ditch of the outer enclosures coincided all the way until the south-west corner was turned. Here in section 9 the profile of the Period III ditch could be seen in the Period II filling. The only important changes were in fact made on the south side on each side of the entrance, which once again was placed in much the same position. On the west side the peculiar outward bend of the Period II ditch was eliminated in favour of a simple practically straight sector, which from its absence in section 7 must have ended rather to the west of the Period II entrance.

On the east, the normal ditch apparently ended between sections 4 and 5, giving the entrance a width of about 16 ft. Across the entrance, however, from the end of the ditch ran a slight gulley about 2 ft. wide, the end of which was not traced. It decreased in depth from 1 ft. 3 ins. in section 5 to about 9 ins. in section 6. It is probable that this gulley is quite a separate feature, perhaps part of the Period IV activities. There was some sign of disturbance in section 4 which is probably its continuation eastwards; but it was not observed (probably because not looked for) beyond that point. It is indicated on the Period III plan in FIG. 22.

The only pottery definitely related to Period III was found in cutting 8, in a black layer near the floor of the ditch which can probably be regarded as contemporary with the occupation. Both the vessels represented are

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Belgic types, one a necked bowl with a half-round moulding at the base of the neck, the other of the form already met with in Period II. There were also a few fragments of a large grey-ware storage jar.

FIG. 24, NOS. 8-9

8. 'Necked' bowl. Hard-fired dark ware, with dark fumed and burnished surface. Wheel-made.
9. 'Necked' bowl. Hard grey ware with much white backing. Surface burnished and light grey to black in colour; wheel-made. Cf. Swarling type 16, 'late 1st century B.C.—early 1st century A.D.'.

Mr. Cowley identifies Ox (young), Sheep (or Goat) and Pig from the black layer in cutting 8, with more Ox from the ditch-filling.

*Period IV.* The evidence for a further period of occupation of the site is provided by a number of layers of occupation-debris which appeared in several cuttings (in particular nos. 1, 3, 5, 7) capping the fillings of the ditches of Periods I-III. The deposits consisted of sagging bands of fine powdery grey material of varying thicknesses, which contained a certain amount of animal bones and teeth and some pottery. It cannot, of course, be said definitely that the layers met with in the different cuttings were all strictly contemporary even when they occupied the same relative positions. There was no sign of any structure associated with them, unless the shallow gully described under III is to be regarded as belonging. Possibly, too, the two almost parallel gulleys which intersect the main ditches on the south-west side belong to this period. Scraps of Romano-British pottery were found in their fillings on the south side of the intersection, but it may well be that the gulleys relate to another site to the south or south-west.

From the various Period IV layers were recovered the remains of Sheep (or Goat), Pig, Horse (mostly teeth), Ox, and a single shell, probably *Anadonta* (Fresh-water Mussel).

FIG. 24, NOS. 10-13

10. Rim of butt-beaker. Hard-fired ware with dark grey core and red-brown outer surface Cf. Myres, 'Mount Farm, Dorchester', *Oxoniensia*, II, fig. 10, B IV, 1, for a similar but rather heavier example from a ditch dated 'probably mid 1st century A.D.'.
11. Rim of large storage-jar (diameter slightly over 15 ins.). Hard grey ware.



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12. Small bowl with beaded rim. Hard grey ware with black somewhat gritty core. Somewhat resembles Swarling nos. 28, 29, but the Swarling bowls are more globular. See also no. 13, below.
13. Small bowl with beaded rim of generally similar type to last. Hand-made, of hard-fired black faced ware with black core.

All the above came from the occupation-layer in the latest small ditch exposed in cutting 4 as described under Period III above. The layer was not on the bottom of the ditch, but had been deposited after some inches of silting (here a coarse gravelly material) had been laid down. With them were fragments of Roman wares, including a piece of thin cream-coloured ware decorated with horizontal bands of rouletting, probably part of an imported beaker or cup, such as occurred also in the Belgic levels at Verulamium. The Belgic affinities of the whole of this small group will be obvious enough, with a date probably rather before the middle of the 1st century A.D.

