

## Notes and News

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES 1968-69

*Abingdon, Berks.* During the early part of 1969, several members of the Abingdon Archaeological Society kept watch on the new road being built between the Vineyard and Ock Street. Material from all historic periods was discovered; it included a complete 4th-century colour coated bowl from the underpass excavation, a group of early 18th-century fragments from the grounds of Stratton House, a coin weight of the early 15th century, lead pieces and a silver halfpenny of Edward I or Edward II.

*Eynsham, Oxon.* New Wintles Farm. Within the area of the Anglo-Saxon settlement, reported separately on p. 1, Mrs. S. Hawkes and Mrs. M. Gray encountered and excavated a number of prehistoric features.<sup>1</sup> These included: (1) A small double enclosure, with discontinuous ditches, containing late Neolithic cremation burials. This feature was excavated under the direction of Mrs. Robin Kenward. (2) Two small domestic pits containing pottery of the Beaker culture, similar to that from Cassington (*Oxoniensia*, xxix/xxx (1964/5), fig. 22, 59 ff.). (3) Several pits containing pottery of the First A phase of the early Iron Age, including furrowed bowls and fragments of large jars with white-inlaid, incised, geometric ornament. One pit yielded a horn weaving comb. (4) From some Saxon huts and Iron Age pits came worked flints, including scrapers and arrow-heads, of the Neolithic and Beaker cultures, indicating a fairly extensive rubbish survival on the site of earlier prehistoric date. (SP/432108.)

Mrs. Kenward writes:

To the north of the Saxon settlement excavated by Mrs. Hawkes lay an oval complex of ditches and pits (PL. VII) with a long axis of 11 m., aligned NE/SW.

The outer oval consisted of a causewayed ditch about 1 m. wide at the surface, the segments of varying lengths. Causeways did not correspond with the gaps between the ends of two banana-shaped inner ditches, which lay eccentrically within the oval enclosure. Each was 6 m. long and about 1 m. wide.

At each end of the oval area enclosed by the banana-shaped ditches was a large oval pit. Within each lay, more or less centrally, the last vestiges of a human cremation (a young child in each case). These lay on the surface as exposed preparatory to gravel-digging, and presumably most of each cremation had been removed.

An isolated rim of Abingdon ware was found in situ in the SW pit, at a depth of 0.12 m. from the surface.

Three more cremations in separate pits lay between the inner and outer ditches on the western side.

Samples of burnt material have been submitted for radiocarbon dating.

*Islip, Oxon.* A mesolithic site with microlithic backed blades, scrapers, awls and manufacturing debris has been found by Mr. Crum in the east bank of the River Cherwell. (Ashmolean Museum: 1969.331-343; SP/525133.)

*Islip, Oxon.* (see also under *Woodeaton*).

<sup>1</sup> These notes are an expansion of the report in *Oxoniensia*, xxxiii (1968), 138.

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*Long Hanborough, Oxon.* An iron hoe, of the type commonly called a spud, was found by Mrs. Floyd in her garden—remade ground on the site of a former gravel quarry (FIG. 19a). The spud has local parallels at Shakenoak and Dorchester,<sup>2</sup> both examples coming from late Roman contexts. (SP/416138.)

*Oxford, 39-41 High Street.* A glass wine bottle was found during rebuilding. The seal is that of the King's Head tavern with the initials R W for Richard Walker, the licensee, and the date 1687, the date in which Walker acquired his wine licence. It is the earliest known bottle with Walker's stamp; the shape of the bottle is the standard 1680's type.<sup>3</sup>



FIG. 19

- a. Iron hoe from Long Hanborough, scale 1 : 2.
- b. Bronze pin from Woodeaton, scale 1 : 1.
- c. Inlaid tile from Abingdon, scale 1 : 2.

<sup>2</sup> A. C. C. Brodrick, et al., *Excavations at Shakenoak*, 1 (1968), fig. 32, 24; and an unpublished example from Dorchester now in the Ashmolean Museum: for context see S. S. Frere, *Arch. Journ.*, cxix (1962), 119.

<sup>3</sup> E. T. Leeds, *Oxoniensia*, vi (1941), 50 and 52, no. 28.

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*Oxford.* In addition to the work reported elsewhere in this journal, the Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee has been involved in rescue work at the following sites in the City :

*Westgate, the Greyfriars.* Three burials were recorded ; one had been in a stone coffin sealing an earlier well. (SP/51120598.)

*Westgate, Church Street.* Burials were uncovered at the north side of St. Ebbe's, and a rubbish pit was uncovered well into the road at the west end of Church Street. The street must have been considerably much narrower than at present. (SP/51210603.)

