Early Iron Age Sites at Stanton Harcourt

By Ann Hamlin

INTRODUCTION

RESCUE excavation of two complexes of Iron Age post-holes, pits and gullies was done by members of the Oxford University Archaeological Society in 1961 during commercial gravel digging by Messrs. Amey's Aggregates. The sites (National Grid SP/406049) lay about ¾ mile south-west of Stanton Harcourt village in the wartime aerodrome, ¼ mile east of the River Windrush. Further details of the position of the sites and the circumstances of discovery will be found in the report on the ring-ditches.[1]

Site 1 was unknown until mechanical stripping of plough-soil in February 1961, though slight traces can be seen on an air photograph taken by Dr. J. K. St. Joseph in June 1949.[2] Part of site 2, west of the ring-ditches, can be seen on an air photograph taken in 1935 by Major G. W. G. Allen,[3] and the whole complex is clear in the 1949 photograph (PLATE 1). Site 2 was plotted from air photographs by Professor Grimes.[4] The sites lie in his fields XV and XXIV. Work by Mr. D. M. E. Avery on occupation sites farther west and south will be described in a later report. All the sites are now destroyed.

Depths are given from the surface of natural Summertown-Radley terrace gravel after the stripping of 6 to 12 ins. of plough-soil.

The finds are deposited in the Ashmolean Museum.

SITE 1

(FIG. 1)

DITCH

An L-shaped stretch of ditch was uncovered, 62 ft. long. Its northern part lay under ground unavailable for excavation, and cannot be seen in air photographs. The southern arm curved north-eastward and came to

[1] Hamlin, *Oxoniensia*, XXVIII (1963), 1–19, particularly fig. 1, general plan. The land is owned by All Souls College, Oxford. For a map showing most local sites mentioned see Bradford and Goodchild, *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), FIG. 2.

[2] University of Cambridge, Collection of Committee for Aerial Photography, CD 041.

[3] Ashmolean Museum, Allen 1150.

[4] Grimes, *Excavations on Defence Sites, 1939–45*, I (1960), FIGS. 57 and 58.

a rounded end. The ditch was sectioned at chosen points, then stretches were cleared to recover finds. It varied between 2 ft. 6 ins. and 3 ft. 6 ins. wide, and 1 ft. 9 ins. and 2 ft. 0 ins. deep. Profile and fill varied at different points, and three sections are illustrated (FIG. 3, a–a′, b′–b, c–c′; see FIG. 5 for symbols). The bulk of the fill was red-brown loam with gravel, highest of the surviving layers. Variations occurred in the lower layers where clean gravel and loam and gravel were interleaved. The sections gave no indication of a bank: in all cases the filling had occurred fairly evenly from both sides.

The only features enclosed by the ditch were pit 1 and one post-hole, noted at a late stage, with packing stones much disturbed by lorries. No other post-holes were found in the enclosed area or near the rounded ditch end, but the area north of pit 1 was very untidily or incompletely stripped. The ditch cut gully 1 and was full when gully 2 was dug.

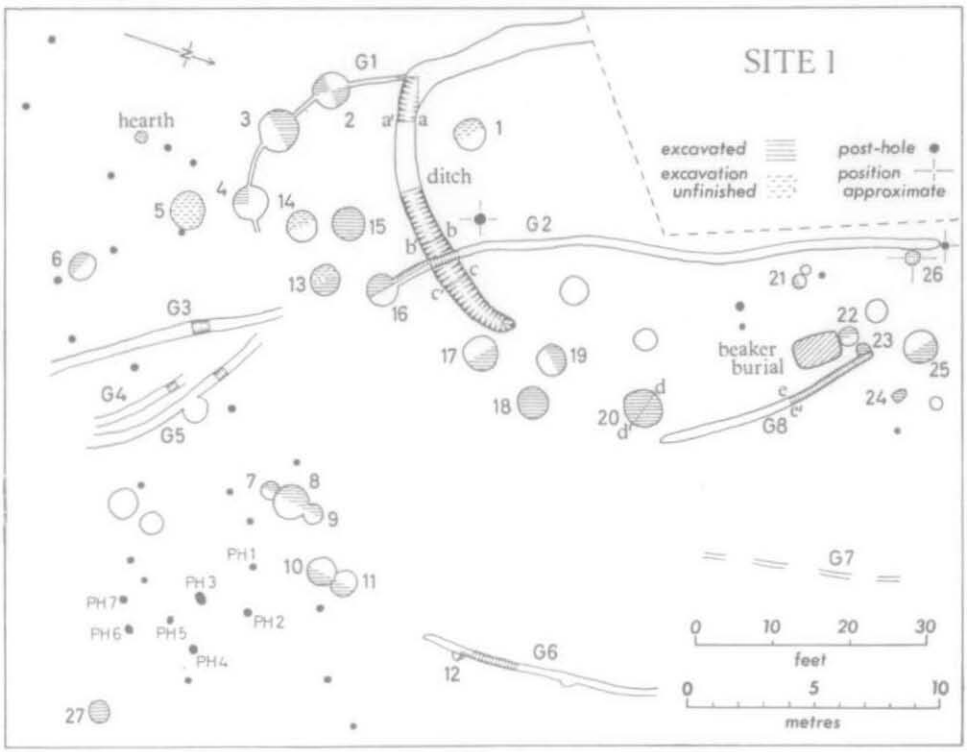


FIG. 1
Site 1: Plan.

The ditch produced 72 sherds weighing 2 lb. 4 oz. (28 sherds weighing 1 lb. belonged to FIG. 6, no. 1. Also nos. 2–5). One rim (no. 5) joined a sherd from pit 5. Other finds were bone, including a horse skull and jaw, and fire debris.[5]

POST-HOLES

There were two concentrations of post-holes and other scattered holes, making 34 in all. In some cases (e.g. pits 12, 24 and 26) it was difficult to decide if a feature was a small pit or a large post-hole.

The eastern concentration (FIG. 2, right) consisted of 12 post-holes. Nine formed a rough oval 23 ft. by 16 ft., with three outside and one inside the oval. The intervals between the holes varied between 4 ft. and 12 ft. Seven were excavated, and their depth, between 4 ins. and 9 ins., is marked in FIG. 2. Most were round, two oval, and one sub-rectangular. Three layers were distinguished in all the excavated post-holes except no. 1: the lowest was a little clean gravel; the bulk of the fill (all of 1) was red-brown loam and gravel; above this was sticky red-brown loam with charcoal flecking. No trace of posts was found, and packing stones were present only in no. 7. Finds were confined to the loam and gravel: tiny sherds from nos. 2, 6 and 7 (FIG. 6, no. 6), small bone fragments from 2 and 6, and small burned stones from 6.

The western concentration (FIG. 2, left) consisted of 8 post-holes which were not excavated. Six were unevenly spaced to form a rough semi-circle, 28 ft. in diameter. A small hearth west of this concentration was excavated. There appeared to have been three phases of use. The final phase (PLATE II) was represented by smoke-blackened, heat-crazed pebbles, charcoal and ash, set in and on a circular bed of hard-baked red sandy clay ¼ in. to 1 in. thick. Underneath was a thin layer of clean unburned gravel, then burned slabs of gravel conglomerate, separated by another unburned gravel layer from the burned conglomerate slabs of the earliest stage. The whole was bedded in 2 ins. to 3 ins. of sandy red clay, and set in a shallow circular depression, 1 ft. 6 ins. in diameter. The hearth was sampled for magnetic measurements by the Oxford University Research Laboratory for Archaeology. Mr. G. H. Weaver kindly reports: ' the resulting magnetic directions proved too scattered to give any dating evidence '.[6]

5 ' Fire debris ' describes burned stones and pebbles, cinders, and pieces of charcoal as distinct from charcoal flecking.

6 Aitken and Weaver, *Archaeometry*, 5 (1962), 8.

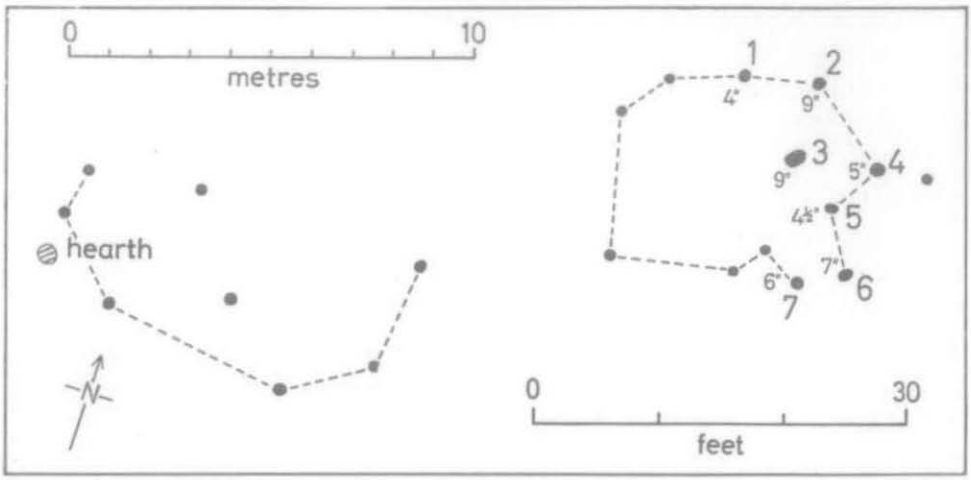


FIG. 2
Site 1: Post-hole concentrations.

PITS

Thirty-five pits were planned, and the position of one other is approximately known. Twenty-three were fully excavated or sectioned, and the excavation of three was unfinished. Pit 27 was discovered by the machine driver and its dimensions are unknown. Details of the excavated pits and their contents are set out in the accompanying table (pp. 25-7).