### FIG. 25, NOS. 14-21

14. 'Necked' bowl. Good hard-fired ware with smooth buff surface (stained black around neck shoulder and mouth) and black core. Cf. nos. 1, 3 and 9 above.
15. Pedestalled cup. Hard-fired ware with brown surface and darker core. Rubbed trellis-pattern on a roughened zone around body.
- 16-20. Olla-rims. 17 and 19, of the same thin black-coated ware, are probably from the same kiln; either might belong to the same pot as the base, no. 21 below. 18, of hard light grey ware, has what may be a trace of barbotine ornament, but this is not certain.
21. Well-made base of wide-bellied olla or jar. See 17, 19 above.

This series all came from the occupation-layer overlying all ditch fillings at the south-east junction of the large and small enclosures.

### FIG. 25, NOS. 22-24

22. Vertical-rimmed jar. Hard grey ware with dark burnished surface.
23. Jar with rolled-over rim. Hard-fired grey-brown ware.

From occupation layer overlying ditch-fillings of large enclosures in cutting no. 7.

24. Jar. Thin hard-fired ware with grey-black surface.

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From occupation layer overlying ditch fillings (of small enclosure) on north-west side in cutting 1 with other sherds including fragments of Romano-British grey ware.

Without attempting to date this pottery more exactly—which must depend on the accumulation in time of more local evidence—it can be said that the Period IV occupation as a whole began towards the middle of the 1st century A.D., but the presence of more definitely Roman or Romanized types suggests that it continued in part into the second half of the century.

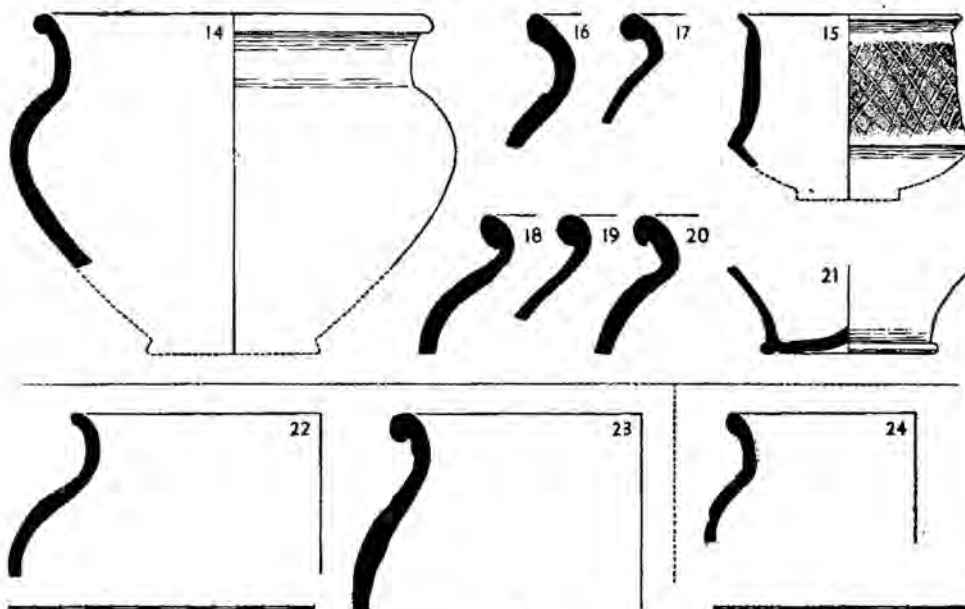


FIG. 25

ENCLOSURE AT LINCH HILL CORNER: POTTERY (p. 57). Sc.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Period IV (14-21 at SE. junction of large and small enclosures; 22-23 cutting 7; 24 cutting 1).

While therefore this excavation failed to produce any information on the internal layout of the site it has yielded evidence which can tentatively at any rate be applied to the other small sub-rectilinear enclosures which are one of the features of some of the Thames valley air-photography sites. As observed at the beginning of this section several occur on the Stanton Harcourt-Linch Hill photographs, and one or two appear to be closely associated with some of the ancient field-boundaries and lanes—a fact which suggests that they are steadings of the communities farming the area, and the equivalent in

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

their own time and culture of the small enclosures which accompany the visible Keltic field-systems of the chalk downs of Wessex.

