

Archaeology from the Air in the Upper Thames Valley

By D. N. RILEY

INTRODUCTION

AERIAL reconnaissance and photography, mainly carried out by the late Major G. W. G. Allen, have made very important contributions in the past fifteen years to the archaeology of the upper Thames country. When flying here during a dry summer, vestiges of the works of early man may be seen almost everywhere in the gravel terraces alongside the river, revealed by the crops growing on the sites. Most of the ancient sites are on arable land, and all mounds, banks and hollows have long been levelled,¹ but beneath the ploughed surface, filled-in ditches and pits remain undisturbed and produce crop-marks whenever conditions are suitable.

The writer had the good fortune to do a great deal of flying over this part of England and to get to know it well from the air. The present paper is based on this local knowledge, aided by the collection of photographs left to the Ashmolean Museum by Major Allen and others taken by the writer.

A tremendous amount remains to be done, both in the air and on the ground, and many of the sites described below are unexplained, but it is hoped that this survey, which is a preliminary attempt to map and classify the aerial discoveries, will do something to clear the ground for future work.

An apology is needed for the large amount of speculation and the infrequency of definite conclusions in this account, a state of affairs which is due to the few opportunities which have yet been available to investigate the sites on the ground. Most of the discoveries are recent ones and a considerable programme of excavation will be necessary before they can be properly understood. In spite of these difficulties, it has seemed advisable to make the results of the actual aerial exploration available in print.²

¹ The circles NE. of Foxley Farm, Eynsham (Oxon.), lie in fields which are known to have been under plough since 1615 at least: *Antiquity*, vii, 293.

² The writer would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help of his wife and of many friends, particularly E. T. Leeds, W. F. Grimes and W. J. Arkell, without whose assistance the imperfections of this paper would have been considerably more serious.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

TOPOGRAPHY

The nature of the countryside must be considered briefly, if we are to be able to understand its influence on the distribution of ancient sites in the district.¹

The upper Thames valley, west of Goring, though now divided between the counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire, is quite a well-defined natural unit (FIG. 26). It is bounded on the north and west by the limestone hills of the Cotswolds, and on the south and south-east by the chalk escarpment, notably the Berkshire Downs and the Chilterns. To the north-east the boundary is less definite, but may be taken on the line Aylesbury-Bicester.

The valley is wide and flat, in contrast to the narrow, winding valleys of several important tributaries (the Cherwell, Evenlode and Windrush) which flow in from the north, having made their ways for some distance through the uplands.

A line of low hills—Brill, Shotover, Boars Hill, the Faringdon Ridge, Badbury, Coleshill, Highworth—runs from east to west along the middle of the valley, but was seemingly of little importance in early times except between Abingdon and Faringdon, where the sands and limestones of the Faringdon Ridge form country in which traces of early settlement are not uncommon. The Thames flows to the north of this ridge as far as Oxford, when it turns south and passes through the line of hills. The Ock, a minor tributary, flows on the south side of the ridge and joins the Thames at Abingdon.

The underlying geological formations of the valley, both north and south of this ridge, are largely clays, the original vegetation of which was probably dense forest, but alongside the Thames and, to a lesser extent, its tributaries, the clay is covered by deposits of limestone river-gravels, which formed tracts of relatively open country, evidently very favourable to occupation by early man. Whatever archaeological importance the upper Thames valley possesses is due very largely to these superficial deposits of gravel.

The gravels were deposited in four terraces:² no. 1, the flood-plain, which is near the present river level and is partly covered by recent alluvium, no. 2 at 15/20 ft. above the present river level, no. 3 at 50 ft. and no. 4, only surviving in small patches, at 100 ft.

There are also some so-called 'plateau gravels', the most important of which for our purposes, are the flint fan-gravels at the western foot of the Chilterns round Ewelme.³

¹ The question is discussed at some length by E. T. Leeds in *Geography*, xiv (1928), 527 ff. See also W. J. Arkell in *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 1 ff.

² For further details see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 28 ff.

³ See W. J. Arkell's paper above, pp. 1 ff.

DESCRIPTION OF ANCIENT SITES

I. CIRCLES REMAINING FROM BARROWS OR RING-DITCHES

1. *Single Circles*

Single circular ditches are the commonest and the most prominent ancient remains revealed in the district by crop-marks, and were the first to receive attention. At least four hundred are known. They are usually accurately circular and have no break in the ditch, though there are exceptions.¹ The diameter varies between 30 and 150 ft., but is normally 60 to 90 ft. The ditch, when excavated, proves to be up to 12 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep, or even more, and is often filled with fine red-brown earth, so that excellent crop-marks are produced. A few circles have a dark spot in the centre, indicating a grave, but the absence of such a spot does not necessarily imply that there is no burial, as some circles recently excavated were found to surround graves too small or refilled with the wrong material to affect the crop growing above.

Groups of twenty or more circles are seen at various places, sometimes including rows of circles, e.g. rows of four and six at Standlake (Oxon.),² and a row of eleven at Radley (Berks.),³ but generally arranged in a completely haphazard way.

Pairs of circles, overlapping each other slightly and forming a figure-of-eight,⁴ occur in some groups or in isolated positions. At Stanton Harcourt (Oxon.), three circles in a line overlap slightly and are reminiscent of the three bell-barrows with overlapping ditches in the Four Barrows group at Aldbourne (Wilts.).⁵

All the single circles found up to date are plotted on FIG. 26.⁶ They are scattered along the river valleys from end to end of the upper Thames country, though the largest concentrations are in the centre of the area. Their distribution is governed mainly by the gravel spreads in the valleys, as demonstrated by FIG. 27, which is based on the recently-published drift maps of the Geological Survey. It is interesting to see that not only are the circles almost all on the gravel terraces, but in particular, they are concentrated on Terraces II and III (20 ft. and 50 ft. above present river level). Terrace I, low-lying and badly drained, was generally avoided, although there are exceptions

¹ E.g. a circle at Radley (approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ ml. E. of the church) has a causeway through the ditch.

² *Ant. J.*, xxii, 208.

³ *Oxoniensia*, iii, 32.

⁴ Cf. 'confluent twin' disc-barrows in Wessex: *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1941, p. 84.

⁵ L. V. Grinsell, *Ancient Burial Mounds*, pl. iii.

⁶ The map does not include barrows or circles on the Berkshire Downs or Cotswolds. The list of circles used in compiling this map is too long to publish, but a MS. copy has been deposited in the library of the Ashmolean Museum.

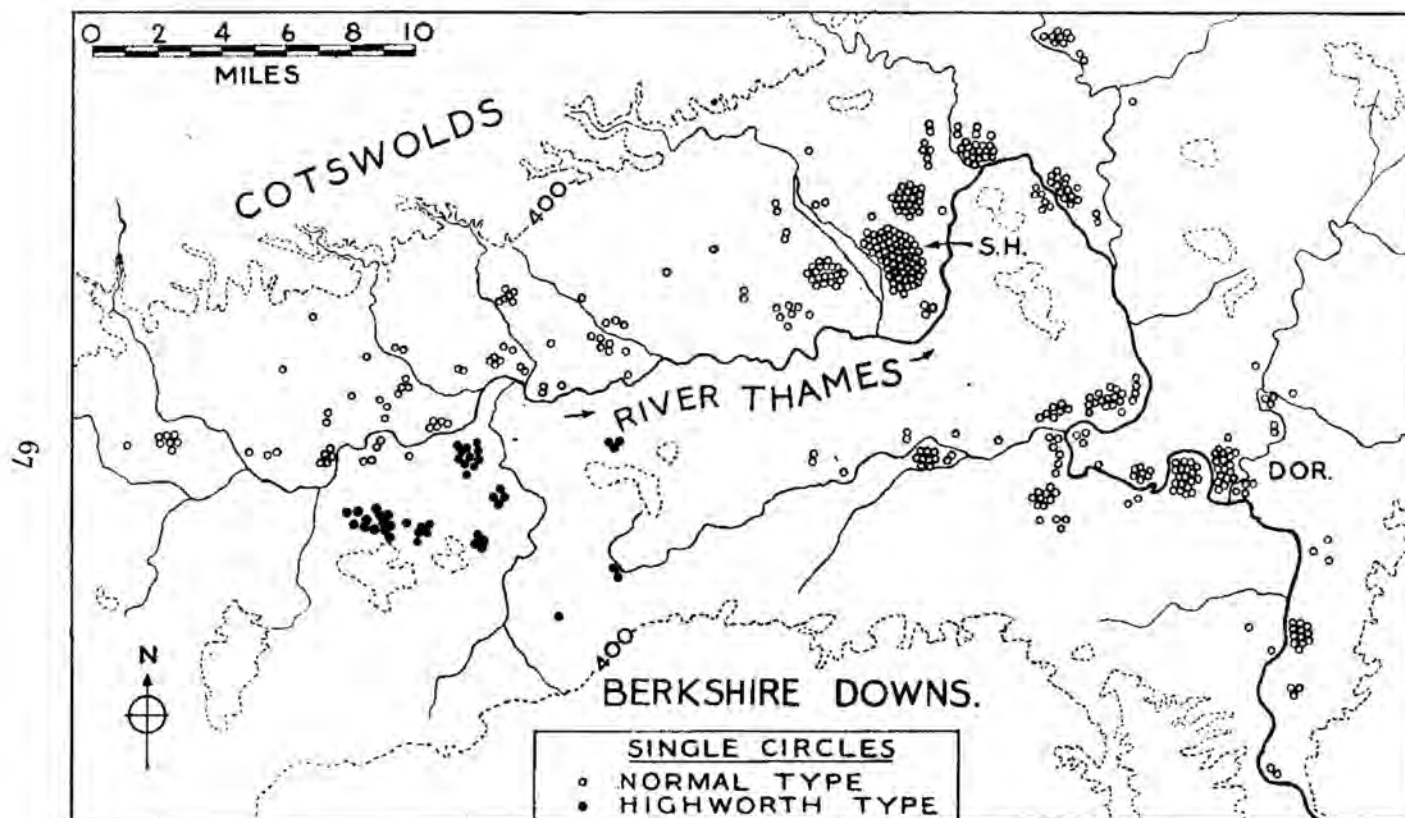


FIG. 26

MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE CIRCLES IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY (p. 66)

DOR.=Dorchester ; S.H.=Stanton Harcourt.

(e.g. Port Meadow, Oxford, where there are many circles on land near the river and liable to flood). A few circles are on what is marked as alluvium on the geological map, but on investigating the sites, the writer found that they were actually on patches of gravel of Terrace I.

The absence of known circles on clay (except for the group of large circles round Highworth (Wilts.) described below) or alluvium is due to the fact that crop-marks are not produced on these sub-soils, but as they were probably

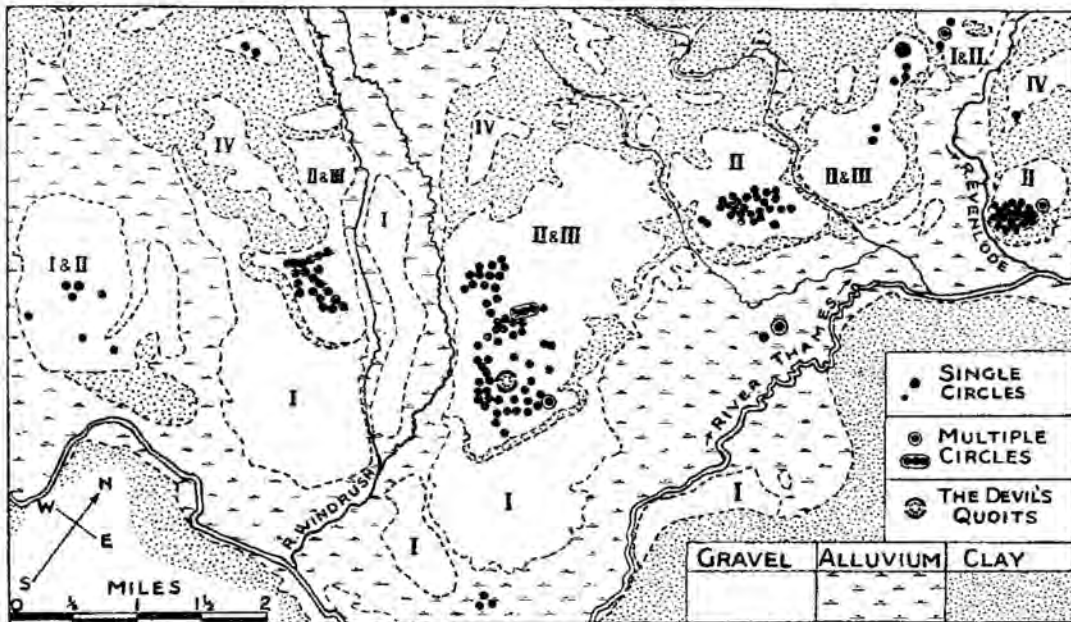


FIG. 27

MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CIRCLES IN RELATION TO GRAVEL TERRACES IN THE THAMES VALLEY IMMEDIATELY ABOVE OXFORD (p. 66)

Based on the Geological Survey map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

densely forested or marshy, and thus unattractive to early man, ancient sites on them would be rare in any case. The distribution map of crop-mark sites therefore probably gives an accurate impression.