Most pits were circular, though a few (e.g. no. 6) were oval. Of the 26 pits on site 1 three were 2 ft. 0 ins. or less in diameter, 11 were from 2 ft. 1 in. to 4 ft. 0 ins., and 12 were from 4 ft. 1 in. to 5 ft. 8 ins. Of the completely excavated or sectioned pits, four were 2 ft. 0 ins. and under in depth, and nine were from 2 ft. 1 in. to 3 ft. 6 ins. Some had vertical sides; many, particularly the shallower pits, had inward sloping sides; some of the deeper pits were bag-shaped, with undercut sides. In some cases (e.g. no. 17) the appearance of undercutting may be due to a collapse of the gravel sides. No trace of any lining was found, though steep or undercut sides in gravel must have needed some support.[7]

The impinging of later upon earlier pits was not common. Pit 8 was cut through 7 and probably through 9, and pit 10 through 11 (FIG. 3). Pit 3 seemed to have been remodelled, the second pit being wider and shallower than the first (FIG. 5).

[7] For pit linings see Stone, *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 1 ser. IV (1857–59), 95 (Standlake), but see also Bradford, *Ant. J.*, XXII (1942), 203; Leeds, *Ant. J.*, XV (1935), 37–8 (Cassington); Myres, *Oxoniensia*, II (1937), 23–4 (Mount Farm); Bradford and Goodchild, op. cit., 7 (Frilford); Sutton, *Oxoniensia*, XXVI–XXVII (1961–62), II (Dorchester).

The filling material varied considerably. Pits 18 and 20 (FIG. 3, d–d′) contained fine dark loam with much domestic refuse, and the fill of 19 and 25 was sticky and stained dark with decayed organic matter. Charcoal flecking was widespread, and fire debris was present in a number of cases. Finds included 485 sherds (15 lb. 2½ oz.), a large amount of animal bone, pieces of clay loomweights, pieces of unburned clay, small fragments of daub, and six flint flakes. The pits near the rounded end of the ditch, and nos. 5 and 6, were particularly rich in finds. In some cases, however, (e.g. no. 16) the fill was red-brown loam and gravel with little refuse, perhaps material from the digging of new pits.

The sections show that the filling of the pits was sometimes a single process, sometimes more gradual. Pits 16 and 25 were perfectly clean when filled, and a very little gravel had accumulated in 7 and 9 (FIG. 3). A thin film of loam and charcoal had gathered on the floor of 3 before its filling (FIG. 5). When the fill consisted of several layers it was impossible to decide whether the changes of layer represented simply another basket-load from a different source, or an interval of time. The filling of 8 and 17 (FIG. 3) seemed to have been a slower process. An exceptionally sharp line of demarcation between two layers in pit 17 suggested either an interval in the filling or a partial clearance of a collapse of the side.

Pit 22 (FIG. 5) had a shallow lip in contact with the pit of Beaker burial 1.[8] Its nature was somewhat enigmatic. The lowest fill was stiff blue-green clay, with a hollow 7 ins. in diameter in the centre. Over the clay was very dark silt containing much burned matter, small decayed sherds, small fragments of bone and a flint flake. Unfortunately the finds cannot now be located. The clay bed was not baked which suggests that if the feature was a hearth it was not long in use. Eleven Iron Age sherds (2¼ oz.) were found in the topmost fill of the Beaker pit, but the exact extent and nature of Iron Age disturbance was not clear. In pit 21 loam and gravel with packing stones lay above unburned greenish-grey sandy clay, and the smaller pit beside it, although unexcavated, appeared to have a similar fill.

GULLIES

Eight small gullies were planned (marked on FIG. 1 as G1–8). All were filled with red-brown loam and gravel. Gully 1, 6½ ins. deep at its northern end, was truncated by the ditch. Farther south it was very shallow, and disappeared east of pit 4. Its relationship to the pits was not clear, though it did not run through pit 3. Gully 2, 5 ins. deep, ran through the ditch fill. Gully 3, 7 ins. deep, may be a continuation of 2, though no trace was found

[8] Hamlin, op. cit., 4–6.

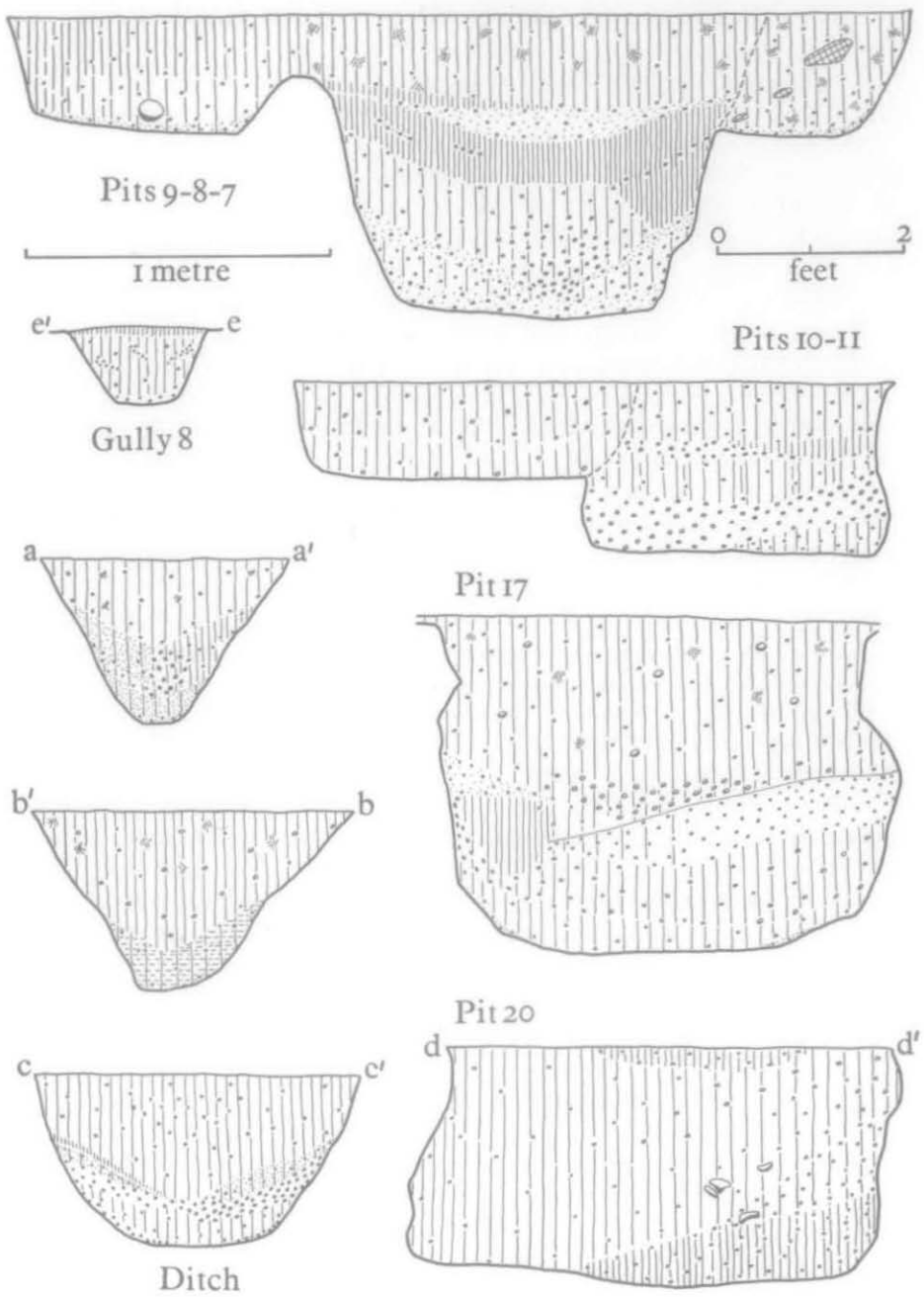


FIG. 3

Site 1: Pit, ditch and gully sections.

(See Fig. 5 for connotations.)

in the intervening 15 ft. Gullies 4 and 5 were 5 ins. deep. Gully 6, 7 ins. to 9 ins. deep, cut through the fill of pit 12. Gully 8 (FIG. 3, e′–e) was 10 ins. deep and ran through, but not north of, the fill of pit 23. It produced 21 sherds (5 oz.), small fragments of loomweight, bone, and two flint flakes.

SITE 2

(FIG. 4; see FIG. 1 for symbols)

POST-HOLES

Five post-holes, 7 ins. to 9 ins. in diameter, were planned but not further investigated.

PITS

Thirty-two pits were planned. Pit E proved to be Neolithic.[9] Ten other pits were sectioned or completely excavated, and the excavation of another was unfinished. Material was rescued by the machine driver from two other pits. Details of the excavated pits are shown in the accompanying table (pp. 25-7). Diameters ranged from 1 ft. 6 ins. to 5 ft. 0 ins. Six pits were 1 ft. 0 ins. or less in depth, and only three more than 2 ft. 0 ins. The sides of the shallower pits were usually inward sloping, and of the deeper pits undercut. Again no trace of lining material was found. The fill of the shallower pits was usually homogeneous loam and gravel, whilst the deeper pits showed more variety (e.g. 34 and 36, FIG. 5). Packing stones were set in brown loam round the edge of pit 28, but the relationship of this pit to a small gully 5 ins. deep was not discovered. There was only one case of impinging pits: 31 was cut through 30, but its true nature was not at first realized and finds from the two pits were not separated. All the pits produced sherds (135 weighing 2 lb. 9½ oz.) and bone. Other finds were fragments of loomweights, hearth debris, one flint flake, a minute iron fragment from pit 28 and an iron knife from pit 29 (FIG. 8, no. 2).

GULLIES

Three gullies were planned (FIG. 4, G9–11), all filled with red-brown loam and gravel. Gully 9 ran south from ring-ditch 2 for 97 ft., about 1 ft. 4 ins. wide. Gully 10, west of 9, ran south from ring-ditch 2 for 15 ft., about 3 ft. wide. Gully 11 ran clear of the ring-ditch for 67 ft., truncated to the north by the gravel working face, where it was 1 ft. 8 ins. wide and 4½ ins.

