

THE EXCAVATIONS AT STOKELEIGH CAMP, AVON.
(ST 559733).

by

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With an appendix on the Animal Bones by Dr. R. F. Everton, M.B., B.S.

SUMMARY

Limited excavations have shown that Stokeleigh Camp was occupied during the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age, in the course of which period the inner rampart was probably built. Habitation continued without a substantial break until the middle of the 1st century A.D. During the latter part of this occupation Belgic influences would appear to have been strongest, although some of the pottery exhibits Durotrigian features. After a break, the site appears to have been re-used during the middle to late 2nd century A.D.

The finds and field notes from the site are deposited at the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society's Museum.

INTRODUCTION

The environs of the site are illustrated in figure 6 which shows some of the many sites of P.R.I.A. and Roman date in the area. Stokeleigh Camp is the northwestern one of the three camps dominating the southern end of the Avon (Clifton) Gorge. The defended area is a spur bounded on the south by Nightingale Valley and on the north by a similar but steeper one (*Fig. 7*). The layout of the defences is obvious and they have been described in some detail previously (Haldane 1966).

The inner bank at its northern end still stands 10 m high from crown to present ditch bottom. The forward slope is even and there is no trace of a berm at the ditch top. The middle bank has a berm of varying width between its inner edge and the outer edge of the inner ditch. There is again no evidence for a berm at the top of the ditch level for this middle bank. The outer bank and ditch is a feeble affair and is associated with two incomplete cross banks, with their ditches towards each other. It is possible that these represent an intention to make a new entrance here.

The main entrance is probably close to the northern cliffs where the middle and inner ditches were never cut and there is a broad sloping ramp,

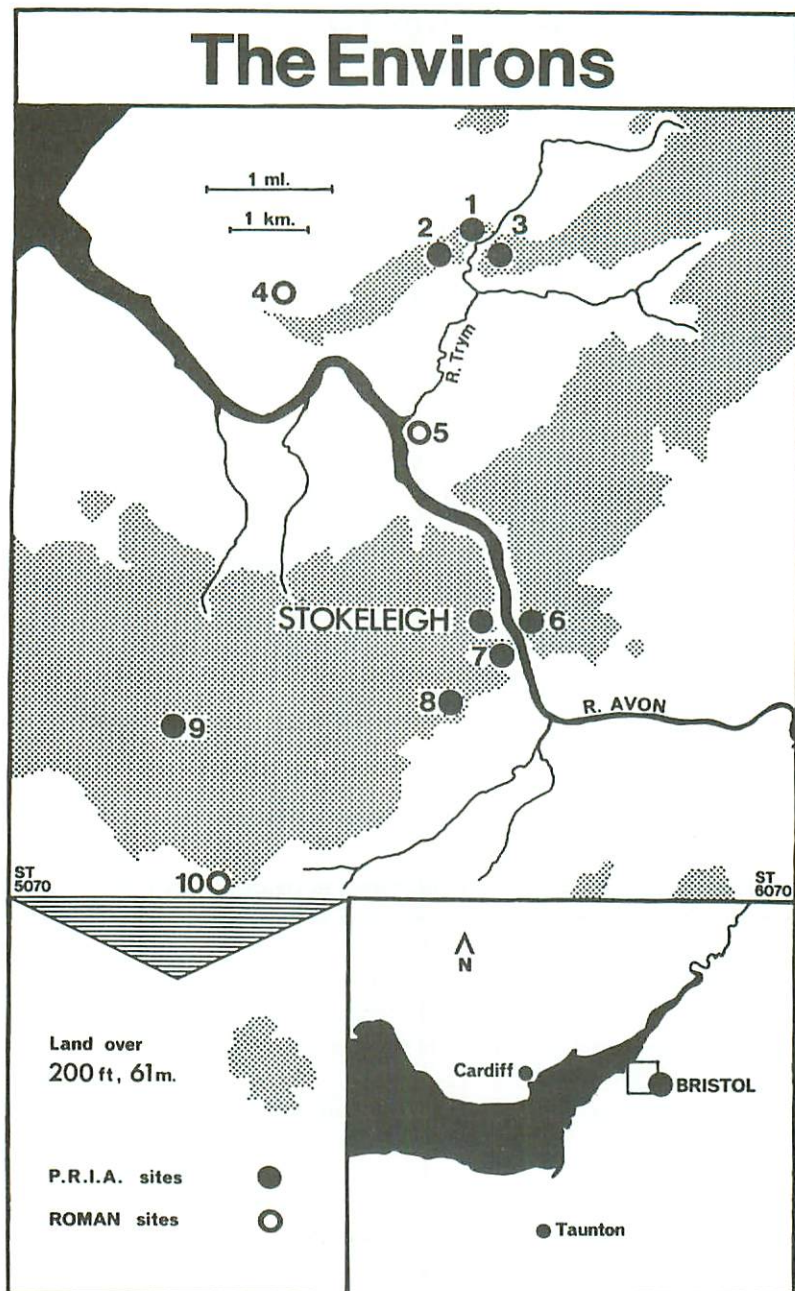


Fig. 6. 1. Blaise Castle Hill; 2. Kings Weston Hill; 3. Coombe Hill; 4. Kings Weston Villa; 5. Sea Mills; 6. Clifton Down; 7. Burwalls; 8. Ashton Park; 9. Failand Ridge; 10. Gatcombe.

wide enough to take carts, leading up into the interior of the camp, passing close to the undated building (*Fig. 7.2*). It is also possible that the steep gully immediately south of this building was utilised as a footpath. It is dominated on north and south by limestone cliffs.

When the outer bank and ditch were made, the route of approach to the northern entrance could only have been along the flat ground between the middle ditch and the outer bank.

Other features include the undated building already mentioned, a low platform at the eastern apex and a dry stone wall along the top of the inner bank (Lloyd Morgan 1904, Haldane 1966). If the wall is contemporary with the inner bank then its purpose can only have been as a rampart walk defended on the forward side by some form of wooden breastwork. Any idea that the wall was part of the defence behind which a defender could shelter is nullified by the fact that this would leave the whole of the forward slope of the bank and inner ditch almost out to the middle bank as dead ground in which the attacker could assemble for the assault. Excavations have shown no evidence for a breastwork.

Messrs. T. Lister and B. Ottway made test borings in the pond (*Fig. 7*). The pond is in clay. The analysis of the material from the borings showed that the pond had always existed under the present conditions of tree cover. The trees were planted in early 18th century. So the pond would appear to be modern.

THE RECENT EXCAVATIONS

Apart from a few Roman coins from Clifton Camp the three hill forts, Stokeleigh, Burwalls and Clifton are characterised by an almost total lack of artefactual dating. This was particularly true of Stokeleigh. During the 18th century the site yielded a hand millstone and hilt of a sword, both now lost (Barrett, 1789) and during the 19th century Romano-British pottery was found on the banks of the Avon below the eastern end of the site (Hardman 1895).

The recent excavations were undertaken to illuminate, at least in part, the periods during which the site was occupied.

It was decided to concentrate on a small area of the site even though, in comparison with a large area excavation, the information so obtained might be of limited usefulness. The reasons for this decision were:- firstly to obtain basic dating evidence for use in future research and more extensive excavations; secondly the resources available were strictly limited and thirdly the heavily wooded nature of the terrain prevented large scale excavation without wholesale clearance, which was impossible.

The much-faulted nature of the underlying rock and the thick undergrowth together made a proton gradiometer survey impractical. This was the only form of geophysical technique available. Resort was made to the rather

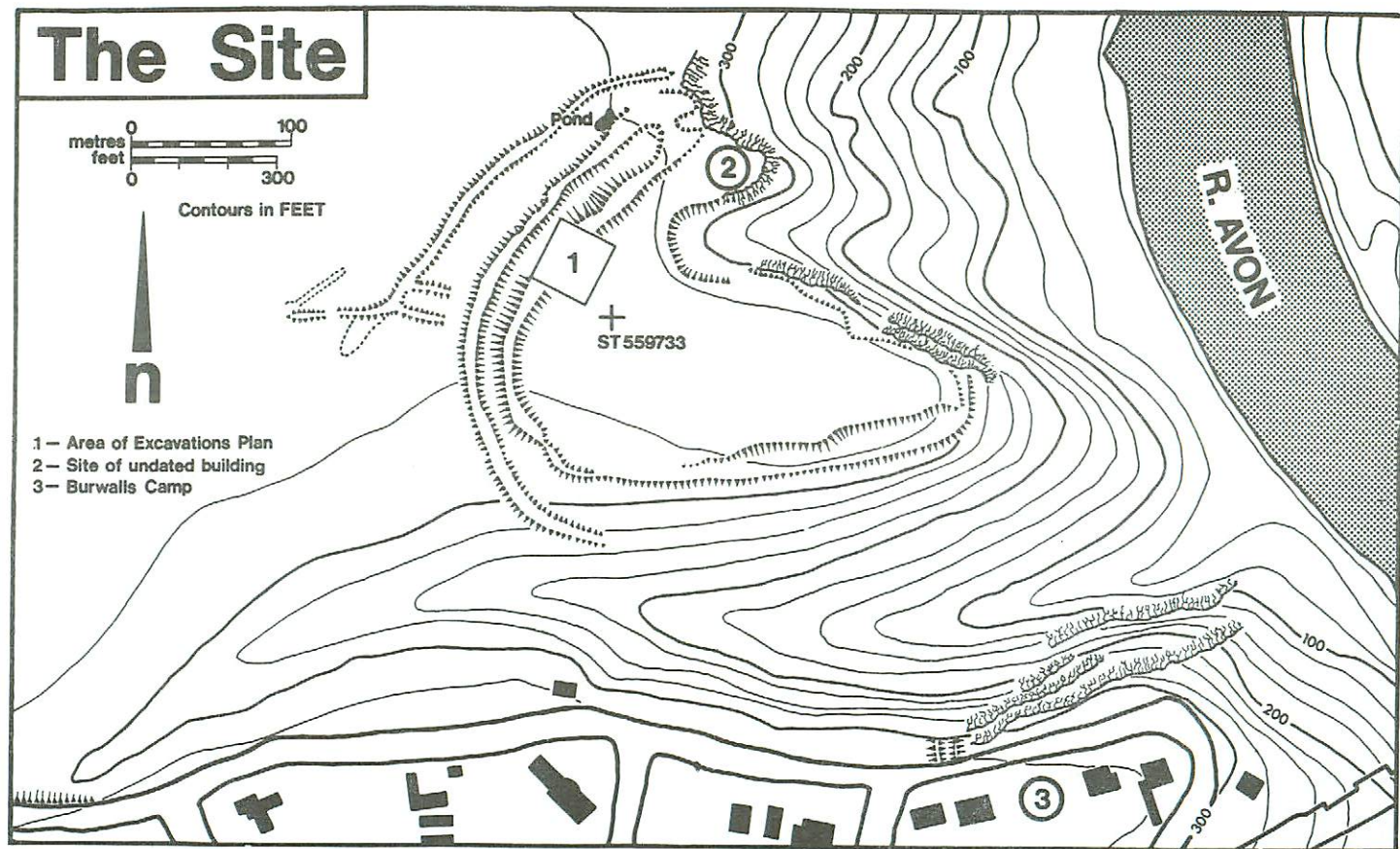


Fig. 7. Stokeleigh Camp. Based on Ordnance Survey. (Crown Copyright Reserved).

unsatisfactory method of sondages to locate an area of occupation from which dateable material might be obtained. So four 1-m square sondages were made, (I,J,P,Q, *fig. 8*), in an area at the head of the gully already described. All sondages were within 30 m of the inner edge of the inner bank. The area was comparatively clear of trees and close to the northern entrance. Only area J produced definite signs of occupation.

In the following year (1967) an area was surveyed with a Soil Conductivity Meter, kindly lent by Mr. Mark Howell. This revealed a considerable anomaly of large extent 20 m southwest of area J. To investigate this anomaly a 5 m square (Area D) was laid out for excavation. In addition the inner face of the inner rampart (Area A in *fig. 8*) was excavated. A prolonged spell of bad weather prevented the complete excavation of area A.