A number of circles excavated in recent years have been found to surround Bronze Age burials, and there can be little doubt that they originally formed part of barrows of various types. In Wiltshire and many other parts of England, the process of obliteration of a barrow in a ploughed field has been and unfortunately still can be watched, only the encircling ditch eventually

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

remaining, filled with soil and below the ploughed surface, but showing as a crop-mark under suitable conditions.¹

Seen from the air, the Wessex barrow groups are reminiscent of the groups of circles on the Thames-side gravels. For instance, the 'Seven Barrows' group at Lambourn (Berks.)² (really containing over twenty barrows) is similar to the Eynsham³ and Standlake⁴ groups of circles, and the two rows of five and four barrows in it resemble the short rows of circles at Standlake. Again, the long lines of barrows at Normanton (Wilts.)⁵ and at Winterbourne cross-roads,⁶ near Stonehenge, remind one of the long lines of circles in Barrow Hills field at Radley. The diameters of the circular ditches of the upper Thames and the ditches round Wessex barrows are similar.

It is difficult, though, to determine the types of barrows which once stood within the circular ditches, as very few intact or only slightly damaged barrows remain in the Thames valley. These nearly all stand close to the river on low-lying land, which has escaped ploughing.

The following is an analysis of the types of the surviving intact barrows (for details see APPENDIX I) :

Bowl-barrows with ditch	5
Saucer- or platform-barrows with ditch and external bank	1
Saucer- or platform-barrows with ditch and without external bank	2
Ring-ditches ⁷ with external bank	5
Ring-ditches without external bank	5

The high proportion of ring-ditches is interesting and one wonders how many of the circles revealed by crop-marks are remains of such monuments.

Few of the circles on arable land surrounded barrows substantial enough to withstand years of ploughing and leave a mound of earth sufficiently deep to produce a crop-mark or show on the surface, though there are (or were until recently) examples at Stanton Harcourt,⁸ Eynsham,⁹ Standlake¹⁰ and Garford (Berks.),¹¹ where remains of the mound were obvious. The slight bank and mound of a disc-barrow, if there were any in the Thames valley,

¹ E.g. at Everley, Wilts. : O. G. S. Crawford, *Air Photography for Archaeologists*, pls. x, xi.

² Grinsell, *op. cit.*, pl. xvii.

³ *Oxoniensia*, vi, pl. xi.

⁴ *Ant. J.*, xxii, 208.

⁵ Grinsell, *op. cit.*, p. 139.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pl. ii.

⁷ This term is proposed by R. J. C. Atkinson to describe circular ditches with no central mound: *Oxoniensia*, vii, 34.

⁸ See W. F. Grimes's article, *supra*, p. 23.

⁹ *Oxoniensia*, vi, 86, circle D.

¹⁰ *Ant. J.*, xxii, 208, circle 13.

¹¹ *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, xi, 21, pl. iv (1).

and the inconspicuous bank of a ring-ditch, would be levelled in a few years by ploughing. Excavation may provide evidence in some cases, but often too much has been destroyed for it to be possible to recover the original form of the monument.

2. *Large Circles near Highworth, Wilts.*

Several groups of large circles on clay land south of the Thames near Highworth have survived until recent years without being ploughed to any extent. They form an exception to the rule that ancient sites on the clay are rare. The circles resemble the ring-ditches of Port Meadow in consisting of a ditch and external bank enclosing a flat central area, but differ in being much larger (diam. 140 to 340 ft.). Major Allen found about forty examples¹ (eight more have since been added) and with A. D. Passmore, carried out trial excavations, which were inconclusive, though some evidence pointed to a Roman date. The exceptional size of these circles and their situation on clay differentiate them from the circles on the gravel terraces. Several sub-rectangular enclosures and two of clover-leaf outline are associated with them.

3. *Ovals*

These are probably the ditches which once surrounded lines of two or three barrows; alternatively some may possibly be odd-shaped ring-ditches, but in any case they are to be classed as variants of the ordinary circles.

Ovals are rare, only twelve being known at present (for particulars see APPENDIX II). The shape varies considerably, six having straight sides and semi-circular ends,² two being elliptical, two kidney-shaped with a kink in one side, one pear-shaped and one irregular.

The length is between 250 and 120 ft. and the width normally about half the length. In general, the shape and size are about that of a line drawn around two ordinary circles side by side. The small oval at Standlake (APPENDIX II, no. 12), dug by Stone, hardly falls into the same category, as its breadth is not much less than its length.

Two ovals at North Stoke each contain an inner ditch (PL. VI) and at Stanton Harcourt, on a site now destroyed by a gravel-pit, there was apparently an oval surrounding a line of three single circles.

The two ovals in the group of circles at Radley have been excavated. The first,³ no. 16 of the group of circles, was a straight-sided oval. Numerous burials of Middle Bronze Age date were found within, but there was no

¹ *Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, XLVII, 114 ff.

² Cf. the ditches round multiple bell- and disc-barrows in Wessex: *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1941, pp. 80, 84.

³ *Oxoniensia*, III, 31 ff.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

indication of the original appearance of the mound or mounds. The second,¹ no. 4 in the group, was more informative. A kidney-shaped ditch surrounded remains of two barrows, under each of which was a grave. The western barrow was Early Bronze Age and the eastern was of early Middle Bronze Age construction.

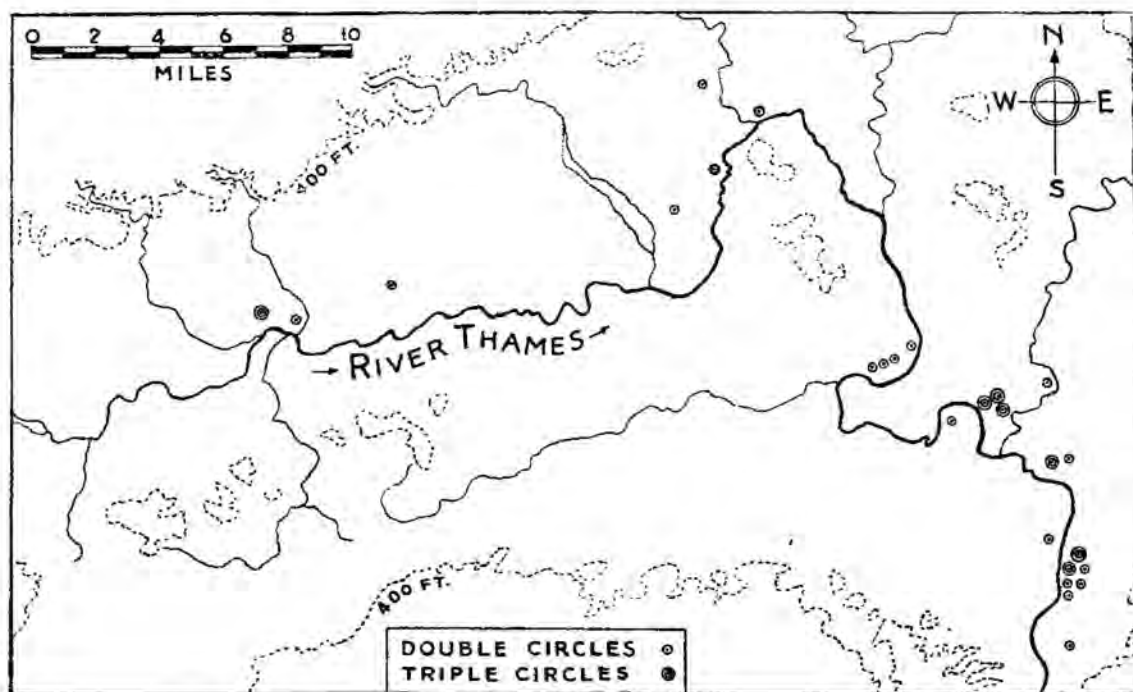


FIG. 28

MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF DOUBLE AND TRIPLE CIRCLES IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY (p. 72)

4. *Multiple Circles*

The numbers recorded up to date are twenty double concentric circles (APPENDIX III) and seven triple, two of which are possibly quadruple (APPENDIX IV).

Double circles are about the same size as medium or large single circles. The diameter of the outer ditch is usually between 80 and 120 ft., that of the inner ditch 40 to 80 per cent. of the outer. The two ditches are not always accurately concentric.

¹ Information from Mrs. Audrey Williams.

Triple circles are much the same size as double. Several have special features, for example: (a) ditches with many interruptions, perhaps the remains of gang-work, as at Dorchester (Oxon.),¹ (b) the second ring apparently composed of large post-holes, as at Overy, east of Dorchester,² (c) a single causeway through the first and third ditches, as at North Stoke (PL. VI).

In the centre of three double circles (Radley circles 14 and 15,³ and North Stoke, the last showing on PL. VI) and one triple (Overy), a dark spot marking a grave has been noted. The distribution of multiple circles (FIG. 28) is centred in the eastern part of the district. The concentration of double and triple circles in the group at North Stoke is notable (PL. VI).

Several barrows recently excavated⁴ were found to have two concentric ditches, the inner being buried by the mound. In each case the barrow was a two-period structure and the outer ditch had been dug round the enlarged mound. Some of the double circles in the district may well be the remains of such barrows, though there are two which this explanation does not seem to fit. At Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt, both ditches of a double circle investigated by W. F. Grimes⁵ were cut by a small circular ditch, which surrounded a secondary burial, and since both primary and secondary burials were Early Bronze Age inhumations, the assumption was that the two concentric ditches were contemporary and the small intersecting ditch not much later. The second is Radley no. 15,⁶ where the two ditches were both unusually shallow and looked as if they had been dug at the same time. Where two concentric ditches were dug simultaneously, the inner one may have been a ritual circle buried beneath the barrow, or alternatively both ditches may have been open like the barrow with double ditch recently investigated on Crichel Down, Dorset.⁷

II. LARGE SACRED CIRCLES OF 'HENGE' TYPE

There were two monuments of this type in the district. One is the Devil's Quoits Circle at Stanton Harcourt, described by W. F. Grimes above, pp. 24 ff. The ditch of this monument was oval rather than circular.

¹ *Oxoniensia*, III, 169, pl. xvi.

² *Ibid.*, 170, pl. xvii.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 32.

⁴ Chippenham (Cambs.) (two barrows), *Proc. Camb. Arch. Soc.*, xxxvi, 142 ff., and xxxix, 33 ff.; Beaulieu (Hants.), *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1943, 10 ff.; Zeijen, Drente (Holland), van Giffen, *Bauart der Einzelgräber*, I, 130 and II, taf. 93, 98.

⁵ *Supra* pp. 34 ff.

⁶ *Oxoniensia*, VII, 103.

⁷ *Archaeologia*, xc, 54, pl. xiv.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

North of Dorchester there was another sacred circle, but with a double instead of a single ditch (PL. VII, A). Nearly every year this is shown up well by the crops growing on the site and it was the first important discovery made from the air in Oxfordshire.¹ Again, the ditches are not accurately circular; approximate diameters are 610 ft. for the outer and 380 ft. for the inner. There is a passage right through, with causeways through the inner ditch placed at either end of a diameter of the inner circle, and causeways through the outer ditch opposite, but not exactly on the same line. Nothing can be seen of the banks, which must have been formed with the material from the ditches, or of any other features such as post-holes, or holes for standing stones. This site is unfortunately doomed by a projected gravel-pit.

It will be shown later that Iron-Age and Romano-British settlements are very numerous in the vicinity of Stanton Harcourt and of Dorchester. In earlier times also there must have been a large population to account for the construction of the 'henges' and the large numbers of lesser circles. There are 160 circles within $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Devil's Quoits, about 35 per cent. of the total known in the upper Thames valley.

III. LONG PARALLEL-SIDED ENCLOSURES

E. T. Leeds has already described these long enclosures,² which are the most unexpected and enigmatic of the remains revealed in the district by air-photography. Four are known, at Benson and Dorchester (partly shown on PL. VII, A) in Oxfordshire, Drayton (Berks.) (PL. VIII) and Lechlade (Glos.). The last is a new discovery made in 1943.³ They are square-ended (except perhaps at Dorchester) and the ditches are parallel and continuous, except for openings near the end of one of the long sides. The width is about 220 ft. in the case of the three first-mentioned examples, and about 150 ft. at Lechlade. The lengths are at least one mile at Dorchester, about 3,600 ft. at Benson and about 2,400 ft. at Drayton. The Dorchester example differs from the others in some particulars. The sides are parallel, but are slightly curved, and there is a possibility that the ends are not closed. Neither extremity has been definitely located, but the writer formed the opinion that the SE. end was open, after inspecting it many times in 1943. There is possibly a fifth example at North Stoke, where two parallel ditches about 40 ft. apart and 800 ft. long run through the group of circles (PL. VI).

¹ *Antiquity*, 1, 469, pl. 1.

² *Ant. J.*, xiv, 414 ff.

³ $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. N. of the church. Axis NW.-SE. The NW. end can be seen clearly, but the sides have only been traced for a length of 500 ft., so that the total length and the position of the SE. end are unknown.

The only information about date comes from the Drayton enclosure. One end extends into the parish of Sutton Courtenay, and here a length of the ditch was examined by E. T. Leeds. In the upper part of the filling he found a hearth, round which were a number of scrapers and flakes of flint, indicating an early date.¹ Both at Drayton (PL. viii) and Dorchester,² the ditches are intersected by circles, the excavation of which should give the relative dates of circles and parallel ditches.