[9] Hamlin, op. cit., 2.

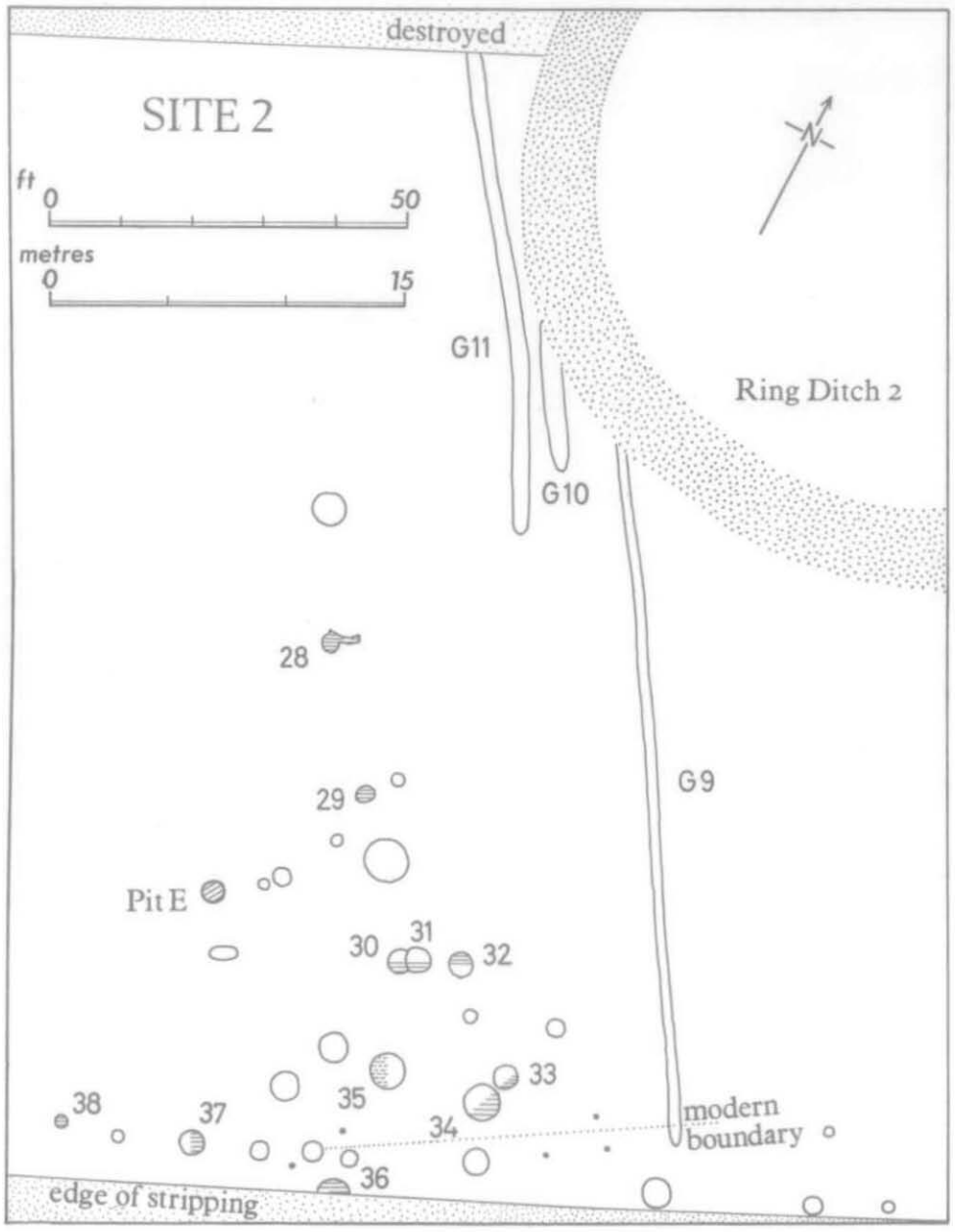


FIG. 4
Site 2: Plan.

deep. The south end of 9 produced a sherd, a flint flake, and small fragments of bone. At the time of the first survey there were very slight discontinuous traces of a gully 6 ins. to 9 ins. wide running from a little east of gully 9 west towards pit 37 (dotted on FIG. 4). This is almost certainly the line of the pre-aerodrome field boundary.[10] The crop-mark of the ditch can clearly be seen in the 1949 air photograph (PL. I).

UNSTRATIFIED MATERIAL

During the course of topsoil stripping and gravel digging much pottery (9 lb. 4 oz.) was recovered by the machine-drivers and members of the O.U.A.S. The sherds often show fresh breaks, and much was undoubtedly lost. The unstratified fragments are, on the whole, larger than the excavated sherds (large pieces would attract the drivers' attention), and selected sherds are published (p. 19) to supplement the excavated material.

SITES 1 AND 2: DISCUSSION

Although only part of the site 1 ditch was available for excavation, its plan and dimensions suggest that it was an enclosure ditch. Similar, though usually larger, ditches have been found to surround houses,[11] and the large amount of domestic rubbish in the site 1 ditch and the group of deep pits nearby does suggest a habitation site. The ditch was not formidable enough for serious defence; it was probably dug to restrain animals. Drainage here would not be a serious problem. A narrow, steep-sided ditch would soon silt up (FIG. 3 a–a′ and c–c′ show the stages), and to be effective during long use would need frequent cleaning. The profile at b′–b (FIG. 3) suggested cleaning and slight recutting. There is no indication of the use to which the small amount of spoil was put, but there is likely to have been a small bank on the inner lip of the ditch.

The pits must have served for storage, and foul storage pits were clearly used for rubbish. Domestic waste must have been valuable compost, and its use is suggested by the scatter of Iron Age sherds over the nearby ring-ditches.[12] The pits were not as densely crowded as at many local sites[13] suggesting a shorter or less intensive use of the site.

[10] Grimes, op. cit., fig. 57, and 141 n. 3.
[11] e.g. Beard Mill, Stanton Harcourt (Williams, *Oxoniensia*, XVI (1951), 9–10, fig. 4).
[12] Hamlin, op. cit., 14. See also Rhodes, *Oxoniensia*, XV (1950), 13.
[13] Bradford, op. cit., 205, fig. 1 and pl. XXIX (Standlake); *Oxoniensia*, VI (1941), 85 (Eynsham); Williams, op. cit., FIG. 4 (Beard Mill).

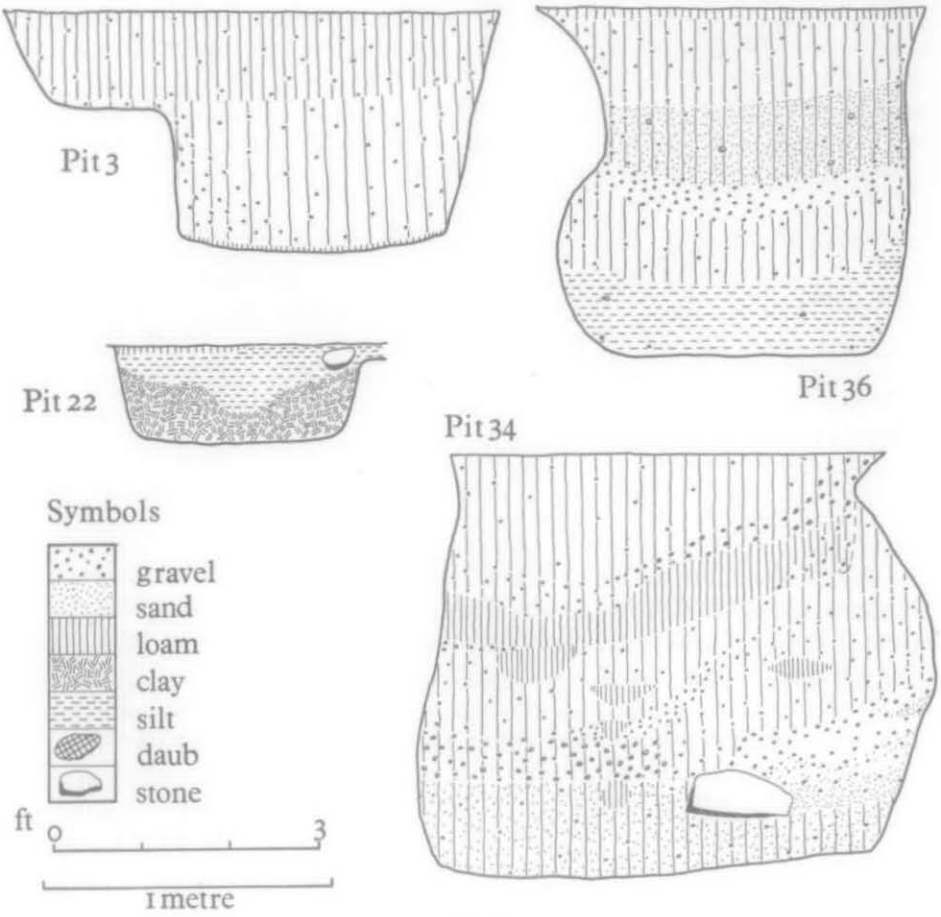


FIG. 5
Sites 1 and 2: Pit sections.

Post-holes are the most easily lost or overlooked feature, and it is likely that some were lost during mechanical scraping. It was never possible to see and excavate the eastern concentration as a whole. No floor level survived, and the holes would not have held very substantial uprights, but the plan (FIG. 2, right) suggests a house with a porch to the south-east.[14] The western concentration may have been the site of a second house: a semi-circular

[14] Riley, *Oxoniensia*, XI–XII (1946–47), fig. 9.

house was found at Beard Mill.[15] But in view of the unsatisfactory circumstances of discovery and inadequate examination, the identification of house sites cannot be pressed. Scattered post-holes are a common feature of Iron Age settlement sites, and some domestic or agricultural use for the other post-holes must be assumed.