Myres has shown at Mount Farm, Dorchester, that the layout of fields and lanes remained largely unchanged from Iron Age A times until well into the Roman period. It seems doubtful, however, whether this continuity applied also to the actual occupation-sites. The amount of evidence available on this subject is not very great; but there is a series of hints at the moment that the so-called pit-villages belong mainly at any rate to the earlier phases of the Iron Age. While not in themselves dwellings, but—as the work of Bersu at Woodbury has shown—storage-pits, they are the only certainly-recognized signs of settlements which either were open or had defences so slight that they do not appear in the air-photographs. It is true that they sometimes occur within the larger enclosures; but the two seem to bear no organic relationship to one another. Until more evidence is forthcoming, therefore—and it may be suggested that one of the first operations to be undertaken in the future should be the excavation of selected examples of these and other settlement sites on a larger scale than has yet been attempted—it would seem likely that in the Thames valley as elsewhere the earliest Iron Age settlements were unfortified.

The emergence of the Iron Age B culture seems to have found the same system in operation. At any rate, Iron Age B pottery occurs in the pits, and the impression given by an examination of the existing material is of the addition to a strongly persistent A core of new B elements. But this problem also calls for further work before understanding of the cultural changes involved can be achieved. And once again excavation of possible contemporary settlement-sites on a complete basis is highly desirable.

On the other hand, the Belgic period saw certain changes. The results of this excavation allow us to suggest tentatively that many of the small rectilinear or sub-rectilinear enclosures which have been mentioned as one of the distinctive types on the air-photographs were introduced late in the 1st century B.C. It would be natural to equate these more formal defended sites with a period of unrest and disturbance: time alone will show whether they are all the work of newcomers, as the strongly Belgic flavour of the pottery from this Stanton Harcourt site suggests. Should the pre-Roman dating be generally confirmed these enclosures will presumably represent normal expansion of settlers up the Thames valley; but an immediately pre-Roman date might suggest the withdrawal of the Belgae before the Roman invaders.

While however there can be little doubt as to its general date, the site poses other questions which can only be answered by further work on others of the same type: as to the nature of their internal layout and of their defences;

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above all as to the causes underlying the succession of phases of occupation each at a sufficient interval to allow of advanced silting of the existing ditches, yet with sufficient continuity to produce a certain repetition of both plan and size and a certain sameness in the pottery sequence. The fact that this repetition is not confined to the present site suggests that it may embody an important social or economic custom general in the area, involving periodical, rather than seasonal, occupation and renewal of the same enclosure apparently over a period of some years. Myres has already recorded a somewhat similar phenomenon at Mount Farm; but there the succession is looser, with the enclosure boundaries following the same general lines without the overlapping and close repetition with which we are confronted at Stanton Harcourt.

### VI. THE 'PITS' NEAR QUOIT C

The air-photographs show an extensive concentration of small marks, covering a rectangular area about 500 ft. by 100 ft., its main axis east-west, to the south and south-east of Quoit C. The spots are accompanied by a number of linear marks, presumably enclosure-ditches, and, towards the east end of the area, by an oval ring-ditch, obviously two circles joined. None of these features is necessarily contemporary with its neighbours, and there was no opportunity of examining the linear marks or the ring-ditch; but a little trial digging was possible at the west end of the spotted area, in the hope of determining whether or not the site was that of a so-called 'pit-village'.

The result was entirely negative: the surface of the gravel here was found to be irregular and pitted, the hollows being filled with other heavier materials which presumably affected the colour of the crops. (There was no time to get these hollows reported on geologically.) The conclusion as to the part examined must therefore be that the marks are due to purely natural causes, as was found elsewhere on the Stanton Harcourt area as well as in other places. But it would be unwise to dismiss the whole group as 'natural' without much more detailed examination of the rest of the marks.

### APPENDIX I

#### PITS WITHIN THE QUOIT CIRCLE AT STANTON HARCOURT

By K. S. SANDFORD

Pits excavated show:

#### A. FILLING

- (a) The filling consists of ferruginous loam and sand with a few pebbles of siliceous rocks (erratics from local glacial deposits, normal constituents of the river gravels).
- (b) Lime pebbles are entirely lacking from the filling.

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

- (c) The majority of the larger pebbles are inclined at high angles.
- (d) The arrangement of pebbles, sand and loam lacks all trace of stratification, either horizontal or inclined.
- (e) The filling is evidently derived from the gravel of the neighbourhood, and is dissimilar from it only in the lack of lime constituents and bedding : it is in no sense extraneous material.