*18 Queen Street.* An extremely dangerous site revealed the usual complex of rubbish pits, but little stratified material could be recovered. (SP/51240613.)

*Little Clarendon Street.* Late medieval pits were uncovered, and some stratified material was recovered. (SP/51070691.)

*Wadham College.* Part of the Austin Friars cemetery is in process of being uncovered. (SP/51590655.)

*Rewley Abbey.* Nothing came to light during the building of the new fire station.

*Shakenoak Farm, Northleigh, Oxon.* Excavations of the Roman and Saxon features on this site have been continued throughout the year by Messrs. Brodribb, Hands and Walker. Their second excavation report is due out at the end of 1969 ; it may be obtained directly from Dr. A. Hands, Exeter College, Oxford.

*Thomley, Oxon.* History staff and students of the Lady Spencer-Churchill College carried out an emergency operation in March 1969 on part of a deserted medieval village site under the plough. A survey of the field was made, and the visible stonework plotted. The village area still under pasture has since been separately surveyed. Surface pottery was collected ; it ranged from the 11th century onwards, with a concentration between the 13th and 15th centuries and also included a small quantity of Roman sherds. (SP/630091.)

*Thomley, Oxon.* Roman pottery of the 3rd and 4th centuries has been collected by Mr. P. Rowsell on his farm. The pottery comes from an area which is slightly raised above the surrounding ground. (SP/627095.)

*Woodeaton, Oxon.* A bronze ring-headed pin of Early Iron Age type (FIG. 19b) was found by Mr. J. Cope near the path where it passes the copse on Middle Hill. The pin, 9 cm. long, had lost its head in antiquity. There are twelve other bronze ring-headed pins in the Ashmolean Museum from this site, and three swan-necked pins, two with flattened heads. The site,<sup>4</sup> traditionally known as Woodeaton, it actually in Islip parish. (Ashmolean Museum : 1969.250 ; SP/536126.)

P. D. C. BROWN.

### A NEW TILE DESIGN FROM ABINGDON (FIG. 19c)

During 1968 a portion of an inlaid floor-tile was found by Andrew Milner on the bank of the Thames at Abingdon. The tile is fired to a hard dark purple fabric, and the glaze is dark brown, with brown streaks over the inlaid pipeclay design. The design shows two fishes, head to tail, their mouths joined by a line, all within a square frame. The dimensions are : length 135 m.; thickness 0.02-0.022 m.

<sup>4</sup> *Oxonienasia*, XIV (1949), 15.

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The design has not been recorded before. The tile belongs to the Wessex series;<sup>5</sup> its quality, colour and size, and the square frame round the design are typical of the group. Its date is therefore late 13th or 14th century; and it presumably comes from Abingdon Abbey.

Designs with fishes occur in the Chapter House at Westminster,<sup>6</sup> and on various Midland tiles,<sup>7</sup> but not in this form. A representation of the Zodiacal sign *Pisces* is obviously intended. Such designs are frequent in manuscript illustration though I do not know of them on tiles elsewhere. This is therefore an interesting addition to the tilers' stock of designs, and possibly only one of a complete set of signs of the Zodiac made especially for the Abbey.

The finder has given the tile to the Ashmolean Museum; accession number 1969.249.

D.A. HINTON.

### ROMAN BURIALS FROM ARDLEY, OXON.

In September 1966, workmen digging a trench for the North Oxfordshire water main found a skeleton in a field south of Ashgrove Farm, Ardley. The trench crossed the field from south-west to north-east, starting from its junction with the north side of the Heyford road at SP/53522586, and joining the west side of the A43 at SP/53822578. The skeleton lay in the south side of the trench at a point 117 m. from the Heyford road, SP/53652571.

Upon investigation by Don Benson, it was found that most of the bones, belonging to what had evidently been an extended inhumation, had already been removed together with two jet pins which were apparently found next to the skull. The skeleton was orientated north-east to south-west, head to the north-east. Only a part of the skeleton was recoverable for examination: the gracile long bones and the small size of the femoral head, brow ridges, and the mastoid process suggest a female. From the lower mandible, the slight wear on the first molar, the lack of wear on the third molar, and the absence of calculus and caries suggest a young adult in her twenties.

Although all traces of the lower half of the skeleton had been removed, excavation of the trench side (plan, FIG. 20) revealed several nails, presumably from a wooden coffin, and a compact group of three pots in the south corner of the grave. Vessel A was lying at an angle of *c.* 45°, as though it had originally been placed in an upright position, but both vessels B and C were horizontal.

The grave itself was 2 m. long with its floor 86 cm. below ground level, the lower 25 cm. being cut into a yellow clay-and-stone subsoil. The fill of the grave was a reddish brown stoney loam, difficult to distinguish from the surrounding material above the subsoil.