Slight gullies, too, are common on settlement sites. In some cases stone packing or associated post-holes have been found, for example at Beard Mill.[16] But the points tested on the site 1 gullies provided no information about their purpose. The longest, gully 2, with the possible addition of gully 3, may have been a boundary belonging to a period after the disuse of the ditch. The others were perhaps for fencing, occasional drainage, or some other domestic or agricultural purpose.

The excavation of site 2 was still less complete than site 1 and problems remain unsolved, but the same features recur: pits, post-holes, and slight gullies. The relationship of gullies 9 and 10 to the ring-ditch was not discovered, but it seems reasonable to relate them to the Iron Age occupation. They may have formed a boundary, shifting slightly with time.[17] Except for gullies 9 and 10 the Iron Age features do not impinge on the ring-ditches, though these seem to have been under cultivation.[18]

No direct evidence of grain growing was found on either site, but the presumed storage pits are indirect evidence of arable farming.[19] The large number of animal bones attests the importance of stock-keeping, especially of oxen and sheep and goats (p. 22), but there is no clear evidence of hunting or fowling. Loomweight fragments and the bone comb (p. 22) are evidence for weaving. Iron (p. 21) was clearly scarce, as on similar sites in the region, and probably much prized. There was no evidence for smelting, and none for the use of bronze. No flint implements were found, but struck flakes were among the finds (p. 21), and in the absence or scarcity of metal it seems likely that flint was used.

In view of the partial and somewhat piecemeal nature of the excavations, it is hardly possible or justifiable to speculate further on the nature of the settlement. But it does seem likely that these are homestead rather than village sites. The occurrence of clusters of occupation suggests the possibility of mobility within a limited area. The material seems on the whole homogeneous, but the length of the time-spans involved is unknown.

[15] Williams, op. cit., fig. 6, 10–12.
[16] Ibid., 14–15.
[17] Riley, op. cit., fig. 9 (Standlake).
[18] See note 12.
[19] Stephen Stone noted carbonized grain in a pit at Stanton Harcourt: op. cit., 215.

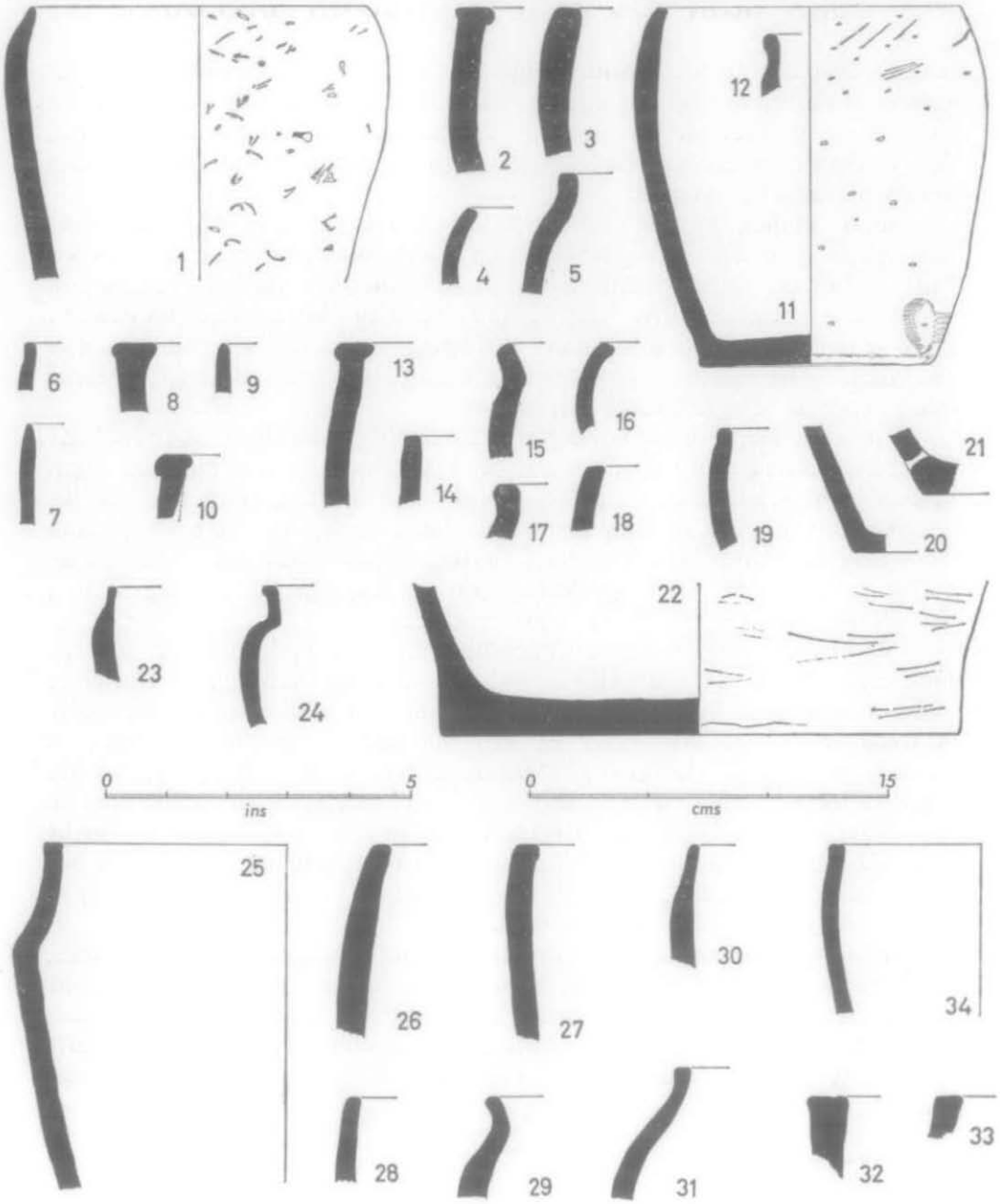


FIG. 6
Site 1. Scale 1:3.

THE FINDS

For details of finds from the ditch, post-holes, pits and gullies see pages 25–7.

POTTERY

Site 1 produced 593 sherds weighing 17 lb. 14 oz. Of these, 33 sherds were rims (representing about 25 pots), 30 were bases (21 pots), and 22 are illustrated in FIG. 6. Site 2 produced 135 sherds weighing 2 lb. 10 oz. including 22 rims (18 pots), 6 bases (6 pots), and 1 decorated body sherd. Fifteen are illustrated in FIG. 7. Unstratified sherds weighed 9 lb. 4 oz. including 49 rims (29 pots), 10 bases (4 pots), and 2 decorated body sherds. Twenty-six are illustrated in FIGS. 6 and 7.

The bulk of the sherds came from the ditch and some of the pits, especially pits 5, 6, 18 and 20. Other pits, the post-holes and gullies produced little or no pottery. Many sherds were small and some were abraded. Joining sherds broken in antiquity were rare, but pots 1 and 11 (FIG. 6) were almost completely reconstructable. The few intersecting pits produced no distinctive sherds so gave no help for chronology. One sherd from pit 5 joined another from the ditch (FIG. 6, no. 5).

Variety in shape, colour, composition of body and hardness of firing together with the scarcity of fine pottery and distinctive forms make classification difficult. A few distinctive forms do emerge, but many sherds are too small or too generalized in shape to be of any significance. Of the rims, no fewer than 34 were simple, flattened or rounded, with no sign of a shoulder (e.g. nos. 9, 14, 41, 42, etc.). They show minor variations, for example a slight demarcation of the rim with the thumb internally or externally, slight evertion or inward-sloping, but variations of this kind are accidents of manufacture, not significant typological traits. Most of the unillustrated rims are very small sherds of this kind. These sherds are too small for certain reconstruction, but most are probably from simple forms like nos. 11, 34 and 50.

The rim form which emerges most clearly is flattened and expanded. In nos. 2, 10 and 13 the clay has been rolled over, smoothed and welded down to the pot wall. The method is clear from examples where the flange has broken away. A similar flange (no. 8 outer flange, no 13 inner flange) is more simply made by pinching out and grooving with a finger-nail. No. 35 has thinner, more angular flanges, their sharpness suggesting the use of a knife in finishing. Nos. 8, 32, and 62 show a simple club-shaped expansion of the rim. In nos. 47, 51, 52, and 58 an expanded rim is used for plastic decoration.

Except for no. 25 and a few more fragmentary possible examples, forms with a marked shoulder are absent. Most of the pots represented were probably barrel- or bucket-shaped, ovoid or straight-sided. An ovoid jar or bowl form with square sectioned rim is represented by nos. 4 and 16. The rim of nos. 1, 23 and 30 is thinned. Amongst the more distinctive rims nos. 15 and 29 are everted, 5 and 31 upright above a rounded shoulder, and no. 24 is exceptionally well-formed with beaded rim, upright neck and rounded body. No. 56 may be the neck of a tripartite carinated bowl, but very little of the shoulder angle survives.