### B. SURFACE OF UNDERLYING GRAVEL

- (a) The surface is pitted in a highly irregular manner, and the surfaces of the pits examined show no common form as to depth, shape or contour ; all are irregular.
- (b) Small pillars of fresh (lime-rich) gravel stand up in the loamy filling from the underlying main mass of stratified ballast.
- (c) The junction of filling and gravel is very sharp and the surface of the latter, though irregular, is on the whole smooth.
- (d) Thick layers of white tufaceous lime coat parts of the surface of the gravel : this is a secondary deposit of chemical origin.
- (e) In some places the white secondary lime cements the pebbles of the solid gravel to a depth of an inch or more, below which the gravel is comparatively loose.
- (f) Some of the pebbles below the junction of filling and gravel are steeply inclined, i.e. flar pebbles of the upper part of the virtually unaltered gravel are tipped up, especially on the steep sides of some of the pillars and at the sides of the pits. This is thought to be due to slipping in such places when the whole is saturated with water.

### CONCLUSIONS

The filling has not been added by physical means, either artificial or natural, i.e. the pits have not been filled by 'dumping' or accumulation of a later geological stratum over an irregular surface. The filling is of the same composition as the underlying gravel, less lime, with the addition of brown iron oxide.

The underlying gravel surface shows no signs of an artificial origin and is evidently the product of sustained solution of the lime constituents from above, i.e. from the subsoil. The chemical nature of this action is shown by the concentration of secondary lime on the gravel surfaces, and permeating the gravel itself.

There is little indication of mechanical change.

It is concluded therefore that pits and filling are of natural and not of artificial origin and are the product of unequal decomposition beneath the subsoil. Such removal of lime reduces the total volume, and slipping and slumping of the residual material therefore takes place : original bedding is destroyed and remaining insoluble pebbles in the filling are tipped to high angles.

No conclusive explanation for the uneven decomposition and formation of the pits can be put forward at the moment : the conditions are probably present beneath big trees such as the shallow-rooted elms which abound in the neighbourhood. The movement during winter gales when the ground is saturated, which is so characteristic of these trees, might also account for traces of mechanical change seen in the arrangement of lime pebbles on the gravel surfaces. On the other hand no traces of large roots or of concentrated carbonaceous material seem to occur in the fillings of the pits, and chemical removal of the woody tissue or carbonaceous residue must therefore be assumed if there is any truth in the suggestion, which is purely hypothetical.

## APPENDIX II

### HUMAN REMAINS FROM STANTON HARCOURT

By L. F. COWLEY

(National Museum of Wales)

#### SKELETON NO. I

The limb-bones of this skeleton were badly damaged and relatively few measurements could be taken. The skull also was damaged but after some repairs length and breadth were obtained ; these measurements, length 184 mm. and breadth 142 mm. gave a cephalic index of 77.



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Since the skull had been damaged across the line of the orbits, and an accurate reconstruction was unlikely, measurements and indices were not attempted.

The teeth owing to their lack of wear gave the impression that they belonged to a young adult.

The teeth of the upper jaw were not all present; incisor 2 of the left side was missing and the bone at the base of its socket had been eaten away by disease. Incisor 1 of the left side was not present and its socket had been filled up.

The lower jaw showed that all the teeth were present and free from disease. The height at the symphysis was 31 mm., width of ramus 36 mm., height of condyle 56 mm., and the coronoid process 64 mm. The 3rd molars were present in both jaws.

A humerus of the right side was repaired and this gave a length of 310 mm. which indicates a stature of about 5 ft. 3 ins. The greatest width of the distal extremity of the same bone was 63 mm., and the transverse diameter of head and greater tuberosity combined was 51.5 mm.

An ulna gave a total length of 246 mm.

Owing to its damaged condition a tibia of the left side was measured about mid-way along its shaft; the platynemic index thus obtained was 65.6.

Because of damage none of the other bones was suitable for furnishing useful measurements.

The remains in my opinion belong to a young woman of about 5 ft. 3 ins. in height. The cephalic index shows that she was nearer the long-heads than the round-heads. Disease had entered the substance of the upper jaw and had enlarged the tooth socket of incisor 2.

### SKELETON NO. 2

This skeleton was not complete but measurements of limb-bones and skull (after reconstruction) were obtained.

