

THE TYNINGS FARM BARROW GROUP  
THIRD REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION

In its early days this Society opened each of the five barrows at Tynings Farm near Charterhouse on Mendip [1-3]\* by a central pit and radial section, dug as in the cave excavations to which it was accustomed. The method was unsuitable and inadequate by modern standards but careful stratigraphic records were made and thus little information has been lost. Nevertheless several primary interments, kerbs and ditches were missed, since they were outside the area dug, and what was found could not be fully interpreted.

The North, South, Central and West Barrows were re-excavated in turn by modern methods in the years 1930-1933. Nothing more has been done to the East. The North has been recorded [4]. The South will be described below. It is hoped to publish the West and Central in the next number of these *Proceedings*, together with the relics of casual occupation of the site from the Upper Palaeolithic to the Early Iron Age.

Features of the work were total clearance down to bedrock (in which two burials were found hidden), search for structural details in and around the tumuli and collection of the abundant domestic and funerary debris they contained. The excavation of the South Barrow and its inhabited ditch alone occupied 2,300 hours, a labourer's year. More than 10,000 fragments of flint, 1,800 of pottery and countless scraps of human and other bone were examined in addition to the contents of 22 pits, mollusca, charcoals, soil specimens, etc.

To correct the usual unsightly sinking the earthen mounds were deturfed and shaped a year after replacement so that the whole group appears untouched.

The principal finds, photographs, models and almost completed report were burnt with the Society's museum in 1940. Fortunately much of the pottery was recovered by Drs. B. A. and Marjorie Crook, S. J. Jones, the writer and others in a systematic search of the ashes of the building. Some domestic debris remained in store. The field notes and a few informal photographs were in the writer's possession. Thus the present report is fairly complete, but inadequately illustrated.

A barrow is both a monument (having a definite plan and structure) and a record of customs and material culture. The details of its excavation are essential evidence. They are often so tedious and confusing as to justify an initial summary which may serve also for reference, although this introduces duplica-

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\* Figures in square brackets refer to items in the bibliography, page 173.

tion. Similarly it may be well to discuss matters of general interest before the main report. Accordingly this paper is arranged under the following heads and technical details are distinguished by close type.

#### A. GENERAL PROBLEMS

Temporary inhumation or exposure before ceremonial burial, burnt and otherwise.

The source and implications of the domestic and human debris in barrow mounds.

#### B. THIRD REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS

A short account of the Tynings Farm Group and the East and North Barrows, the reports on which are not readily accessible.

The report on the South Barrow, preceded by a summary, with an appendix in which the distribution and source of the small finds in these tumuli are discussed in detail.

We gratefully acknowledge the kindness of Messrs. Small and Sons, farmers and owners of the land, and especially of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Small who were more particularly concerned. They stored equipment, loaned a wagon and ladders from which a mobile photographic platform was improvised, catered and helped in many ways. Our thanks are due to Dr. F. S. Wallis and Dr. Macgregor Skene, who identified the geological specimens and charcoals respectively; and above all to Dr. D. P. Dobson and Mr. Martin Hinton for their help and advice in the preparation of this paper.

### A. GENERAL PROBLEMS

#### PRELIMINARY INHUMATION OR EXPOSURE BEFORE CEREMONIAL INTERMENT

Calcined gnawed human bones were found in the principal primary interment of the South Barrow, T.II. This may be explained in several ways, one being by deliberate exposure or temporary shallow burial before cremation.

Some method of holding the remains is probably essential to the practice of ceremonial burial. It may vary from exposure or temporary inhumation to "lying in state" amongst deodorants and antiseptics, or even refrigeration. The first practice is widespread, its exponents differing radically in culture, origin and distribution; they include Chinese peasants and Australian aborigines. Clearly such customs need have no magical nor ritual significance, although liable to acquire one. In an article recalled by Crawford [5], Rolleston cites Osorius in evidence that "reservation of the dead" was customary in 9th-century Esthonia. Bodies were kept a month or more before they were burnt; in the case of kings and nobles the interval might be as much as six months. Yet this rite may have had a practical origin, for winter burial was almost impossible owing to the frozen ground.



Sir Cyril Fox has shown how elaborate were the final rites in our own Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Thus it might be necessary to await a propitious day, a visit to a proper region, security or leisure and in some cases the construction of a burial site, e.g. a megalithic grave or a ditched, walled or peristalith-bounded enclosure such as often underlies a round barrow. Such delay might well vary from negligible to very great even in related burials. It would seem that years were spent in quarrying the ditch of the South Barrow before the principal interment was made.