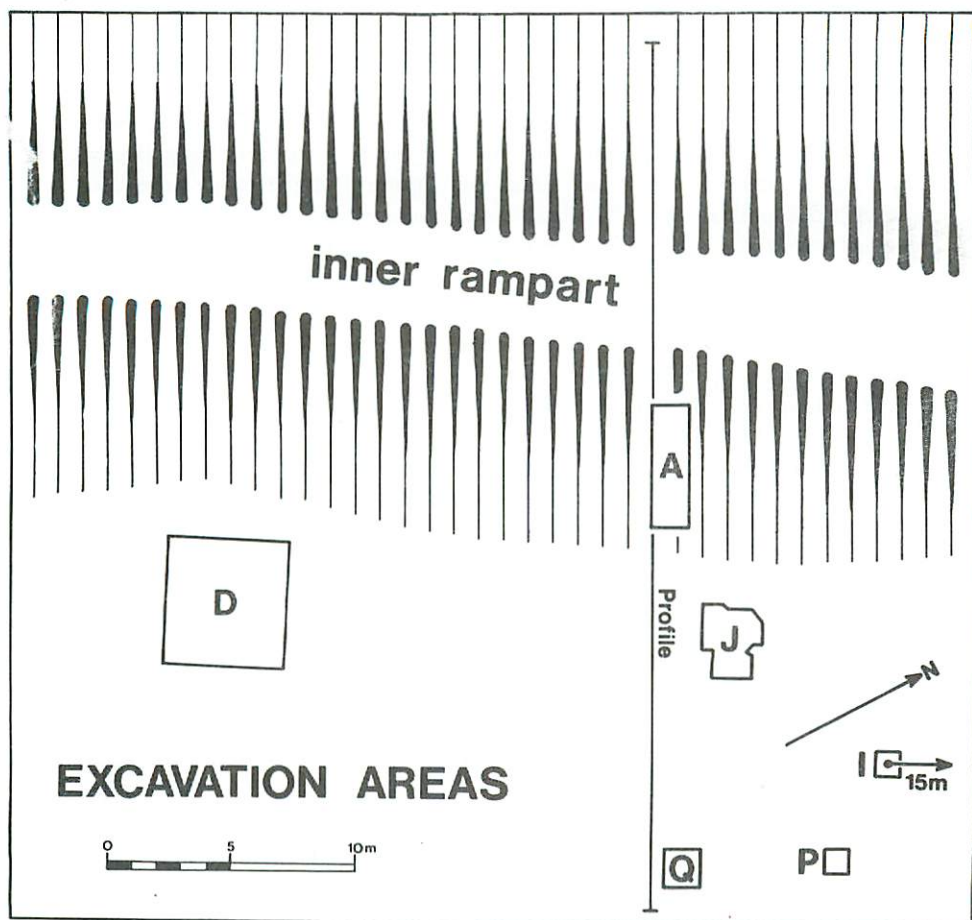


Fig. 8. Stokeleigh Camp, the Excavated Areas.

METHOD OF DESCRIPTION

Each excavation area is treated in turn under the headings:- (a) the Layers, (b) the Features and (c) the Finds.

The finds are further subdivided by order of material:- Pottery (P), Baked Clay (BC), Metalwork (M), Stonework (S), Worked Bone (WB), Glass (G) and other materials. The animal bones are described in an appendix by Dr. Everton. Within each material group the finds are ordered according to layers, with finds associated directly with 'Features' at the end.

In the descriptions of the finds an item number alone (e.g. P777) shows that the item is not figured. An item number followed by a second number shows that the item is figured, (e.g. P785/16) means that the item is illustrated in figure 16.

The illustrations are divided into pottery and other finds. They follow the order set out above and are not in numerical sequence. The identification numbers are based on the catalogue numbers. The catalogue is in the University of Bristol Spelaeological Museum, together with the finds.

The most numerous group of artifacts was the pottery. 750 sherds were found but no complete pots. About two-thirds were very fragmentary leaving one-third for study in detail. Only those of significance have been described and illustrated. The sherds were examined not only from a morphological standpoint but also in terms of the tempering material in their fabrics. This was identified by examining a fresh face with a low power (X 10-20) microscope and supplementing this with chemical tests where necessary. The relative proportions of the fabric groups as they occur in the layers of area D have been analysed in order to detect any relationship between fabric type and age, (*Fig. 9*). The fabric groups that were distinguished were:

- A Calcite grains, generally angular, with small grains predominating. In area D this was the second most common group.
- B Calcite grains, variable in size and in some cases very large. The group was most common in area D and was most abundant in the lowest layers.
- C Very fine calcite grains. One of the least common in area D. It did not occur below layer 4a.
- D Shell. Quite common in area D, occurring first in the lowest layers.
- E Angular quartz grains, generally small. Similar in abundance to type D and absent from the lowest layers of area D. This type predominates in area J.
- F Rounded quartz grains, generally small and uniform in size. This type comprised about one-fifth of the sherds from area D, making it the third most common type. It was absent from the lowest layers.
- G Rounded, sub-angular, medium to small quartz grains. Generally found in a dense grey body. Confined to layer 2 in area D.

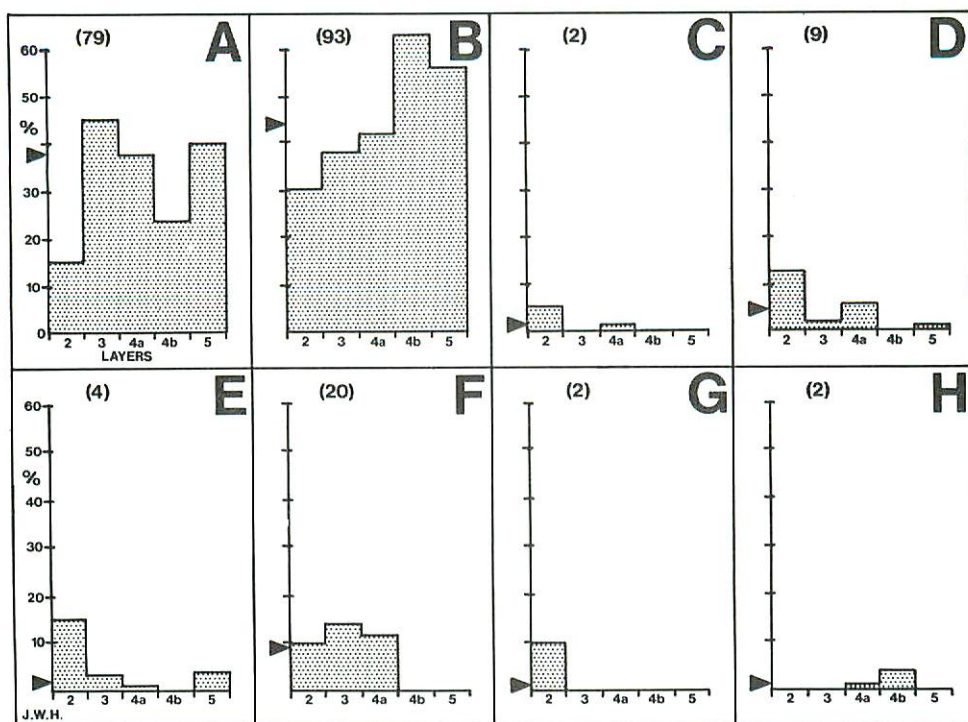


Fig. 9. The percentage of each Fabric Type with respect to the total contents of each layer. The arrow on the ordinate shows the proportion of each Fabric Type with respect to the overall total number of sherds examined from Area D. The figure in brackets is the actual number of sherds of each Fabric Type.

H Fine angular quartz grains with fragments of carbon. Earliest occurrence in the lowest layers of area D. Uncommon.

The number of baked clay objects was small and consisted mostly of spindle whorls. Area D yielded two sling shots from layer 4a along with a quantity of burnt daub, which was rare elsewhere.

When the limited extent of the excavations is considered the number of metal objects found was high. There were 15 bronze items, including a silver-washed ring (Area D, pit 1), three coins and a brooch, most from layers 4a and 4b in area D. No less than 40 iron objects were found, most in area D. Of the greatest significance, however, was an involuted brooch from area J.

The stone objects were almost entirely fragments of hones though a few spindle whorls were found, and a hand millstone.

Objects of worked bone were scarce, though there were many animal bones. Of particular interest, in view of the presence of spindle whorls, is the absence of weaving combs.

Little glass was found. All except one piece from area D layer 4a, came from the uppermost disturbed layers.

Fragments of slag were found fairly evenly distributed over areas A, D and J.

AREA A

(Figs. 10.1 layers, 10.2 features)

In this limited excavation nine layers were distinguished.

Fig. 10.1

1. Black friable topsoil with many rootlets and stones.
2. Dark brown clayish soil with many rootlets and stones.
3. Reddish-brown clay with many angular stones, increasing in size towards the base. Large numbers of snail shells were found about 2 m from the west end of the trench.
4. Dark brown clayish soil.
- 5a. Angular limestone rubble. The interstices filled with reddish brown clay. This layer lay partially under and to the south of 5b.
- 5b. Angular limestone rubble with some clay and many air spaces.
6. Reddish clay with angular limestone fragments.
7. Angular limestone rubble with calcareous encrustations and little earth in the interstices.
8. A bright yellow viscous clay with occasional pieces of ochre.
9. Angular limestone fragments with white calcareous encrustations, sometimes filamentous, with little earth in the interstices.

The natural subsoil was not reached due to the water-logged condition of the trench.

Fig. 10.2

1. The supposed hearth (H) consisted of four flat burnt sandstone fragments resting on a thin layer of yellow clay. This in turn rested on layers 5a and 5b. The hearth was overlain by layer 4, which had a considerable amount of charcoal towards its base.
2. The 'Walling' consisted of a line of large limestone blocks, apparently only one or two courses high, extending across the trench in line with the direction of the rampart. The blocks rested on the same yellow clay that supported the hearth. The walling formed the division between layer 4 to west and slightly above and layers 5a and 5b to the east and below.

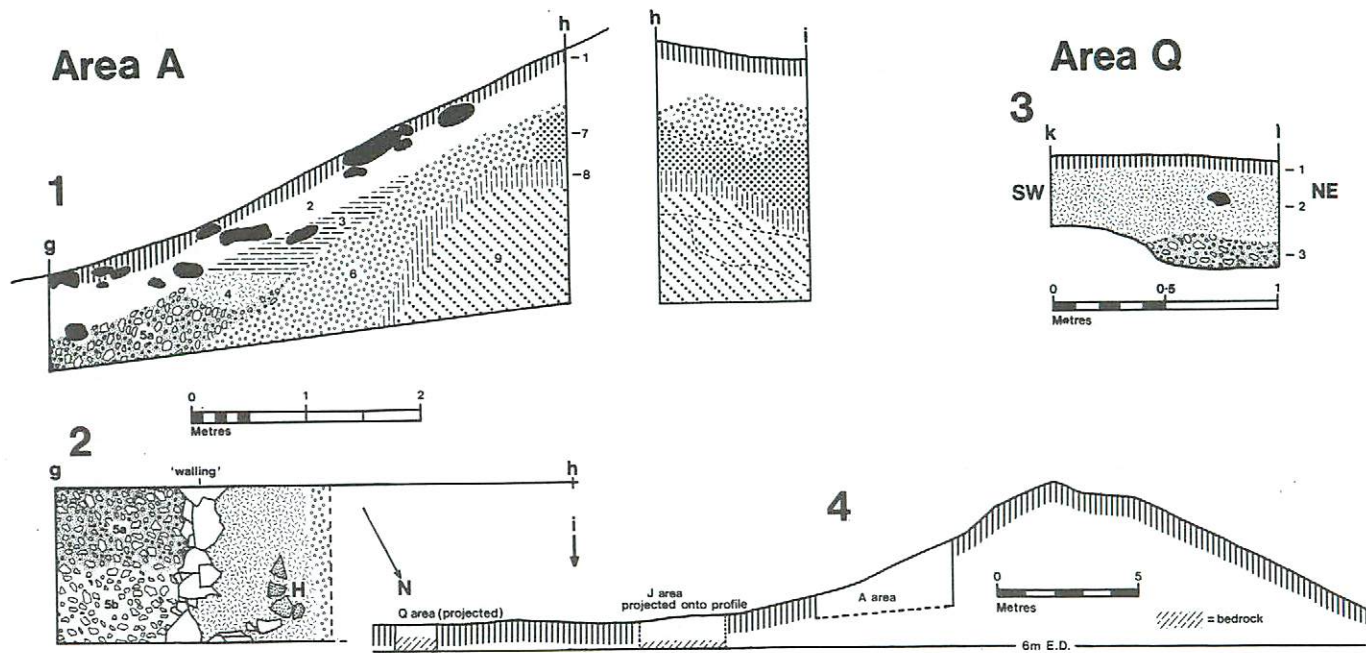


Fig. 10. 1. S.W. and N.W. faces of Area A; 2. Plan of surface of layers 4 and 5 of Area A, showing 'walling' and hearth (H); 3. N.W. face of Area Q; 4. Profile of inner rampart relating areas A, Q, and J, and showing bedrock level.

FINDS

Except for layers 5a and 5b, which produced a quantity of pottery and animal bones area A yielded few finds. Three potsherds are worth notice.

Layer 2

P777 Everted rim with slight bead. Dark grey/buff. Lip diameter 15 cm. Fabric A.

Layer 5

P238 Fig. 16. Thick inturned rim with slight bead. Exterior face light orange, interior face medium grey/buff. Lip diameter 30 cm. Fabric B. Probably part of a L.P.R.I.A. storage jar.

P785/16 Fig. 16. Base. Diameter 14 cm. Exterior face medium buff/orange. Interior dark grey/buff. Fabric B. Probably L.P.R.I.A.