The skull was of a male and had a total length of 192 mm., a breadth of 144 mm., and the auricular height was 126 mm. These dimensions give a cephalic index of 75, and a cranial capacity of 1630 cc.

The facial region was damaged across the orbits and consequently facial measurements and indices could not be obtained.

The lower jaw was strongly built.

The teeth, both upper and lower, were strong, large, and free from disease. The right central incisor of the lower jaw had been lost during, or subsequent to, excavation. The third lower molar of the left side had not erupted. The bite was edge-to-edge.

An interesting feature of the dentition was a gap caused by wear, through constantly holding some object between the upper and lower teeth of the left side; the teeth involved were, incisors 2, canines, premolars 1, and the lower premolar 2. A gap of approximately similar dimensions may sometimes be seen at the present day in the teeth of habitual pipe-smokers. In the specimen under consideration the cause of wear is of course unknown but there is little doubt that it was due to the constant use of the teeth on the left side for holding an object of small size; this may have been a small tool of some kind or maybe a piece of raw-hide; the latter may have assisted in carrying a burden slung over the shoulder or the head.

The habitual holding of an object such as a tool in the left side of the mouth suggests left-handedness, but the inner surface of the occipital bone indicates that the person was right-handed.

The dimensions of the teeth were as follows:

<i>Right upper</i>		<i>Right lower</i>
9.2 mm.	incisor 1	?
6.7 "	incisor 2	5.8 mm.
8.8 "	canine	7.0 "
7.4 "	premolar 1	7.5 "
7.4 "	premolar 2	7.6 "
11.4 "	molar 1	11.8 "
10.3 "	molar 2	10.9 "
9.7 "	molar 3	10.9 "

The limb-bones were slightly damaged but the following measurements were obtained:

		<i>Maximum length</i>	<i>Oblique length</i>	<i>Platymetric index</i>	<i>Diameter of head</i>	<i>Distal condyle</i>
Left Femur	--	478 mm.	473	89.8	47 × 46	Damaged
Right Femur	--	475 mm.	472	87.9	46.5 × 46.5	81 +

## EXCAVATIONS AT STANTON HARCOURT, OXON., 1940

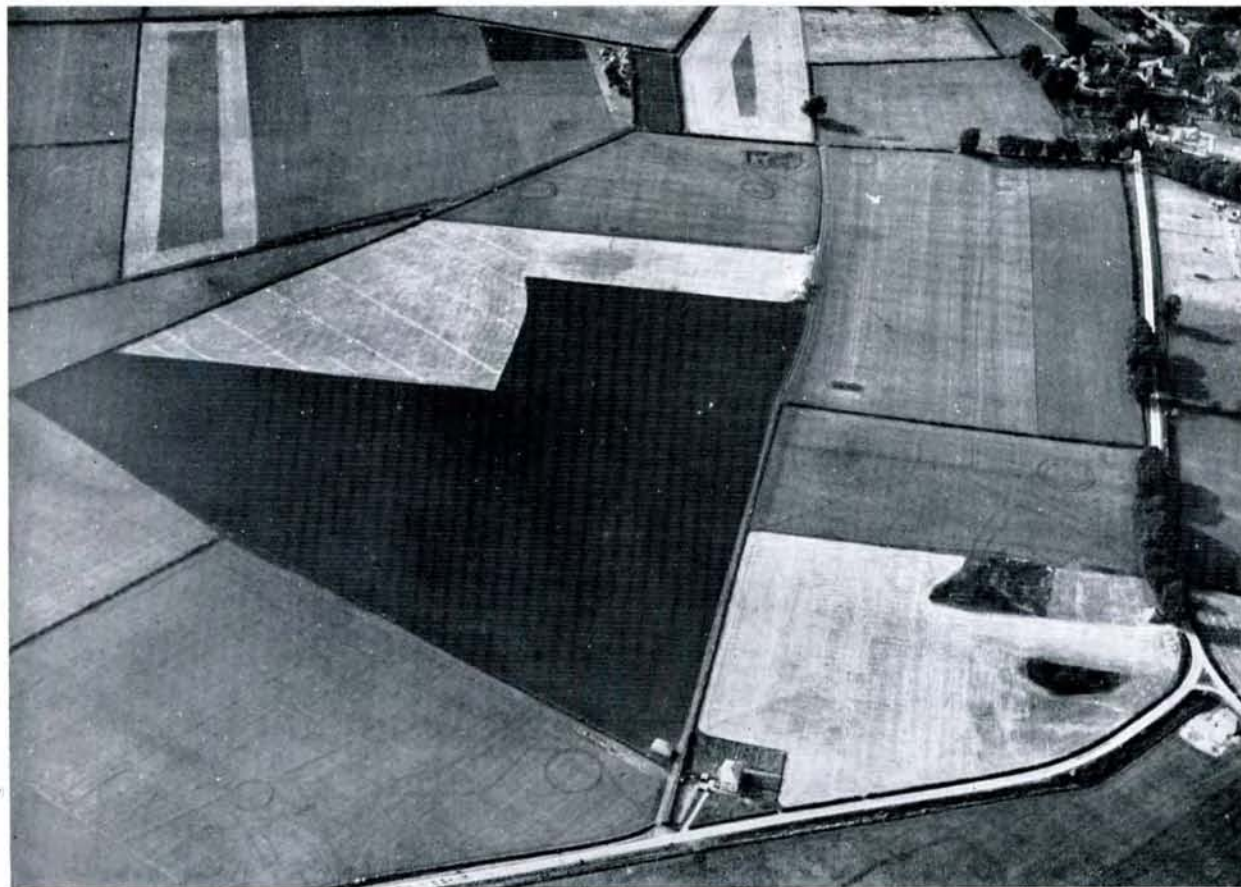
It will be seen that neither bone could be called platymeric since the index was well above 80 in both.

