M.40 Site 3

An Iron Age Settlement Site at Heath Farm, Milton Common

By Trevor Rowley

SUMMARY

During the early stages of the building of the M.40 a three-phase late Iron Age circular hut was completely excavated. Five other apparently associated circular structures and a number of linear ditches were observed but not excavated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANKS are due to Mrs. C. Simpson, Miss L. McLean and Miss J. Whiting for help with site recording and the drawings; to members of the M.40 Archaeological Research Group for responding with great willingness to an urgent situation; to Mr. T. Champion for his pottery report and Professor B. J. Marples for his analysis of the animal bones.

INTRODUCTION

The site lies in Great Milton parish, Oxon (SP 649035) about 500 metres to the east of the excavations of the Romano-British site at Camp Corner (See Sites 1 and 2; Fig. 1, page 7). Little Iron Age material had previously been recovered from this area of Oxfordshire, apart from some surface sherds from Waterperry[1] and Adwell Cop.[2]

Despite intensive fieldwalking and aerial reconnaissance before contracting work started on the motorway, the area to the north-east of Heath Farm produced very little archaeological material apart from a random scatter of sherds. The gravel plateau was, however, known to carry a considerable density of cropmarkings and the area was therefore carefully watched during the initial topsoil stripping operations. Although there were no known cropmarks in this area, in late April 1972 Mr. D. Miles in the company of the writer identified dark markings cut into the natural gravel over a distance of some 300 metres along the route of the road, from which sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered.

By the time the site was identified all the topsoil and the upper horizon of the plateau gravel had been removed, and the machinery had also destroyed and disturbed archaeological features over a considerable distance. At this point the contractors had obtained the land between the motorway and the A.40 road giving an area some 120 metres wide, which they were scraping in the same way as the motorway route.

Accordingly a salvage excavation lasting six days was launched, during which

[1] Note in *Oxoniensia*, XX (1955), 91.

[2] J. S. P. Bradford, 'An Early Iron Age at Site at Allen's Pit, Dorchester', *Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), 59.

time an area 20 m. × 21 m. was cleaned and completely excavated. Other circular and linear features in the vicinity of the excavation were recorded but not excavated. Archaeological features were eventually identified over an area of approximately 400 metres to the east of the Heath Farm site. Throughout the excavation heavy earthmoving machinery operated around the site making working conditions unpleasant. The whole site was subsequently destroyed. The finds and site records are deposited at the Oxford City and County Museum.

GEOLOGY

The site lay on plateau gravel. These deposits consist of irregular gravels containing flints with rounded pebbles of vein quartz, sand and clay. It seems probable that they were deposited in broad valleys as fluviatile and lacustrine deposits. Precipitation run-off on the plateau gravel is low compared with that on the surrounding Gault clay and the latter was therefore eroded at a faster rate than the plateau gravel which was left as a ridge capping. The frost wedge features mentioned above contained soft sandy clay.[3] Traces of iron-panning similar to those seen at Camp Corner were also observed here.

THE CROP MARKS

Figure 1 was compiled from aerial photographs taken by Major Allen, the National Monuments Record and the Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography. The recorded cropmarks are concentrated in the central section of the plateau gravel, but on the western side they extend on to the adjacent Gault clay and Lower greensand. The absence of cropmarks on the north-western, north-eastern and south-eastern gravel extensions reflects the availability of air coverage or unsuitable conditions at the time the photographs were taken, and not the distribution of features.

Many of the linear features appear to be ice wedge features and were originally recognized and photographed as such by Major Allen, whose photographs of Milton Common are well known (PL. 1, B). These ice wedges were formed by periglacial activity. Frozen ground when greatly chilled develops vertical cracks or fissures called frost cracks. After opening, the cracks tend to collect snow and hoarfrost. When the ground surface begins to thaw and melt, water trickles down the cracks, freezing as veins of ice. During summer, the ground thaws more deeply and the tops of the ice veins are destroyed. In the following winter, the thawed layers refreeze and often new cracks form, descending within or alongside the surviving portions of the ice veins which constitute planes of weakness. These new cracks in turn fill with ice. Over the years, the process is continually repeated and massive bodies of ice are built up, which because of their transverse cross section are known as ice wedges. When the ice eventually melts it may be replaced by sediment so that the form of the wedge is essentially preserved.[4] Such wedges are often quite regular and may well be mistaken for archaeological features.

[3] See p. 6.

[4] W. J. Arkell, *The Geology of Oxford* (1947); R. G. B. Williams, 'Frost and the Works of Man', *Antiquity*, XLVII, No. 185 (1973).

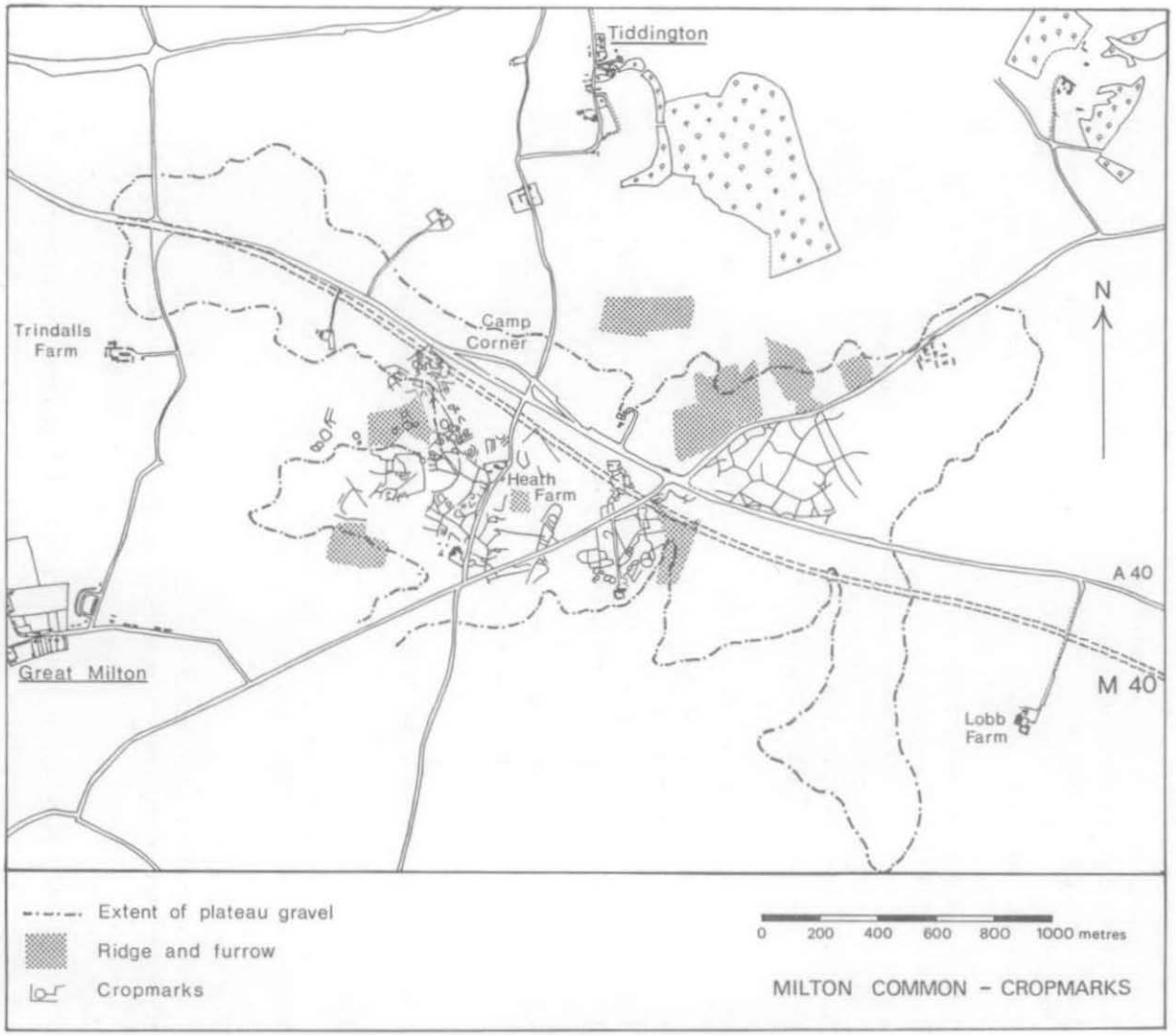
Tiddington
Trindalls Farm
Camp Corner
Heath Farm
N
A 40
M 40
Great Milton
Lobb Farm
Extent of plateau gravel
Ridge and furrow
Cropmarks
0 200 400 600 800 1000 metres
MILTON COMMON - CROPMARKS