A similar, but considerably smaller, long rectangular enclosure has been photographed at Barnack (Northants.)³ near a group of circles.

The original appearance of these monuments cannot be determined at present, but possible alternatives are suggested by (a) the two 'Cursus' enclosures near Stonehenge,⁴ which each consist of a long strip of land surrounded by a bank and external ditch, and (b) the 'long mound' at Maiden Castle, Dorset,⁵ an exceptionally long Neolithic grave-mound flanked by parallel ditches. In each case the dimensions are of a similar order of magnitude to those of the upper Thames long rectangular enclosures; the 'Great Cursus' near Stonehenge is about 9,000 ft. long and between 300 and 420 ft. wide and the Maiden Castle long mound, 1,790 ft. long with ditches 60 ft. apart.

IV. SETTLEMENT-SITES

Under this heading fall a large number of crop-mark sites scattered about the upper Thames valley. Among many diverse features, they all have in common the presence of ditched enclosures or compounds, in which the early inhabitants of the district must have lived, kept the produce of their fields and penned their flocks and herds. Some sites are very complicated and many of the ditches intersect or overlap, the result of a long occupation of the same area; others are less involved and the simplest type is formed by a single isolated enclosure. Few signs of systematic planning can be seen.

This section suffers, perhaps, more than the rest of the paper from the defects inherent in aerial exploration. While the writer is able to give the position and describe the most prominent features of a large number of new sites, detail is wanting. Crop-marks only show large ditches or pits and do

¹ *Ant. J.*, xiv, 415.

² *Oxoniensia*, iii, fig. 20.

³ *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1935, pl. xix.

⁴ A suggestion made by O. G. S. Crawford in *Ant. J.*, xv, 77.

⁵ R. E. M. Wheeler, *Maiden Castle (Res. Rept. Soc. Ant.)*, pp. 20 ff. Incidentally, no long barrows are known on the gravels of the Thames valley, a gap which would partly be filled if the long enclosures were proved to be related to the long mounds.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

not reveal post-holes and small ditches, which may be very important. Information about dating is meagre, as many of the sites are new discoveries and little excavation has been done. In spite of these handicaps, however, a considerable amount can be made out by a careful examination of air-photographs.

The majority of settlements shown by crop-marks appear to be of Iron

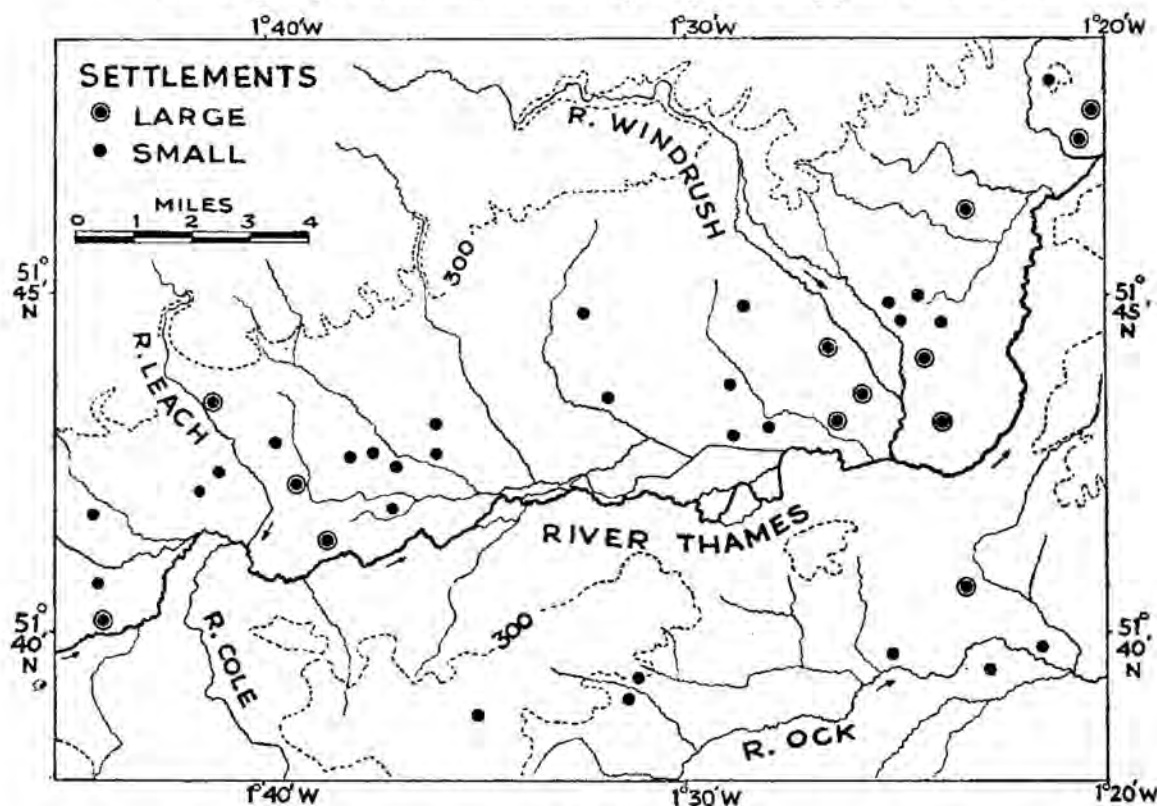


FIG. 29

MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF SETTLEMENT-SITES, MAINLY OF IRON AGE OR ROMANO-BRITISH DATE, IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY (p. 76)

Age or Romano-British date. Traces of Neolithic and Bronze Age dwelling places so far have been found only on the ground, and, with the exception of the Abingdon Neolithic camp, are too slight to have affected the growth of crops. No Saxon villages of the type excavated by E. T. Leeds at Sutton Courtenay have yet been identified from the air.

The settlement-sites in the western part of the upper Thames country, the part with which the writer is most familiar, are listed and described in APPENDIX V and plotted on FIG. 29, except for very small sites, which are omitted. Seven of the sites listed were found on the ground, mostly during gravel-digging, and the remaining thirty-six from the air; twenty-one of the latter were discovered in 1942 and 1943.

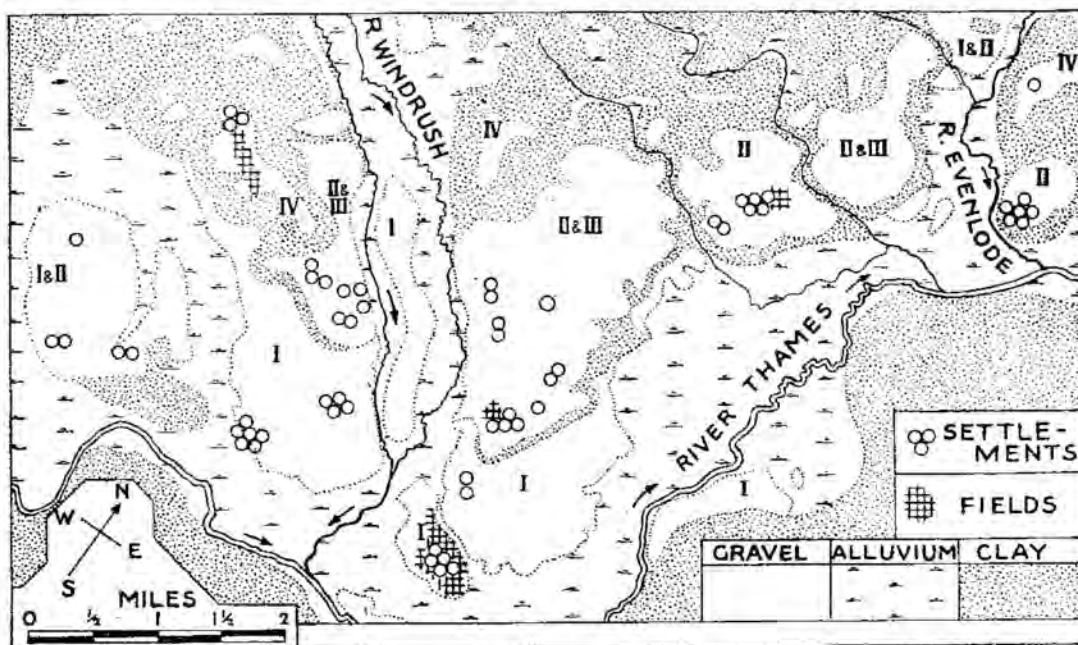


FIG. 30

MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF SETTLEMENT-SITES IN RELATION TO GRAVEL TERRACES IN THE THAMES VALLEY IMMEDIATELY ABOVE OXFORD (p. 77)

Based on the Geological Survey map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

All the settlements listed in APPENDIX V are plotted on the map (FIG. 29), which shows that, like the circles, they are strung out on the gravel terraces on the north side of the Thames. The most important are within a few miles of Stanton Harcourt or Dorchester (the latter is outside the area covered by the map). There are, however, some differences in the distribution of circles and settlements. The latter are still numerous to the west of the River Windrush, where circles thin out, but below Dorchester, where there are some circles, no settlements have yet been found. Several sites lie on the southern side of the Faringdon Ridge, where circles are not common. No settlements

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

have yet been located in the limestone hills on the north-west of the upper Thames country.

FIG. 30 is a larger-scale map showing the relation of settlements to the surface geology in the same way that FIG. 27 shows the relation of circles to it. In general, the sites marked on FIG. 27 are Bronze Age, while those on FIG. 30 are probably Iron Age or Romano-British. Comparing the two, it will be seen that occupation was more extensive in the latter period, the areas of low-lying gravel of Terrace I having been taken up. Terraces II and III continue to be the most important, and a favourite situation for a settlement was on the edge of Terrace II and near a stream. Crop-marks will give no information about the spread of settlement on to the clay lands, but it is doubtful whether they were of much importance till mediaeval times, and, to the present day, most villages in the upper Thames valley remain on gravel.

The relationship between settlements and hill-forts in the district needs attention. Most of the settlements in the valley are open and undefended, while the majority of the hill-forts on the slopes of the Cotswolds and the Faringdon Ridge are too remote from them to have been of use in emergency. Possibly many settlement-sites await discovery in the hills.

Roman villas hereabouts are apparently confined to the uplands (see below, p. 87), and in the Romano-British period the gravel terraces of the valleys must have been occupied by people living in settlements very like those of their Iron Age predecessors.

The following types of remains are seen at settlement-sites :

A. CLUSTERS OF STORAGE-PITS

These, sometimes running into hundreds, have been revealed by crop-marks on at least eight sites, where conditions were favourable, and have been uncovered at many other places by archaeological research or by gravel-working. A most impressive number appears to be shown at the settlement at Dyke Hills, Dorchester, by Major Allen's photograph (PL. IX) in company with many small enclosures, and more existed at Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt (PL. X), but in neither case is anything known of the relationship of the pits to the numerous enclosures.

A fair amount of information about date is available, the most important coming from Mount Farm, Dorchester,¹ where there was a site occupied for a long time in the Iron Age and Romano-British period. The pits there belonged to the earlier phases of the Iron Age and fell out of use later on.²

¹ *Oxoniensia*, II, 12 ff.

² At Maiden Castle pits were dug in large numbers in the earlier phases of the occupation, but their use ceased in the last (Belgic) phase : Wheeler, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

At many other places pits have been excavated and found to contain Iron Age pottery, for example Linch Hill,¹ Radley,² Cassington,³ and Hatford (Berks.).⁴ To the best of the writer's knowledge, Romano-British pottery has never been collected from the pits in such pit-clusters, which therefore may be assigned with confidence to the Iron Age and perhaps mainly to its earlier stages.

When reporting pit-clusters shown by crop-marks, it is important to try to exclude dark spots in the corn caused by natural agencies (e.g. manure, old tree-root holes) and it is better to treat all presumed pits with reserve, until proved by excavation, as at Mount Farm, or gravel-working, as at Linch Hill. Other pits at Stanton Harcourt⁵ were found, when excavated, to be of natural origin, probably caused by tree-roots.

B. DITCHED ENCLOSURES (GENERALLY FREE-STANDING)

1. *Small Enclosures*, 30 to 70 ft. across (FIG. 31, A—F). These are very common. The typical shape is roughly circular, but variants are D-shaped, sub-rectangular or irregular. There is frequently an entrance through one side. Small round ditches might be confused with Bronze Age barrow ditches, but the latter are generally perfect circles and very rarely have an entrance, so that a careful examination should settle which is which.

The enclosures may occur in ones and twos, but more often are seen in some numbers, as for example at the following sites, where they are the predominant features :

Dudgrove Farm, Kempsford (Glos.) (APPENDIX V, no. 2), about 8 small enclosures.

SW. of Standlake (Oxon.) (APPENDIX V, no. 25, PL. VII, B), at least 20 small enclosures.

Dyke Hills, Dorchester (PL. IX), a very large number (? 50-100) of small enclosures.

Until the whole or a large part of a settlement of this nature has been investigated thoroughly, there is no means of telling how many of the small enclosures were in use at once and how they were related to each other, but it is reasonable to assume that a proportion of them were occupied at the same time and that the settlements were permanently inhabited.