About 4 m. south-west of this inhumation, the two pots D and E were found and broken during the mechanical excavation of the trench, and fragments of a third vessel similar to D were found in the same area. At least one of these pots, E, had contained a cremation; reddened earth and burnt stone still remained in the vicinity. The workmen reported that, when first discovered, pots D and E were probably originally upright.

<sup>5</sup> N. R. Whitcomb, *The Medieval Floor Tiles of Leicestershire* (1956), 2-24.

<sup>6</sup> P. B. Clayton, *Arch. Journ.*, LXIX (1912), 59, fig. 5.

<sup>7</sup> P. B. Chatwin, *Trans. Birmingham Arch. Soc.*, LX (1936).

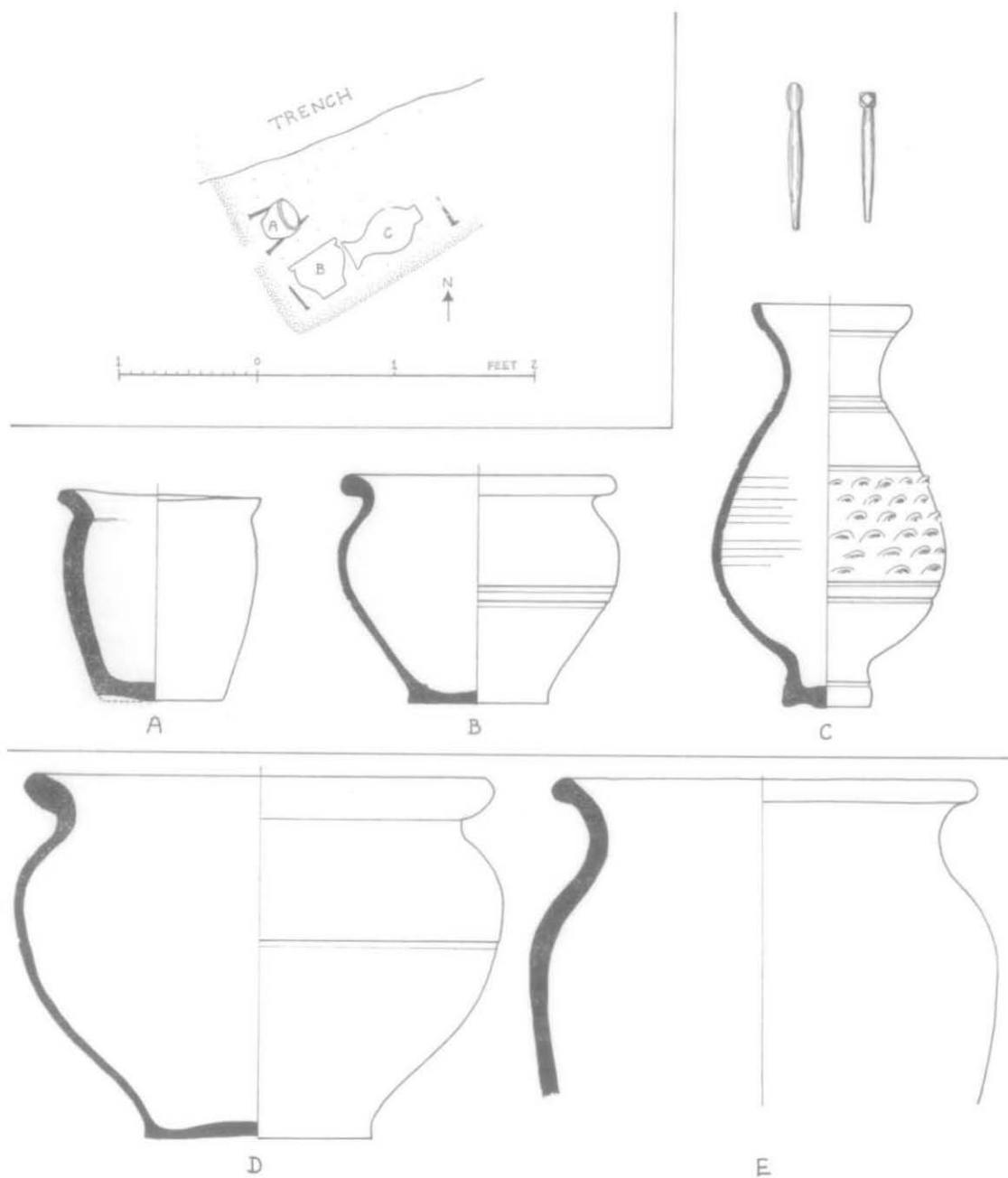


FIG. 20

Ardley ; inset plan of the grave which contained pots A, B, C and the jet pins ; D, E are cremation pots ; scale of objects 1 : 3.