Only 10 sherds were decorated: no. 40 with an incised chevron pattern, nos. 51 and 52 with finger-tips, and nos. 58 and 59 with finger-nail impressions. The

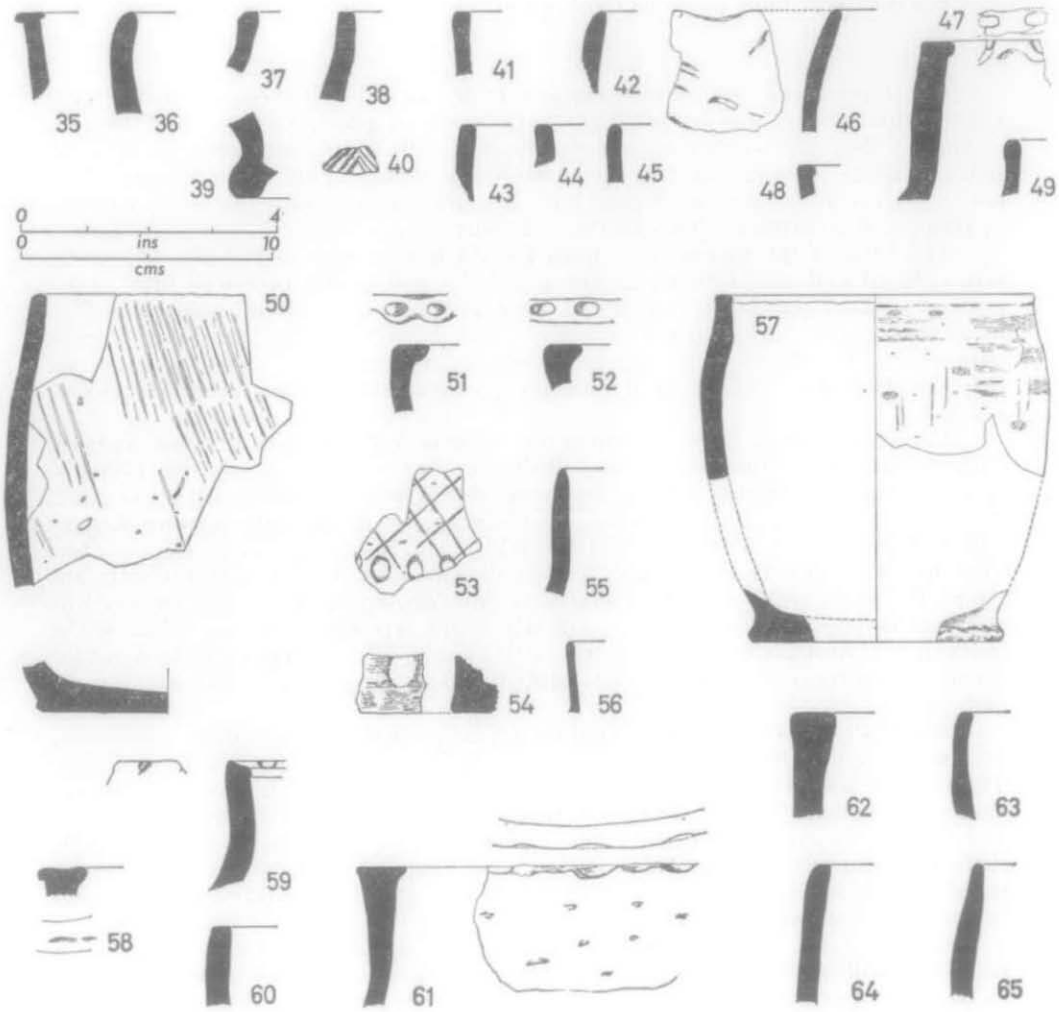


FIG. 7
Site 2. Scale 1:3.

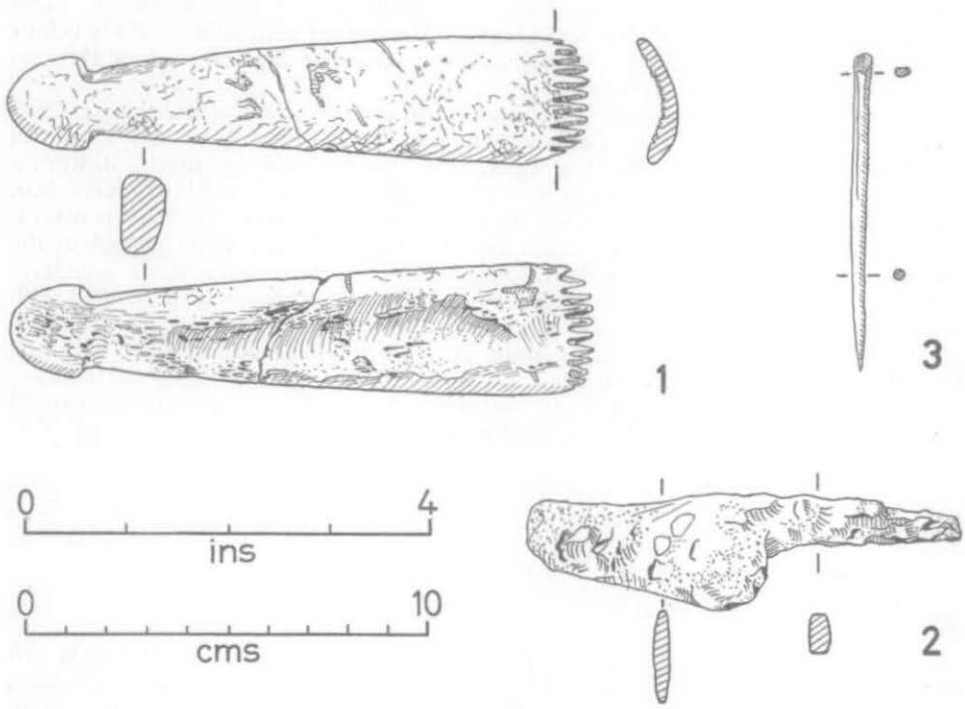


FIG. 8
1 and 3 bone; 2 iron.

depressions in the rim of no. 47 are too small for a finger. They are combined with a plastic swagged moulding inside the rim. No. 61 is decorated with ' pie-crust ' impressions on the outside of the rim. Finger-prints and excised lines forming a lattice of diamonds are combined on no. 53. No local parallel to this sherd has been found, and no close parallel farther afield. No. 54 probably belongs to the same pot.

In the pottery catalogue the following terms are used: *filler*, a material added to clay to make it more easily worked; *body*, the mixture of clay and filler from which the pot is made; *grog*, crushed sherds used as a filler.

One distinctive type of body, represented by nos. 2, 10, etc., was light grey clay, with shell and sometimes grit filling, the surfaces fired buff to yellow. This was confined to site 1. A second distinctive type, confined to site 2 and represented by nos. 46, 55, 63 and 64, was a grey-buff-red clay, again with shell and sometimes grit filling, fired to a ringing hardness and tending to crack around the larger fragments of filler. The body of the majority of sherds was less distinctive.

Fossil shell was the filler most commonly used,[20] usually ground quite small,

[20] Cf. use at Chinnor (Richardson and Young, *Ant. J.*, XXXI (1951), 148).

but larger fragments up to 12 mm. long, and exceptionally longer, do occur. This use of shell often has the effect of speckling the pot surface with white. Body colour ranges from black through grey to red, and the surfaces from body colour through brown and buff to yellow and red.

Most of the pots are fairly carefully smoothed and slight striations are often visible. No. 50 shows very marked striations. Burnishing is confined to rim no. 33 and a few sherds of fine black clay (on a rough count for site 1, 36 from a total of 593 sherds), but smoothing sometimes approaches a burnish in places (e.g. nos. 31 and 34). The surface of no. 22 may have been slurried and facets from a smoothing tool are clear. This finish and the fine body are unparalleled in the rest of the material. No. 24 is burnished, and its regularity suggests it may have been finished on a wheel. One body sherd from pit 5 appears to be coated with haematite slip, which is not common on coarser wares, and occurs very rarely north of the Thames.[21] In a few cases signs of coil- or ring-building were noticed; these are mentioned in the catalogue.

Some sherds are soot-blackened externally. Some have a deposit of carbonized material adhering inside, and occasionally outside.

POTTERY CATALOGUE

Arranged by groups, not types.

SITE 1 (FIG. 6)

Ditch : 1. Barrel-shaped pot with incurving thinned rim. Body black, grit filled. Surfaces: inner black to red-brown, much carbonized material adhering; outer purplish to red-brown, much burned-out organic matter, probably chaff. Less inside, little visible in breaks. Amount suggests deliberately added. 2. Flat rim, expanded in flanges, probably ovoid form. Body grey, shell and grit filled. Surfaces yellow-brown, speckled white with shell. (Cf. nos. 10, 13 and Frilford, *Oxoniensia*, IV (1939), FIG. 6, 30–1.) 3. Heavy flat rim, probably ovoid form. Body grey, coarse lumpy clay, grit and shell filled. Surfaces grey, outer very rough, inner better smoothed. 4. Square-sectioned rim, ovoid form. Body grey, grit and shell filled. Surfaces: inner red brown; outer dark grey. (Cf. no. 16 & Beard Mill, *Oxoniensia*, XVI (1951), FIG. 10, 40.) 5. Flat rim, short upright neck, rounded shoulder. Body grey, heavily shell filled. Surfaces: inner dark brown; outer black. Diameter about 7 ins. (Cf. Radley, *Ant. J.*, XI (1931), FIG. 2b, 14.)

Post hole 2: 6. Flat rim. Black body, filling material includes grog. Surfaces: inner dark-brown; outer black.

Pit 4: 7. Pointed rim, slightly thinned near the break. Angle uncertain, possibly slightly everted. Red-brown body, shell and grog filled. Surfaces grey-brown with vertical striations.

Pit 5: 8. Heavy flat rim, inner side expanded, outer slight flange. Black throughout, grit and shell filled. (Cf. Allen's Pit, *Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), FIG. 10, 19.) 9. Rounded upright rim. Fine, hard-fired, black throughout, filled with finely comminuted shell. 10. Flat rim, expanded in flanges, probably ovoid form. Body

[21] Bradford and Goodchild, op. cit., 15–16.

grey, grit filled. Surfaces yellow. (Cf. nos. 2, 13.) A rim from pit 5 joined another from the ditch (no. 5 above).

Pit 6: 11. Almost complete barrel-shaped pot with flat rim and thick base. Body black, shell filled. Surfaces: inner orange-buff-black, much carbonized matter adhering, and some organic matter burned out; outer black at rim, brown to purplish below. Thumb-print above base, clearly accidental. Some cavities in base, suggesting pot put down on dirty surface (probably chaff). (Cf. Allen's Pit, no. 8, FIG. 12, 44 (Yarnton) and Chastleton, *Ant. J.*, XI (1931), FIG. 7, Ws 1.) 12. Rounded rim, thumb groove below delimiting neck. Body black, fine shell filled. Surfaces: inner buff; outer black.