INTERPRETATION OF AREA A

The sections in area A suggest that the original rampart is of a dump construction, part of the body of which is represented by layer 9, which was built up by a series of loads of limestone rubble as shown by the tip lines visible in the west section (Fig. 10.1, h-i). This dumped rubble appears to have been encased in clay (layer 8). The source of this clay is unknown. The rubble of layer 7 is almost identical to that of layer 9, suggesting that perhaps this heightening of the rampart represents part of the original conception, that is a rampart consisting of a lower, broader clay-encased portion and an upper uncased portion. No evidence of internal timber structures in the rampart core or internal or external stone revetment was noted.

Layers 5 and 6 would appear to represent rampart tumble. The pottery and animal bones in layer 5 no doubt became incorporated during the degradation of the rampart. As none of the pottery appears to be of the later Belgic-influenced type or Romano-British it is possible that the initial collapse of the rampart occurred during the earliest phase of the occupation (Period I — see below), characterised by the presence of Glastonbury Ware elsewhere on the site.

After an indefinite interval, it would appear that a hollow or ledge was cut into the rampart tumble and a line of stones laid along its outer edge, possibly to provide a revetment wall to confine a reconstructed rampart, the material of which may be represented by layer 3. It is quite possible however, that this layer represents a further tumble that fell after the ledge was cut. Before the ledge was covered it was used to provide level ground for a hearth inside the lines of stones. The ledge and hearth were apparently open long enough for rainwash material (layer 4), a dark brown clayish soil

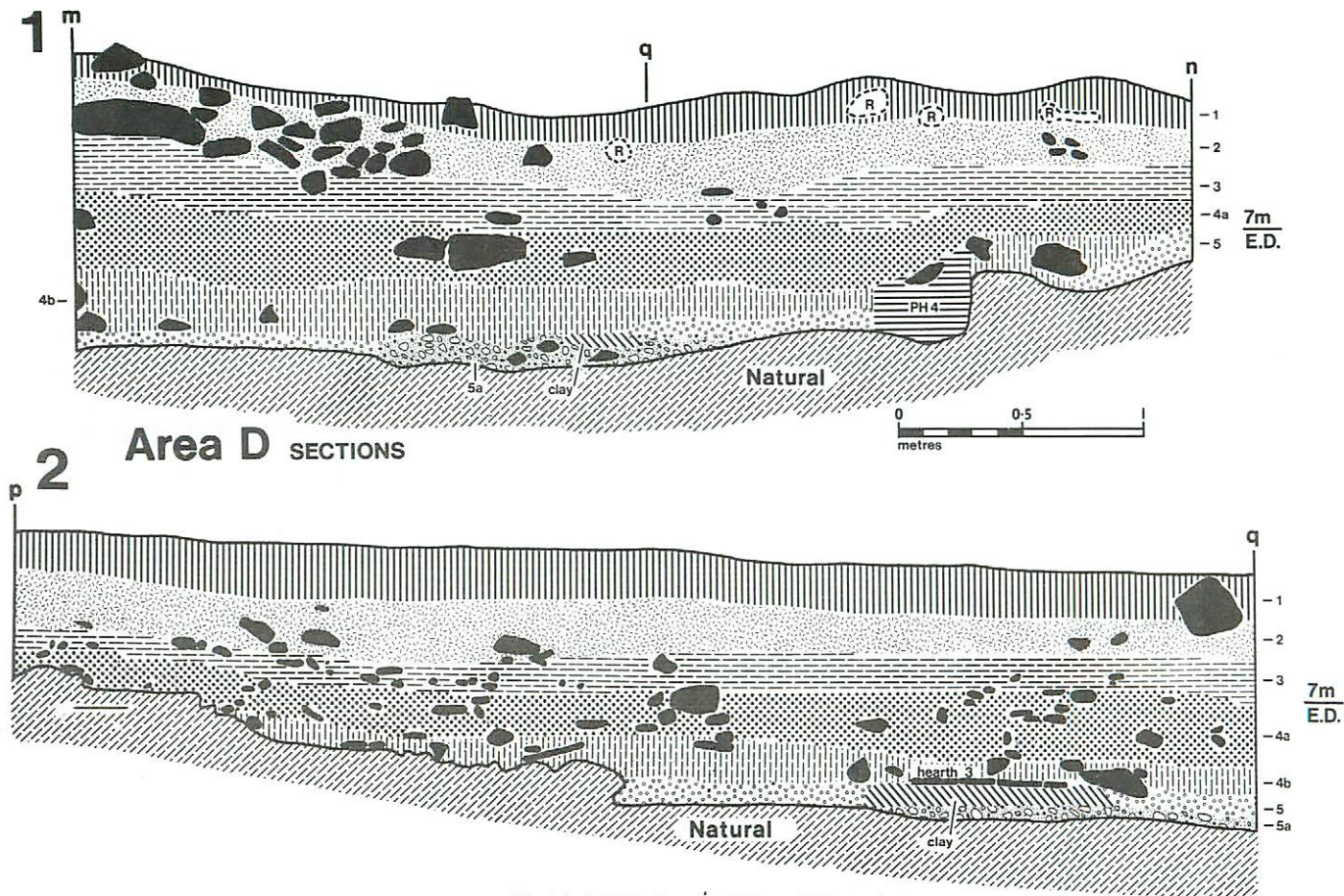


Fig. 11. 1. N.E. face; 2. N.E. to S.W. section

with far fewer stones than the surrounding layers and containing a considerable amount of charcoal derived from the hearth to accumulate before it was all covered by layer 3. Unfortunately due to lack of finds it is impossible to date the construction of the hearth and walling.

Layers 1 and 2 would seem to be the result of later degradation of the rampart.

AREA D

(Figs. 11.1, 11.2, 12, 13, 14, 15, 15a, 16)

The various layers distinguished are drawn in figures 11.1 and 11.2.

1. Black friable top soil, with scatter of small and large stones, which were concentrated towards the rampart side of the square.
2. Reddish-brown clay, darker towards the west and containing pieces of soft, angular, weathered limestones.
3. Reddish-brown clay with pieces of limestone smaller than in layer 2.
- 4a. Dark brown clayish earth with quantities of pottery, animal bones (some burnt) and charcoal. Almost black in east corner. In the south it contained many pieces of red clay where it overlay the bed rock.
- 4b. A dark reddish-brown earth. Almost black in the east corner and redder in south corner. Its contents were large quantities of animal bones, charcoal, pottery and other artefacts.
5. Dark red/brown with areas of yellow clay and red clay. Many finds.
- 5a. Black silt underlying layer 5 to the north and north east of Hearth 3. The *natural* surface below 5a was shattered limestone with red clay in the interstices. There was no sign of a weathered topsoil on the original land surface.

The main features in area D were three hearths, three pits, various post holes and stake holes. Their relative positions and arrangement are shown in *Figs. 12-15a*.

Hearth 1. (*Figs. 14 and 15a*). It consisted of a single slab of Old Red sandstone surrounded by smaller blocks of limestone with crude cobbling to the northeast. Layer 4a.

Hearth 2. (*Figs. 13 and 15a*). A very slightly domed arrangement of sandstone slabs in layer 4b and resting on layer 5.

Hearth 3. (*Figs. 12 and 15a*). This was a horizontal layer of sandstone slabs placed on a man-laid layer of yellow clay, some 5 cm thick, resting on the natural rock to the northwest. To the north of H3 was a layer of carbonaceous black silt (layer 5a), which layer also underlay the clay of the hearth. The hearthstones were at the very top of layer 5 whereas the clay rested on the natural subsoil. On these grounds H3 would be contemporary with layer 5.

The three pits are numbered P1-P3. The eight post holes are numbered PH1-PH8.

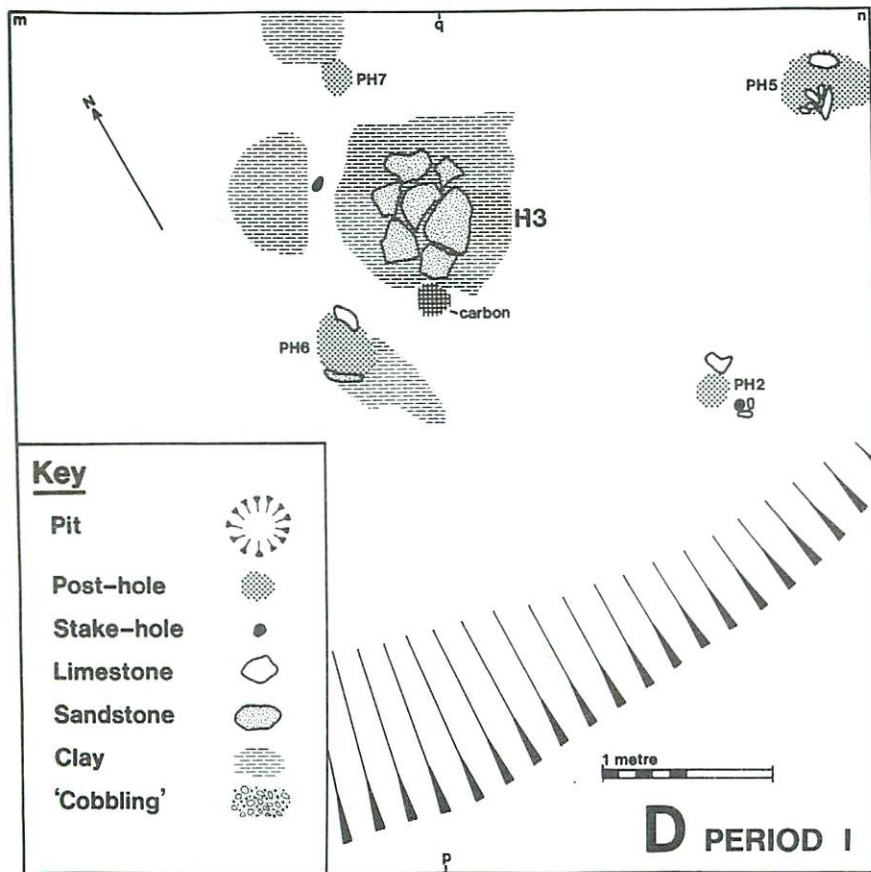


Fig. 12. Features of Period I.

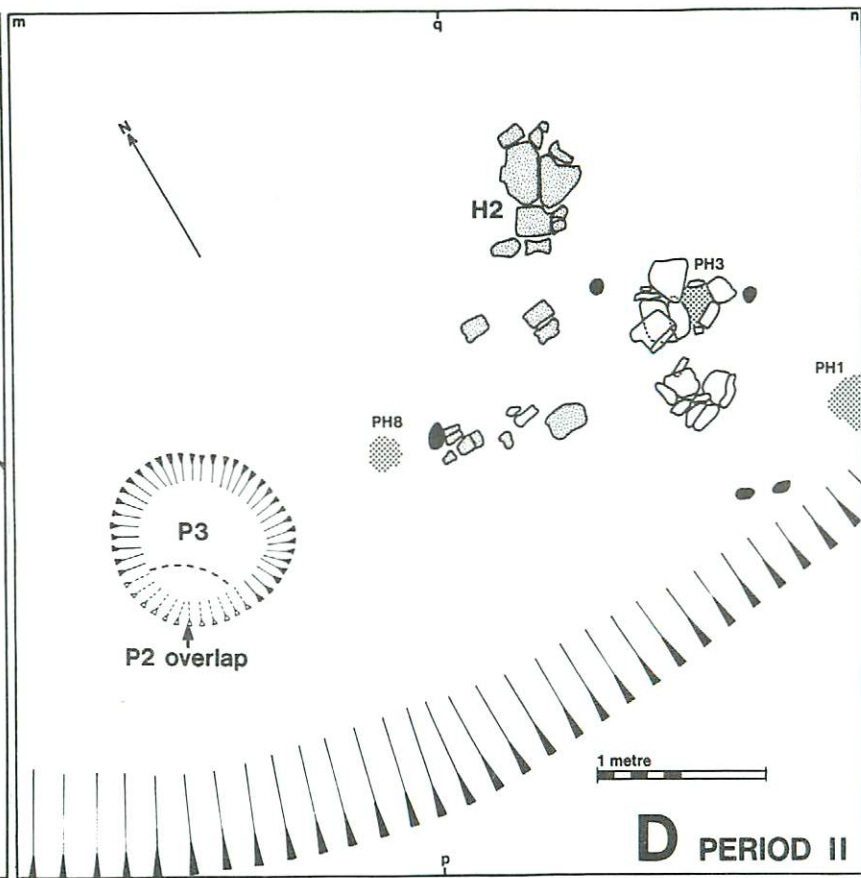


Fig. 13. Features of Period II.

- P1* (Fig. 15). Shallow circular, cut through layer 4a. It was filled with black silt. It contained pottery, bronze work and bone objects.
- P2* (Fig. 14). Shallow, nearly circular and filled with a greyish clayish substance. The contents had an unpleasant smell. The contents were partly sealed by a layer of yellow clay. It contained few objects and little charcoal. It was cut from layer 4a. It also cut into P3.
- P3* (Fig. 13). The pit had been cut from layer 4b. Its western side had been cut into by P2. The fill was dark brown and contained few finds.