Measurements of the tibia were as follows :

	<i>Total length</i>	<i>Platynemic index</i>
Left tibia .. ..	411 mm.	67
Right tibia .. ..	409 mm.	68

Platynemia therefore was well marked but was not accompanied by Platymeria.

The stature estimated from femur and tibia was 5 ft. 7 ins. to 5 ft. 9 ins.

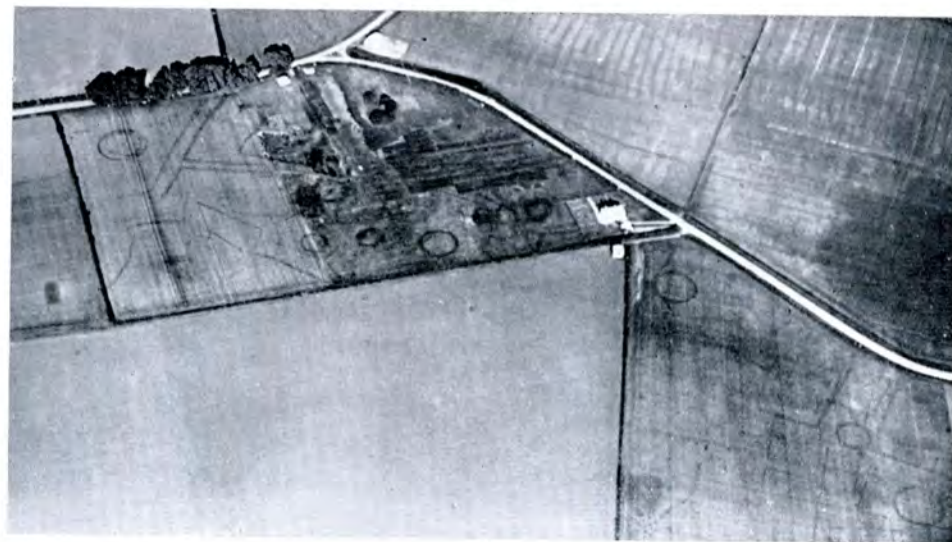


STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

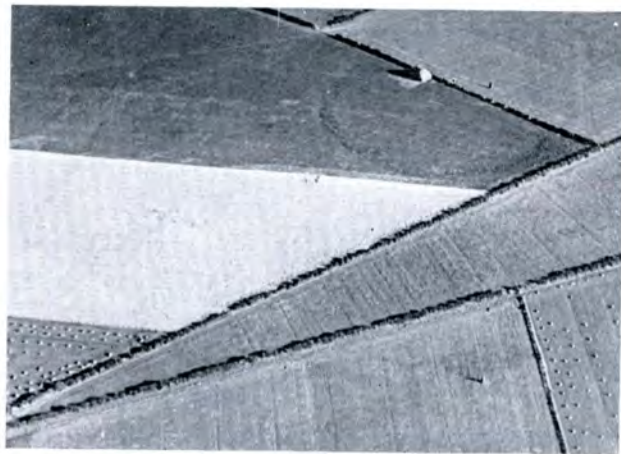
Air photograph showing Linch Hill Corner (bottom right), Quoit A and the Quoit Circle (centre left), Quoit B and Barrow Hill Field (top left) and Quoit C (top centre) (pp. 19, 24 f).