¹ *Oxoniensia*, I, 201 ; II, 202.

² *Ant. J.*, XV, 38.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 33.

⁴ APPENDIX V, no. 38.

⁵ *Antiquity*, VII, 294 and pl. v ; and W. F. Grimes's article, *supra*, p. 60.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

Two small ditched enclosures have been excavated. Though isolated examples, they look and probably are the same as those seen grouped together:

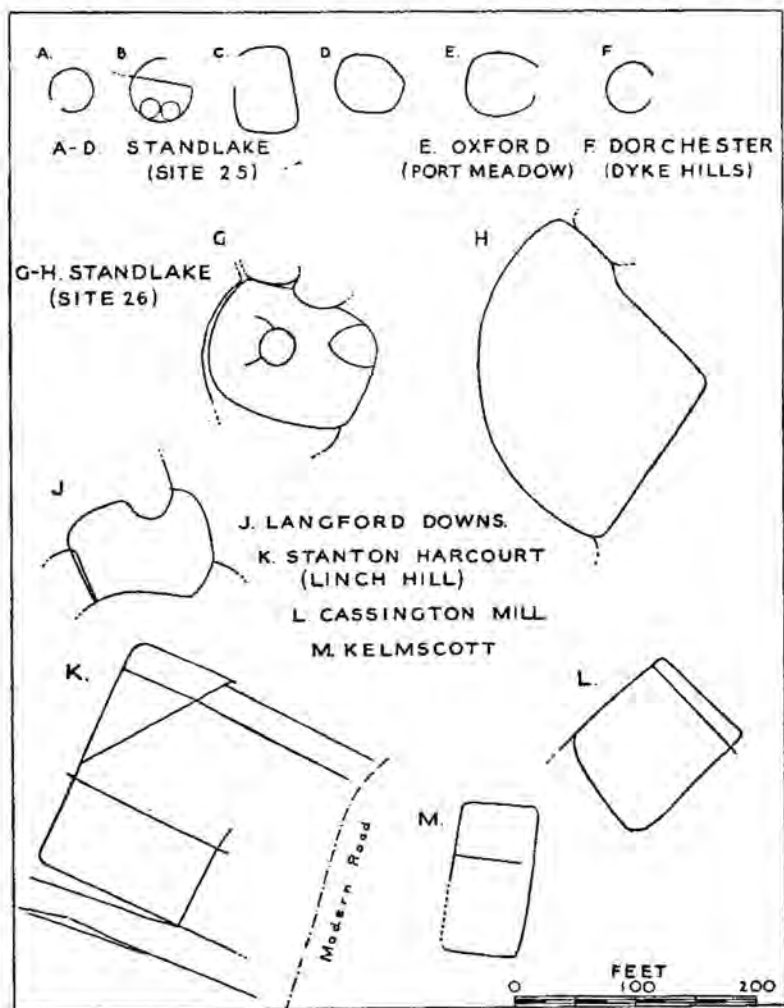


FIG. 31
OUTLINE PLANS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF DITCHED ENCLOSURE
IN UPPER THAMES VALLEY (pp. 78 ff.)

(a) At Mount Farm, Dorchester,¹ a small oval enclosure (size 40 by 50 ft.) was dated to the latter part of the Iron Age.

¹ *Oxoniensia*, II, 21.

(b) A site at Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt, described by W. F. Grimes above, pp. 47 ff. This enclosure had quite a long life and was thrice renewed. No evidence of its purpose was found and no traces of any structure remained inside. If any huts were built within, they must have been very flimsy. Both these enclosures date from the latter part of the Iron Age and a similar date is likely for the numerous small round enclosures within the promontory fort of Iron Age type at Dyke Hills, Dorchester.

2. *Larger Enclosures*, from 70 to 200 ft. across (FIG. 31, G—M).

These are also common. The shapes again vary very much—round, oval, rectangular or just irregular. They may be free-standing or connected to others. In some cases there is no entrance visible, but this may be due to subsequent alterations, of which traces can be made out occasionally, where two ditches are nearly superimposed (e.g. FIG. 31, G).

Large enclosures may occur in isolation, but are seen most frequently in groups mixed with other types of enclosures. Typical examples occur at many sites, of which the following may be selected :

(a) Langford Downs (Oxon.) (APPENDIX V, no. 7, PL. XI, A) : many irregular rounded enclosures. Two connected enclosures were excavated in 1943 by Mrs. Audrey Williams and dated to the end of the Iron Age.

(b) SW. of Standlake (APPENDIX V, no. 25, PL. VII, B) : several large round enclosures associated with at least 20 small ones.

(c) W. of Standlake (APPENDIX V, no. 26) : many large round enclosures, some overlapping.

(d) Cassington Mill (APPENDIX V, no. 34a) : many large rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures. Much Romano-British pottery found here during gravel-working.

(e) Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt (APPENDIX V, no. 31a, PL. X) : many large rectangular enclosures with rounded corners, spaced out and apparently separated by lanes. Some show signs of alterations or renewals. Associated with probable field-system. Romano-British pottery found in fillings of ditches and on floors within enclosures, where exposed by gravel-working.

(f) Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham (Berks.) : large rectangular enclosures with square corners, some overlapping¹ including a block of rectangular enclosures which may be a system of small fields.² Apparently Romano-British.³

The rectangular enclosures probably belong largely to the Romano-British period. Those with curved sides may perhaps be more characteristic

¹ *Oxoniensis*, v, fig. 10.

² *Ibid.*, pl. xvi.

³ *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2nd ser., xviii, 10 ff.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

of the Iron Age, but until a programme of excavation has been carried out, no certain conclusions can be drawn. It is best to keep an open mind about the date of both large and small enclosures at settlement-sites.

3. *Large D-shaped Enclosures.* Two isolated enclosures of an elongated D-shape (about 200 ft. long) in the parish of Dorchester, were recently published.¹ One at Allen's Pit was dated to the Iron Age, though whether early or late is not clear. No other exact parallels are known, but they may well be connected with the large ditched enclosures just described.

C. STRAY DITCHES

In addition to the easily-recognized enclosure-ditches at early settlement-sites, there are often many stray lengths of ditch, the meaning of which is obscure. Some, which appear broken, may be connected with ditches and post-holes too slight to produce crop-marks, or belong to unfinished constructions. Others may be drains. A long ditch which skirts round several small enclosures at the Dyke Hills site (PL. IX) seems to bound a small section of the settlement.

D. COMPLEX SITES AND ENCLOSURES WITH MANY SUBDIVISIONS

The settlements listed below were of more elaborate type than usual and cannot be considered as a number of separate enclosures. They are probably not mutually related types, but are here collected together for convenience of reference.

(a) At Mount Farm, Dorchester,² the pit clusters and small round enclosure already mentioned lay inside a large roughly-triangular ditched enclosure, along one side of which ran a lane bounded by ditches. The ditches had been several times re-cut, much on the same lines, and were in use for a long time in the Iron Age and Romano-British period.

(b) Large rectangular enclosures about 200 ft. across and with many subdivisions occur at Aston, near Bampton (Oxon.) (APPENDIX V, no. 19) and at Ashton Keynes (Wilts.), where there are two examples, about $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. E. of Ashtonfield.

(c) Half a mile SE. of Hampton Poyle (Oxon.) (PL. XI, B) is a large polygonal area about 400 ft. across, bounded by a ditch and divided into strips and squares. It is approached from the east by a lane. There is nothing to be found on the surface.

(d) SW. of Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham,³ near the former

¹ *Oxoniensia*, VII, 36-38, pl. IV.

² *Oxoniensia*, II, 12 ff., pl. III.

³ *Oxoniensia*, V, fig. 10 and pl. XXI.

D. N. RILEY

position of Littletown, crop-marks show a lane, on either side of which are long narrow enclosures. Looking at these from the air, one is reminded of the plan of a present-day hamlet with long strips of garden extending behind the cottages.

E. DEFENCES

These are exceptional ; as a rule the early inhabitants of the upper Thames valley lived in open settlements and the only defended settlements known were at Dyke Hills, Dorchester, and near Cassington Mill.

(a) Dyke Hills, Dorchester : a double rampart and ditch cuts off an area of land already defended on three sides by the rivers Thames and Thame, and forms a promontory fort of Iron Age type. The settlement within has been mentioned several times already.

(b) Cassington Mill : the big ditch¹ (approx. 1,100 ft. across NW.-SE. by 800 ft. SW.-NE.) which encircles the settlement-site was dug about the time of the Roman conquest.² On the northern side, it cuts off the corner of a large rectangular enclosure and intersects several other ditches ; presumably therefore it was dug when the settlement was already in existence.³ It has been suggested that the purpose was defence against the advancing Romans and not, like earlier Iron Age fortifications, as a place of refuge during inter-tribal wars.

A watch was kept in 1942 and 1943 on the hill-forts in and around the upper Thames valley, but no signs were seen inside of any enclosures, ditches or pits of the types familiar elsewhere, though crop conditions were favourable within Uffington Castle and Segsbury Camp on the Berkshire Downs and in Cherbury Camp, east of Faringdon.

No parallels have been found in the upper Thames valley to the upland farms with defensive ditches of the Little Woodbury type.⁴

V. REMAINS OF EARLY AGRICULTURE

Agriculture must have been the main occupation of the inhabitants of the upper Thames country at least from the Iron Age onwards, but mediaeval and modern ploughing has obliterated most traces of early cultivation, and the only remains are ditches, probably dug in connection with old field-systems and lands, either as boundaries or for drainage.

¹ *Oxoniensia*, vii, pl. ix.

² *Ibid.*, p. 107.

³ Information from Miss J. M. Morris.

⁴ *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1940, pp. 30 ff.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

A. FIELD SYSTEMS

1. *Rectangular Fields*

Blocks of small and generally rectangular fields with lanes running between are shown by systems of ditches SW. of Cowleaze Corner, Bampton,¹ and SW. of Paradise Farm, Lechlade (Glos.).² The fields are about $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 acre in size. There are other probable fields of the same type near the settlement-sites at Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt (PL. x) and Northmoor (Oxon.) (APPENDIX V, no. 27).

2. *Irregular-shaped Fields and Natural Markings of Similar Appearance*

Large patches of gravel, mainly of Terraces II and III, are covered by irregular networks of lines of crop-marks, which divide the land into plots $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 acres in extent. Good examples are seen in the southern part of Langford parish, to the west of Clanfield, west of Bampton, east of Cote, north of Sutton (Stanton Harcourt), east of Great Milton (PL. XII)—all the foregoing in Oxfordshire—and west of Sutton Courtenay (Berks.). In some places the marks are obviously due to man-made ditches, but generally they appear to be of natural origin.

Ditches of human origin form boundaries of systems of irregular-shaped fields west of Clanfield, where they are connected with a small settlement (APPENDIX V, no. 15), and south of Cokethorpe Park, near Ducklington (Oxon.). The latter is near a Romano-British settlement-site (APPENDIX V, no. 23). To make sure of further examples, the crop-marks will have to be re-examined from the air and perhaps a few trial trenches dug.

The natural markings also were thought at first by the writer to be field boundaries,³ but W. F. Grimes criticized this interpretation, and the true explanation has probably been supplied by W. J. Arkell, who considers them to be fissures in the gravel resulting from cracking of the frozen subsoil during the Ice Age. These frost-cracks are rare on the flood-plain gravels, common on Terraces II and III, and strikingly developed and very wide on the high-level gravels (150ft. Terrace) round the Three Pigeons Inn, near Great Milton (PL. XII).

3. *Open Fields and Strip-Cultivation*⁴

Meadows often still have a corrugated surface (PL. XII, right foreground), the result of the method of ploughing adopted in open fields in mediaeval

¹ *Oxoniensia*, VII, 113, site 26. The fields are wrongly stated there to be SE. of Cowleaze Corner.

² *Ibid.*, site 10.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 114.