Postholes in Area D

	Fig.	Shape	Max. diam. (cm)	Depth (cm)	Dug from layer	Remarks
PH1	13	Circular	30	25	4b	Black fill. Heavily burnt bone. In S.E. face.
PH2	12	Circular	18	14	5	Chock stones project into 4b.
PH3	13	Circular	15	30	4b	Top filled with stones.
PH4	11 14	Circular	15	45	4a	Chock stones at top. Partly in N.E. face.
PH5	12	Sub- rectangular	45	20	5	Black silt fill. Chock stones. In S.E. face.
PH6	12	Sub- rectangular	35	10	5	Rock sides covered with a thin layer of carbon.
PH7	12	Circular	20	10	5a	Immediately to south of area of burnt yellow clay.
PH8	13	Circular	25	15	4b	Accompanied by 2 stake holes 40 cm E.S.E. and 60 cm S.W.

Stakeholes. (Fig. 14). They formed part of an arc of a circle. They belong to layer 4a. To the north of these was a roughly rectangular area of small flat sandstone fragments and further away still a single large sandstone slab with a number of smaller fragments of limestone.

In area D the natural subsoil and rock sloped up towards the south, the rise being finally obscured by layer 3. Overlying this layer on the north-west side is a scatter of large limestone blocks, which extend across the entire width of the square in a northeast to southwest direction. It covers a third or more of the square (Fig. 15). This mass presumably represents rampart tumble.

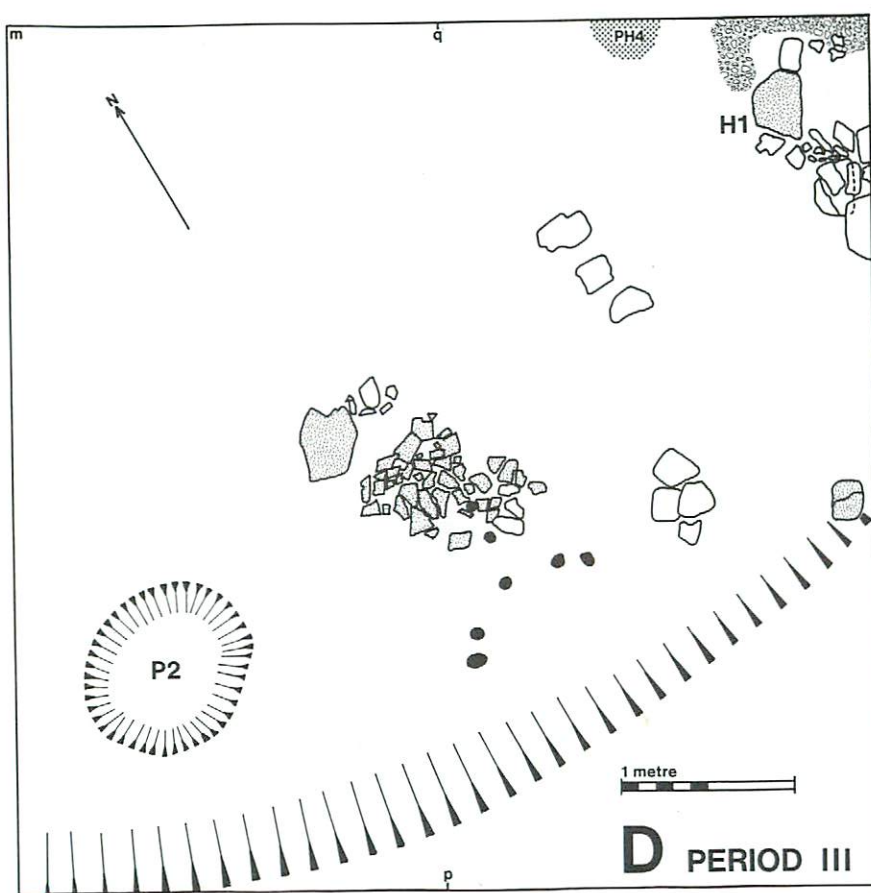


Fig. 14. Features of Period III.

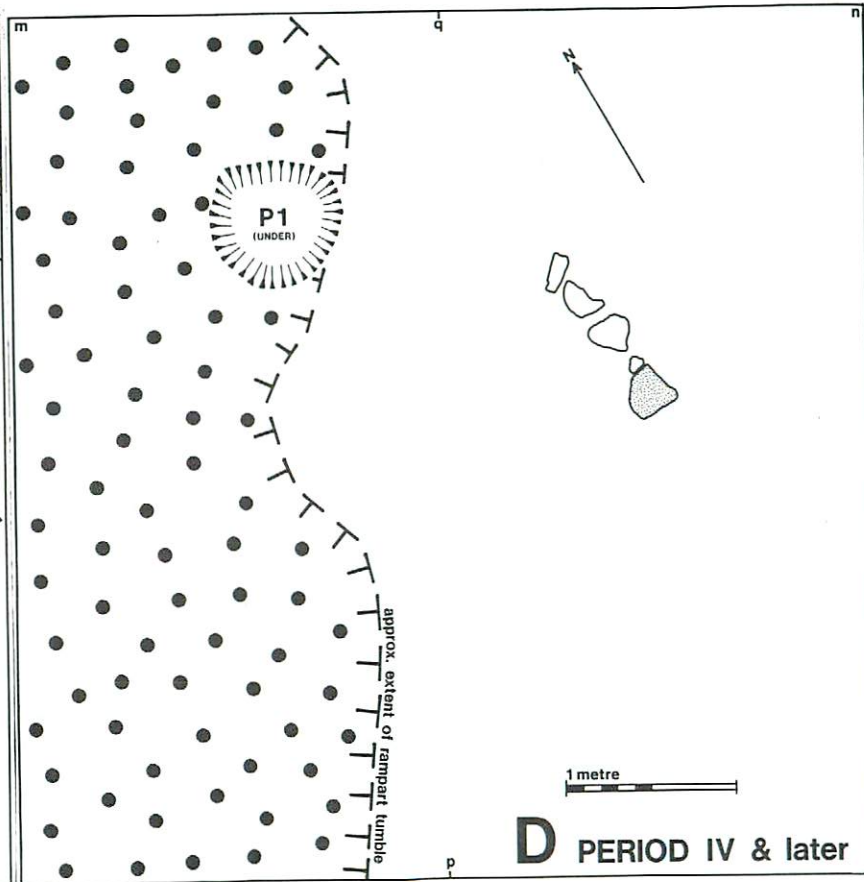


Fig. 15. Features of Period IV and later.

Finds from Area D

The major group of finds is pottery. Only some of the pottery items described are illustrated in figures 16 and 17. Other objects are illustrated in figures 18 and 19.

POTTERY

Layer 2

- P62/16 Rim of very large pot or possibly part of a tile with a wavy decoration. Dark grey to dark orange. Fabric E.
 P784 Rim of pot with lip diameter 14 cm and worn greenish-yellow glaze. Body colour light to medium grey. Fabric G.

Layer 3

- P11 Rim of dish. Exterior face light grey/buff, interior face dark grey. Lip diameter 19 cm. Fabric F. Parallels at Gatcombe from the late 3rd century (Cunliffe 1967, Fig. 39 No. 172).
 P28/16 Base with slight foot ring, diameter 12 cm. Medium to dark grey/buff. Fabric E. L.P.R.I.A.
 P36 Rim of dish. Dark grey/buff. Lip diameter 18 cm. Fabric F. Similar to P11.
 P51/16 Base of wheel-thrown pot. Base diameter 9 cm. Orange/buff. Fabric A. Compare with Bagendon (Clifford, 1961, Fig. 53 No. 18) 20-30 A.D.
 P165/16 Body sherd with lattice decoration. Exterior face dark grey/buff, interior face medium buff/orange. Fabric A. Compare Glastonbury Ware from Read's Cavern (Langford, 1923, Pl. XXII, C22-24).
 P251/16 Rim, slightly everted, with cordon. Medium buff/grey. Lip diameter 15 cm. Fabric B. Compare with types from Trevisker (ApSimon and Greenfield, 1972, Fig. 23 Nos. 45 and 47). The pot may be related to Birchall's Type IVb from Aylesford. (Birchall, 1965, Fig. 8 No. 61) and therefore be said to exhibit Belgic influence.

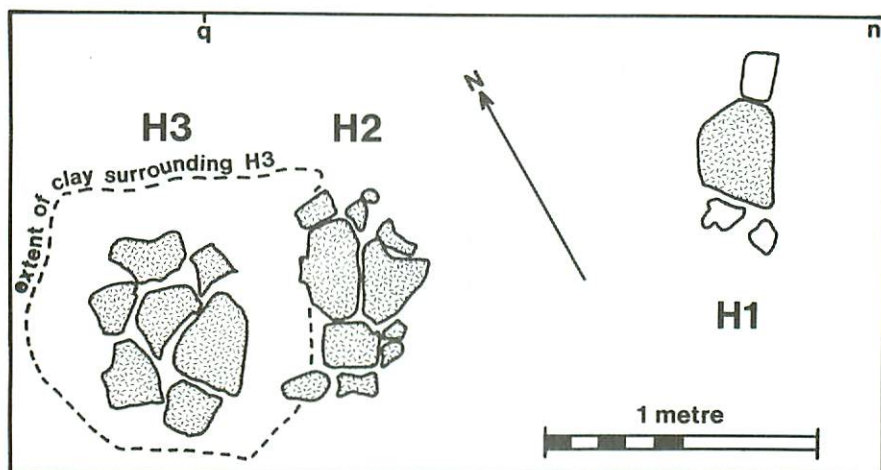


Fig. 15a. The relationship between the hearths in Area D.

- P268 A small fragment with raised ridge. The curvature suggests that it may be part of a lid. Possibly wheel-thrown. Medium to dark grey/buff. Fabric A. Possibly Belgic influenced.
- P683 Highly everted rim with no bead. Light to medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Probably Ultimate P.R.I.A. — compare with types from Tollard Royal (Wainwright, 1969, Fig. 20 Nos. 105, 111).
- P687/16 Rim with incised arcading. Lip diameter 18 cm. Faces medium grey, body light grey. Fabric F. Probably late 3rd or early 4th century A.D.
- P766/16 Roundel of fired clay 3 cm diameter. Medium orange/buff. Tempering material either very fine or non-existent.
- P773/16 Rim, with rough area on interior face just below the lip, possibly the remains of a flange. Lip diameter 22 cm. Dark grey/buff. Fabric A.
- P865 Body and base of large storage jar. Base diameter 16 cm. Exterior and interior faces medium buff, body medium grey/buff. Fabric B.
- P887a Worn rectangular sherd, possibly cut to shape. 3.5 x 3 cm. Light orange/buff. Fabric E.
- P887b/16 Wheel-thrown base fragment, diameter 8 cm. Faces light to orange, body light grey. Fabric F.
- P887j/16 Dish rim with incised arcading. Lip diameter 16 cm. Light to dark orange/buff. Fabric F. Romano-British.
- Layer 4a*
- P509/16 Sherd with raised ridge. Curvature suggests that it is part of a lid. Dark grey. Fabric F. Romano-British.
- P512/16 Rim slightly everted with slight bead. Lip diameter 18 cm. Medium to dark grey/buff. Fabric D. Late P.R.I.A.
- P513/16 Sherd with two wide grooves. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Possibly an imitation of a Belgic form, such as Birchall's Type IVa with corrugated shoulder (Birchall, 1965, Fig. 3 No. 23).
- P523/16 Base, diameter 8 cm. Light to medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Late P.R.I.A.
- P566/16 Pot with short neck and slight bead. Lip diameter 15 cm. Dark grey/buff. Fabric B. Late P.R.I.A.
- P571 Slightly inturned rim with bead. Dark grey/buff. Similar to Type XXXVIII from Meare (Bulleid and Gray, 1948, Pl. XVII).
- P572 Slightly everted rim with bead. Black. This has some similarities with Type XVI from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Grey, 1917, Pl. LXXVI).
- P575 Slightly everted rim with slight bead. Lip diameter 20 cm. Grey/buff. Fabric B. Late P.R.I.A.
- P595 Slightly inturned rim, 20 mm thick, with slight neck below lip. Lip diameter 30 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric B. P.R.I.A.
- P599/16 Wheel-thrown base with foot ring. Diameter 5 cm. Light orange/buff. Fabric C. A similar type at Bagendon dated about A.D. 43. (Clifford 1961, Fig. 53 No. 22).
- P600 Slightly inturned rim with no thickening at lip. Lip diameter 9 cm. Dark buff to grey. Fabric B. P.R.I.A.
- P688/16 Fragment of plate. Lip diameter 18 cm. Black to light grey. Fabric B. No parallels discovered, probably Ultimate P.R.I.A.
- P729/16 Sherd with incised lenticular and lattice decoration. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A, Glastonbury Ware. Late P.R.I.A.
- P730/16 Roundel apparently cut from a sherd. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A.
- P737/16 Everted rim diameter 17 cm. Medium grey. Fabric F. Romano-British.
- P746 Irregular sub-pyramidal lump of fired clay. One face concave, black and poorly fired. The other faces are orange/red and well fired. Possibly a crucible fragment, though there was no sign of any industrial residue.
- P788/16 Dish rim decorated with incised arcading. Lip diameter 18 cm. Exterior and interior faces light grey, body black. Fabric F. 3rd century A.D.
- P795/16 Plain jar with everted lip, diameter 17 cm. Medium buff/grey. Fabric B. L.P.R.I.A.