FIG. 1

At Milton Common the confusion is compounded by the presence of archaeological cropmarks. The nature and extent of the archaeological deposits was, however, not appreciated until the M.40 work was started and the problem of distinguishing between natural and archaeological features was not fully realized until large-scale excavations started at Camp Corner (Sites 1 and 2). Nevertheless, in the light of the Camp Corner and the Heath Farm excavations and the results of fieldwalking, many of the features can tentatively be interpreted as Iron Age, Romano-British and post-Roman enclosures, field boundaries and settlement sites. Two areas are particularly worthy of note : (*a*) near Trindall's Farm (SP 641039) is a dense concentration of cropmarks of apparent archaeological significance (not recorded on Fig. 1) ; (*b*) towards the eastern edge of the plateau gravel there is an area of regular rectangular cropmarks superimposed on some very well defined ice wedge features. The archaeological nature of these marks must remain a matter of speculation, but they do have the general appearance of mid-Saxon hall structures of the type recently tentatively identified from the air at Hatton Rock, Warwickshire.[5]

FEATURES IDENTIFIED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOTORWAY

Archaeological features were plotted over an area of about 300 metres along the length of the motorway (FIG. 2). This was not a comprehensive cover because by the time the archaeological work started most of the features along the actual road appear to have been completely obliterated by the continuous passage of heavy machinery. From their topograhical harmony these features appear to have been contemporary. Iron Age body sherds were recovered from the surface as well as from all of the observed features except Feature 5.

Feature 1

This was the only one to be fully excavated and is reported upon below.

Feature 2

A slightly larger circle, 20 m. inside diameter, with an opening on the eastern side. The ditch was on average 1 m. wide.

Feature 3

A circular structure of 22 m. diameter was observed, but had been severely disturbed and no entrance was distinguishable.

Feature 4

A circular structure of similar dimensions and aspect to Feature 1.

Feature 5

A complete circular structure, 8 m. in diameter.

[5] P. A. Rahtz, ' A Possible Saxon Palace near Stratford-upon-Avon ', *Antiquity*, XLIV (1970).

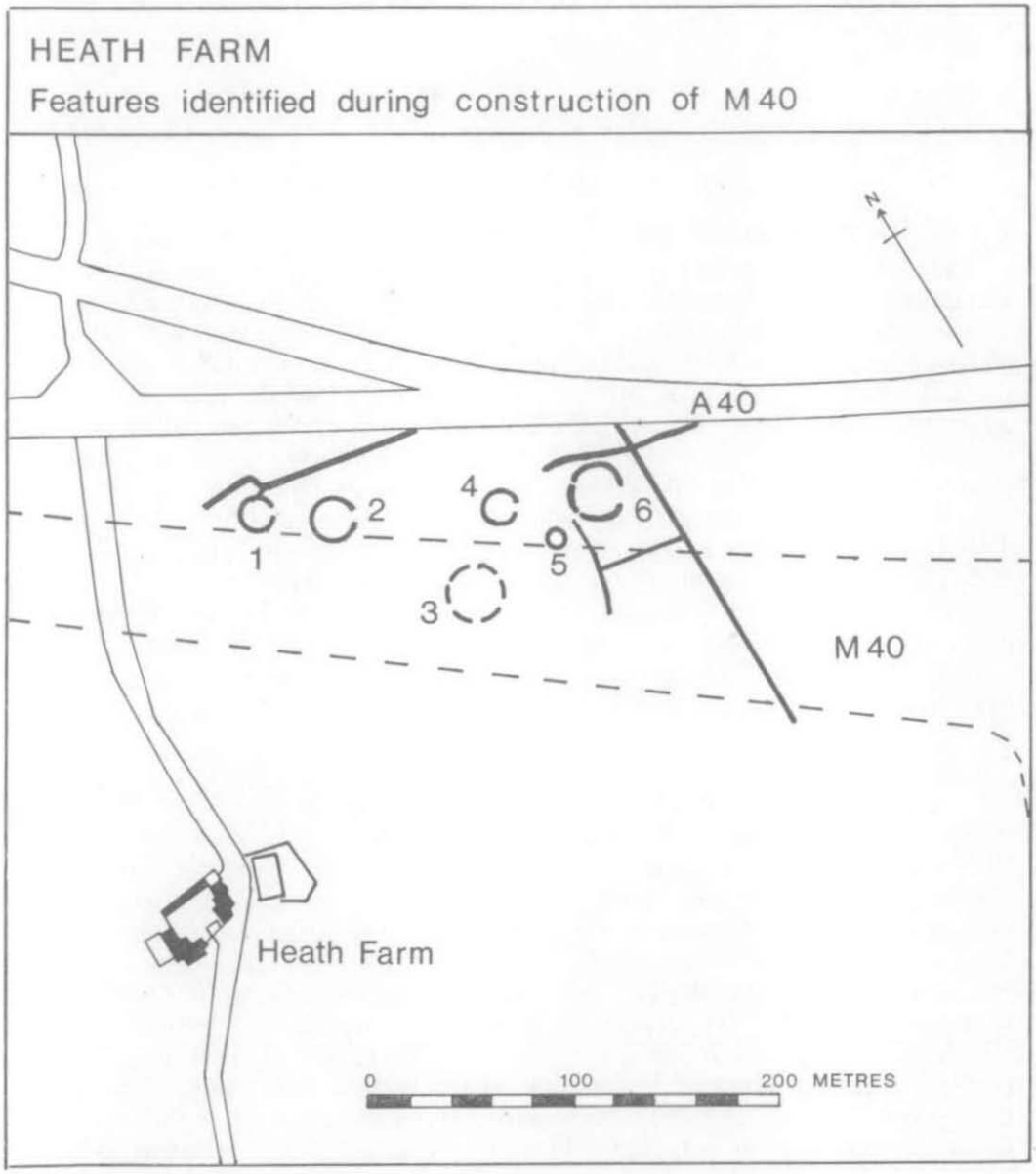
HEATH FARM
Features identified during construction of M40
N
A40
1
2
3
4
5
6
M40
Heath Farm
0
100
200 METRES