Pit 13: 13. Flat flanged rim, probably ovoid form. Flange inside pinched out, outer side clay folded over and welded down. Body light grey, grit filled. Surfaces buff to orange. Another rim sherd, same pot or similar, not illustrated. (Cf. nos. 2, 10.) 14. Flat rim, upright neck. Body black, shell filled. Surfaces: inner black; outer brown with vertical striations.

Pit 18: 15. Heavy everted rim, externally bevelled and clearly defined with a thumb groove. Body dark grey, shell and grit filled. Some organic matter burned out. Surfaces buff, with striations from wiping. 16. Square sectioned rim, ovoid form. Body dark grey, shell and grit filled. Surfaces: inner grey to red-brown; outer black, some soot adhering. Another rim, same or similar, not illustrated. (Cf. no. 4.) 17. Flat rim, bevelled internally and externally. Body light brown, shell filled. Surfaces: inner soot blackened; outer red-brown. 18. Flat rim, closed form. Dark grey to red-brown throughout, heavily shell filled.

Pit 20: 19. Flat rim, probably ovoid form. Body dark grey, heavily shell and grit filled. Surfaces buff to black, with wiping striations. Heavy encrustation of carbonized material inside. 20. Simple base. Body dark grey, shell filled. Surfaces: inner light brown, many cavities from burned-out filling material; outer red to light brown, carefully smoothed. 21. Heavy base. Dark grey throughout, very hard-fired. Small fragments of filler, probably shell. Carefully finished, in places almost burnished. Sherd broken across hour-glass perforation horizontally through pot wall. Perhaps re-used as a weight. 22. Very heavy flat base and beginning of thin wall. Light grey body, fine clay. Small grit filling and some shell. Surfaces: inner body colour, rough, with hard white deposit adhering; outer pinkish-buff-black, very carefully finished, clear facets from smoothing instrument.

Pit 25: 23. Thin rim, slightly flattened, thickening below in rounded shoulder. Body light grey, shell and grit filled. Surfaces buff to black with carbonized matter adhering inside and outside. Another rim sherd, same pot, not illustrated.

Pit 26: 24. Very well formed rim, short upright neck and rounded shoulder. Body grey, small grit and shell filling. Surfaces: inner grey; outer grey-brown. Burnished inside and outside. Outer surface traces of facets from burnishing tool. (Cf. Radley, vide supra, no. 5, FIG. 2b, 2 & Cassington, Leeds, *Ant. J.*, XV (1935), FIG. 2, 2g & h.)

UNSTRATIFIED

Area W. of Site 1: 25. Flat rim, concave neck and part of wall of shouldered jar. Flattening of rim causes slight flanges inside and outside, though not a constant

feature. Body light grey, shell and grit filled. Surfaces: buff to orange, some horizontal grooving inside, horizontal and diagonal striations outside. Tendency to crack along the shoulder suggests a join in coil- or ring-building. (Cf. Mount Farm, *Oxoniensia*, II (1937), FIG. 6, $\theta 5$ & FIG. 8, $\mu 8$.) 26. Flat rim, probably ovoid form. Black body, fine clay, with great variety of filling material, including grit, shell, grog. Surfaces brick red to buff except for one black patch. Diam. about 8 ins. 27. Flat rim, variable section, slightly thickened internally, with groove from thumb finishing on inside. Straight-sided form. Body black, shell filled. Surfaces black and buff-brown. Striations from wiping, and in places smoothed almost to a burnish. Diam. about 7·5 ins. 28. Flat rim. Body grey, grit filled and a little shell. Surfaces: inner light grey to buff; outer buff and smoke blackened with carbonized matter adhering.

Area of Site 1: 29. Rounded everted rim, rounded thickened shoulder. Body black, friable, fine-grained sandy clay; no sign of added filling material. Surfaces buff. (Cf. Radley, vide supra, no. 5, FIG. 2b, 3 and Beard Mill, vide supra, no. 4, FIG. 10, 28.) 30. Thin rim, widening to thick slightly rounded shoulder. Body light grey, grit and shell filled. Cavities left by organic fragments. Surfaces: inner orange to buff; outer rough, brown, smoke-blackened. Another rim sherd, same pot or similar, not illustrated. (Cf. Chastleton, vide supra, no. 11, FIG. 5, Ws 3.) 31. Flat rim and rounded shoulder. Probably globular form. Sandy black body with shell and grit filling. Surfaces: inner black, cavities from burned-out organic matter; outer black to buff, slight burnish upper part of shoulder. Both surfaces striations in several directions. 32. Heavy expanded flat rim. Probably straight-sided form. Body reddish-grey, shell and grit filled. Surfaces: inner black; outer body colour. Slight groove along top of rim. 33. Flat rim sloping inward and trace of shoulder. Fine body. Black throughout, very hard fired. Surfaces flecked white with shell, burnished. 34. Much of rim and upper walls of tub-shaped pot. Rim generally flattened, though profile variable. Fine grey body, small shell and grit filled. Surfaces: inner orange-buff-black, carbonized matter adhering; outer black, slightly burnished at rim, buff-orange below, carefully smoothed.

SITE 2. (FIG. 7)

Pit 31: 35. Flat flanged rim. Sharpness of inner flange suggests use of a knife. Distinctive light grey body, slightly vesicular, with large shell filler fragments. Surfaces yellow-brown; harsh sandy feel, with smear marks from smoothing wet clay. Two rims from same pot not joining. 36. Pointed rim, probably ovoid form. Body and surfaces black to red-brown, grit and heavily shell filled.

Pit 34: 37. Flat rim, faceted externally, with beginning of shoulder. Black throughout, speckled with fine shell filler. Hard fired and well smoothed. 38. Flat rim, slightly concave neck. Body fine black, small shell filled. Surfaces light brown to buff. 39. Very heavy base angle, markedly splayed. Body grey; coarse lumpy clay, grit and shell filled. Surfaces: inner dark grey; outer buff. 40. Decorated body sherd. Fine black body. Brick red surfaces. Pattern of chevrons: wide incisions and in some cases apparently excisions (clay cut out). Smooth break on lower edge, probably join in coil- or ring-building. (Cf. Standlake, *Ant. J.*, XXII (1942), FIG. 3, no. 1.)

Pit 35: 41. Flat rim, upright neck. Body light grey, shell filled. Surfaces black near rim, buff below.

Pit 36: 42. Rounded rim, probably ovoid form. Body dark grey, shell filled. Surfaces red brown. 43. Flat rim. Body, outer and lower inner surface black; rim and upper inner surface red. Shell and grit filled. Cavities where filling material burned out. 44. Flat rim with trace of shoulder. Body and surfaces red to purple, speckled white with small shell filler. 45. Rounded rim, upright neck. Body dark grey, small shell filled. Surfaces reddish-grey. 46. Rounded rim. Angle uncertain but probably ovoid form. Body dark grey to red, shell and grit filled, very hard fired, tending to crack round larger fragments of filler. Surfaces red with smears from wiping. Rim scalloped outline, probably intentional. (Cf. Chastleton, vide supra, no. 11, FIG. 8, Wn 53.)

Pit 37: 47. Flat rim, inward sloping neck and beginning of shoulder. Rim internally expanded and pinched to form swags, and depressions in top of rim. Grey body, sandy, shell and grit filled. Surfaces: inner buff; outer brick red. Hard fired, well smoothed. Harsh feel.

Pit 38: 48. Flat rim. Clay rolled over inside to form irregular flange. Body black, fine shell and grit filled. Surfaces buff. 49. Flat, slightly thickened rim. Body black, heavily shell filled. Surfaces: inner red-brown; outer black. Diam. about 6 ins.

UNSTRATIFIED

From 'a pit': 50. Upper part and much of base, barrel shape. Rim profile variable: flat tending towards pointed. Base pinched out to form slight expansion. Body grey, shell filled. Surfaces: inner grey to brown; outer dark red, with marked striations. These are not simple single lines but show 'grain'. Rim diameter unknown.

From another pit, details unknown, but can probably be regarded as a group. 51. Flat, internally flanged rim, decorated with small depressions, probably small finger tip, lightly applied. Clay between depressions pinched, producing scalloped inner circumference of rim. Sandy body, grey to brown, shell and grit filled. Surfaces dark grey, harsh feel. 52. Rim of similar form to no. 51, but clay between depressions not pinched. Flange formed by squeezing clay up from pot wall and out from rim and welding together. Body similar to 51; surfaces purplish-brown to buff. 53. Decorated body sherd of thick walled vessel. Shows no curve. Possibly nearing base, as illustrated, or nearing a shoulder with depressions at top. Decorated with finger impressions and excised lines of V section forming diamonds. Grey body, shell and grit filled, very hard fired. Tendency to crack along lines of decoration, and around large shell fragments. Surfaces: inner buff and black; outer red-brown. Joins another sherd recovered by machine driver. 54. Base fragment with finger-print. Body as no. 53, and almost certainly same pot. Body tending to split longitudinally, suggests a coil or ring join. Impressions of organic matter on base as though put down on chaff before hard. 55. Three sherds. Pointed rim, straight neck and the beginning of shoulder. Body grey-buff, shell and grit filled, very hard fired as no. 46. Red-brown surfaces speckled white with shell. 56. Rounded rim, angle uncertain, and trace of shoulder. Possibly part of a carinated bowl. Grey throughout, tiny fragments of white shell filler. Very thin walled and

carefully smoothed: almost burnished. (Cf. Allen's Pit, vide supra, no. 11, FIG. 13, 7 (Stanton Harcourt).)