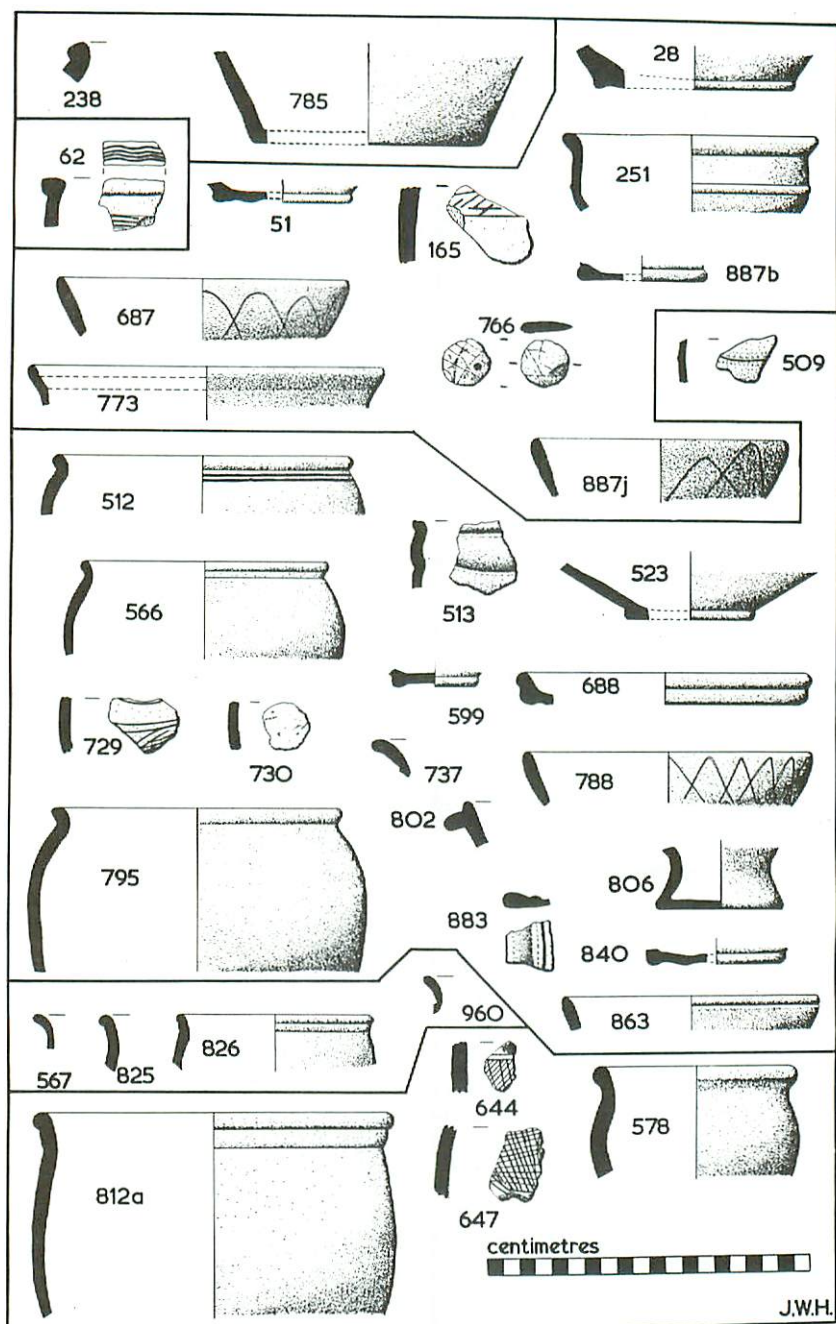


Fig. 16. Pottery from Areas A and D.

- P796 Bead rim with three incised lines about 15 mm below the lip. Lip diameter 12 cm. Dark grey/buff. Fabric A.
- P802/16 Rim with external flange. Lip diameter about 18 cm. Dark grey. Fabric F. Late 3rd century or early 4th century A.D. Possibly even as late as late 4th century when compared with types at Gatcombe (Branigan, 1968, p. 49 and Fig. 5 no. 3).
- P806/16 Pedestal base, diameter 7.6 cm. Dark buff to grey. Fabric B. The form suggests a strong Belgic influence, for example from types such as those found at Swarling (Birchall, 1965, Fig. 2 No. 13, Type 1a) and more locally from Bury Hill, Winterbourne (Davies and Phillips, 1926). The fabric type however is more characteristic of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery, which suggests that this specimen may represent a primitive copy of a Belgic original.
- P840/16 Wheel made base with pronounced footing and slightly humped centre. Diameter 8 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Similar to base Form 116 D at Bagendon, which is dated very early 1st century A.D. (Clifford, 1961, p. 236 and Fig. 65).
- P863/16 Rim with groove 6 mm below lip. Lip diameter 16 cm. Dark grey/buff. Fabric F. Similar to type found at Gatcombe in late 2nd to early 3rd century context. (Cunliffe, 1967, p. 141 and Fig. 35 No. 68).
- P883/16 Small fragment of wheel-thrown rim. The curvature suggests that this is not part of the true rim, but rather part of a lid or an internal structure. Light to dark grey/buff. Fabric H. No parallels have been found. It is probably Romano-British.

Layer 4b

- P528 Inturned rim with pronounced bead. Lip diameter 19 cm. Medium to light grey/buff. Fabric B. L.P.R.I.A.
- P567/16 Everted rim with no bead. Lip diameter 14 cm. Dark grey. Fabric A. The type is found at both Glastonbury and Meare Lake Villages (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, 1948). L.P.R.I.A.
- P791 Everted rim about 10 mm thick, with slightly thickened lip. Lip diameter 17 cm. Dark orange. Fabric H. L.P.R.I.A.
- P815 Inturned rim with slight thickening at the lip. Lip diameter 17 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric B. L.P.R.I.A.
- P819 Slightly inturned rim with unpronounced broad bead. Lip diameter about 23 cm. Fabric A. L.P.R.I.A.
- P822 Rim with slight eversion and thickening at the lip. Lip diameter about 7 cm. Fabric B. L.P.R.I.A.
- P825/16 Rim of pot with flared lip and slight bead at neck. Lip diameter 13 cm. Dark grey to black. Fabric B. This shape does not closely parallel anything at Glastonbury or Meare. It may have been influenced by Belgic forms, for example, Birchall's Type IV. (Birchall, 1965). Thus it could be the later part of the L.P.R.I.A. or possibly Ult. P.R.I.A.
- P826/16 Rim with short neck and slight bead. Lip diameter 12 cm. Light to medium grey/buff. Fabric B. Similar to Type IV at Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXV). L.P.R.I.A.
- P960/16 Flared rim with sharp angle to shoulder. Lip diameter 16 cm. Light grey/buff. Fabric B. The form suggests a Romano-British date, but the colour and fabric suggest Ultimate P.R.I.A. Close parallel with type from Westonzoyland, thought to be Durotrigian/R.B. (Miles, H. and T. J., 1969, Fig. 7 P69).
- P960a Rim with slight eversion and little thickening at the lip. Lip diameter 13 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric B. L.P.R.I.A.

Layer 5.

- P578/16 Rim and body of globular bowl. Lip diameter 12 cm. Medium to dark grey/buff. Fabric A. Parallels at Glastonbury. L.P.R.I.A.

- P644/16 Body sherd with lattice decoration. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Glastonbury Ware.
- P647/16 Body sherd with lattice decoration. Dark grey to black. Fabric B. Glastonbury Ware.
- P812a/16 Rim and body of upright sided 'saucepan' pot. Lip diameter 21 cm. Buff/orange to grey/buff. Fabric B. Similar to Type XV at Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXVI). L.P.R.I.A.
- P812c/17 Rim of 'saucepan' pot. Lip diameter 19 cm. Light buff/orange. Fabric A. Similar to 812a. L.P.R.I.A.
- P812d/17 'Saucepan' pot without base. Lip diameter 18 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Similar to 812a, but without short neck. L.P.R.I.A.
- P837 Plain inturned rim. Lip diameter 21 cm. Medium grey buff to light grey. Fabric A. Similar to Type XI at Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXV). L.P.R.I.A.
- P886 Body sherd with part of arc and lattice decoration. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Glastonbury Ware. L.P.R.I.A.
- P957/17 Handle fragment with sub-triangular cross-section. Light grey/buff. Fabric A. Similar to types from Glastonbury. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXIX). L.P.R.I.A.

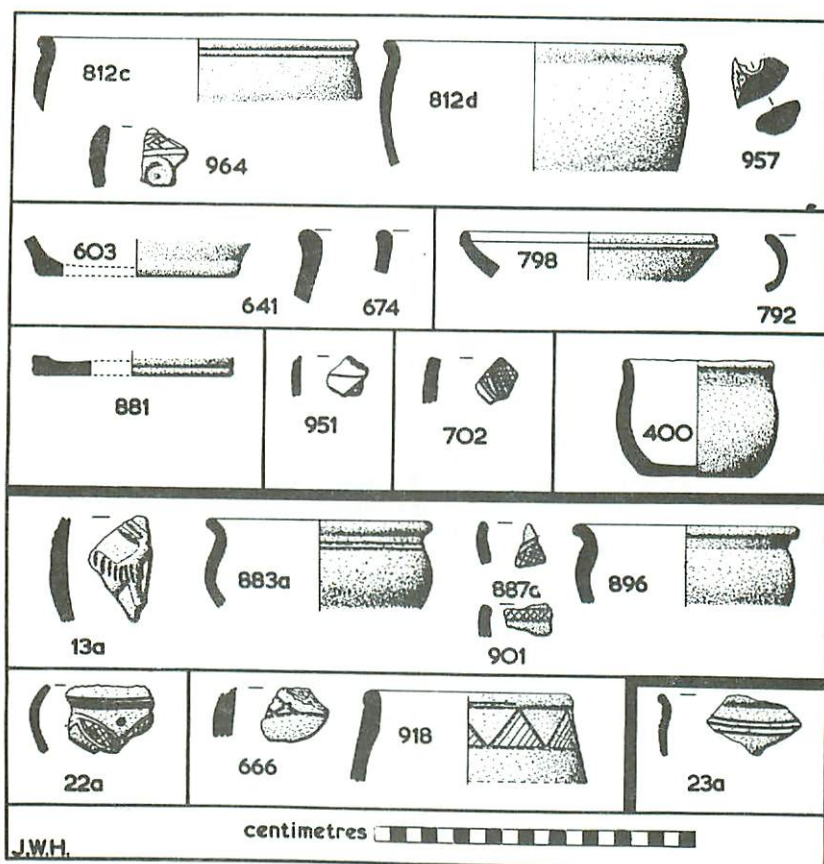


Fig. 17. Pottery from Areas D, J and I.

P964/17 Body sherd with incised lattice decoration and raised roundel. Exterior face light buff, interior face light grey. Fabric A. Though roundels occur frequently in the decorated pottery of Meare and Glastonbury they differ from this example in that they are either incised or merely a lacuna in the incised decoration. Glastonbury Ware.

Layer 5a

P603/17 Base sherd with slight heel. Base diameter 12 cm. Medium to dark buff/grey. Fabric A. Similar to type V at Glastonbury. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXV). L.P.R.I.A.

P641/17 Rim with slight eversion and thickening at lip. Lip diameter 23 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. Similar to Type XXXVI from Meare (Bulleid and Gray, 1948, Pl. XVII). L.P.R.I.A.

P674/17 Rim with very slight eversion and thickening. Lip diameter 13 cm. Medium to dark grey/buff. Fabric D. Similar to P641. L.P.R.I.A.

Pit 1

P792/17 Highly everted rim. Lip diameter 14 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric B. Ultimate Pre-Roman Iron Age.

P793 Inturned rim with slight bead. Lip diameter 18 cm. Medium buff/grey. Fabric A. L.P.R.I.A.

P797 Slightly inturned rim with slight thickening at lip. Lip diameter 9 cm. Light buff to medium buff/grey. Fabric A. L.P.R.I.A.

P798/17 Rim with slight ridge below lip. Possibly part of a lid. Lip diameter 16 cm. Dark grey. Fabric F. Romano-British.

Pit 2

P881/17 Base with slight heel. Diameter 12 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. P.R.I.A.