FIG 2.

Feature 6

A circular structure, 23 m. in diameter, with an eastern opening and two interruptions on the western side. This feature appeared to be contained within an enclosure of linear markings.

Feature 7

A linear feature which appears to correspond to the only cropmark identified in this area (FIG. 2).

THE EXCAVATION OF HUT CIRCLE 1

The site lay at 102·63 m. (335 feet) above sea level. Although by the time it was identified a ploughsoil of 0·70 m. had been completely removed, examination of a section by the edge of the motorway cutting clearly demonstrated that no archaeological stratification would have survived above the natural gravel. All the archaeological features identified were cut directly into the natural gravel, all earlier ground levels having been destroyed. The fill of the gullies must, however, have come from these levels at the time of the destruction of the various phases of building. This fill demonstrated little stratigraphical variation.

The site was cleaned with the help of a mechanical scraper, and by hand. This involved cleaning hard-packed encrustations caused by machinery and meant the removal of the top few centimetres of natural gravel.

The site consisted of a series of intersecting penannular gullies with associated post-holes (FIG. 3). The outermost of the gullies had been distorted by the weight of machinery. The gullies were all filled with dark brown, largely stone-free silt.

The hut circle gullies

G.1. The innermost gully had an inside diameter of 12 m. and varied in width between 0·10 m. and 0·60 m. On average the gully was 0·20 m. deep. This variation had been partly caused by distortion and partly because the original gully had not been dug to a consistent shape or depth. G.1 was truncated near to the break on the eastern side by the junction with the larger G.2, which had cut away its outside edge, and by P.1 and P.2 which had removed the north-eastern termination completely. The other termination was in the form of a steep-sided butt-end. The gully was generally U-shaped (FIG. 4), but it had almost vertical sides in its narrowest sections. There was no evidence of any post-holes, ghost timbers or timber slots at the bottom of the gully, although there was a line of seven stake-holes aligned around the inside lip of the gully to the southern side of the entrance. There was a further single stake-hole at the lip by the entrance. All measured 0·05 m. in diameter and were filled with a dark silt material indistinguishable from the gully fill. The gully was filled with a homogeneous fine dark brown silt with some flint and quartz fragments. The aspect of the stone fragments suggests that the gully may have been filled from the interior of the hut circle. There was comparatively little pottery, but

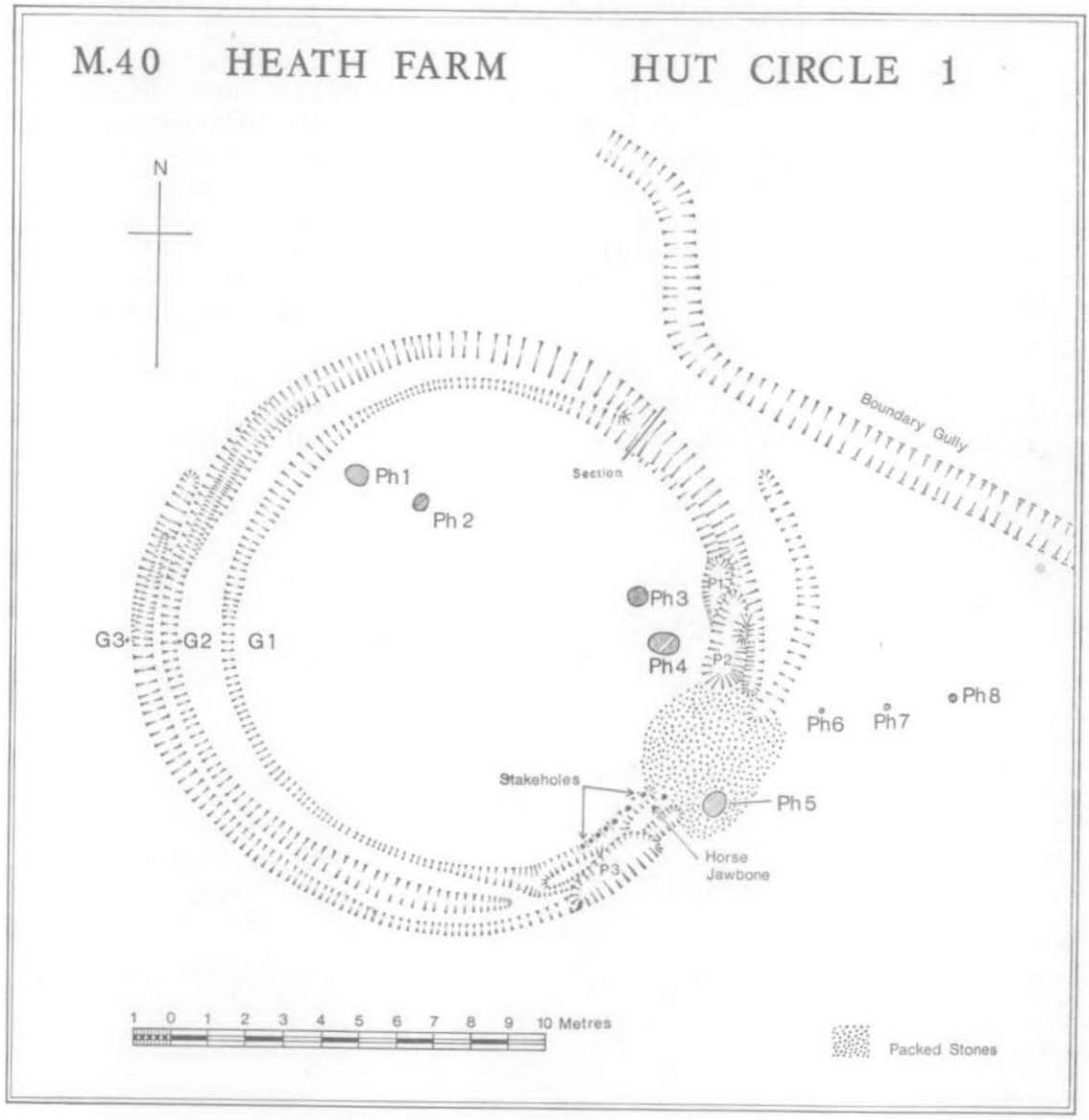
M.40 HEATH FARM HUT CIRCLE 1
N
Boundary Gully
Section
Ph1
Ph2
Ph3
Ph4
Ph5
Ph6
Ph7
Ph8
P1
P2
P3
G1
G2
G3
Stakeholes
Horse Jawbone
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Metres
Packed Stones