In settled lands and times the body might be exposed or simply protected from animals (perhaps beneath a heap of earth or stones or in a rock cavity or tree) and thus converted into inoffensive portable dry bones. In prehistoric Britain, we may suspect, beasts of prey and human enemies often made concealment advisable. Often the readiest means would be temporary burial. Perhaps the many incomplete ceremonial interments of our Neolithic and Bronze Ages show that exposure was the rule or that protection often failed; on the other hand, the token burial of a few parts may have been considered sufficient. Other possible explanations are incomplete exhumation for reburial, ritual or otherwise, and deliberate mutilation of the dead, which did occur (Crawford [5]; Wheeler [6], pp. 20-22, quoting Morant).

For those who practised burnt burial, immediate cremation would solve problems of storage and transport. It cannot always have been practicable. Fuel (for T.II great oaken logs) had to be collected and perhaps dried. On occasion suitable weather had to be awaited. Ritual and magical requirements of time and place may have governed the ceremony of cremation as well as interment. Thus storage or exposure of the body was sometimes necessary and perhaps even usual.

It has been suspected that exposure or preliminary inhumation followed by ceremonial burial of the dry bones was a Neolithic custom. Crawford [7] found the evidence inconclusive, since chambered tombs were frequently disturbed by those adding another burial as well as by foes and tomb robbers. Bare bones deliberately broken when still "green" were perhaps cleaned, by hand, of flesh soon after death, not by decay.

There is little doubt that either exposure or reburial was practised in Somerset during the Early Bronze Age, whether learnt from the Neolithic population or otherwise, since it is certain that loose bones were buried. This has been recorded of the A-Beaker folk at Corston near Bath, where bones had been laid in a cist to simulate a crouched burial, but imperfectly; some of the smaller and parts of the more fragile had been thrown in with the filling. Their condition might be explained by carriage in a bag or bundle [8]. On the other hand, another grave contained the contracted skeletons of two adults, an infant's bones amongst them. Nothing was found in the filling, and nothing to suggest that they were not normal inhumations [9]. It is fair to add that the excavation had to be completed in a few hours.



At Gorsey Bigbury near Charterhouse-on-Mendip an A-Beaker burial of a skull and other bones had been placed in a protected corner of a pit in the filling of the ditch, together with potsherds, flint and bone implements. The majority of the bones had been thrown into the pit as it was being filled. Some were incomplete. Parts of a second individual were present [10].

Neither of these cases can be explained by mutilation. The bones were not scored. The skull at Gorsey Bigbury was not buried as a decapitated head, for the atlas vertebra was not in position, and the limb bones laid with it were not in their anatomical relationships.

At Tynings Farm what seems to have been a mixed group of Beaker and cremating Neolithic folk had buried loose bones in a cist under the West Barrow, T.13. The cavity, 22" by 13½" by 9", was too small to contain an adult or any normal child to whom the bones could have belonged. Preliminary inhumation may explain the behaviour of a similar group in Blackdown Barrow I (T.5), dated by a B.I. Beaker [11]; the cist, large enough for a crouched burial, had been emptied and refilled with loam before a cremation which had preceded the building of the cairn. But the early B-Beaker interment at Brean Down was apparently that of a corpse [12].

Fair Field Barrow no. 10 at Lansdown, Bath, yielded what may have been a multiple burial of loose bones but can also be explained by mutilation; several individuals were represented in a rock grave, mainly by bones of the hands and feet, there being neither jaws nor skulls. "Urns were found with a secondary interment" [13].

So far as the evidence goes, it is even possible that reburial or burial after exposure was the rule in Britain before the Roman occupation. Few excavators seem to have borne this possibility in mind. The presence of complete sets of small bones does not exclude it, since they remain bound together by the strong ligaments of the hand and foot long after softer parts have decayed. Normal inhumation is hard to prove; the Brean Down instance appears to be the only recorded pre-Roman burial in Somerset in which signs of the interment of a body were observed. The burial of loose bones is an alternative to the supposed binding of the limbs of excessively-contracted interments, and sometimes to disturbance or ceremonial violence when bones are missing, disordered, broken or incomplete. It becomes almost certain when the principal bones are *in situ* but the smaller pieces scattered in a pit-filling. It may explain the very frequent presence of small non-human bones, although in some cases such were buried designedly [14]. Whether it had any ritual significance, such as purification or loosing the spirit from earthly bonds, we must leave those who study traditions, records and present customs to decide.