Pit 3

P951/17 Body sherd with lattice decoration. Exterior face medium grey/buff, interior dark grey. Fabric A. Glastonbury Ware.

Post-Hole 1

P702/17 Body sherd with lattice decoration. Medium grey/buff. Fabric B. Glastonbury Ware. L.P.R.I.A.

Unstratified

P400/17 Rim, body and base of hand-made pot, with a very poor fabric. Lip diameter 9 cm. Dark grey/buff to black. Fabric B. Probably P.R.I.A.

BAKED CLAY

Layer 4a

BC11/18 Ovoid sling shot. Length 27 mm. Diameter 18 mm. Similar to ones found at Glastonbury. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. XC).

BC12/18 Ovoid sling shot. Length 31 mm. Diameter 20 mm. Late P.R.I.A as in the case of BC11.

BC20 An irregular mass of well fired clay. Exterior black and fairly smooth. A groove approximately 10 mm diameter runs along what appears to be a broken surface. Overall dimensions about 50 x 35 x 40 mm. Possibly a fragment from loomweight.

BC39/18 Spindle whorl. 20 mm thick. 27 mm diameter. Similar to examples from Glastonbury. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. XC and Pl. XCII).

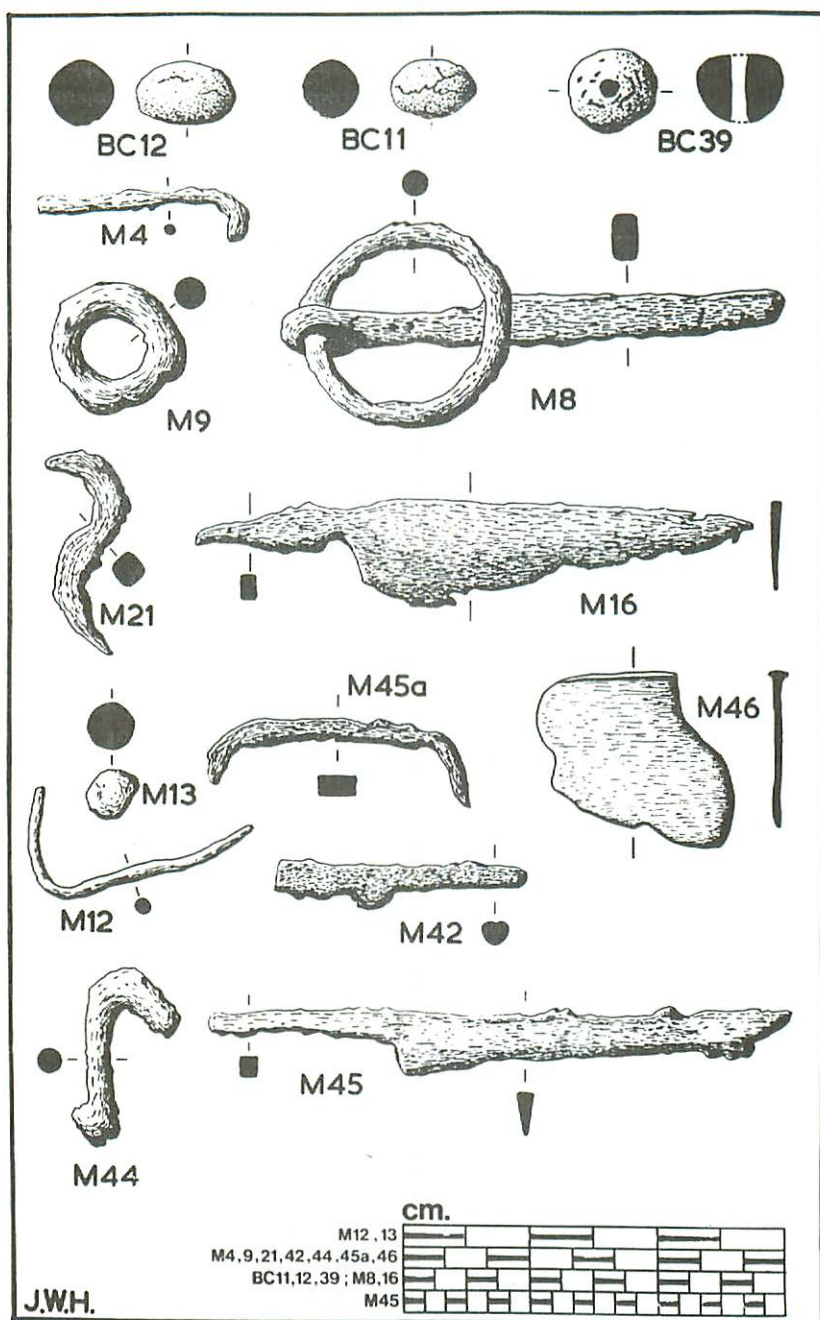


Fig. 18. Baked clay and metalwork from Area D.

METALWORK

Layer 2

M26 Bronze coin. Gallienus. Apolline Cons. Aug. A.D. 253-268.

Layer 3

M4/18 Iron hook, 50 mm long. Possibly part of a brooch bow.

M8/18 Iron tethering ring. Length 158 mm. Similar specimens have been found in both a late P.R.I.A. context, at Wookey Hole (Balch, 1914, p. 93 and Pl. XVII, no. 40) and in a Romano-British one at the Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe. (Fowler, 1968, Fig. 56, no. 9). This ring-bolt was examined as part of a study of the trace elements content of Pre-Roman ironwork (Haldane, 1970). It was found to contain the following trace elements: calcium (0.032 p.c.), magnesium (0.008 p.c.), copper (0.001 p.c.) and manganese (0.005 p.c.). The following elements were detected: titanium (0.01 p.c.), lead (0.003 p.c.), nickel (0.01 p.c.) and cobalt (0.003 p.c.). On the grounds of composition the tethering ring fell in a widespread group, characterised by a low proportion of magnesium, manganese and lead, which included items from Meare, Glastonbury, Wookey Hole, Ham Hill, Little Solsbury, Read's Cavern and Worlebury.

M9/18 Iron ring, about 30 mm diameter, with circular cross section. On the outside is a flattened area, opposite which there are two slight protuberances. Possibly a horse trapping.

M21/18 Iron hook with sub-rectangular cross-section. Length 47 mm. 7 mm square.

Layer 4a

M16/18 Iron knife. Length 170 mm with straight cutting edge. It has some similarities with a knife from Meare (Gray and Bulleid, 1953, Pl. LI, no. I 186 and p. 236), but this differs by having a convex cutting edge. In this respect M16 is closer to an example from All Cannings Cross, though this is much smaller (Cunnington, 1923, p. 126 and Pl. 20, no. 14). M16 was closely associated with P571 and P572 (see above).

M44a Bronze coin. 18.3 x 20.6 x 1.3 mm. Weight 1.5 gm. The obverse has a head facing right, wearing a radiate crown. The reverse design is obscure, but may represent sacrificial implements. The inscription is illegible. The coin would appear to be similar to a number of mid-3rd century issues.

M45a/18 Strip of iron with rectangular cross-section. Bent into a broad U. Very similar in its size and shape to an item from Meare, described as a clamp (Gray and Bulleid, 1953, p. 241 and Pl. LI, no. I 123).

M46/18 Irregular flat piece of iron about 40 x 45 mm with a thickness of about 2 mm. There is a flange along one side. No parallels have been found.

Layer 4b

M12/18 A bent piece of bronze wire, with a circular cross-section, about 2 mm in diameter. Possibly part of M13.

M13/18 Bronze sphere, 7 mm in diameter. Probably a pin-head.

M42/18 Two iron fragments, totalling about 55 mm in length, with a cardioid cross-section. Possibly part of a binding.

M44/18 Iron hook with circular cross-section, 4 mm in diameter.

M45/18 Iron knife, 270 mm long. The blade has a triangular cross-section. This knife has some similarities with an example from Meare, but the latter appears to be double edged. (Gray and Bulleid, 1953, p. 236 and Pl. L., no. I 103). It is perhaps more similar to a specimen from All Cannings Cross, though this is only about half as long, even allowing for the missing parts (Cunnington, 1923, p. 126 and Pl. 20, no. 15).

Layer 5

- M18/19 Iron ring 45 mm diameter, with an oval cross-section 13 x 11 mm. The dimensions are approximate since the item is heavily corroded.
- M22/19 Iron sickle 120 mm long, with rivet at handle end. This is very similar to a specimen from Glastonbury, though in this latter case the blade is extended to form part of the handle. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXI, no. 130). As M22 is heavily corroded it is impossible to determine whether the blade was extended as in the Glastonbury example. Late P.R.I.A.

Pit 1

- M43/19 Bronze ring with silver wash. Simple wire type with a diameter averaging 14 mm. Similar in general form, but not in cross-section, to an example from Butcombe. (Fowler, 1968, p. 233 and Fig. 56, no. 7). Probably Romano-British, but could be earlier.

STONWORK

Layer 4a

- S21/19 Spindle whorl, 37 mm in diameter. Similar to examples from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. XCI). Late P.R.I.A.

Layer 4b

- S22/19 Hone of sandstone. Length 140 mm.
- S23/19 Sandstone hone fragment.
- S25 Fragment of smooth sandstone. 50 x 55 x 40 mm. Possibly part of a hand millstone.
- S26/19 Sandstone hone fragment.

Layer 5a

- S27/19 One quadrant of a spindle whorl, radius 29 mm. Possibly broken during perforation.

WORKED BONES

Layer 4b

- WB1 Sawn off horn core of a sheep. Possibly used as a handle.
- WB14/19 Bone point, length 120 mm.

Pit 1

- WB12/19 A part cylinder cut from an ox long bone. There are two holes, on the same side at either end, one of which is incomplete. No parallels have been discovered and its use is unknown.

GLASS

Layer 4a

- G41 Fragment of light green glass, 20 x 20 mm.

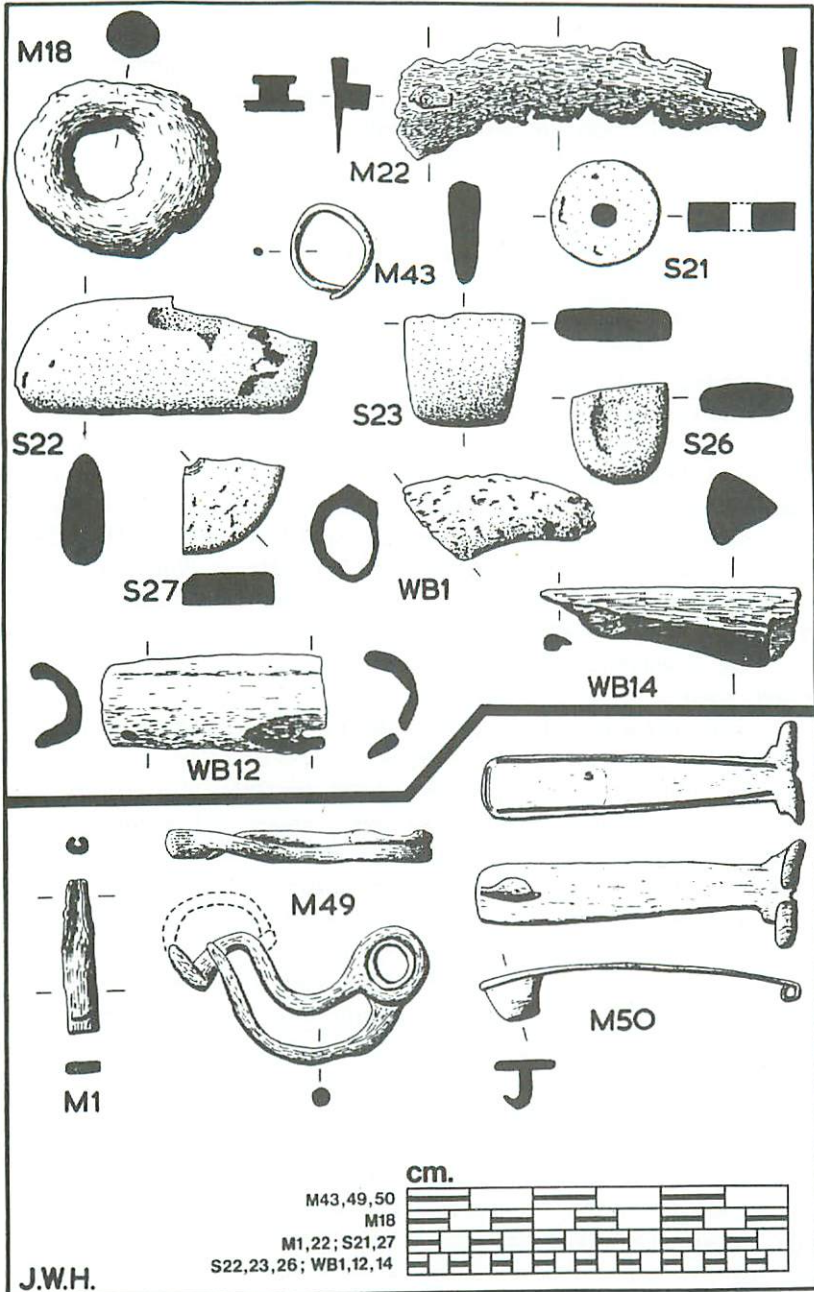


Fig. 19. Baked clay, stonework and metalwork from Areas D and J.