FIG. 3

there were quantities of charcoal, burnt daub, animal bones, and fragments of iron slag.

G.2 had an inside diameter of 14 m. and varied in width between 0·40 m. and 1 m. This variation again seems to reflect the differential construction of the original gully. G.2 was much less pronounced on the southern side, gradually dying out altogether before the supposed entrance. On the north-eastern side it had been cut into by P.1 and P.2, but a regular butt-end had survived by the entrance. The northern section of the gully had a flat bottom, with quite steep sides at the bottom, but which became markedly shallower towards the top (FIG. 4). It is probable that this reflects the former presence of upright timbers. The southern section on the other hand had a shallow U-shaped profile similar to G.1. No other traces of timber features were identified. The gully had a similar fill to G.1, but also had a fairly regular stone level to the upper part. Considerable quantities of pottery, some nails, iron slag and other occupation traces were recovered from this gully.

G.3 consisted of two separate, but apparently contemporary, segments. If it had been continuous it would have had an inside diameter of approximately 17 m. It varied in width between 0·30 m. and 0·60 m., but had been severely

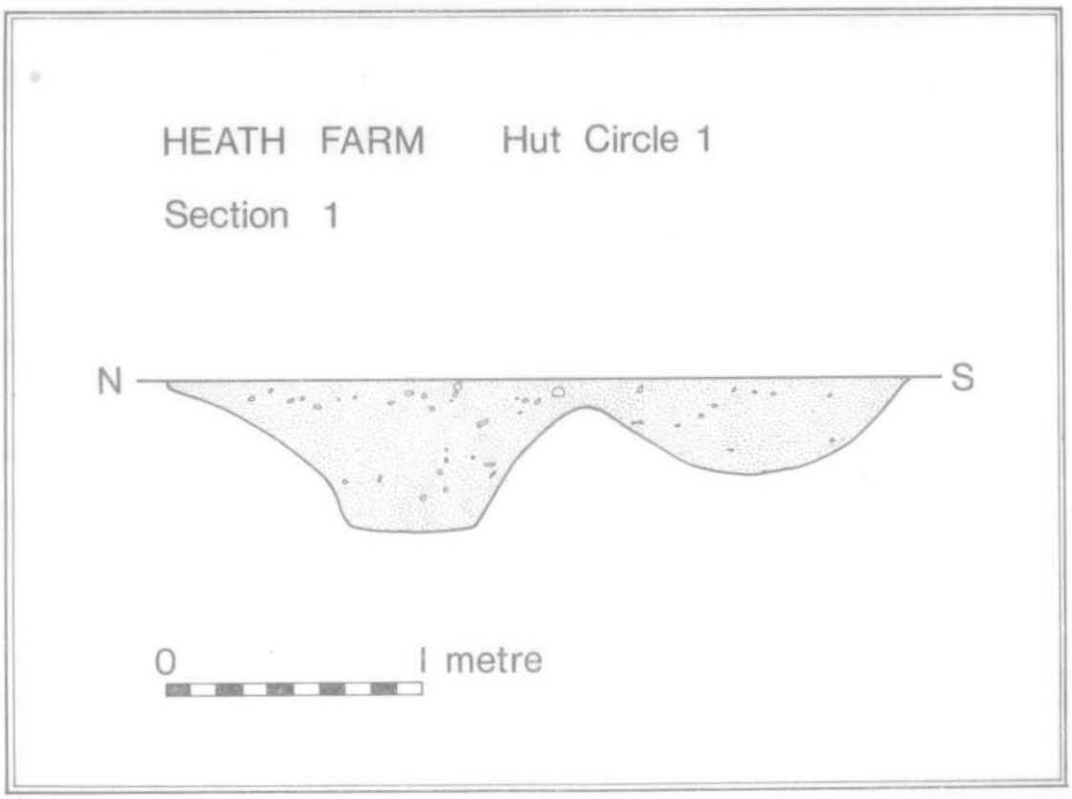

FIG. 4

distorted in parts. The southern segment had a regular butt-end to the south of the entrance, which corresponded almost exactly with the southern end of G.1. The other end was less abrupt and lay diametrically opposite the entrance. This segment was interrupted by P.3. Along part of its length the gully had steep sides and a flat bottom, capable of taking upright timbers. The northern segment was only 7 m. long with a U-shaped profile. It ended fairly abruptly at both ends. The fill of both segments was similar to that of G.1, but with less pottery than G.2.

The entrance

All three gullies were interrupted on the eastern side by an entrance which was on average 4 m. wide. The area, which measured 3·5 m. × 4 m., had a distinctive oval shape covered with concreted, well-packed stones. Despite the absence of floor levels from the rest of the site, its position at the mouth of the gullies cannot be coincidental and it must represent the vestige of a fairly firm trodden entrance to the building.

Boundary gully

Some 11 m. of this gully were excavated (FIG. 3). It was U-shaped, measuring on average 1 m. wide and 0·60 m. deep. It was apparently contemporary with G.2 since it appears to respect the gully by bending at the point where it would otherwise have come into contact with it.

Pits and post-holes

P.1 had an oval shape with a comparatively clean fill, similar to that of the gullies. It measured 0·85 × 1·75 m. and at its deepest was 0·70 m.

P.2 cut into P.1 and was therefore secondary to it. P.2 measured approximately 1 m. × 2·60 m., and at its deepest point was 0·90 m. below the gravel surface. It had a much darker fill than any other feature on the site and contained considerable quantities of animal bone, pottery, burnt daub and iron slag. It also contained the remains of what appeared to be the base of a hearth, consisting of a small, hard, cream and red clay platform (0·30 × 0·28 m.).