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### *Description of the finds: grave goods from the inhumation*

*Pot A:* Small handmade pot in thick shell-tempered fabric; pinky-buff surfaces with a grey core; inside fingered, outside smooth but uneven; irregular everted rim. The surface of the base is missing. Diam. 0.088 m.; Height 0.085 m.

*Pot B:* Wide-mouthed bowl with flat base and a double girth groove just below the belly, string marks on base; the fabric is light buff grey, finely textured; the surface is covered with a dark grey wash which has been much abraded. A  $\times$  has been scratched on the base since firing. A patch of lime encrustation, or fur, on the inside of the pot shows that it had been lying on its side, as was noted during excavation. Diam. 0.122 m.; Height 0.103 m.

*Pot C:* Small vase with narrow neck, flaring mouth and bung-shaped foot. A dimple has been turned out of the base of the foot. Burnished grooves surround the foot, the neck and the rim, and border a band of applied scales on the belly of the pot. The fabric is orange-buff, finely textured with small orange lumps in it; the outside and the mouth are coated with a brown slip, now much abraded. Diam. 0.10 m.; Height 0.176 m.

*Jet Pins:* (1) Short fat shaft with ovoid head, point missing. Length 0.063 + m.

(2) Short fat shaft with faceted head—an irregular cube with the corners knocked off, point missing. Length 0.057 + m.

### *Individual cremation pots*

*Pot D:* Wide-mouthed bowl with flat base and a single girth groove on the belly, string marks on the base; the fabric is light grey, finely textured and easily abraded. Diam. 0.21 m.; Height 0.155 m.

*Pot E:* Ovoid jar with curling rim, lacking the base; thick, shell-tempered fabric, pinky buff surfaces with a grey core. The inside is fingered; the outside and lip are smooth and even. The jar seems to be handmade and to have been finished on a wheel. Diam. 0.195 m.; Height restored, c. 0.25 m.

### *Discussion of the finds*

Pot D, the large wide-mouthed bowl is the standard form of cremation pot in this region. Its fabric, shape and dimensions can be paralleled by cremation pots from Benson,<sup>8</sup> Cassington<sup>9</sup> and Barton,<sup>10</sup> Oxon. These pots are the typological, and probably also the chronological, successors of cremation pots from Frilford,<sup>11</sup> Berks. and Woodeaton<sup>12</sup> and Headington,<sup>13</sup> Oxon.; and these, in turn, are descended from the Romano-Belgic cremation pots such as one from Allen's pit, Dorchester.<sup>14</sup>

The Ardley pot, and its miniature counterpart, pot B, have reached a stage of development of the shape which remains more or less constant into the 4th century. Examples datable to the 3rd and 4th centuries, of large and miniature size, and in hard grey, or red or red-brown colour-coated fabrics come from Sandford,<sup>15</sup> Ditchley<sup>16</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Ashmolean Museum, 1934.18.

<sup>9</sup> Ashmolean Museum, 1934.360.

<sup>10</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xvii/xviii (1952/53), 222.

<sup>11</sup> Ashmolean Museum, 1949.249.

<sup>12</sup> Ashmolean Museum, 1910.779.

<sup>13</sup> *Oxoniensia*, xiv (1949), 76, fig. 10.

<sup>14</sup> *Oxoniensia*, i (1936), 93, fig. 15, no. 30.

<sup>15</sup> Sandford kilns, *Archaeologia*, lxxii (1921/2), 240-1.

<sup>16</sup> Villa; *Oxoniensia*, i (1936), 60, fig. 11, no. 22.

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and Dorchester,<sup>17</sup> Oxon. and Verulamium,<sup>18</sup> Herts.—though by this time they have ceased to be used as cremation pots.

The shell-tempered pots, A and E, in so-called 'calcite-gritted ware', are both made in the same way; they are thick, handmade, and their shell particles are of large size with a few exceptionally large pieces. They should be distinguished from the late 4th-century shell-tempered wares which are common in the region;<sup>19</sup> these are universally wheel-made, thinner, more precisely formed, and frequently have a rilled outer surface. Another example of wheel-made pottery which was in use not very far to the north is represented by the pot which contained the Irchester coin hoard;<sup>20</sup> this is firmly dated by its contents to the late 3rd century.