⁴ In writing this section much assistance has been obtained from C. S. and C. S. Orwin, *The Open Fields* (1938).

times and down to the 18th century. Each corrugation, or to use the correct word, each *land*, formed the whole or a slice of a *strip*, a number of parallel

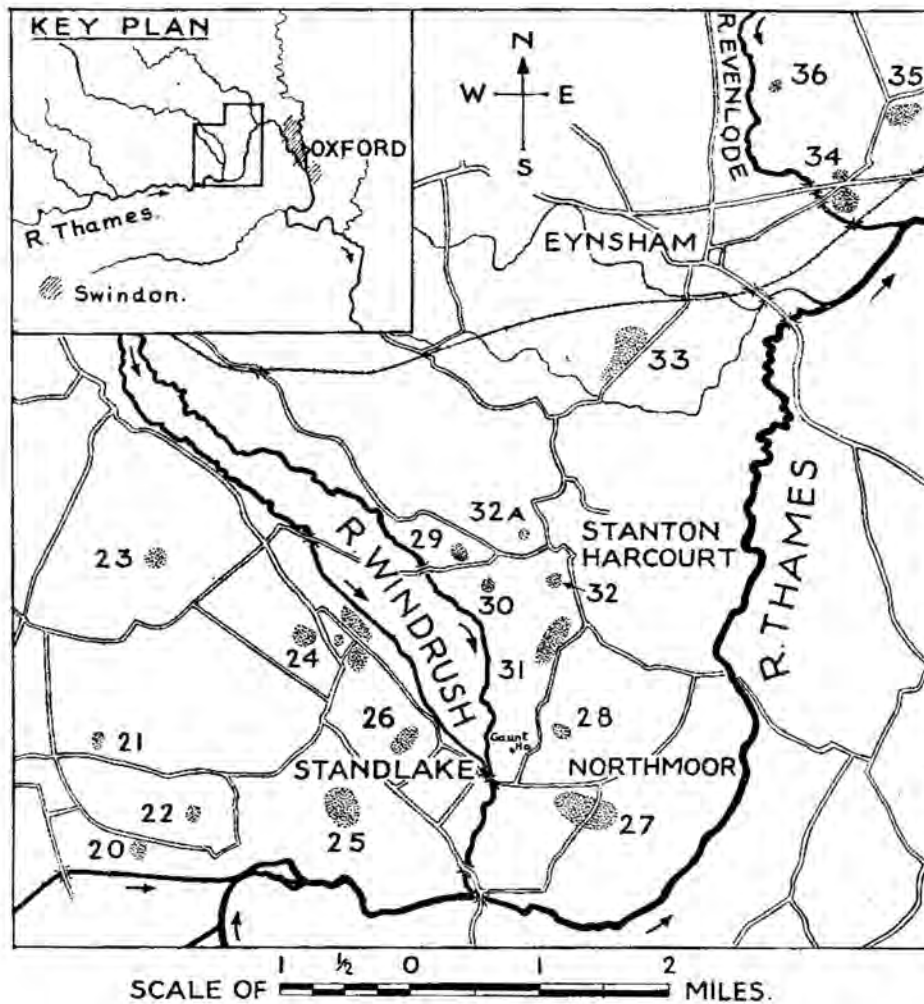


FIG. 32
MAP OF THE THAMES AND LOWER WINDRUSH VALLEYS SHOWING THE
POSITION OF SETTLEMENT-SITES, Nos. 20-36 (APP. V, pp. 97 ff.)

strips were grouped together in a *furlong* and several furlongs comprised an *open field*.

PL. VII, B clearly shows remains of open-field cultivation at Standlake, the

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

furrows between the lands producing a darker growth of corn. Boundary ditches are also visible. Across the centre of the photograph and at the junction of two furlongs, a broad dark band in the corn indicates that for some reason the soil was deeper, probably on the line of an old bank. The curved ditch on the left centre of the photograph bounds the former Standlake Common¹ which was not ploughed in the old days. A series of photographs might enable the pre-enclosure plan of the countryside to be recovered in some detail. Traces of strip-cultivation near Stanton Harcourt show well on PL. XIII.

Similar crop-marks north of Ashton Keynes (Wilts.), showed a winding lane running between two furlongs. The line of the lane was partly followed by a modern field-way, partly obliterated. It is interesting to note the manner in which the enclosure of the open fields was carried out and old boundaries sometimes retained, sometimes discarded. All the fences shown on PL. VII, B are straight and are obviously of recent lay-out, but in other places the boundaries of modern fields coincide with those of blocks of strips.

B. LANES

Lanes have already been described in connection with settlement-sites and field-systems, but numerous others, traceable by the ditches which flank them, have been observed winding across the countryside and not visibly connected with any other early remains. They are usually about 30 to 50 ft. in width; none has yet been followed for more than half a mile at a stretch. Care must be taken to avoid interpreting the line of an old double-ditched fence as a lane.

A few typical examples of old lanes revealed by crop-marks are :

(a) SW of Standlake (PL. VII, B) a lane cuts across strip-cultivation; it is not clear which is the earlier. The photograph shows a portion of the lane and various other connected ditches, one of which continues to join a modern field-boundary. Later in the season the lane was seen to extend through the bottom of the area covered by the photograph and its line appeared to be continued by the Standlake village street.

(b) From Stanton Harcourt village to Linch Hill, an old road or lane ran parallel with and slightly to the west of the modern road to Standlake. At the point where the modern road forks, one branch going to Bablock Hythe and the other to Standlake, the old road forked too.

(c) Major Allen's plans of Dorchester² and Long Wittenham³ both show various lanes.

¹ Information from E. T. Leeds.

² *Oxoniensia*, III, fig. 20.

³ *Id.*, v, fig. 10.

D. N. RILEY

Similar field-ways and lanes are still in use in the countryside and those shown by crop-marks have been made at any date from the Iron Age onwards.

C. ENCLOSURES

Many of the larger enclosures described above under the heading of settlement-sites may well have been made for purposes to do with farming, but this is a question outside the scope of an investigation based on the study of air-photographs, unless some distinctive feature is to be seen. The large enclosures approached by a lane at Blackditch, Stanton Harcourt (PL. XIII) are a case in point. It seems reasonable to suggest that they were cattle-pens. There are similar enclosures at Northmoor (APPENDIX V, NO. 28) and about $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. S. of Brighthampton (Oxon.).

D. STOCKADES

Long lines of large post-holes, evidently marking the positions of stockades, have been found at Langford and in two places near Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham,¹ each running across country in a definite direction, but with frequent slight bends and curves.

(a) Langford (PL. XI, A): the stockade consisted of post-holes $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 ft. in diameter and 2 to 3 ft. apart, and is at least 1,100 ft. long. It commences near the River Leach and runs roughly at right-angles to the river. At one point it intersects an Iron Age enclosure, which, on excavation, was found to be of considerably earlier construction.² The stockade is probably Romano-British or later.

(b) Long Wittenham: the two stockades are 3,000 ft. and 900 ft. long respectively and the longer one commences near the bank of the Thames. Nothing is known of their date.

The purpose of these big stockades is at present obscure, but they were probably made as boundaries rather than defences.

VI. ROMANO-BRITISH TOWNS AND VILLAS

A. TOWNS

There were small Romano-British towns at Dorchester and Alchester (near Bicester). The remains at Dorchester are obscured by the houses and gardens of the modern town, but Alchester is now deserted and the land under cultivation, so that good crop-marks appear there from time to time.³ In

¹ *Oxoniensia*, v, 164 f., pls. xix, xx.

² Information from Mrs. Audrey Williams.

³ The crop-marks are of the 'negative' variety, i.e. the growth of the crops is retarded by the old wall-foundations and metalled roads beneath the surface.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

the late summer of 1943, part of the plan of Roman Alchester showed up clearly—straight streets running at right-angles to each other, and traces of buildings beside them, particularly round the central cross-roads (PL. XI, c).

It may be mentioned here that nothing was seen from the air on the Romano-British site at Woodeaton, Oxon., where foundations of buildings once existed,¹ although crops were suitable in 1942 and 1943.

B. VILLAS

On the limestone hills to the north-west of the upper Thames basin, there were many Roman villas. Where the foundations survive and the soil above is cultivated, crop-marks may be expected, though they will seldom be as clear as on Major Allen's photographs of the Ditchley villa.²

The writer had few opportunities to watch villa sites, except that at North Leigh (Oxon.), where considerable additions to the plan of the large courtyard house were visible in the surrounding meadow during the drought of August, 1943.³

No trace of any extensive⁴ field-system connected with a Roman villa has yet been seen in the district.

C. LARGE RECTANGULAR DITCHED ENCLOSURES SURROUNDING VILLAS

The Ditchley villa was surrounded by a rectangular ditch measuring 360 by 330 ft.,⁵ and a similar, but larger (660 by 420 ft.) ditch bounded a villa at Callow Hill, Stonesfield.⁶ Various other enclosures of this type in north-west Oxfordshire have been explained as ditch-enclosed farms or barns, with buildings probably of timber construction.⁷

On the gravel terraces of the upper Thames, no certain examples of stone-built villas are known. Similarly, there is a scarcity of large ditched enclosures, possibly Roman farms, like those of north-west Oxfordshire. The only two are east of the Cirencester-Cricklade Roman road, at Latton (Wilts.) and at Down Ampney (Glos.). The former is double-ditched and may be compared with the triple-ditched rectangle at Charlbury (Oxon.).⁸ Mr. O. G. S. Crawford has, however, suggested that this Latton enclosure may have been a small Roman fort. Smaller enclosures north of Lechlade Downs

¹ *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, 299.

² *Oxoniensia*, I, pls. III-IV.

³ *J.R.S.*, XXXIV, (1944), 81; *infra*, p. 197, fig. 47.

⁴ See remarks by C. A. R. Radford in *Oxoniensia*, I, 52 f.

⁵ *Oxoniensia*, I, 49 f.; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, I, pl. XXI(b).

⁶ *Ibid.*, pl. XXI(a).

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 307.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pl. XXII(c).

Farm (Glos.), east of Cote (Oxon.), and east of Radley station (double-ditched on three sides)¹ may also be cited, though their inclusion here is purely speculative.

SUMMARY

1. The gravel terraces of the upper Thames valley produced a type of country favourable for occupation by early man, and crop-marks show remains of his work to be widespread.

2. Circular ditches are very common, over 400 being known, scattered over the gravels. They may surround Bronze Age burials, and are probably often the ditches of destroyed barrows, though their original appearance is problematical. Oval ditches may have surrounded two adjacent barrows.

3. Double and triple concentric circles occur, and may be the ditches of barrows built in two or three stages.

4. Other remains which probably belong to the earliest times are sacred 'henge' circles, and several long rectangular enclosures of very large dimensions.

5. (a) There are many settlement-sites, the main features of which are numerous ditched enclosures. Further remains, such as storage-pits, are visible, though others, smaller yet still important, like post-holes, are not shown by crop-marks. The settlements are generally undefended, and there are few signs of planning. Those to which a date can be given belong to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods. Their distribution resembles that of the circles, but is slightly more extensive.

(b) Clusters of storage-pits date from the Iron Age, probably its earlier phases.

(c) The enclosures are from 30 to 200 ft. across, and vary in shape, being round, rectangular or irregular. They occur at both Iron Age and Romano-British sites, the rectangular enclosures being more typical of the latter. Small enclosures 30 to 70 ft. across, usually roughly circular, and sometimes grouped together in some numbers, are common, and appear to be a specialized type.

6. Remains of early field-systems show in various places. There are three kinds: (a) blocks of small rectangular fields ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre) and lanes, sometimes associated with settlements; (b) irregular shaped fields ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 acres) which are easily confused with natural markings; (c) mediaeval strip-cultivation.

¹ Cf. enclosure at Hensington (Oxon.), *ibid.*, pl. xxiii(b).

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

7. Large stockades were constructed in a few places, probably as boundaries.

8. Roman villas and/or their enclosure-ditches may be seen from the air among the hills of north-west Oxfordshire, but very seldom on the valley gravels of the Thames, which must have been occupied throughout the Roman period, as in the Iron Age, by the people of the numerous settlements shown by crop-marks.

COMPARISON WITH OTHER PARTS OF ENGLAND

Many of the problems raised by air-archaeology in the upper Thames country are of more than local interest. In the Cambridgeshire Fens and surrounding country and in the northern part of Wessex, the writer has seen many sites related to those of the Thames valley, and similar discoveries may be expected in other districts. A few remarks on the results of aerial exploration in these areas are given, as relatively little has yet been published.¹

A. CIRCLES

Round barrows are the commonest and most easily recognizable monuments left by early man in Britain and correspondingly, circular ditches, probably the remains of barrows, are found in most places where conditions are favourable for crop-marks.

1. *Chalk Hills.* Circular ditches are seen, either surrounding intact barrows of various types, or obviously remaining from destroyed barrows, on Salisbury Plain, the Berkshire Downs, and the chalk escarpment of Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. The ditches are usually between 60 and 100 ft. in diameter. Vestiges of the mound, much reduced by ploughing, can sometimes be seen in the centre of circles revealed by crop-marks.²

2. *Gravels.* There are numerous circles on gravels on either side of the River Welland between Barnack (Northants.) and Market Deeping (Lincs.), and other fine examples in the valley of the Nene between Wansford and Castor (Northants.). Smaller numbers are seen in the valleys of the Ouse below Bedford and the Yare near Norwich,³ and one was recently spotted near the Trent, south of Derby.

¹ More detailed information on the sites in the Fen basin will be found in an article by the present writer in *Antiquity*, xix, 145 ff.

² E.g. Steeple Morden (Cambs.) ; *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1936, pl. xxix.

³ *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1936, p. 4-

D. N. RILEY

Remains of barrows may sometimes be seen within the circles; several are visible in ploughed fields at Block Fen, south-east of Chatteris (Cambs.),¹ on low-level gravels.

3. *The Silt Fens around March and Wisbech (Cambs.)*. The low-lying land in this region is covered by ancient sites, including large numbers of circles, which appear to fall into two types, large and small. The large ones are about the same size as those usual on the chalk hills and the valley gravels, but the much more numerous small ones are consistently smaller than the general run of circles elsewhere, the diameter being about 30 to 40 ft. They occur in large groups, several circles often overlapping.

B. MULTIPLE CIRCLES

1. *Chalk Hills*. Double circles have been revealed by crop-marks at many sites in Wessex, for example, Pimperne (Dorset),² Amesbury (Wilts.)³ (near Woodhenge), Crawley Clump (Hants.)⁴ and Letcombe Bassett (Berks.)⁵. In Hertfordshire there are two at Clothall, east of Letchworth. There is no reason to doubt that these double circles are the remains of two-period barrows, single circles in the vicinity clearly belonging to normal barrows.