Area of Site 2: 57. Much of squat, somewhat globular pot with upright neck and splayed base. Flat rim, slight flange pushed down inside. Body dark grey, shell and grit filled. Surfaces: inner grey to orange, some carbonized matter adhering; outer black to buff, striations from smoothing, in places almost a burnish. 58. Flat rim, internal expansion and well-defined external flange. Decoration of finger-nail jabs longitudinally along rim. Body red-brown. Filling material includes shell and red fragments (? grog). Surfaces brown-red-buff. 59. Upright neck and beginning of flaring shoulder. Light finger-tip impressions on sloping rim top causing slight flange on inside. Outside diagonal finger-nail impressions. Body grey, shell filled. Surfaces: inner red-brown; outer buff to grey. Very hard fired. Harsh sandy feel and fissured surface. 60. Flat rim. Body black, very heavily shell filled: small and large fragments up to 2 cm. Surfaces black to purplish-red, speckled white with shell. 61. Heavy flat expanded rim of wide-mouthed vessel. Flange pushed up inside. Outer edge spaced finger-tip depressions producing 'pie-crust' decoration. Body greenish grey, coarse lumpy clay, shell filled, and some cavities where organic fillers burned out. Surfaces black to orange. (Cf. Wittenham Clumps, *Oxoniensia*, XIII (1948), FIG. 9, 3—6 and Mount Farm, vide supra, no. 25, FIG. 7, B3.) 62. Heavy flat rim, expanded on inner side. Orange-buff throughout, heavily shell filled. 63. Flat rim. Red-brown throughout, shell filled, very hard fired. Inner circumference of rim squeezed, but not enough survives to tell if this is accidental or deliberate to produce scalloped outline. 64. Flat rim. Body dark grey, shell filled, very hard fired. Surfaces buff-brown, carefully smoothed. 65. Thin rounded rim, thickening below. Red-brown throughout. Variety of filling material including shell, grit and ? grog. Surfaces: striations from smoothing.

DISCUSSION

The flat-topped rim, often expanded, was the most distinctive pottery trait, allying the site in the most general terms to others in the Upper Thames region.[22] The present material is similar to pottery from Chastleton and Radley published by Leeds,[23] and parallels can be picked out from the coarse element of many local sites. It would also be possible to find parallels among the coarse pottery from sites farther afield. But the rarity of distinctive forms severely limits the value of local parallels, and makes distant parallels quite meaningless.

There are no fine burnished carinated forms as found at Long Wittenham, only two incised sherds as at Allen's Pit, only one example of haematite as at Frilford, no arcaded decoration as at Chinnor.[24] Also absent are features

[22] E.g. Myres, op. cit., fig. 7 (Mount Farm); Leeds, *Ant. J.*, XI (1931), 401, fig. 2b (Radley); Rhodes, *Oxoniensia*, XIII (1948), fig. 9 (Wittenham Clumps).

[23] Op. cit. (1931).

[24] Savory, *Oxoniensia*, II (1937), fig. 2; Bradford, VII (1942), figs. 10–11; Bradford and Goodchild, op. cit., 15–21; Richardson and Young, op. cit., 142, fig. 7.

taken to be characteristic of the later Iron Age in the region: burnished decorated tub-shaped pots as found at Frilford and Cassington,[25] and still later wheel-thrown pots as at Langford Downs and Linch Hill, Stanton Harcourt.[26]

The strong persistence of an Iron Age "A" tradition in the region has often been claimed. In some cases, for example at Mount Farm, later influence has been seen, but at Hinksey Hill and Wittenham Clumps[27] it was claimed that the older tradition persisted to the Roman period. It is not possible to say in the present case whether the absence of characteristic late forms (e.g. burnished decorated tub-shaped pots) is due to poverty and cultural isolation, or whether it is chronologically significant; but the apparently predominant barrel and bucket shapes suggest a later rather than an earlier date in the pre-Roman Iron Age.

Decorated sherds are confined to site 2, but the material from the two sites seems fairly homogeneous, and it is unlikely that the two were separated by any great length of time.

CLAY

Eight pits and gully 8 produced fragments of triangular *loomweights*. Two large pieces from pit 36 were perforated. The clay was coarse and lumpy, tending to crack and fracture, with a little grit or in some cases apparently no filling material. The fragments varied in colour from grey to orange.

Amongst the unstratified material from site 2 was a twist of fired *pot clay* with shell filling.

Fragments of friable sandy red burned *daub* were small and no wattle marks were noted.

FLINT

Twenty *struck flints* were found, ten excavated and ten unstratified. All were indeterminate flakes, with no retouch or signs of use.

IRON

Pit 29 produced an *iron knife* (FIG. 8, no. 2). Length 10·7 cm. Maximum width 3 cm. Length of tang. 4·7 cm. Tip of blade broken. Line of back slightly "humped". (Cf. *All Cannings Cross* (Cunnington 1923), PL. 20, NO. 14.)

[25] Bradford and Goodchild, op. cit., 21–4; *V.C.H. Oxon.* I (1939), pl. XI f.
[26] Williams, *Oxoniensia*, XI/XII (1946–47), fig. 17; Grimes, VIII/IX (1943–44), fig. 24.
[27] Myres, *J.B.A.A.*, new series, XXXVI (1930), 360–90; Rhodes, op. cit. (1948), 23.

WORKED BONE

Comb (FIG. 8, no. 1), recovered by machine driver from pit 27. No associated finds. Length 14·5 cm. 11 teeth. Upper side convex, carefully worked and polished. Under side cancellous tissue partly decayed, but originally flat near base, concave near teeth. Oval termination defined by notches. Undecorated. (Cf. *The Glastonbury Lake Village*, I (1911), 270 (Bulleid & Gray), type 2 & Chastleton, Leeds, op. cit. (1931), 387, FIG. 2.)[28]

Pin or needle (FIG. 8, no. 3) Unstratified. Area of site 1. Broken end. Surviving length 8 cm. Section round near point, becoming wider and flatter towards head, but no sign of perforation. (Cf. *All Cannings Cross*, PL. 6.)

ANIMAL BONE

Mr. J. W. Banks of the Department of Zoology, Liverpool University kindly reports on the bone material. The animal remains fall into two groups. Those from the gullies and ditch were mostly fragmentary and largely unidentifiable, similar to bone from the upper levels of the nearby ring-ditches.[29] These fragments must represent scattered surface debris. The second group was excavated from the pits. It included a much larger proportion of recognizable material. Almost all the pits contained some burned or partly burned bone. This second group must represent domestic rubbish thrown into the pits.

The majority of the bones were of oxen and sheep/goat. Some horse, pig and dog were also present. Three horn cores could be definitely identified as goat and one as sheep. Pig was particularly well represented in site 2 pits. The pig bones were predominantly from immature animals, though the possibility that they were from wild animals cannot be ruled out. Immature sheep/goat bones were also common. Some very small bones must belong to foetal animals.

Many of the ox long bones and some of the sheep/goat limb bones had been split to extract marrow. The horn core bases showed cuts from severing from the skull. There were no obvious signs of disease.

CHARCOAL

Most of the pieces recovered were small. Mr. J. R. Pilcher of the Department of Botany, Queen's University, Belfast, kindly reports:

[28] Local sites producing combs include Radley, Chastleton, Mount Farm, Chinnor and Hatford (*Oxoniensia*, V (1940), 162).

[29] Hamlin, op. cit., 14.

Site 1:

Pit 2 *Quercus* (Oak).
Pit 5 *Corylus* (Hazel).
Pit 18? *Sorbus* (likely to be Whitebeam, but possibly Rowan or Hawthorn).
Pit 24 *Quercus*.
Ditch probably *Betula* (Birch), but possibly *Alnus* (Alder).
Hearth? *Sorbus* as Pit 18.

Site 2:

Pits 30–31 *Quercus* and *Corylus*.
Pit 34? *Sorbus* as Pit 18.
Pit 35 *Quercus*.

CONCLUSION

Research excavations at Little Woodbury made possible a detailed reconstruction of the site's economy.[30] Although much Iron Age material is available from the Oxford area, a picture of this kind has not yet emerged, and the need remains for research as well as rescue excavation.[31] Stanton Harcourt, with several distinct areas of Iron Age occupation, is one of many sites of great promise.[32] The present work contributes some small finds and pottery groups, but the excavations were too incomplete to recover the full potential of the sites.

A number of distinctive, sometimes datable metal objects have been found in the Oxford district, usually not in cultural contexts, for example the Minster Ditch scabbard,[33] the Standlake sword,[34] and a remarkable concentration of pins and fibulae at Wood Eaton.[35] The contrast between these and the material from sites like the present ones is very strong, and a cultural context for the fine metalwork has not yet been satisfactorily demonstrated.

The rustic nature of the Stanton Harcourt material, the presence of a bone comb and possibly of a round house, and the absence of exotic Continental elements link the site with Beard Mill, Mount Farm, Standlake, and other local sites, and in a wider context with Little Woodbury.[36] It is not possible to date the material at all closely, but a later rather than earlier date in the pre-Roman Iron Age seems likely.

[30] Bersu, *P.P.S.*, VI (1940), 30–111.
[31] *Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 53.
[32] Riley, *Oxoniensia*, VIII/IX (1943–44), fig. 30.
[33] Jope, *P.P.S.*, XXVII (1961), 316–17, 323–4, fig. 7, PL. XXII.
[34] Jope, in Frere, *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain* (1960), 76–7.
[35] Taylor, *J.R.S.*, VII (1917), 103–5; Dunning, *Arch. J.*, XCI (1934), 273, figs. 2, 3 and 4, 288–290–1; *V.C.H. Oxon.* I (1939), 259–60, pl. XII; *Oxoniensia*, XVII/XVIII (1952–53), 217, fig. 41.
[36] Bersu, op. cit., and see Hodson, *P.P.S.*, XXX (1964), 102–7.