Recent excavations at Shakenoak Farm, Northleigh, have shown a small but continuous occurrence of shell-tempered sherds throughout the occupation of the site from the early 2nd century onwards;<sup>21</sup> so the technique itself is not necessarily an indication of early or late date. Parallels to the shape of the large pot from Ardley, and apparently in the same handmade shell tempered ware come from Shakenoak,<sup>22</sup> Oxon. and Tiddington,<sup>23</sup> near Stratford-on-Avon.

The scale-patterned pot, C, has more distinctive characteristics which allow it to be dated more precisely. The shape seems to be an enlarged and refined version of the so-called 'unguent pot', which was normally made in buff or white fabric, and provided with spirals winding round the body. These vessels are dated to the early and middle 2nd century in the north of Britain,<sup>24</sup> and at Verulamium<sup>25</sup> and Wroxeter,<sup>26</sup> and were being made at that time at Colchester;<sup>27</sup> a larger version occurs in the late 2nd-century amphora burial at Richborough.<sup>28</sup>

Scale patterns occur on two glazed vessels from Silchester,<sup>29</sup> but these are undated. In conjunction with colour coating, applied scales form one of the standard, though not particularly common, decorative devices of both Castor<sup>30</sup> and Colchester<sup>31</sup> on vessels datable to the late 2nd and first half of the 3rd century. Neither of these two manufacturing centres has produced the combination of shape and decoration that appears on this pot from Ardley, and it may be a product of one of the local kiln sites; one sherd, with scale pattern and brown colour coat was found at the kiln site at Cowley,<sup>32</sup> Oxon.

<sup>17</sup> Wally Corner, rural site, *Oxoniensia*, xxvi/xxvii (1961/62), 17, fig. 3, nos. 31, 37.

<sup>18</sup> Theatre, 4th century deposits, *Archaeologia*, lxxxiv (1935), 258, fig. 11, no. 17.

<sup>19</sup> Park Street villa, St. Albans, *Arch. Journ.*, cii (1945), 93; Whittington Court villa, Glos., *Trans. Britol & Glos. Arch. Soc.*, lxxi (1952), 56, fig. 4.

<sup>20</sup> *Journ. Rom. Stud.*, liv (1964), 164. The pot is in Northampton Museum.

<sup>21</sup> A. C. C. Brodribb, et al., *Excavations at Shakenoak*, 1 (1968), 51.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 72, fig. 24, nos. 127, 128.

<sup>23</sup> W. Fieldhouse, et al., *A Romano British Industrial Settlement near Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon* (1931), 51, pl. xx, nos. 4, 5.

<sup>24</sup> J. P. Gillam, *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain* (1968), type 36.

<sup>25</sup> R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Verulamium* (1936), pl. lxx, 2.

<sup>26</sup> D. Atkinson, *Wroxeter* (1942), 292, fig. 44, no. 86.

<sup>27</sup> M. R. Hull, *The Roman Potters' Kilns at Colchester* (1963), 134, fig. 72.

<sup>28</sup> B. W. Cunliffe, *Richborough*, v (1968), 27 and 118, pl. lxx, no. 521.

<sup>29</sup> T. May, *The Pottery found at Silchester* (1916), 117, pl. lxxix, no. 63 and 101, pl. xl.

<sup>30</sup> *V.C.H. Northants*, i, fig. 32; B. R. Hartley, *Notes on the Roman Pottery Industry in the Nene Valley* (1960), 25, fig. 4.

<sup>31</sup> Colchester kilns: Hull, *op. cit.*, fig. 58.

<sup>32</sup> Between Towns Road, *Oxoniensia*, vi (1941), 20, fig. 5, no. 40.

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The jet pins are of the two commonest types at York<sup>33</sup> itself, in which region they were probably manufactured. Most finds of jet come from burials such as this; the beginnings of the jet-working industry are dated by finds from burials, and cannot be used the other way round.

On the basis of these widespread parallels, the Ardley burial may be dated to the end of the 2nd or the first half of the 3rd century. The larger pots must be more or less contemporary. Pot E certainly contained a cremation, and pot D must be presumed to have done so. On these grounds they are probably earlier rather than later than the inhumation, for this was the period of change from the one rite to the other.<sup>34</sup>

Finally it is worth noticing the corner of the inhumation grave which was carefully excavated and planned (FIG.). The nails point inwards, and must be presumed to be part of a coffin rather than of a framework that might have been built in the grave to support the sides. The pots must have been placed inside the coffin; pot A, upright, below the feet or between them; pots B and C tipped on their sides to fit in between the side of the coffin and the left leg of the corpse. In this position, anything that they contained, whether solid or liquid, would have spilled out into the coffin: it seems as though they must have been placed with the burial at the last moment, when the coffin was already in position in the grave.