2. *Gravels*. There are several double circles in the valley of the Nene in the Castor (Northants.) area and examples are also known in the valleys of the Ouse, near Charnbrook (Beds.),⁶ and the Yare, near Norwich.⁷ Both double and triple circles occur near the Welland, east and south of Market Deeping (Lincs.).

C. SETTLEMENTS

Large settlement-sites of similar type to those of the upper Thames are seen in impressive numbers on the silt fens, in the gravel areas near the River Welland round Market Deeping, and in the St. Ives-Cambridge district. The predominant features of these sites are numerous large rectangular enclosures. Round enclosures also occur, though not the small round ones of the Dyke Hills type.

¹ Writer's notes and *V.C.H. Cambs.*, i, 277.

² Grinsell, *Ancient Burial Mounds*, pl. vii.

³ Cunnington, *Woodhenge*, pl. i.

⁴ *Proc. Hants. F.C.*, xiv, 218, pl. vii.

⁵ *Oxoniensia*, vii, 114.

⁶ Photographed by Major Allen.

⁷ *Proc. Preh. Soc.*, 1936, pl. ii.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

Most of the sites have been levelled by agriculture, but in the fens some lie on land which has never been under plough since ancient times. The latter are specially suited for excavation and may be expected to reveal considerably more than the Oxfordshire sites, which are all on arable land.

D. FIELDS AND LANES

The ancient Celtic fields which cover the downs of southern England were among the first important discoveries made by air-photography. Repeated ploughing of the small square or rectangular fields gradually shifted the soil, and the hill-sides are now covered by a chequered pattern of small terraces or lynchets, which are shown up by shadows when the sun is low. Boundary ditches are rare. Occasional lanes run between the fields.

Subsequent research in the silt fens has revealed further extensive remains of early cultivation of related type, which show up clearly in the fens, where the fields were bounded by ditches. The fields approximate to a rectangular shape and lanes are often seen running between them.

On the gravels, the need for drainage was less important and boundary-ditches are less numerous, but traces of ancient field-systems of much the same type as on the silt fens may be seen on the gravels alongside the Welland, east of Stamford. The blocks of small rectangular fields seen in a few places in the upper Thames country find close parallels in these areas. The probable frost-cracks in the gravel also are well developed in many places, for example, south-west of Peterborough and south-east of Chatteris (Cambs.) and (to judge from the published photograph) at Exbury, near the Solent.¹

E. STOCKADES

Numerous large stockades, obviously intended as boundaries, are revealed by crop-marks on the gravels in the Market Deeping area; others have recently been discovered near the Ouse between Huntingdon and St. Neots and in the Nene valley near Castor. They are very similar to the stockades of the upper Thames valley, being of much the same dimensions and, in many cases, starting near a river and running at right angles to it.

¹ O. G. S. Crawford and A. Keiller, *Wessex from the Air*, pl. XLVII b.

D. N. RILEY

APPENDIX I

BARROWS AND RING-DITCHES SURVIVING AS EARTHWORKS

No.	Location ¹	Diam. of enclosed area ft.	Width of ditch ft.	Notes
1	BENSON (OXON.) 950 yd. 080° from Cold Har- bour Farm	150 (paced)	5	No mound or bank. Ditch recently filled up.
2	PORT MEADOW, OXFORD <i>Oxoniensis</i> , vii, 26 ff., site 1	70	10	No mound or bank.
3	Ibid., site 2	85	8	" " "
4	Ibid., site 3	115	?	Platform-barrow (mutilated).
5	Ibid., site 4	80	11	No mound or bank.
6	Ibid., sites 5 and 6	68 and 55	5 and 10	Two superimposed ditches with external banks. Excavated 1940.
7	Ibid., site 7	30	3	Bowl-barrow Ht. 6-9 in.
8	Ibid., site 8	30	3	" " " "
9	Ibid., site 11	37	?	" " " " 12-15 in.
10	Ibid., site 12	40	11	External bank. No mound.
11	Ibid., site 13	50	12	" " " "
12	Ibid., site 15	40	9	" " " "
13	Ibid., site 17	38	3	No mound or bank. " "
14	STANTON HARGOURT (OXON.) 150 yd. W. of Pinkhill Farm	87	15	No mound or bank visible in Nov., 1943. Field had been under plough since 1942.
15	NORTHMOOR (OXON.) 600 yd. 115° from church	52	10	Mutilated saucer-barrow with low mound 6-9 in. high and external bank 11 ft. wide.
16	Ibid.	30	6	Bowl-barrow. Ht. 12 in.
17	Ibid.	38 E.-W. 32 N.-S.	10	No mound. Low external bank 12 ft. wide. Situated in corner of small four-sided enclosure.
18	ASTON, NR. BAMPTON (OXON.) 1,850 yd. E. of Tadpole Bridge	66 (paced)	6	Platform-barrow. Ht. 9-12 in. Causeway 15 ft. wide through ditch on S. side. No bank.
19	CASTLE EATON (WILTS.) 500 yd. E. of Blackford (estimated) Farm	40	?	Bowl-barrow. Seen from air only.

¹ Positions of sites are given as distances and bearings from points marked prominently on the 1 inch O.S. map, e.g. "Clanfield, Oxon. 750 yd. 280° from church" means that the site is in the parish of Clanfield and is 750 yards from the church on a bearing of 280°.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

APPENDIX II

OVALS

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
1	S. STROKE (OXON.) 700 yd. 260° from Icknield Farm		Half of large oval seen in field of corn, June, 1943. Unsuitable crop con- ditions over other half.
2, 3	N. STROKE (OXON.) 500 yd. S. of church (PL. VI)		Two ovals, close together, each appar- ently surrounding an inner ditch. The ditches are not continuous.
4	RADLEY (BERKS.) Barrow Hills Field group no. 4	Information from Mrs. A. Williams	Kidney-shaped oval with E. end wider than W., and kink in S. side. Ex- cavated 1944; surrounded remains of two barrows. E.B.A. burial under W. barrow, M.B.A. burial under E. barrow.
5	RADLEY, (BERKS.) Ibid., no. 16	<i>Oxoniensis</i> , III, 31 ff.	Nearly straight-sided oval. Excavated 1936; numerous M.B.A. burials found. No indication of original form of monu- ment. Size of area enclosed by ditch 133 by 100 ft.
6	EYNHAM (OXON.) 950 yd. 050° from Foxley Farm	Ibid., VI, 86	Circles III and IV were seen during 1943 to be really a single large ellipse. 260 by 160 ft. approx.
7	EYNHAM (OXON.) 700 yd. 050° from Foxley Farm	Ibid.	Straight-sided oval. 140 by 90 ft. approx.
8	EYNHAM (OXON.) 140 yd. 060° from Foxley Farm		Straight-sided oval, found 1943. 165 by 80 ft. approx.
9	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 1,100 yd. 095° from church		Three circles in a row, surrounded apparently by large oval.
10	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 1,300 yd. 230° from church		Pear-shaped oval. Length 130 ft. approx.
11	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 650 yd. 220° from church	<i>Antiquity</i> , VII, 294, and pl. v	Kidney-shaped oval, kink in one side.
12	STANDLAKE (OXON.) Stone's circle no. 2	<i>Arch.</i> , XXXVII, 364; <i>Ant. J.</i> , XXII, 208	Small oval, slightly flattened sides. Excavated by Stone, 1857, but no evidence of date recorded. 87 by 73 ft.
13	LATTON (WILTS.) 850 yd. 135° from church		Ellipse, disproportionately broad.

D. N. RILEY

APPENDIX III

DOUBLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
1	S. STOKE (OXON.) 650 yd. 260° from Icknield Farm		
2-5	N. STOKE (OXON.) approx. 500 yd. 150° from church (PL. VI)	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , i, pl. i.	One excavated, central grave found with cremation undated. In group of circles.
6	WALLINGFORD (BERKS.) 700 yd. S. of railway station		
7	WARBOROUGH (OXON.) 800 yd. 285° from church	<i>Ibid.</i> , iii, pl. xvii	
8	DRAYTON ST. LEONARD (OXON.) 950 yd. 305° from Newington church		
9	LONG WITTENHAM (BERKS.) 700 yd. 280° from Northfield Farm	<i>Ibid.</i> , v, fig. 10	
10-12	RADLEY (BERKS.) Bartow Hills Field group, nos. 12, 14, 15	<i>Ibid.</i> , iii, 32 and pl. vi	No. 12 unexcavated. No. 14 M.B.A. No. 15 undated } central graves.
13	<i>Ibid.</i> 550 yd. N. of Pimney Farm		
14	HANDBOROUGH (OXON.) ½ ml. N. of City Farm, Eynsham		
15	CASSINGTON (OXON.) ¼ ml. 150° from church	<i>Ibid.</i> , i, 13; v, 3	Excavated; no grave found.
16	EYNHAM (OXON.) 300 yd. N. of Pinkhill Farm		
17	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 800 yd. 185° from church	Grimes <i>supra</i> , pp. 34 ff.	Excavated; E.B.A. inhumation.
18	SOUTH LEIGH (OXON.) 300 yd. N. of Northfield Farm (near Cogges)		
19	CLANFIELD (OXON.) ½ ml. 220° from church		In need of confirmation; seen indistinctly only.
20	LECHLADE (GLOS.) 220 yd. 290° from Lechlade Mill		

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

APPENDIX IV

TRIPLE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
1	N. STOKES (OXON.) 750 yd. 150° from church (PL. VI)	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , I, pl. 1.	In group of circles. Causeway through first and third ditches.
2	Ibid. 450 yd. 150° from church	Ibid.	Probably has another circle within the inner one, making four in all. Inner circles only show faintly on PL. VI.
3	DORCHESTER (OXON.) 1,200 yd. 095° from abbey	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , III, pl. XVII	Second ring probably composed of large post-holes. Grave in centre.
4	Ibid. 1,050 yd. 230° from Mount Farm	Ibid., pl. XV	Intersects one of the two long parallel ditches.
5	Ibid. 1,150 yd. 245° from Mount Farm	Ibid., pl. XVI	First and third ditches have many interruptions probably remains of gang-work. Traces of a fourth and much larger outer ditch seen from air but does not show on photo.
6	Ibid. 1,250 yd. 245° from Mount Farm	Ibid.	Ditches have several interruptions. Diam. of outer ditch approx. 60 ft. Enclosed by square ditch (90 ft. across).
7	LECHLADE (GLOS.) 900 yd. 330° from church		

APPENDIX V

SETTLEMENT SITES IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE UPPER THAMES COUNTRY¹

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
1	KEMPSFORD (GLOS.) 500 yd. SE. of Δ 292 on Brazen Church Hill	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , VII, 113 (site 4) Allen photos, 681-2	Many enclosures, apparently of large rectangular type, crowded together and intersected by many other ditches. In some places there seem to be lanes between the enclosures. The photos are not very clear.
2	KEMPSFORD (GLOS.) $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. 250° from Dudgrove Farm	Riley photos, 9/18-19	Eight or more small round enclosures with entrances. Site intersected by two long curving ditches and other minor lengths of ditch.
3	FAIRFORD (GLOS.) SW. of railway terminus	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , VII, 111 (site 2)	Irregular enclosures and ditches noted in 1942.
4	FAIRFORD (GLOS.) $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. S. of Thornhill Farm	Seen July, 1943	Lane running approx. N.-S., with enclosures on both sides of a bend.

¹ "Allen photos" and "Riley photos" refer to photographs taken by the late Major G. W. G. Allen and by the writer, respectively, and now preserved in the Ashmolean Museum. The numbers refer to the catalogue numbers of negatives. For the location of nos. 20-36 see FIG. 32 (p. 84).