ANN HAMLIN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank Messrs. Amey's Aggregates, Ltd. for permission to excavate, and their machine drivers for much help; Mr. V. Thompson of Sutton who allowed us to excavate on his farmland; the Ashmolean Museum for the loan of equipment; the Ministry of Public Building and Works for financial assistance; Mr. H. J. Case and Mr. D. Sturdy for help and advice, and Mr. Sturdy for the initial plan of site 1; Mr. J. W. Banks, Mr. J. R. Pilcher and Mr. G. H. Weaver for their reports; Mr. G. Dawson who supervised much of the work on site 2; Mr. D. Harding who has kindly discussed the pottery with me; Miss G. Dunlop for FIG. 8; Mr. D. Crossley for PL. II; and members of the O.U.A.S. for much help.

The Editorial Committee is grateful for a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works towards the cost of publishing this article.

DETAILS AND CONTENTS OF EXCAVATED PITS

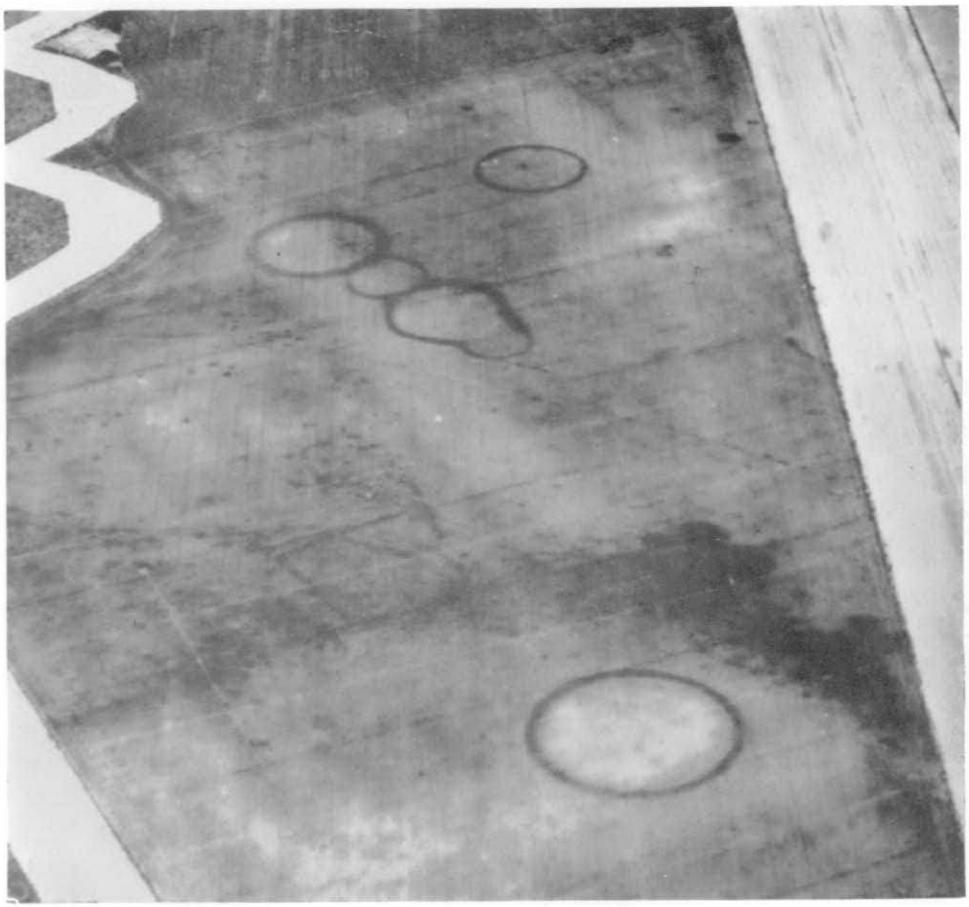
Pit	Diam.	Depth	Sides	Fill	No.	Sherds Weight	Illus.	Bone: Ox	Horse	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Dog	Flint flakes	Fire debris	Daub	Loom-weights
1	4′	1′+*	V	gravel	5	2 oz.	—	—	—	/	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	5′	2′ 1″	V	3 layers loam and gravel	6	3 oz.	—	/	/	—	—	—	—	/	—	—
3	5′ 8″	2′ 8″	I/S	FIG. 5	3	⅓ oz.	—	/	—	/	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	5′×4′ 6″	2′ 8″	V	6 layers, alternate loam+gravel	22	7⅔ oz.	FIG. 6, 7	—	—	/G	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	5′	2′+*	V	3 layers loam and gravel	24	12 oz.	FIG. 6, 8, 9, 10	/	/	/	—	—	—	/	—	/
6	4′×3′ 6″	2′ 10″	slightly U/C	4 layers loam and gravel	53	2 lb. 3½ oz.	FIG. 6, 11, 12	///	—	/	—	—	—	—	/	—
7	*c.* 2′ 6″	1′ 4″	I/S	FIG. 3	3	½ oz.	—	/	—	/	—	—	—	//	/	—
8	*c.* 5′	3′ 3″	I/S	FIG. 3	2	½ oz.	—	/	—	/	—	—	—	/	—	—
9	*c.* 3′ 3″	1′ 3″	I/S	FIG. 3	1	½ oz.	—	/	—	/	—	—	—	//	—	/
10	*c.* 3′ 9″	1′ 0½″	I/S	FIG. 3	6	1 oz.	—	/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11	*c.* 3′ 6″	1′ 10″	slightly U/C	FIG. 3	6	½ oz.	—	/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12	2′	10″	I/S	loam+gravel	1	1 oz.	—	/?	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	4′	1′ 4″	I/S	loam and gravel above a little sandy gravel	13	6¼ oz.	FIG. 6, 13, 14	burned, unidentifiable					—	—	—	/
14	4′	9″+*	V	loam+gravel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	4′ 4″ ×4′ 6″	2′	slightly U/C	2 layers loam and gravel	4	¾ oz.	—	/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Pit	Diam.	Depth	Sides	Fill	Sherds No.	Sherds Weight	Sherds Illus.	Bone Ox	Bone Horse	Bone Sheep/Goat	Bone Pig	Bone Dog	Flint flakes	Fire debris	Daub	Loom-weights
16	4′ 6″	11″	I/S	loam+gravel	4	¼ oz.	—	small, unidentifiable					—	—	—	—
17	4′ 9″	3′ 6″	U/C	FIG. 3	42	7 oz.	—	/	—	/	—	—	—	/	—	—
18	4′ 4″ ×4′ 7″	2′ 6″	V base U/C	2 layers loam +gravel	97	2 lb. 15½ oz.	FIG. 6, 15-18	/	/	/// /G	/	—	4	//	/	/
19	4′ 1″	1′ 8″	I/S	4 layers loam +gravel above sandy gravel	8	4 oz.	—	/	—	/	—	—	—	/	—	—
20	4′ 10″ ×5′ 6″	2′ 7″	part I/S part U/C	FIG. 3	110	4 lb. 1 oz.	FIG. 6, 19-22	//	/	//	/	//	—	//	/	—
21	2′ 2″	10″	I/S	clay below loam +gravel with stones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	2′ 9″	1′ 1″	I/S	FIG. 5+p. 5												
23	2′ 7″ ×2′ 2″	8″	I/S	loam+gravel	5	½ oz.	—	/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	1′ 10″ ×1′ 4″	9″	V	loam+gravel	5	2¾ oz.	—	small, unidentifiable					1	—	—	—
25	4′ 4″	3′	very U/C	clayey loam, stained greenish grey	16	8¾ oz.	FIG. 6, 23	//	—	//	—	—	—	/	—	—
26	2′	5″	V	fine dark loam	21	4½ oz.	FIG. 6, 24	//	—	/	—	—	1	—	/	—
27	Found by	machine	driver, p. 4	and FIG. 8, 1.												

Pit	Diam.	Depth	Sides	Fill	Sherds No.	Sherds Weight	Sherds Illus.	Bone: Ox	Horse	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Dog	Flint flakes	Fire debris	Daub	Loom-weights
28	2′ 6″	6″	I/S	stones in loam	11	2¾ oz.	—	—	—	/	—	—	—	—	/	—
29	2′ 2″ ×1′ 10″	6″	slightly I/S	loam+gravel	Only find iron knife			FIG. 8, 2					—	/	—	—
30	*c.* 3′ 6″	1′ 4″	V	gravel+loam above loam +gravel	20	1 lb. ½ oz.	see p. 7 FIG. 7, 35–6	—	—	/	/	—	—	/	/	/
31	*c.* 3′ 4″	1′ 7″	I/S	loam+loam+ gravel, above clean gravel												
32	3′ 6″	6″	slightly I/S	loam+gravel	7	1½ oz.	—	/	—	/	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	3′	1′	I/S	loam+gravel	1	½ oz.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34	5′	4′ 9″	U/C	FIG. 5	38	11¼ oz.	FIG. 7, 37–40	//	—	//	/	—	1	/	/	/
35	4′ 11″	2′ 2″+*	I/S above U/C below	tips of gravel +loam+gravel	18	5½ oz.	FIG. 7, 41	/	—	/	/	—	—	/	/	/
36	4′ 4″	3′ 11″	I/S+ U/C	FIG. 5	23	9½ oz.	FIG. 7, 42–6	///	/	/	/	—	—	/	—	/
37	3′ 10″	8″	I/S	loam+gravel	1	3 oz.	FIG. 7, 47	/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38	1′ 6″	6″	I/S	loam+gravel	16	7¼ oz.	FIG. 7, 48–9	small, unidentifiable					—	—	—	—

V Vertical
I/S Inward sloping
U/C Undercut
* Excavation unfinished

PLATE I



RING-DITCHES AND IRON AGE SITES AT STANTON HARCOURT, AERIAL VIEW

Ph.: J. K. S. St. Joseph: Crown Copyright reserved

PLATE II

SITE 1: HEARTH. Scale: 12 inches

Ph.: D. Crossley