There seems no doubt that the drain trench was dug through a Roman cemetery, and that a settlement of some sort must be situated nearby. The nearest recorded finds are of 'extensive remains' at Ballard's Copse on Aves ditch, a mile to the north-west, and of coins, in the centre of the village, a mile away to the north.<sup>35</sup>

The material from the site has been deposited in the City and County Museum, Woodstock; accession numbers: 555-63.

D. BENSON and P. D. C. BROWN.

## THE ANGLO-SAXON GRAVE FROM BATTLE EDGE, NEAR BURFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

In his survey of 'Anglo-Saxon remains' for the *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, the late E. T. Leeds<sup>36</sup> mentioned the objects, now in the British Museum, found with a male burial at Battle Edge, west of Burford (approx. N.G.R. SP/247120). No details of the circumstances of the discovery of the find are known, but it is an old find for the objects were purchased by the British Museum for £4 os. od. in 1848 (accession number 1848, 7-27, 1-4). Leeds' brief description is repeated by Mrs. Meaney,<sup>37</sup> but the objects have not previously been illustrated. In view of the current interest in Anglo-Saxon swords,<sup>38</sup> it was though desirable that attention should be drawn to this grave.

<sup>33</sup> EBVRACVM, R.C.H.M. York, 1 (1962), 141-4.

<sup>34</sup> R. G. Collingwood and I. A. Richmond, *The Archaeology of Roman Britain* (1969), 166.

<sup>35</sup> V.C.H. Oxon., 1 (1939), 330.

<sup>36</sup> V.C.H. Oxon., 1 (1938), 367.

<sup>37</sup> A. Meaney, *A Gazetteer of Early Anglo-Saxon burial sites* (1964), 205.

<sup>38</sup> S. C. Hawkes, 'Swords and Runes', *Ant. J.*, XLVII (1967), 1-26; V. I. Evison, 'The Dover Ring-sword and Other Sword-rings and beads', *Archaeologia*, CI (1967), 63-118; D. H. Kennett, 'Graves with swords at Little Wilbraham and Linton Heath', *P. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, LXIV (1971) forthcoming, cited as Kennett.



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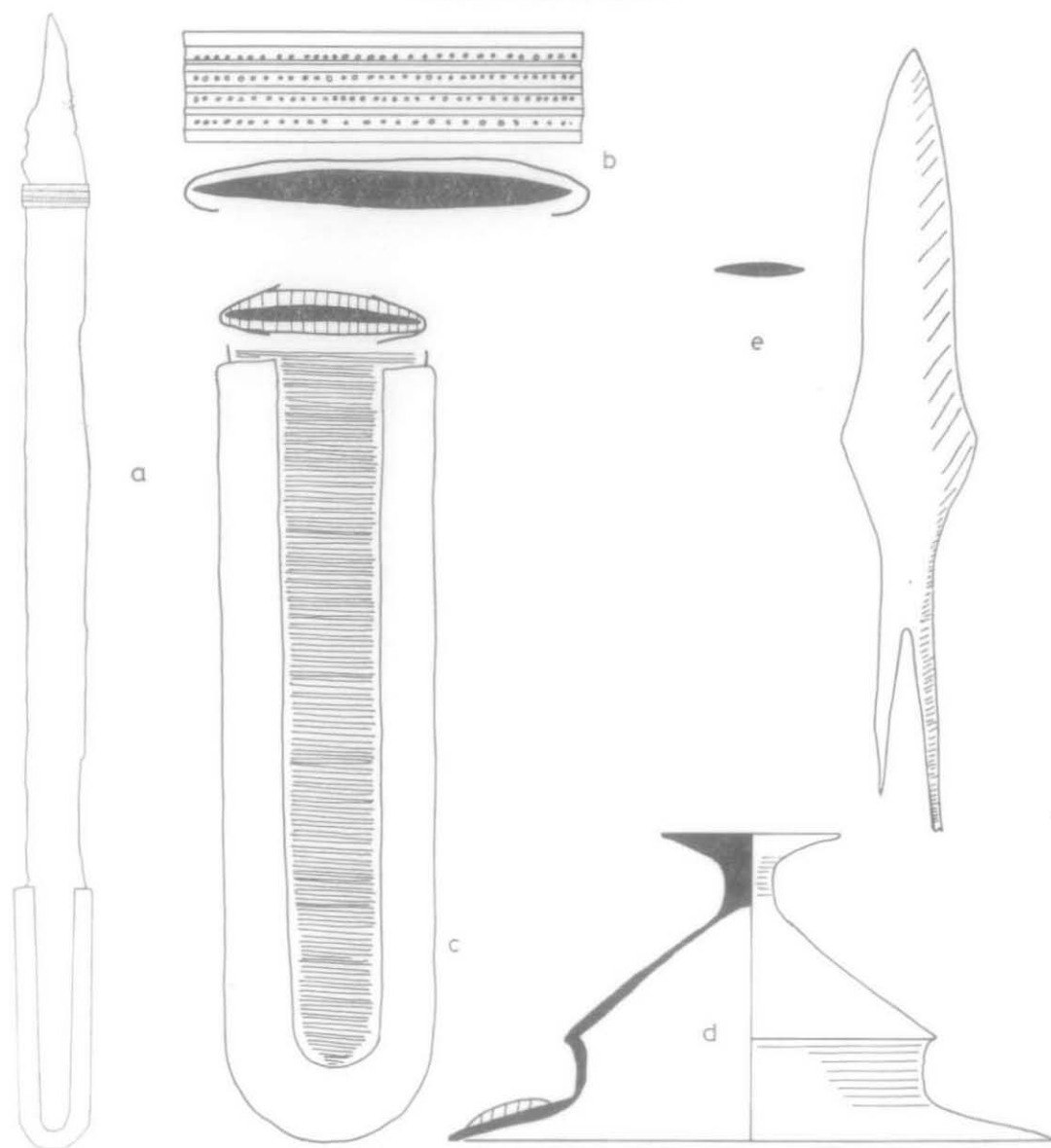