P.3. A shallow pit, 2·80 m. × 1·10 m., measured 0·60 m. at its deepest, and contained pottery and bone fragments. It was secondary to G.3.

Ph. 1. Diameter 0·50 m. Depth 0·65 m. Clean brown silt fill.

Ph. 2. Diameter 0·35 m. Depth 0·40 m. Brown silt with small packed stones.

Ph. 3. Diameter 0·50 m. Depth 0·60 m. Clean brown silt fill.

Ph. 4. Oval-shaped, 0·80 m. × 0·60 m. Depth 0·45 m. Red/brown clay with packed stone fill.

Ph. 5. Diameter 0·60 m. Depth 0·50 m. Clean dark brown silty fill. Possible footing for door post.

Ph. 6, 7 and 8. Average diameter 0·12 m. Average depth 0·20 m. These three small stake-holes appear to be contemporary and may have belonged to an entrance structure, making up a fence or passage way. None of the post-

holes contained pottery or dating material, and there is no evidence apart from their siting to suggest they are contemporary with the gullies.

Dating evidence

Apart from a few fragments of possible Bronze Age pottery and two earlier flint implements, most of the pottery recovered from the gullies was late Iron Age (discussed below). Only one sherd of Romano-British pottery and a single fragment of Roman tile, which were recovered from the surface of the site, belonged to the post-Iron Age period. The latest pottery came from the outer gullies and P.2 and P.3. It therefore seems probable that this particular site was in occupation for about two and a half centuries before the Roman occupation.

INTERPRETATION (FIG. 5)

Despite the imprecise nature of the gully junctions it is possible to postulate a chronology based on their relationships. This chronology is confirmed by the pottery evidence. Similarly, despite the presence of little post-hole or post-slot evidence it seems probable that all the gullies at one time or another carried upright timber walls covered with daub. The alternative interpretation would be that one or more of the gullies represented drip trenches for post-hole huts, the structural features of which had disappeared. While this is just possible in the case of G.1 the presence of timber-shaped bottoms in sections of G.2 and G.3 makes it most unlikely.

If interior post-holes were used to carry roof supports and hearths, their absence can be explained by the erosion of the old ground surfaces by subsequent ploughing. It is, however, more difficult to equate this with the apparent survival of part of the entrance floor. It is possible that the eastern part of the hut had not been as badly eroded as the remainder of the structure, and this would be confirmed by the deeper gullies on this side.

Despite almost a century of fairly intensive archaeological work on the Upper Thames gravels, plans of comparatively few Iron Age huts have been recovered from this area. Almost all of the dwellings previously excavated have been post-hole structures.[6] On the whole these structures were smaller with an average diameter of less than ten metres.

No complete examples of circular Iron Age gully houses have been excavated in the Oxford region. However, four excavations have produced evidence similar to that at Heath Farm and gully houses can be postulated at Standlake Down (diameter 9 m.), identified by the 19th century antiquarian Stephen Stone.[7] In 1933 at Radley, Berks., three lengths of curving gully were excavated prior to gravel extraction, which if reconstructed give circular huts with a diameter of 13–14 m.[8] Confirmation of the Radley gullies was provided at

[6] D. W. Harding, *The Iron-Age in the Upper Thames Basin* (1972).

[7] S. Stone, 'Account of Certain (supposed) British and Saxon Remains . . .', *Proc. Soc. Ant. Lond.*, 1st series, IV (1857), 96.

[8] E. T. Leeds, 'An Iron Age Site near Radley, Berks', *Ant. J.*, XI, 399–404.

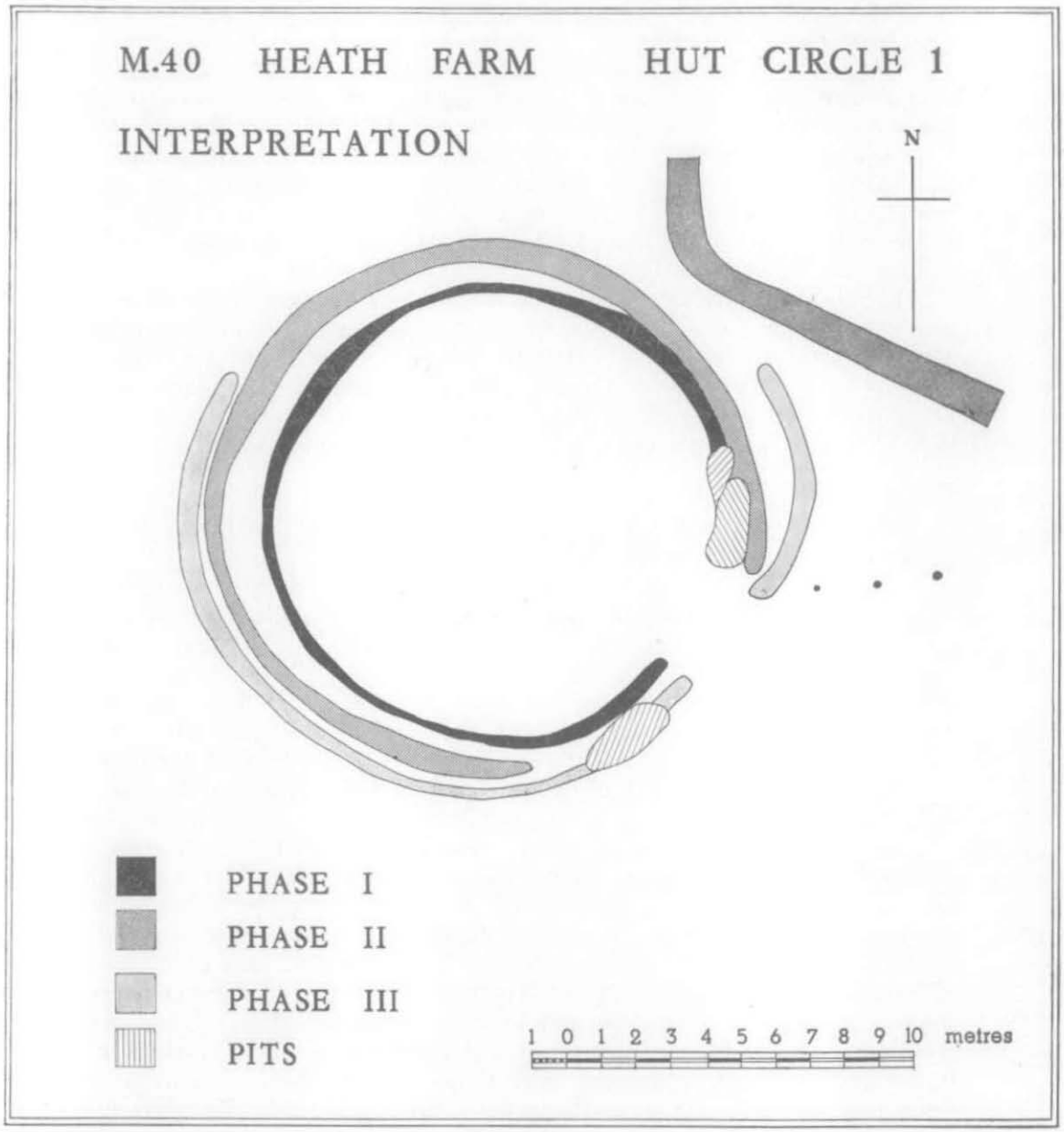
M.40 HEATH FARM HUT CIRCLE 1
INTERPRETATION
N
PHASE I
PHASE II
PHASE III
PITS
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 metres