INTERPRETATION OF AREA D

It would appear that initially a natural hollow in the limestone existed of which part was uncovered in area D. The full extent of this hollow, much of which must lie north of area D, remains unknown since the presence of trees makes it impossible to delineate it either by geophysical means or by excavation.

During the first phase of occupation in area D (Period I, *Fig. 12*) it appears that the ground was cleared of soil and levelled to some extent by the addition of material forming a layer 5a (*Fig. 11.1*). The contents merely suggest a P.R.I.A. date, so that it is impossible to determine the interval that elapsed between the formation of this layer and the construction of Hearth 3 on a foundation of yellow clay (*Figs. 12 and 15a*). It is probable that this interval was very brief. While Hearth 3 was in use, material of layer 5 (*Fig. 11*) accumulated, whose contents, especially the pieces of decorated Glastonbury Ware (P644, P647 and P964) suggest a date in late P.R.I.A. roughly contemporary with the Iron Age phase at Blaise Castle Hill (Rahtz and Brown, 1959), the occupation of Read's Cavern (Palmer, 1920, 1921; Langford, 1922, 1923; Tratman, 1924, 1931), as well as Wookey Hole, Meare, Worlebury and of course Glastonbury itself. The distribution of postholes belonging to period I (PH2, PH5, PH6 and PH7) suggest the presence of a simple hut, possibly no more than a windbreak to protect the hearth from the prevailing south-westerly winds.

After what would appear to be a short time Hearth 2 was constructed (*Figs. 13 and 15a*). This would seem to represent period II of the occupation. Associated with H2 in layer 4 are three postholes (PH1, PH3 and PH8) and four stakeholes, all of which seem to be set in an arc with a radius of about 1.5 m but it is doubtful whether this arrangement suggests the presence of a hut as the radius is rather small. These features could however represent the central supporting structure of a hut as found, for example, at West Brandon, Co. Durham (Jobey, 1962). This interpretation would also account for the hearth being outside the circle. Also associated is Pit 3, which contained few finds, as did layer 4b, which built up at this time. Sherds in this layer with highly everted, unbeaded rims, (*e.g.* P567 and P960) suggest an Ultimate P.R.I.A. date. The considerable scatter of sherds in the higher layers, which sherds exhibit strong Belgic characteristics (*e.g.* P251, P513, P599, P806 and P840, *fig. 16*), would definitely suggest the occupation of the site during the closing stages of the P.R.I.A. of the Bristol region.

Period III of the occupation seems to be represented by Hearth 1 (*Figs. 14 and 15a*). This hearth is rudimentary when compared with the other two, so it may only be an outlier to a main area of occupation elsewhere on the site. Other features which are associated with the build up of layer 4a are P2, PH4 and a scatter of predominantly sandstone slabs covering an area of some 1.0 by 0.6 m in the centre of area D. It is possible that this

scatter represents some kind of foundation or flooring. This scatter is closely associated with an arc of stakeholes to the south and a large sandstone block to the north. In the absence of useful parallels, the function of these structures must remain a matter for conjecture.

The pottery of layer 4a, particularly P788, P802 and P863, would appear to suggest a date in the latter part of the 3rd century A.D. from parallels found at nearby Gatcombe. Such a date seems to be borne out by the presence of a worn bronze coin (M44a), which would seem to be of a mid-3rd century type. Also the presence of a coin (M26) of Gallienus (A.D. 253-268) in layer 2 slightly strengthens the possibility of local activity during the second half of the 3rd century.

Period IV (*Fig. 15*), the final phase in area D is represented solely by Pit 1. The contents of this pit were not dateable beyond the fact that they were Romano-British. The material of layer 3, which overlay Pit 1 contained very similar material to that in layer 4a, which suggests that Period IV follows Period III without an appreciable break.

Following Period IV, tumble from the rampart spread across area D from the northwest covering between a third to a half of the square.

AREA J

The irregular form of this excavation is due to the roots of standing trees. The layers are shown in figure 20 and the associated features in figure 21.

Layers

1. Black friable top soil containing numerous rootlets and large stones.
- 2a. Dark brown clayish earth, more compact than layer 1. Some of the stones of layer 1 rested in layer 2a, which contained a number of largish stones.
- 2b. Almost black and with a greater quantity of stones and animal bones than layer 2a. In the north-eastern section (b-c), the layer was found to consist of a sandwich of stonier layers round one which was darker and less stoney.
- 2c. This was similar to 2b but lighter brown in colour. It was confined to a sub-circular segment of about 0.7 m radius centred on point 'f', and was about 10 cm thick.
3. A thin layer immediately above the natural sub-soil. It was reddish in colour, except northeast of the supposed 'wall', where it was dark brown. Layer 3 yielded large quantities of animal bones, especially from the western-most area.

The texture of layer 3 was similar to 2a and 2b but became less clayish towards the base. In the corner 'e' 2b was underlain by a platform of

Area J Sections

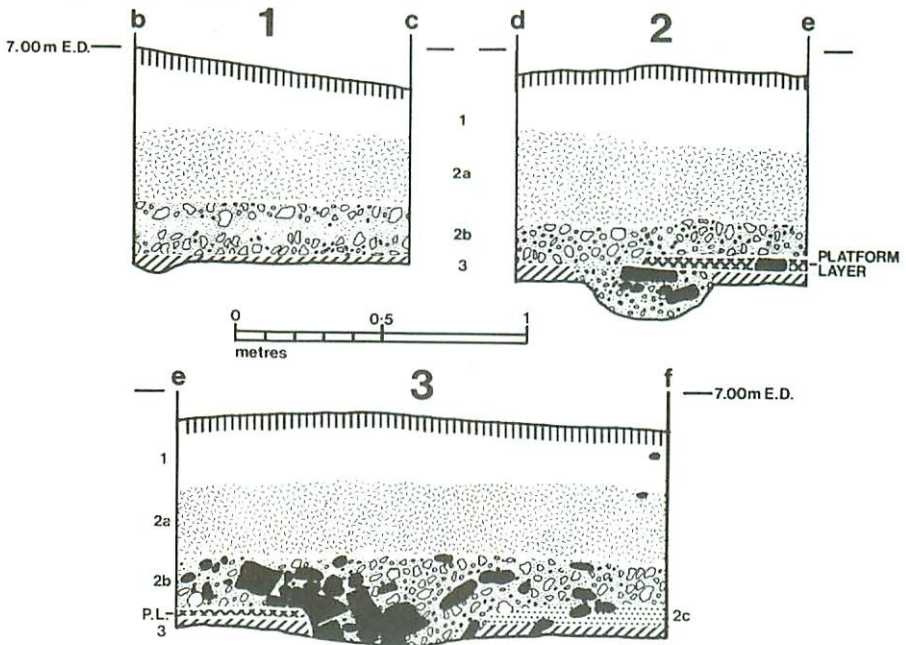


Fig. 20.

reddish, very compact earth with small stones. Below it was a layer of black stoney soil.

Natural. This consisted of weathered limestone with red clay in the interstices. It sloped up westwards towards the rampart.

Features. The supposed 'wall' consisted of a line of stones of widely differing sizes. The black soil of layer 2b was closely intermingled with the wall material and pottery and bone were absent along the line of the facing. Most of the basal stones rested on layer 3 as far as could be ascertained, but some, notably that on the southwest edge of Pit 4, were set in layer 3. To the northeast of the wall there was rubble, which appeared to be part of the construction. The material to the southwest appeared to be just tumble from the wall. Northeast of the wall was an area of dark brown clay. There was a concentration of snail shells here. Along the southwest face of the wall a 5 cm-deep scarp had been cut into the natural with its lower side to the northeast where there were three hollows in line, (2, 3, 4), all about 5 cm deep.

Pit 1 (Figs. 20 and 21). This was shallow. It was only partially excavated as it fell in the section b-c. It was cut from layer 3 into the natural subsoil. *Pits 2, 3 and 4.* See above, under Wall.

Pit 5 (Fig. 21). This was a highly elongated pit reaching a maximum depth of about 24 cm. Though it was overlapped by the 'platform' layer (see above) and contained a layer of charcoal at the bottom, the fill was otherwise indistinguishable from layer 2b. The north-eastern section d-e seems to suggest that layer 2b sags over Pit 5. It would appear therefore that the date of Pit 5 is intermediate between that of layers 3 and 2b.

Pit 6 (Fig. 21). This pit appears to be a posthole. It is surrounded by large stones, some of which are in the south-east section e-f. This section also indicates the absence of layer 3 over this posthole and layer 2c as well as 'platform layer' seem to end at the pit's boundary, though this may not be directly related to the presence of the pit. The date of Pit 6 would appear to be later than that of layer 3, possibly later than that of the 'platform layer' and earlier than layer 2b.

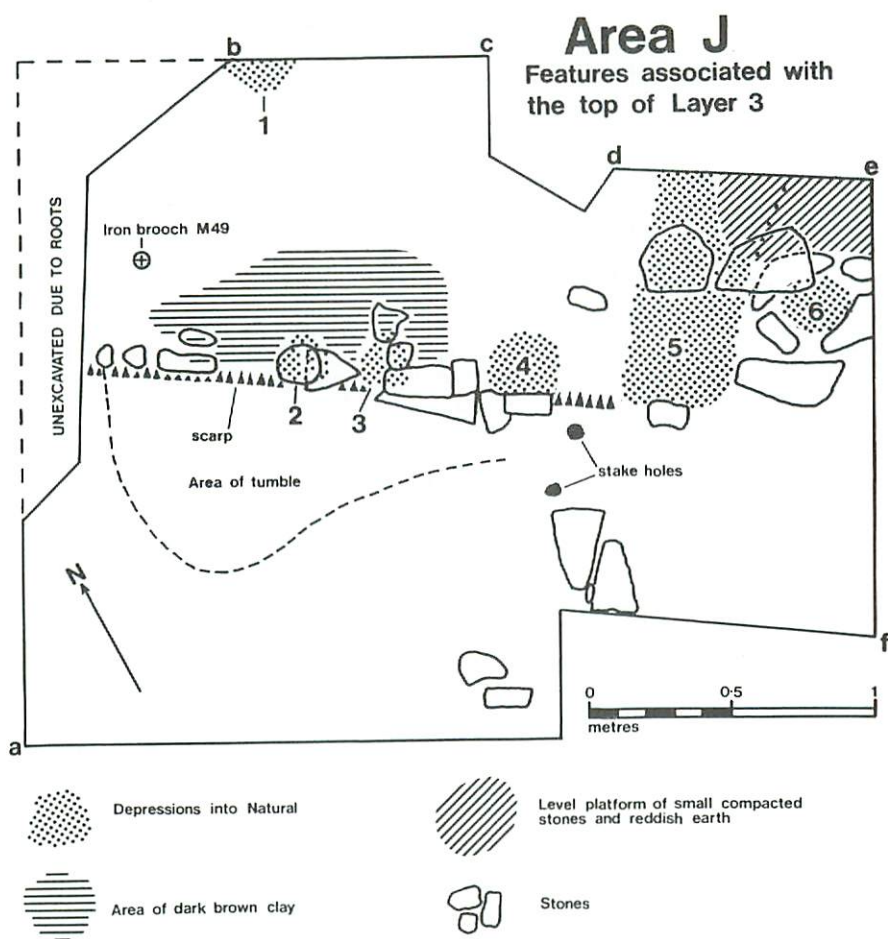


Fig. 21.

FINDS FROM AREA J

POTTERY

Layer 2a

- P7a Half a baked clay sling shot, 24 mm diameter. Reddish buff. No apparent tempering material. Similar to examples from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. XC).
- P13a/17 Body sherd with green glaze and raised design. Interior face light buff, body light grey. The tempering material appears to be small subangular grains of quartz. Mediaeval.
- P883a/17 Bowl without base. Two incised grooves at neck. Lip diameter 14 cm. Medium to dark grey. Fabric A. Similar to Type XXII at Glastonbury. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXVI). L.P.R.I.A.
- P887a/17 Body sherd with lattice decoration. Medium buff. Fabric E. Glastonbury Ware. L.P.R.I.A.
- P896/17 Bowl with short everted neck and bead rim, without base. Lip diameter 14 cm. Light buff to dark grey. Fabric A. Similar to Type I at Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXV). L.P.R.I.A.
- P901/17 Body sherd with lattice decoration. Medium buff. Fabric E. Glastonbury Ware. L.P.R.I.A.

Layer 2b

- P22a/17 Body sherd with lattice decoration in lozenge shaped surround. Faces light orange/buff. Body black. Fabric B. Glastonbury Ware. L.P.R.I.A.
- P882 Body sherd with mottled green glaze on exterior surface. Interior face light buff, body light grey. Fabric well fired containing fragments of quartz. Mediaeval.