FIG. 21

The finds from the Anglo-Saxon grave at Battle Edge, near Burford, Oxfordshire.  
Scales : a 1/6 ; b 1/1 ; c-e 1/2.

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### *Description of the objects*

All objects are British Museum, 1848, 7-27, x.

1. Sword (FIG. 4a) of iron, length 93.0 cm. including the chape. There are traces of a wooden scabbard on both sides, and at the mouth a gilt bronze mount ornamented with five ridges and four rows of dots in the depressions (FIG. 4b). At the tip is a plain bronze chape, not gilt and without ornamentation, 21.0 cm. long (FIG. 4c).
2. Shield boss, iron, carinated type, diameter 16.5 cm., height 8.4 cm., with a large top disc, diameter 5.0 cm., and three of the five plain iron rivets visible on the rim (FIG. 4d).
3. Spearhead, iron, socket broken, length extant 21.3 cm, blade 12.5 cm. long (FIG. 4e).
4. Spearhead, not traced, recorded length 10½ in. (25.7 cm.).

### *Discussion*

#### *Sword*

The sword from the Anglo-Saxon grave found at Battle Edge, near Burford, retains its scabbard fittings, a mouth band and a chape. In this it is unusual. Of the five swords from the cemetery at Kempston, Bedfordshire,<sup>39</sup> only one has a mouth band extant. Chapes are infrequently found also: at Little Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire,<sup>40</sup> there are four swords, three with mouth bands, but only one of these has a chape.

The mouth band with raised ridges and dots as the decoration has recently been named the 'Linton Heath type' after the example in grave 64 of that cemetery.<sup>41</sup> One other example of this type is known in the Upper Thames Valley. This is the only sword from Long Wittenham, Berkshire,<sup>42</sup> found in grave 67, without its chape and associated with a shield boss, a spearhead, and a small bronze buckle. In the Ouse valley there is one from grave 75 (grave of 2 February 1864) at Kempston, associated with two spears, a fragmentary shield boss and a crushed bucket. The other weapons have not been identified, but the bucket<sup>43</sup> has circular escutcheons ornamented with very degenerate style I ornament, for which a date in the second half of the 6th century can be suggested. While the deposition of the grave is late in the 6th century, the sword itself may be earlier for its pommel<sup>44</sup> is of the simple cocked hat form. The lost pommel of the sword in grave 96 at Little Wilbraham also appears, from the illustration in *Saxon Obsequies Illustrated*,<sup>45</sup> to have been of this type. On this sword is a mount of Linton Heath type and a short chape with linear decoration.<sup>45</sup>

This small group of mounts appear to be a variant of the group of mounts with a gently ridged pattern, without the dots as ornament, found in grave 20 at Petersfinger,

<sup>39</sup> The records for the Kempston cemetery have recently been correlated by the author; and grave numbers have been taken from the unpublished manuscript account, available in the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities, the British Museum. Dates of graves are from the original account, in *Coll. Ant.*, vi (1868), 201-21.

<sup>40</sup> R. C. Neville, *Saxon Obsequies Illustrated* (1852), pl. 34.

<sup>41</sup> Kennett, fig. 2.c.

<sup>42</sup> *Archaeologia*, xxxviii (1861), 343.

<sup>43</sup> B.M. 1891, 6-24, 76.