FIG. 5

Sutton Courtenay in 1968, where a circular gully of 14 m. in diameter was observed.[9] In the same year that the salvage excavations were undertaken at Radley, a research excavation on a limited scale was carried out at Mount Farm, Dorchester on Thames.[10]

Among the features investigated were the Little Circle Ditches, located from Major Allen's air photographs of the site, which proved to have consisted of two concentric ditches, with a diameter of *c.* 13 m. At the time it was thought too large to have been a single building, but almost certainly it was in fact a gully hut.

It is possible to suggest the presence of similar structures from aerial photographs at Beard Mill, Stanton Harcourt, Linch Hill, in the large enclosed area at Dyke Hills, Dorchester on Thames, and in the southern part of Milton Common.

Harding has suggested that there is a distinct break between the smaller post-hole circular house which has Bronze Age origins and the larger post-hole and gully structure as represented at Heath Farm. The Heath Farm building provides firm evidence of a large, relatively sophisticated circular hut form belonging to the late Iron Age. Similar structures of the same date have recently been identified and excavated in the Nene Valley, Northamptonshire.[11]

Possible chronology

Phase I. The earliest building on the site consisted of a single walled penannular hut represented by G.1.

Phase II. The first building then appears to have been dismantled and replaced by a larger penannular hut. The footing for this (G.2) cut across G.1 on the northern side of the entrance. The entrance of this building was apparently much wider (9 m.).

Phase III. A third incomplete upright structure set in G.3 was erected. This may have been contemporary with Phase II giving a consistent entrance size, but making it more difficult to explain the structural form of the dwelling.

Apart from the evidence of the relationship of the boundary ditch to G.2 little can be said of the relationships of the observed features. However, huts with such large diameters (20 m., 22 m. and 23 m.), would have required extraordinarily long rafter lengths. A possible alternative explanation is that these large gullies represent penannular fences around post-hole buildings, all trace of which has disappeared.[12] It is probable that at least some of the circles were contemporary with the excavated circle. Their size indicates that they too may have been large dwelling huts. The linear ditches could represent palisade trenches or ditches running parallel to fences or even hedges. These ditches were either regular field boundaries or enclosure or tenement boundaries of the type found on deserted Medieval village sites. If this is the case we have to think in terms of a late Iron Age nucleated settlement, or village, at Heath Farm.

[9] Harding, *op. cit.*, 28.

[10] J. N. L. Myres, 'A Prehistoric and Roman Site on Mount Farm, Dorchester', *Oxoniensia*, II (1937), 12–40.

[11] Information from Mr. D. Jackson; R. Hollowell, 'Aerial Photography and Fieldwork in the Upper Nene Valley', *Bulletin of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies*, No. 6 (1971).

[12] I am grateful to Mr. P. Reynolds for this suggestion.

Recent aerial survey over the Upper Thames valley has produced some evidence of other regular village type formations on the gravels, notably at Appleford, Berkshire, where a cropmark complex possibly marks a nucleated settlement of Iron Age and/or Romano-British date.

Only a little evidence relating to the economy of the community was recovered. The surviving animal bones are not sufficient to give any clear indication of the form of agriculture practised here.[13] The presence of sheep, pig, ox and horse might suggest a mixed farming economy.

The large quantities of iron slag recovered from the gullies does suggest that some form of iron working was taking place and may just possibly account for the presence of the site here in the first place. It can be assumed that the ore was obtained from the encrustations of iron panning found in the Plateau Gravel which were later used by the Romano-British occupants in the area.[14]

There is no obvious reason why this part of Milton Common was abandoned and a different area occupied in the later Roman period. It does, however, point to a clear break in settlement here. On the evidence presently available the relatively short-lived late Iron Age settlement site at Heath Farm was the first and last agrarian based community to live here.

Finally, two major points have arisen from the Heath Farm site. Firstly, it has provided evidence of substantial Iron Age activity in the region between the River Thames and the Chilterns in an area previously thought to be virtually empty of occupation at this period. The identification of intensive Iron Age and Romano-British occupation on the plateau gravels at Milton Common indicates that these gravels and adjacent areas are archaeologically as important as the river gravels. Therefore mineral extraction or other forms of redevelopment in these areas must be monitored with vigilance equal to that given to the lowland river valley gravels. Secondly, even in areas which have been intensively photographed from the air, the absence of crop-marks does not necessarily mean the absence of archaeological sites. Even those areas which have been intensely surveyed both on the ground and from the air and produced no artefacts or evidence of crop-marks cannot be dismissed as archaeologically sterile.

FINDS

POTTERY

The pottery from the site is all hand-made, with the possible exception of two or three sherds from P.2 and P.3, and one Romano-British sherd from G.1.

1. Fabric

The majority of the pottery shows a homogeneity of fabric, being fine, sandy ware with occasional very small mineral inclusions. One or two have been tempered with grog (crushed pottery). There is a variation in the sandiness, but this is an insufficient basis on which to divide the sherds into distinct classes. Most of the pottery is well and uniformly fired to a considerable degree of hardness, though it is much thicker than the characteristic Roman wares of the area. One pot (from P.1 (FIG. 6, no. 7))

[13] See below, p. 39.
[14] See above, p. 16.

is considerably lighter in weight than the others, possibly due to the inclusion of organic matter which was burnt out during firing.

There is a small group of sherds (mainly from G.1) of a thicker, coarser fabric with some very large inclusions (? gravel). There are also three sherds of coarse grey fabric, fired red on the exterior, heavily tempered with crushed flint (from G.1 and P.3) (Inc. Fig. 6, no. 4).

2. Finish

Most of the pots are smoothly finished outside and inside. Some have been coated with a fine slip, and several show more or less extensive traces of burnishing, mostly on the exterior but occasionally on the interior. A few of the sherds in the normal fabric have not been finished in any of these ways, but have a coarser exterior. The sherds of the less common coarser fabrics are likewise rough on the surface.