D. N. RILEY

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
5	LECHLADE (GLOS.) N. and NW. of railway station	<i>Oxoniensis</i> , vii, 113 (site 8)	Part of large rectangular enclosure seen in 1942 and now destroyed by gravel-pit. Other straight ditches, some of which are parallel. R.-B. pottery is reported from gravel-pit near Lechlade station.
6	LECHLADE (GLOS.) exact site not identified	Allen photos, 723	Small round enclosure with entrance and many rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures so mixed together that individual shape and size cannot be distinguished.
6a	LECHLADE (GLOS.) 1,000 yd. W. of railway station	Seen 1942	Probable settlement-site with several small round enclosures.
7	LANGFORD (OXON.) 1,000 yd. 230° from Langford Downs Farm (Pl. XI, A)	Riley photos, 4/43-44, 8/21, 10/28 and 10/31-32 Information from Mrs. A. Williams	Near River Leach and with remains thickest towards river. Seven or more irregular-shaped rounded enclosures, 3 measuring 40-80 ft. across and 4 measuring 80-120 ft. Area of site approx. 1,000 ft. NE.-SW. by 800 ft. NW.-SE. About 500 ft. to NE. is a large rectangular enclosure. Large stockade intersects settlement; length at least 1,100 ft. and runs in more or less straight line at right angles to river. During 1943, two connected enclosures, part of stockade and a circle of small post-holes 50 ft. diam. were excavated. Enclosures and post-holes dated to latter part of Iron Age, stockade not dated, but considerably later.
8	LITTLE FARINGDON (OXON.) 600 yd. 190° from Hull's Ground Farm	Seen June, 1943	Several small enclosures (scattered).
9	LITTLE FARINGDON (OXON.) S. of railway line about 1,600 yd. SW. of Langford station	Riley photos, 6/9, 6/28	Between ten and twenty (photo not clear) round enclosures, most with entrances and 30-60 ft. diam. Maze of other ditches. Area covered by site about 750 ft. diameter. The settlement is bounded on the east by a shallow valley with a brook running through it, and possibly on the S. and W. by a large ditch. Further photographs are needed to clear up details.
10	KELMSCOTT (OXON.) 300 yd. SW. of church	Riley photos, 5/4-5	At least six four-sided enclosures (5 approx. 40-60 ft. square, other approx. 70 by 130 ft.) and two rounded enclosures (30 and 100 ft. diam. approx.). Straight ditches intersecting the enclosures. This is not the site seen by Haverfield (<i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i> , 2 ser. xviii, 15), which was on the Witney road and has not yet been re-identified.
11	LANGFORD (OXON.) 400 yd. 150° from railway station	Seen July, 1943	Five small round enclosures (estimated diam. 50 ft.), some with ditches which had been re-dug.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
12	LANGFORD (OXON.) 1,000 yd. 105° from railway station	Observations summer, 1943 and 1944	About ten enclosures (estimated diam. 40-80 ft.) most of which are round. Some of the ditches have been re-dug. Clusters of pits.
13	GRAFTON (OXON.) ¼ ml. NW. of village	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , VII, 113 (site 19)	Rectangular enclosure (about 100 ft. across) and numerous other ditches. Small round enclosures. No satisfactory photographs of this or the next site are available and it was difficult to distinguish the round enclosures from Bronze Age circles.
14	GRAFTON (OXON.) 1,050 yd. 110° from Parson's Barn	Ibid. (site 16)	At least eight small round enclosures. See under no. 13.
15	CLANFIELD (OXON.) 750 yd. 280° from church	Allen photo, 350	Large round enclosure (about 200 ft. diam.) and four smaller round enclosures (about 50-80 ft.) all abutting on to ditches connected with probable system of irregular fields which extends to the S.
16	CLANFIELD (OXON.) ½ ml. 220° from church	Seen July, 1943	Many small enclosures seen faintly. The site should be re-examined in a dry summer.
17	LEW (OXON.) 1,350 yd. 220° from church	Allen photos, 731	Three small four-sided enclosures, two of which have entrances.
18	BAMPTON (OXON.) Calais Farm (E. of town)	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , VII, 59	During gravel-digging pits were found containing Iron Age and R.-B. pottery, etc.
19	ASTON (OXON.) 1,300 yd. S. of church	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , VII, 113 (site 34)	Large rectangular enclosure with many subdivisions seen from air in 1942.
20	COTE (OXON.) 600 yd. 105° from Cote House	Seen July, 1943	Lane and number of rounded enclosures.
21	COTE (OXON.) 1,200 yd. N. of Cote House	Allen photos, 377	Lane (width 80 ft. approx.) running roughly NE.-SW. with two round enclosures (diam. 45 ft. and 130 ft. approx.) near bend.
22	SHIFFORD (OXON.) 600 yd. 320° from church	Seen April, 1943	Four round and D-shaped enclosures (estimated diam. approx. 80 ft.).
23	HARDWICK WITH YELFORD (OXON.) 1,100 yd. 020° from Yelford church	<i>V.C.H. Oxon.</i> , I, 298, 336 <i>Oxoniensia</i> , VII, 113 (site 38)	R.-B. pottery found in small gravel-pit during 1929 and many enclosures seen from the air in 1942. Allen's photo no 369 does not show the settlement-site, but fields to the SE.
24	STANDLAKE (OXON.) 1 ml. NW. of church (Standlake Downs site)	<i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i> , 1st ser., IV, 92 and 213 <i>Ant. J.</i> , XXII, 202-208 <i>Oxoniensia</i> , VII, 113 (site 37)	Widespread complex of settlements covering an area of about 2,700 ft. E.-W. by 1,800 ft. N.-S. (a) group of pits and ditches dug by Stone in 1857. (b) pits and ditches exposed over wide area by gravel-pits in 1939-40. Iron Age pottery found. (c) cluster of pits, two small enclosures and other ditches seen from the air in 1942, 200 yds. W. of Stone's circle no. 5. (d) cluster of pits exposed in gravel-pit during 1943, about 100 yds. S. of Stone's circle no. 12.

D. N. RILEY

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
		Riley photos, 11/19-14	(e) post-holes of four round huts (diam. about 25 ft.), cluster of pits and various ditches, all uncovered by removal of surface soil in gravel-pit immediately S.W. of Stone's circle 6. Iron Age pottery recovered from pits and post-holes.
25	STANDLAKE (OXON.) 1,600 yd. SW. of church (Pl. VII, B)	<i>Oxoniensis</i> , VII, 113 (site 36) Allen photos, 1113 Riley photos, 5/18, 19, 26, 35, 6/18 and 9/4, 5	All these remains were of Iron Age date. At least 20 small round and sub-rectangular enclosures (diam. circa 30-50 ft.), generally with entrance, and 5 or more larger rounded enclosures (diam. circa 80 ft.). Large double-ditched rectangle (size 140 by 190 ft. approx.). Various other ditches. Area covered by settlement about 1,800 ft. E.-W. by at least 1,500 ft. N.-S. A system of lanes and boundary-ditches, probably of later date, is superimposed. 500 yd. to the NW. is an enclosure about 80 ft. diam. approached from the E. by a curving lane about 15 ft. wide and 100 ft. long.
26	STANDLAKE (OXON.) between church and point 700 yds. to SW.	Allen photos, 1108-1110 and 1112 Riley photos, 5/28, 6/16-17, 9/7	Complicated mass of round and sub-rectangular enclosures, many of which overlap or surround each other. Size 30-150 ft. across. Area covered by site measures 2,000 ft. NE.-SW. by 500 NW.-SE. It probably extends further to the SW. and may even link up with site 24. Approached from the W. by a lane. There are various wandering ditches also.
27	NORTHMOOR (OXON.) 500 yd. SW. of church	Riley photos, 7 6/38, 9/23-2 and observa- tions summer, 1943 and 1944	Many round and rectangular enclosures, evidently remaining from a fairly important settlement. Probable small rectangular fields to E. of the site. Numerous lanes run through the area and are connected with the settlement and the fields. To the W. other lanes, etc., stretch nearly as far as Gaunt House. Meadows in the area contain banks and ditches remaining as low earthworks. The ground is low-lying. R.-B. potsherds very common on the settlement-site.
28	NORTHMOOR (OXON.) 1,000 yd. NW. of church	Riley photos, 10/9 and observations summer, 1942 and 1943	Few scattered small round and sub-rectangular enclosures. Large round enclosure about 200 ft. across and approached by lane.
29	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 550 yd. 680° from Beard Mill	Allen photos, 1131-1133	Clusters of pits spread over an area 500-600 ft. across. Three or more small round and sub-rectangular enclosures, a large square enclosure and various straight ditches.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
		Information from Mrs. A. Williams	Partly excavated in 1944. Iron Age A and B pottery found in the pits and the ditch of an enclosure.
30	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 800 yd. 110° from Beard Mill	Allen photos, 1127 Riley photos, 10/5	Four or five round and sub-rectangular enclosures measuring 30-50 ft. across. Dense clusters of pits (? of natural or of human origin) covering area 230 ft. NW.-SE. by 70 ft. SW.-NE. These remains lie roughly in two lines running NW.-SE., between which there is an empty space measuring approx. 280 ft. NW.-SE. by 120 ft. NE.-SW. and bounded on all sides except the NE. by straight ditches.
31a	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) ½ ml. 200° from church (Linch Hill site) (pl. x)	V.C.H. Oxon., 1, 298	Area covered by site approx. 380 ft. diam. Number of large rectangular enclosures measuring up to 200 ft. along longer side. Some are apparently spaced out and separated by lanes. Probable system of small fields to W., also connected with lanes. Much R.-B. pottery recovered from ditches, etc., in and around the enclosures.
		<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vii, 57	To the S. of this area were two large clusters of pits, each about 150-200 ft. across, and two small enclosures, one trapezoidal, about 50 ft. across and with an entrance on the W. side, the other an irregular quadrilateral about 45 ft. across and with entrance on the E. Iron Age pottery has been salvaged from the pits.
	b 900 yd. 190° from church	Grimes <i>supra</i> , pp. 47 ff.	Area covered by site : 1,300 ft. N.-S. by at least 800 ft. E.-W. Nearly the whole is now destroyed by a gravel-pit.
			Small double enclosure excavated in 1940. Reconstructed three times, pottery showing Belgic influence found in levels of second period. Went out of use in mid 1st cent. A.D.
32	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 450 yd. 235° from church	Information from W. F. Grimes	At least six large rectangular enclosures, one measuring 140 by 180 ft.
32a	STANTON HARCOURT (OXON.) 900 yd. 295° from church (pl. xiii)		Roughly circular enclosure approx. 200 ft. diam., approached from S. by lane 20-30 ft. wide and 200-300 ft. long. A smaller enclosure, approx. 120 ft. diam., abuts on to the W. side of the lane.
33a	EYNHAM (OXON.) 300 yd. N. of Foxley Farm	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vi, 85-6	Groups of Iron Age pits found by trenching. Area covered at least 360 ft. across.
	b N., NW. and SW. of Southfield Barn	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vi, 85; vii, 54 V.C.H. Oxon., 1, 298 and pl. ix	N. of Southfield Barn, a maze of lines, apparently including at least three large sub-rectangular enclosures, 80-150 ft. across. Approached from NE. by lane.

D. N. RILEY

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
			SW. of Southfield Barn, four or more similar enclosures, three squarish, approx. 150 ft. across, one oblong and apparently open-ended, approx. 280 by 110 ft. Many straight lengths of ditch. A large group of pits containing Belgicized pottery found by trenching.
33c	200 yd. S. of Foxley Farm	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vi, 86	Area covered by site approx. 1,200 ft. N.-S. by 700 ft. E.-W. Rectangular enclosures of similar type to those near Southfield Barn and probably a continuation of that site.
34a	CASSINGTON (OXON.) NE. of Mill (Smith II Pit)	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , v, 3 ; vi, 84 ; vii, 104-7, and pl. ix Information from Miss J. M. Morris	Large number of rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures, straight ditches, etc., mainly within a large round defensive ditch. The enclosures include two which are nearly square (sides approx. 100 ft.) and at least two large rectangles (230 by 130 ft. approx. and 120 by 100 ft. approx.). Crop-marks indicate remains of intensive settlement over an area measuring about 800 ft. N.-S. by 600 ft. E.-W. The big defensive ditch measures about 1,100 ft. NW.-SE. by 800 ft. SW.-NE. Quantities of R.-B. pottery have been found in the gravel-pit which is destroying this settlement-site, and from the lowest layers of the silting of the big ditch come both Belgic and R.-B. pottery. There is a useful general plan of the Cassington sites in <i>Oxoniensia</i> , v, 3, fig. 1. Iron Age storage-pits found in gravel-pit.
b	$\frac{1}{2}$ ml. N. of Mill (Partridge's Pit)	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vi, 84 and pl. xii	
35a	CASSINGTON (OXON.) 600 yd. 020° from church (Tuckwell's Pit)	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , v, 3	Iron Age pits and R.-B. ditches and pits found in gravel-pit.
b	NE. and E. of Tuckwell's Pit	Allen photos, 260	Traces of many large rectangular enclosures.
36	CASSINGTON (OXON.) 400 yd. S. of Purwell Farm	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vii, 64	Iron Age pits and ditches found in gravel-pit.
37	FARINGDON (BERKS.) $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. S. of church	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vii, 113 (site 30)	Enclosures and pits (? human or natural origin) seen from air in 1942.
38	HATFORD (BERKS.) 600 yd. 310° from church	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , iv, 196 ; v, 162 ; vi, 88, and pl. xii ; vii, 103, 113	Many Iron Age pits and ditches exposed in sand-pit.
39	HATFORD (BERKS.) $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. W. of church	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vii, 113 (site 31)	Few small round enclosures and large number of probable pits seen in 1942.
40	KINGSTON BAGPUIZE (BERKS.) 1,700 yd. 245° from Fyfield Wick	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vii, 113	Enclosure with rounded corners and rectangular subdivisions. Three small round enclosures within and one outside the main enclosure.

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE AIR IN THE UPPER THAMES VALLEY

No.	Location	Sources of Information	Notes
41a	FYFIELD (BERKS.) 800 yd. 120° from Woodhouse Farm	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , vii, 113, and observations Aug., 1942	Lane running between two small blocks of rectangular fields (?) among and near which are pits and small round enclosures. The ditches of some of the small enclosures cut the field boundary-ditches. To the W. are two clusters of probable pits, near one of which are two small round enclosures.
b	FRILFORD (BERKS.) 800 yd. 150° from Woodhouse Farm	Riley photos, 4/6	Several large rectangular enclosures connected together.
42	FRILFORD (BERKS.) E. of Noah's Ark Inn	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , iv, 1 ff.	Iron Age pits and huts (many post-holes found); R.-B. temple; all found during excavations by O.U. Arch. Soc.
43	GARFORD (BERKS.) ¼ ml. N. of Venn Mill	<i>Oxoniensia</i> , iv, 26	Large rectangular enclosures show faintly. R.-B. and mediaeval relics plentiful.