<sup>44</sup> Identified by a sketch in British Museum Register.

<sup>45</sup> Kennett, fig. 2.d.

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Wilts.,<sup>46</sup> graves 192 and 211 at Mitcham, Surrey,<sup>47</sup> and known also from Faversham.<sup>48</sup> Another variant is the sharply ridged mount on the sword from Little Wilbraham grave 42.<sup>49</sup>

The chape from the Burford grave was compared by Leeds to that from Bright-hampton grave 31,<sup>50</sup> but this has ornament of animals in a naturalistic style. Our chape is also comparable in size to the chape on a sword found at Bredon's Norton, Worcestershire,<sup>51</sup> which is gilt and has groups of lines on the upper part. The Bredon's Norton chape is itself a longer version of the chape of Little Wilbraham grave 96.<sup>52</sup> This short type is found also in the Thames valley at Fairford,<sup>53</sup> on a sword which is one of a number, including grave 44 at Brighthampton,<sup>54</sup> with a plain bronze band at the scabbard mouth.

The dating of swords is notoriously difficult for they were often given as heir-looms—witness the will of King Athelstan. As we have seen, there are few objects associated with swords with the 'Linton Heath type of scabbard mount', to give any guide to their dating. The cocked hat pommels of Little Wilbraham 96 and Kempston 75 would suggest a possible date early in the 6th century, but the bucket in Kempston 75 is almost certainly later. On present evidence it seems best to regard the sword as probably 6th century, but a more precise dating is lacking.

### *Shield boss*

The shield boss from our grave is of the commonly found carinated type. The examples in the Thames valley include two from Abingdon, graves 11 and 39.<sup>55</sup>

### *Graves with two spearheads*

The grave from Battle Edge is one of several with two spearheads, though it is more usual to find only one spearhead in male Anglo-Saxon graves. At Abingdon, twelve graves have spearheads, but only one, grave 39, has two spearheads.<sup>56</sup> At Little Wilbraham, thirty-four graves have weapons, but only two of these, graves 8 and 12, have two spears.<sup>57</sup> At Luton, Beds.,<sup>58</sup> there is one grave with two spearheads, grave 11, though a grave from Biscot Mill,<sup>59</sup> with two spearheads and a shield boss, found in the 1880's is probably an outlier from the cemetery excavated in 1925. Also in Bedfordshire is the large Kempston cemetery where twenty-two graves at least are known to have contained weapons, but only two of these had two spearheads, graves 38 (11 November 1863) and 75. The possession of a sword, however, appears to bear little correlation to this for only Kempston grave 75 of the graves quoted has a sword, yet there are graves with swords in all the cemeteries quoted.

<sup>46</sup> E. T. Leeds, *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Petersfinger, near Salisbury, Wilts.* (1953), 14, pl. 1.52.

<sup>47</sup> *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, LVI (1959), 118, pl. 21.

<sup>48</sup> *Ant. J.*, XLVII (1967), 7 and fig. 3.

<sup>49</sup> Kennett, fig. 2.a.

<sup>50</sup> Leeds, loc. cit., note 36; *Archaeologia*, xcvi (1961), 39-40, fig. 7 for Brighthampton scabbard.

<sup>51</sup> *V.C.H. Worcs.*, I (1901), 230, coloured plate.

<sup>52</sup> Kennett, fig. 2.d.

<sup>53</sup> W. M. Wylie, *Fairford Graves* (1852), 20.

<sup>54</sup> *Archaeologia*, xxxviii (1861), 87-8.

<sup>55</sup> E. T. Leeds and D. B. Harden, *The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Abingdon, Berkshire* (1936), 33, 38, pl. 19.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, 38.

<sup>57</sup> Kennett, appendix 1.

<sup>58</sup> *Ant. J.*, viii (1928), 177-92.

<sup>59</sup> Bedford Museum, unpublished.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Isolated burials with two spearheads seem to be, relative to the occurrence of the phenomenon in cemeteries, rather more frequent. One can instance the two 7th-century burials with skillets found in Wiltshire, Rodmead Down and Salisbury Racecourse, and the group from Loddington, Northants., also of the 7th century.<sup>60</sup>

### *The Burford grave*

The group of Anglo-Saxon objects in the British Museum at Battle Edge, near Burford, Oxfordshire, sometime before 1848 represent a person of some importance, whose sword suggests he was buried during the 6th century.

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<sup>60</sup> *Ant. J.*, XLIII (1963), 42 and figs. 15-16 ; 47 and fig. 29 ; 46 and fig. 25.a-c.

PLATE VII



NEW WINTLES FARM, EYNSHAM  
Oval complex of ditches and pits, p. 104.