3. Form

Very few profiles can be even partially restored, but where this is possible, they are mostly globular jars and bowls, mainly with bead rims or slightly everted rims. Other recognizable forms are a very few small angular sherds, too small for the rest of the forms to be discernible ; one ovoid jar with a flat-topped rim (7) ; one perforated strainer base (18) ; and the base of a tall, wide-bodied pedestal urn (17). In the coarser fabric there is a small angular-shouldered bowl with vertical rim (10) ; a jar with high rounded shoulder and short upright rim (2) ; and a jar with high angular shoulder, concave neck and flat-topped rim (4). There is also one flattened rim, externally expanded, with finger-tip impression on the outside edge (3).

4. Decoration

The majority of the sherds are undecorated ; there are five cases of finger-print impressions, three occurring on body sherds, one immediately below the rim, and the rim sherd mentioned above. One sherd is decorated with three dimples arranged in a triangle. Four sherds have horizontal grooves and cordons below the rim (15 and 16).

Comments

Form and fabric compare well with the pots of Harding's[15] ' post-angular ' phase, and the undecorated wares of his ' Middle La Tène ' phase. The bead-rim globular bowls are a distinctive South Midland type, though the characteristic curvilinear decoration is missing here. The fine quality and general hardness of the fabric may point to the end of these periods, as do the four sherds with groove and cordon decoration. There is also a group of sherds distinctive in both fabric and form (the coarser fabrics, the angular bowl, the finger-tip and dimple decoration and the expanded rim) which do not fit with the bulk of the pottery. They are better paralleled in Harding's earlier phases : the expanded rim is an example of his pottery cauldron type, and the dimple decoration is also best paralleled in the Oxford region.

The latest types represented are the groove and cordon decorated bowls and perhaps the pedestal urn. The latter is a rarity in the region ; it is hand-made, and not closely comparable to those of Aylesford-Swarling type. It might be an early local copy of that type or a representative of an earlier form from which the Aylesford-Swarling type derived.

The earliest forms are found almost entirely in G.1, and are probably a residual survival from the 6th-5th century B.C. The latest forms, that is, the groove and cordon decorated bowls (but not the pedestal urn) are confined to P.2 and P.3. This is in agreement with the stratigraphical relationships observed in the excavation, but the general uniformity of the pottery does not otherwise allow further conclusions to be

[15] *Op. cit.* note 6.

drawn with regard to the chronological sequence of the structures. The provenance of the pedestal urn from G.1 suggests that it should be a precursor rather than a derivative of the Aylesford-Swarling type.

The bulk of the material from the site could tentatively be placed in the 2nd or 1st century B.C. The end of the occupation should be before the general adoption of wheel-made pottery of the Aylesford-Swarling tradition ; there is one sherd of Romano-British ware (G.1), which in view of the total dissimilarity of the rest of the pottery to the local 1st century A.D. Romano-British wares, is best interpreted as a stray.

ILLUSTRATED POTTERY (FIGS. 6 AND 7)

The letters in brackets refer to the features in which the sherds were found. T = unstratified topsoil.

1. (G.1) Rim sherd of angular jar. Outer face smooth, but heavily worn, orange/brown ware, small micaceous grits, larger grits have been eroded out, traces grass/straw

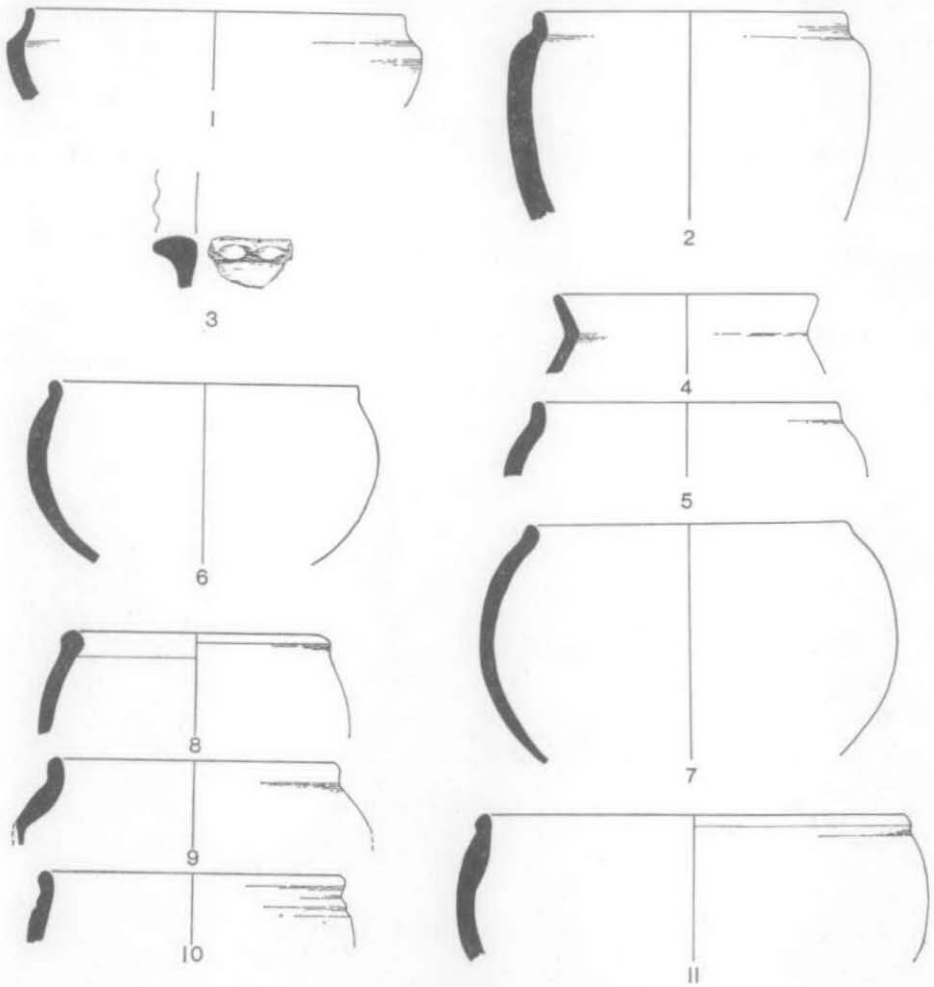

FIG. 6
Pottery. (¼).

tempering, sooted ; inner face brown, small grits and grass tempering, sooted ; section, hard black fabric, few grits visible.

2. (G.2) Sherd of jar with high rounded shoulder and short upright rim; outer face, very rough, brown/black ware, large protruding flint and calcite grits ; inner face, rough brown/black surface, protruding grits ; section, hard sandy dark brown ware, variety of mixed grits.