NORTH STOKE, OXON.

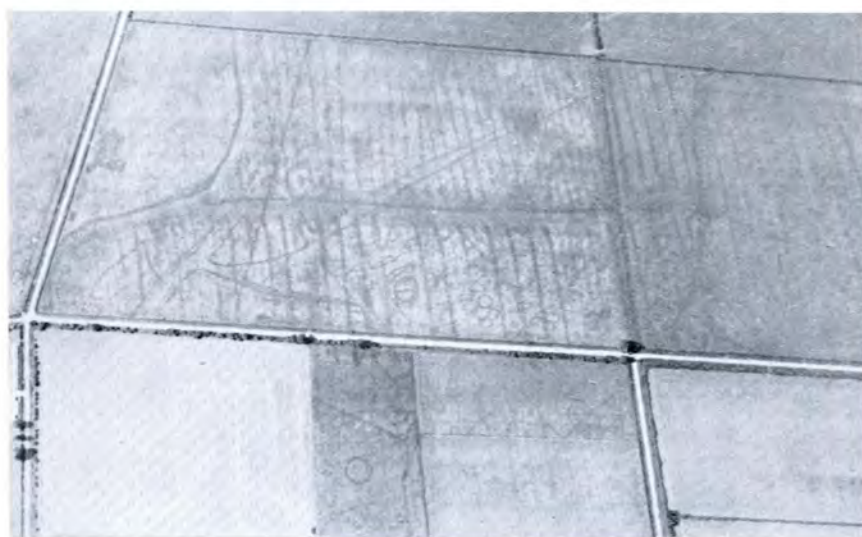
Air-view showing single and multiple circles and parallel lines (pp. 70, 72 f., 93-5).

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

PLATE VII



A



B

DORCHESTER AND STANDLAKE, OXON.

- A. Air-view showing great double circle, parallel lines, and other crop-marks in fields north of
Dorchester (p. 73).
B. Air-view showing strip-cultivation, lanes, and an earlier settlement with many small round
enclosures at Standlake (pp. 78, 80, 84 f., 98).

*Ph. A. : the late Major G. W. G. Allen,
after Oxoniensia, III, pl. xv.
Ph. B. : F./Lt. D. N. Riley.*

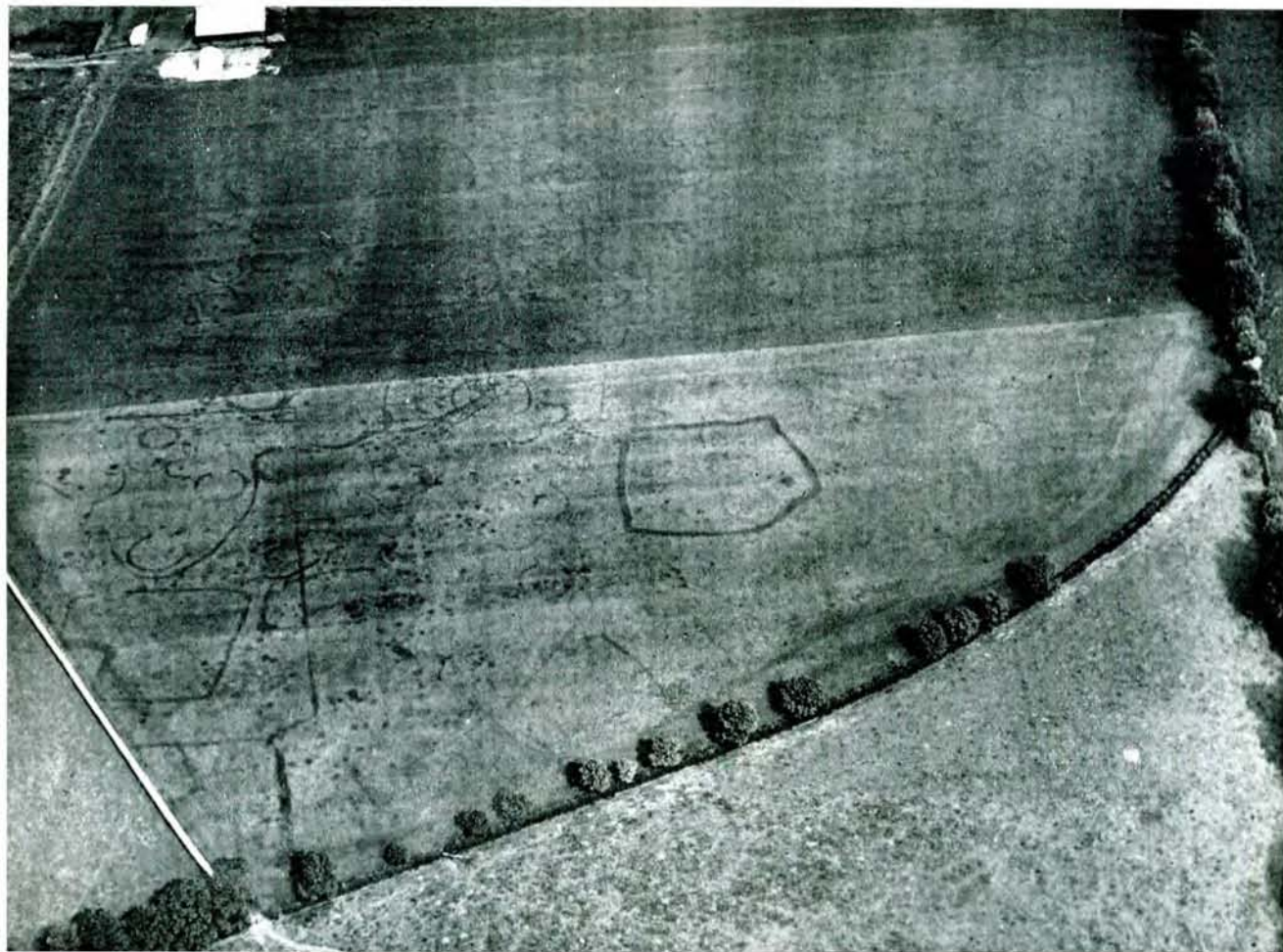
PLATE VIII



DRAYTON, BERKS.

Air-view showing large rectangular enclosure, circles, etc. (p. 73 f.).

*Ph. the late Major G. W. G. Allen,
after Ant. J., xiv, pl. XLIII, by courtesy.*



DORCHESTER, OXON.

Air-view showing settlement-site within the Dyke Hills enclosure (pp. 77 f., 81).

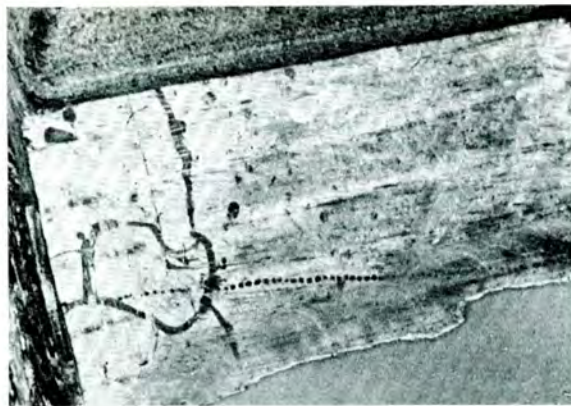
*Ph. the late Major G. W. G. Allen;
after Oxoniensia, III, pl. XVIII.*



STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

Air-view showing settlement-site at Linch Hill, with clusters of pits, enclosures, lanes and probable fields. There are several circles, probably of earlier date. (pp. 77, 80, 83, 99).

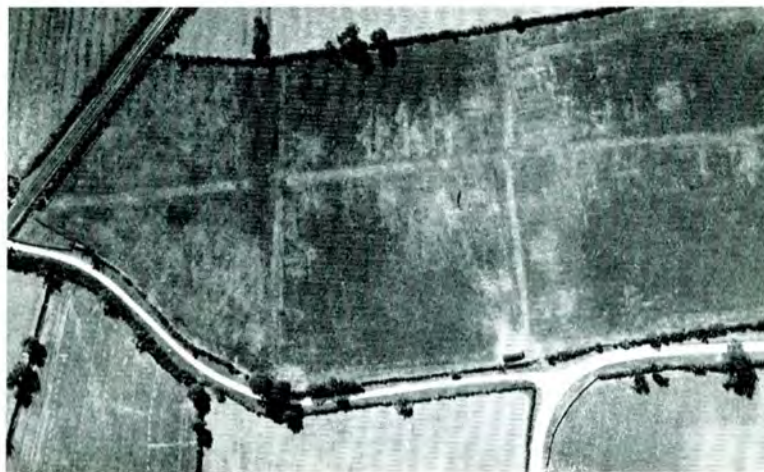
*Ph. the Major G. W. G. Allen,
after V.C.H. Oxon., i, pl. XIV, b,
by courtesy.*



A



B



C

LANGFORD, HAMPTON POYLE AND ALCHESTER, OXON.

- A. Air-view showing enclosures and post-holes of stockade revealed by removal of surface soil in gravel-pit at Langford (pp. 80, 86, 96).
- B. Air-view of complex series of crop marks in a field of sugar-beet at Hampton Poyle (p. 81).
- C. Air-view of the site of the Roman town at Alchester, near Bicester (p. 87).

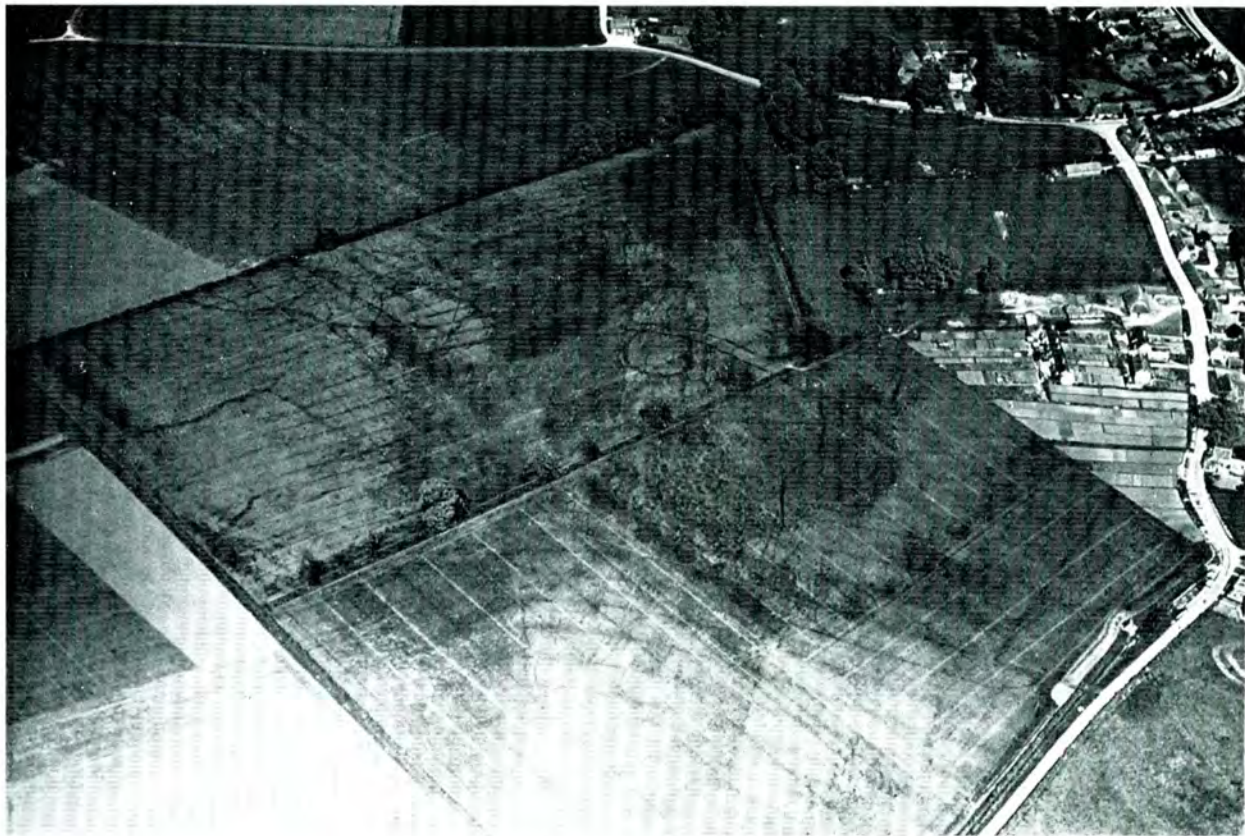
Phot. F./Lt. D. N. Riley.



GREAT MILTON, OXON.

Air-view of fields near the Three Pigeons Inn, showing natural markings, probably frost-cracks (p. 83).

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



STANTON HARCOURT, OXON.

Air-view of Black Ditch and neighbouring fields, showing enclosures approached by a lane, the whole overlain by strip cultivation (pp. 86, 99).

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