Layer 3

- P663 Rim with two incised lines 7 mm apart. Lip diameter 17 cm. Exterior face dark grey. Interior face medium orange/buff. Fabric B. Similar to P299 at Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXXVII).
- P666/17 Body sherd with curvilinear lattice decoration. Dark grey/buff. Fabric B. Glastonbury Ware. L.P.R.I.A.
- P670 Slightly everted rim on upright body. Lip diameter 11 cm. Medium grey/buff. Fabric A. A 'saucepan' type, similar to Type XV at Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXVI).
- P814 Highly everted rim with slightly thickened lip. Lip diameter 19 cm. Dark grey. Fabric E. Possibly related to Glastonbury Type XIII (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXV).
- P897 Slightly everted rim with short neck and bead. Lip diameter about 16 cm. Exterior face light grey/buff. Interior face light grey/buff to black. Fabric A. Similar to Glastonbury Type III (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXV).
- P918/17 Upper half of pot with incised triangular decoration. Lip diameter 13 cm. Reddish buff. Fabric D. Similar in shape to Glastonbury Type IV and with typical Glastonbury Ware decoration. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Pl. LXXV).

METALWORK

Layer 2a

- M1/19 Iron bar 47 mm long, 10 mm wide, 4 mm thick, pinched in at one end. This object does not appear to be a gouge as it tapers towards the end. It has been suggested that it might be a small example of a parallel sided 'currency-bar' (Allen, 1967, p. 311) related to a specimen from Wookey

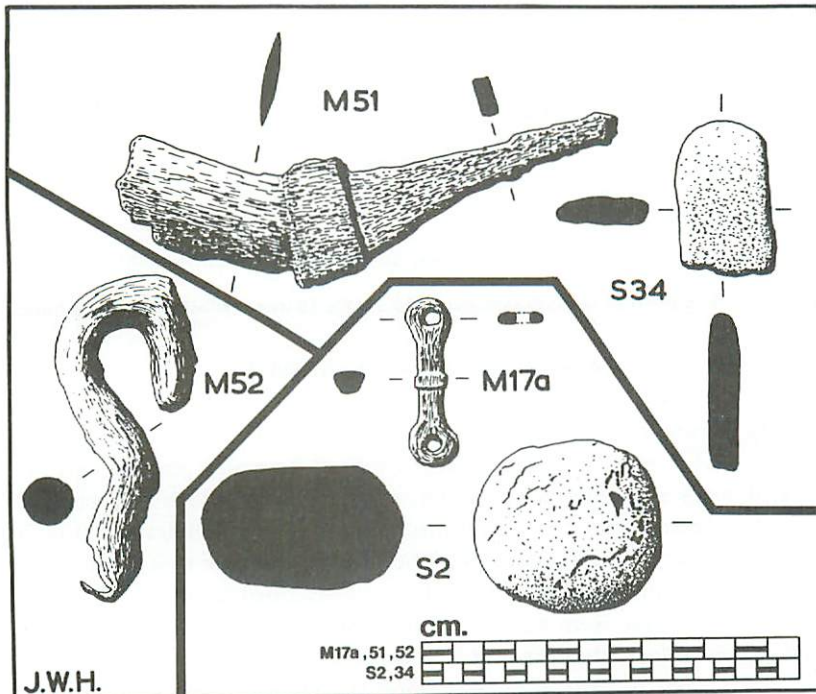


Fig. 22. Metalwork and stonework from Areas J, I and Q.

Hole, which is 275 mm long, 13 mm wide and has a crimped portion about 25 mm long. The crimped portion of M1 is about 22 mm long. Therefore, except in terms of length, which may differ as the result of breakage, M1 is very similar to the Wookey Hole specimen (Balch, 1914, p. 88 and Pl. XVII, no. 21). An alternative interpretation is that it is a votive 'currency-bar' similar in essence to the later *minimissimae*.

Layer 2b

M50/19

Bronze 'strip-bow' brooch, less pin. Upper surface decorated with incised lines. Catchplate subrectangular. Iron corrosion products in the cylindrical hinge covers suggest that the hinge was a simple iron pin. Length 50 mm. This brooch would appear to be of the Langton Down type. A similar specimen, rather more ornamental, at Bagendon has been dated to A.D. 50-60 (Clifford, 1961, p. 183 and Fig. 36, no. 5), but it has been suggested that this type may be present also in pre-conquest contexts (Collingwood and Richmond, 1969, p. 293).

Layer 3

M49/19

Iron brooch, 40 mm long. Involute type. As the brooch is highly corroded it is difficult to determine the hinge mechanism, though radiographs suggest that the hinge is of the 'drum-swivel' type. This specimen seems to lack the extension of the foot, bent back and clasped onto the bow which is a feature of most examples of this type. It may have broken off. It has been suggested that this type of involute brooch, which is widely distributed between Yorkshire, Wales, Cornwall and the Thames Valley, is a La Tène II form circulating between the late 3rd century B.C. and the late 1st century B.C. (Harding, 1974, p. 189).

- M51/22 Iron sickle fragment, missing the distal half of the blade. The thickened area at the junction of the blade and tang may represent a stop or some other aid to the attachment of a handle. Length 160 mm. Similar to I 28 from Glastonbury, though this lacks the thickened band. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, p. 384 and Pl. LXI).

STONWORK

Layer 2b

- S17 Smooth fragment of sandstone, 100 x 70 x 22 mm. Probably part of a hone.
 S34/22 Fragment of smooth sandstone, 75 x 45 x 15 mm. Probably part of a hone.

INTERPRETATION OF AREA J

The features that seem to be solely connected with layer 3 are pits 1-4 as well as the low scarp cut into the natural subsoil. It is also possible that the elongated pit 5 represents a beam slot, the beam from which was removed before the construction of the 'platform layer'. This would indicate that pit 5 if not contemporary with layer 3 must be very close in date to it. On balance pit 5 would be contemporary with the features described above.

Pit 5 does not seem to be connected with the other features, which would appear to form the corner of a rectangular structure.

The pottery in layer 3, notably P666 and P918, suggest that the layer dates from the late P.R.I.A. This view is encouraged by the presence in the layer of an iron involuted brooch (M29) of La Tène II type. This type has been found in contexts dating from the late 3rd century B.C. to the late 1st century B.C. (Harding 1974, p. 189).

The presence of a rectangular structure of this date need excite little comment in the light of recent research. Rectangular groups of postholes, interpreted as raised granaries, have been identified for some time since the excavation of Little Woodbury (Bersu, 1940). Rectangular buildings are also being discovered on P.R.I.A. sites with increasing frequency, some notable examples coming from Crickley Hill, Gloucestershire (Dixon, 1973) as well as the reinterpretation of previously excavated sites, such as the Glastonbury Lake Village (Tratman, 1970).

It is difficult to determine how closely the 'walling' is connected with the structure described above. It would appear to be later as it rests for the most part on layer 3. Posthole 6 would seem to be contemporary with the walling as it cuts through layer 3 but underlies 2b. As layers 1 and 2a are unbroken over the wall this suggests that it and the associated structures and the lack of a foundation trench all belong to layer 2b. Thus the walling and posthole represent a structure which succeeded the late P.R.I.A. building and which was built on the same foundation at this point.

Layer 2b was disturbed, had many tree roots in it and contained little material. It did contain a piece of mottle and blistered green, glazed pottery,

(P882), which is probably Mediaeval; a piece of Glastonbury Ware (P22a) and of the greatest interest a bronze strip-bow brooch (M50) of a type which has been dated to the middle of the 1st century A.D. It seems possible that the Mediaeval sherd has been introduced by the disturbance and that the layer dates either to the closing stages of the P.R.I.A. or to the Roman period.

The contents of layer 2a are mixed. The presence of a decorated green, glazed sherd (P13a) and the probably displaced glazed sherd (P882) suggest that this layer was still accumulating in the Mediaeval period.

SONDAGES I, P and Q

These three sites produced so little material that they need not be considered in detail. Such finds as were made came from the brown soil, (layer 2) immediately under the top soil. Area I produced a single potsherd (P23a/17) with three incised parallel grooves in a hard light grey material. Fabric G. Probably Romano-British. From the same area came an iron hook (M52/22). When found there appeared to be remains of wood within the hook.

Area P produced nothing of significance.

In area Q, layer 2 had some animal bone and pottery. The most interesting object was an iron bar (M17a/22) with loops at either end and a thicker band in the centre. No parallels have been found. From the same layer is a large flattened sandstone pebble (S2/22) which may have been a hand millstone of a saddle quern.

None of these sondages exhibited the density of finds that could be expected from an occupation area. Only Q produced sufficient to indicate that it might have been on the fringe of an occupation area.

CONCLUSION

The first occupation at Stokeleigh Camp apparently began during the latter part of the Pre-Roman Iron Age, probably after the late 3rd century B.C. No early P.R.I.A. pottery akin to that from Kings Weston Hill (Rahtz, 1957) or Little Solsbury Hill, Bath (Dowden, 1957, 1962), was found. Even the lowest layers contained Glastonbury Ware and a late start for the occupation would also seem to be supported by the presence of an involuted brooch (M49) in the lowest layer of area J. This type of brooch is thought by some to be no earlier than the 1st century B.C. (Fowler, M., 1954), though a later writer (Harding, 1974) has suggested that they may have appeared as early as the late 3rd century B.C.

The earliest phase of occupation (Period I) saw the construction of what appears to be a light windbreak around Hearth 3 in area D; a rectangular structure, the corner of which appears in area J, as well as the construction

of the inner rampart. The few finds from the rampart layers all appear to belong to Period I. This suggests that not only was the rampart initially built during this period, but also that it fell into disuse and had to be renovated during Period I.

An interesting feature of Period I, and indeed of later periods, is the presence of spindle whorls and the absence of weaving combs, contrasting with Dr. Everton's suggestion that the sheep were kept principally for their wool (see Appendix). It is always possible that weaving was carried on elsewhere on the site. Dr. Everton has also shown that during the Period I occupation, which is roughly contemporary with the Iron Age occupation at Blaise Castle Hill (Rahtz and Brown, 1959), the bulk of the inhabitant's meat diet was supplied by cattle, though sheep, goats and particularly pigs were kept for eating. Wild animals do not appear to have played a significant part in the diet. This pattern appears to have prevailed throughout the occupation of the site. The horse is represented by few remains, but since it appears to be scarce throughout all the periods few deductions can be made other than that it was present. The presence of adult oxen in each period may suggest that these also fulfilled the role of draught animals.

Period II would appear to have followed Period I with little or no break, as Hearth 2 is hardly displaced from Hearth 3 (*Fig. 15a*). Hearth 2 may have been within a hut, but this remains uncertain as the evidence is incomplete. The beginning of Period II would seem to have seen the introduction of pottery types using similar fabrics to those of Period I, but with shapes strongly influenced by Belgic forms (See P806 particularly. This effect, which has been recently noted at nearby Butcombe, would suggest that the development of the site was continuous).

Period II appears to have extended to at least the Claudian invasion and may even have overlapped the foundation of the port of Sea Mills in the Claudian period (Boon, 1949), and the earliest occupation at Gatcombe (Cunliffe, 1967). Evidence for this late date is suggested not only by the presence of pottery types (P599, P840) similar to those which have been dated at Bagendon to the first half of the 1st century A.D., but also by the presence, in association with the 'wall' in area J, of a strip-bow brooch (M50) of a type that has been dated at Bagendon to A.D. 50-60 (Clifford, 1961).

The presence of pottery at Bury Hill Camp, Winterbourne, closely similar to specimens from Swarling (Davies and Philips, 1926) suggests a powerful Belgic influence during the early part of the 1st century A.D. However, sherds such as P567 and P960 (*Fig. 16*) would suggest that Durotrigian influences may also be present at Stokeleigh, though to a lesser extent than, for instance, in the Somerset levels at Weston Zoyland (Miles, H., and T. J., 1969). There can be little doubt that the evidence of the recent excavations suggest that during Period II at Stokeleigh the influence of the Belgae far outweighed that of the Durotriges.

Occupation at Stokeleigh would appear to have ended for a time around the middle of the 1st century A.D., to resume during the middle of the 3rd century (Period III). This latter date is suggested by the similarity of the pottery to that of the mid-3rd century Gatcombe: also the only two Roman coins from Stokeleigh belong to this period. In the recent excavations Period III seems to be characterised by no structures of great importance. This may suggest, unless important structures of this period occur elsewhere on the site that this defended site was re-used by squatters in response to the same conditions that resulted in the building of Gatcombe's defensive wall at around this time (Cunliffe, 1967).

In area D it seems possible to distinguish a fourth period of occupation characterised by similar material to that of Period III. This Period IV probably only represents a further utilisation of the site in the late 3rd century A.D.. The occupation at Stokeleigh would appear to have finally ceased by the beginning of the 4th century A.D., all later material representing a random scatter.

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