*Ph. the late Major G. W. G. Allen.*

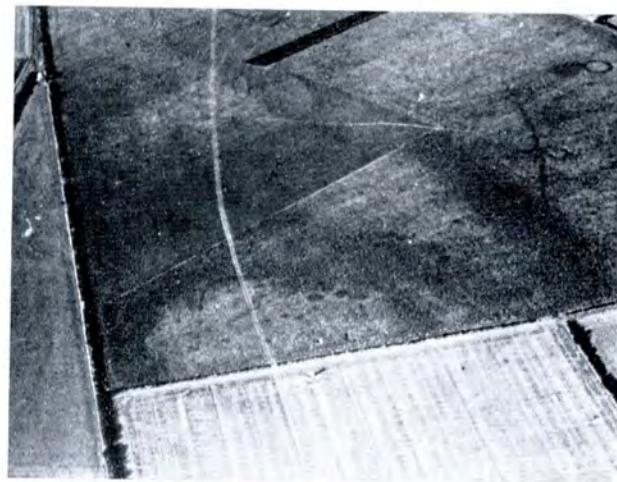




A



B



C

STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

- A. Linch Hill Corner from the air, showing the double ring-ditch, the double settlement-enclosure and other crop-marks (pp. 21, 34 ff.).  
 B. Air-view showing Quoit A and the Quoit Circle (top right) and Quoit B (bottom right) (p. 28).  
 C. Air-view showing Quoit A and the Quoit Circle with its interior markings (p. 30).

*Phh. the late Major G. W. G. Allen.*

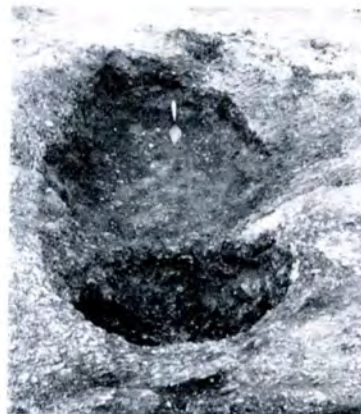




A



D



B



E



C



F

# STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.: THE QUOIT CIRCLE

- A. Section across earthwork on west side, looking outwards (p. 29). The stone jutting from the section face beyond the distant rod marks the middle of the bank.  
 B. Stone-hole of Quoit A (p. 26).  
 C. Natural hole near centre of enclosure (p. 31).  
 D. Stone-hole 2.  
 E. Quoit A standing in its stone-hole (p. 26).  
 F. Stone-hole 3.

*Phh. A, C, D, F: W. F. Grimes.  
 B, E: D. B. Harden.*



PLATE IV



A



B



C



D

STANTON HARCOURT: DOUBLE RING-DITCH AT LINCH HILL CORNER

- A. Burial I (p. 36).
- B. General view of Burial II, showing its pit and small ring-ditch intersecting the larger ditch of Burial I (p. 39).
- C. Section through the outer ditch of Burial I, and the ditch of Burial II (pp. 34, 40).
- D. Burial II (p. 40).

*Phh. W. F. Grimes.*



PLATE V



A



B



C



D

STANTON HARCOURT: DOUBLE SETTLEMENT-ENCLOSURE AT LINCH HILL CORNER

- A. The entrance to the inner enclosure looking outwards (p. 52).
- B. South-east intersection of inner enclosure ditch (running across photograph), and outer ditch (pp. 49 ff.).
- C. Section through double inner ditch to east of entrance, with intersection with larger enclosure ditches beyond (pp. 49 ff.).
- D. Re-entrant in outer ditches, intersected by short transverse gulley probably unrelated, on south-west side (pp. 49, 56).

*Phh. W. F. Grimes.*