3. (G.1) Flattened rim sherd with fingertip impression.

4. (P.3) Rim sherd of expanded jar ; outer face rough brown ware, protruding shell and flint grits, with some holes, horizontal streak marks ; inner face black/grey, pitted, small micaceous grits ; section, hard grey fabric, pitted, with a few large flint grits.
Harding (PL. XLIV)

5. (P.1) Rim sherd of small jar ; outer face smooth orange/brown, sooted, small micaceous grits, traces of horizontal burnishing ; inner face, black burnished, small fine grits ; section, sandy grey fabric, a few fine grits.
Harding (PL. LXIV, U)

6. (G.2) Rim sherd coarse globular bowl ; outer face, rough orange, a few micaceous grits ; inner face, rough orange fabric, gritless, horizontal finger marking ; section, hard smoke grey sandy fabric, micaceous grits.

7. (P.1) Rim and body sherd of globular jar ; outer face moderately smooth, orange/brown, heavily sooted, pitted, no surviving grits, horizontal markings ; inner face, grey/brown, pitted ; section light grey fabric, all grits eroded out, very light.
Harding (PL. LXIII, D)

8. (G.1) Rim sherd of a globular bowl ; outer face, black burnished, small micaceous grits ; inner face, smokey grey, micaceous grits, pitted, horizontal finger marks ; section, hard sandy orange/grey fabric with small micaceous grits.
Harding (PL. LXVIII)

9. (P.2) Badly eroded expanded rim sherd ; outer surface, red/brown ware, one shallow U decoration and a deeply incised vertical linear decoration, gritless, vertical markings ; inner face buff irregular surface, small micaceous grits ; section, hard black, sandy fabric, micaceous and shell gritting.

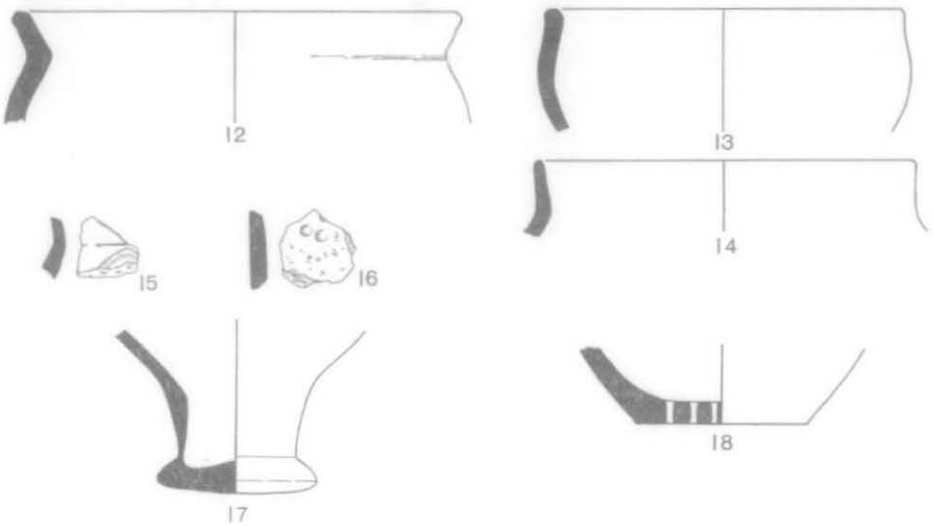

FIG. 7
Pottery. (½).

10. (P.2) Rim sherd angular jar; outer face smooth black ware, burnished; decoration not very deep; inner face smooth black burnished, matt black gritless; section, hard sandy fabric, micaceous grits.
Harding (PL. LIV)
11. (T) Rim sherd globular jar; outer face dark brown/black surface traces of horizontal burnishing, a few large grits, most eroded out leaving pits; inner face smokey grey, all grits eroded out, traces of horizontal marking; section hard sandy fabric, variety of grits, quartz, mica shell and flint.
12. (P.3) Expanded rim sherd; outer face rough red/brown ware, heavily pitted, some surviving shell gritting, possible finger decoration at bottom of sherd; inner face, rough buff surface with protruding large grits; section hard sandy black fabric with shell grits.
Harding (PL. XLIV)
13. (T) Rim sherd globular jar; outer face orange, some shell gritting; inner face orange, some shell and small micaceous grits; section smooth sandy grey, no grits.
14. (P.3) Rim sherd angular jar; outer face dark brown surface, traces of vertical striations from grass tempering, some micaceous grits; inner face, rough dark brown surface with larger micaceous grits, section hard sandy black with some protruding grits.
15. (P.3) Decorated body sherd; outer face moderately smooth, orange/brown ware, some large shell and flint grits; inner face moderately smooth, orange/brown ware, some shell grits,; section orange/grey fabric, shell gritting.
Harding (PL. XXXXVII, C)
16. (P.2) Decorated body sherd; outer face smooth, black burnished, micaceous grits, three dimples arranged in a triangle; inner face rough black, small micaceous grits; section hard black sandy fabric, small micaceous grits.
17. (G.1) Base of pedestal urn; outer face, black burnished, traces of horizontal marking, gritless; inner face grey/black, small micaceous grits; section hard sandy smokey/grey ware, small micaceous grits.
18. (P.1) Base of sherd of colander; outer surface, orange, sooty, small quartz and micaceous grits; inner face, rough black, small mixed grits; section, hard black sandy fabric, quartz and micaceous grits.

FLINTS

A microlith core (not illustrated).
A barbed and tanged Bronze Age arrowhead (FIG. 8).

FIG. 8
Arrow-head. (½).

ANIMAL BONES

Most of the bones were fragmentary, Ox, Sheep, and Pig were present as well as one Horse.

Topsoil	Ox. Teeth 7
	Sheep. Teeth 2
	Pig. Teeth 1
	Fragments. 24. (Only 1 of rib).
G.1	Ox. Teeth 6 (1 unworn), Radius. 1 distal end. Phalanx 1
	Sheep. Tibia. 3 fragments
	Pig. Teeth. 1 Jaw. 1 Condyle.
	Fragments. 43. (1 chewed).
G.1	Fragments. 8 very small.
P.3	Ox. Teeth. 6 Fragments. Metapodial. 1 small fragment.
	Fragments. 2
G.2	Fragments. 8 (1 with cuts)
	Horse. 1 part of jaw with 3 teeth.
	Ox. Astragalus. 1
	Sheep. Parts of jaw and teeth.

Iron Objects

Five heavily corroded nails, average length 0·05 metres, were found (G.1 and G.2). Three had heads, but no shape was distinguishable.

Large quantities of iron slag in the form of nodules was recovered from G.1, G.2, G.3, and P.2 and P.3.

Crop-Marks at Milton Common.

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