If a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age practice it might well survive into the Middle Bronze Age as a preliminary to cremation, for on Mendip at least the



new rulers responsible for the change of burial rite seem to have been of Foodvessel—i.e. ultimately native Neolithic—origin, to judge by their funerary vessels. The industrial remains show that the population was little changed. There was the same need for the temporary disposal of the body. And how much easier to cremate dry bones! Evidence for or against may prove hard to find. Although the remains are usually far from complete, as a rule most parts of the body are represented, at least in local burials; thus the cremation of a few bones or members only is not the explanation. Pit C of the Middle Bronze Age South Barrow may be an exception, since it contained fragments of skull and foot bones only. The burial of the unburnt *skull* of a horse by the Late Bronze Age folk of the same barrow is perhaps worth notice. Fractures resembling those of fresh bone were present in Cist B of the North Barrow, T.10 [4]; at most they might prove breakage before calcination. Pit D of the South Barrow contained gnawed bones. Nothing of interest came from a search of ten other cinerary deposits in the Society's possession. A series of broken and gnawed bones had been calcined in a wood fire for comparison.

D, the principal primary interment of the South Barrow, was a double burnt burial placed in and around an inverted collared urn, morphologically a large, tall Foodvessel and thus probably of the early Middle Bronze Age (*Plate XVI A*). Parts of the shaft of a left tibia from the urn and an unidentifiable fragment from its pit had been gnawed by a small animal. Parts of several other shafts showed probable gnawing and definite tooth-marks; these included the left fibula, left ulna, and the (probably left) radius and humerus. Apparently all belonged to the larger of the two individuals. They had been attacked at or after death, there being no sign of vital reaction, and before calcination, for they would not attract afterwards; moreover it is very doubtful whether calcined human bone can be gnawed deeply without crumbling and whether smooth, unsplintered grooves can be produced in it by that means. Comparisons suggested that the agent was a small carnivore rather than a rodent, but no bigger than a puppy or fox. Thus the explanation can hardly be that the individual fell victim to beasts of prey. More probably his dead body was attacked by some not very formidable beast, either before its recovery by friends or whilst awaiting cremation. As will be seen from the report on the barrow, its ceremonial interment did not take place until a burial enclosure bounded by a deep rock-cut ditch had been prepared, which probably introduced several years delay. These bones, unfortunately lost in the fire of 1940, can be explained in more than one way, but the gnawing of both limbs of one side does appear suggestive of shallow burial before cremation, and this is supported by the apparent need for storage whilst the ditch was being quarried and even by the presence of a possible site, pit A.

It seems possible that certain shallow pits beneath and near barrows served for the storage of bodies awaiting either cremation or unburnt ceremonial burial. One existed beneath the North Barrow (T.10, C), another outside its boundary



(Z). A cist beneath Blackdown I had been emptied and refilled with loam before a primary cremation [11]. Similarly the eccentric barren pit A beneath the South Barrow seemed to have been disturbed and refilled not long before the mound was raised, and therefore at or shortly before the time of the cremated interment D with its gnawed bones, for the latter was covered immediately by the barrow mound. Now D was a double burial; pit A was abnormally large, especially for a grave quarried in rock, and would have served for two crouched or even extended bodies. Was this a coincidence, or had the pit held them (somewhat insecurely) until the ditched burial enclosure was completed, whereupon they were exhumed, cremated, reburied ceremonially at D and protected by a barrow mound? It would seem that storage was needed, unless the deeply-ditched site had been prepared in its owner's life-time. Similarly Pit B of the same barrow could have served for the storage of the few parts found burnt and buried at C, a slightly earlier cremated interment near the edge of the enclosure, not covered immediately by a mound and thus perhaps the grave of a subordinate.

Obviously these are tentative suggestions. Evidence is scarcely to be expected, although parts of one vessel might be found in a partly-emptied pit and in a burnt burial deposit contemporary with its disturbance, or unburnt bones left in such a pit might be those missing from the ashes.

Ritual pits are well known, but the most probable alternative explanation of our large disturbed and barren pits seems to be violation, the enemies or rivals responsible using the site for a burial of their own and very wisely protecting it at once by a large mound. Against this are:

(1) Violation at so early a stage, before a mound existed, was probably unusual.

(2) The lateral position of the pits, which left the centre clear as if for a more important burial later.

(3) The unusual, almost respectful, manner of their disturbance. They were refilled independently, not simply in the construction of the overlying mound or cairn; if anything was exhumed it was carefully treated, for not a trace remained in or around them except in the case of Blackdown I, where the fragments of the beaker were stacked neatly one within another against the side of the cist. In contrast, the violated cist of the West Barrow, T.13, had been filled with the stones of the cairn in the process of refilling the secondary burial pit by which it had been exposed. Fragments of unburnt human bone and of the funerary vessel lay in and around it.

#### SOURCE, DATE AND MEANING OF THE SMALL FINDS IN THE BARROW SUBSTANCE

Since very early times it has been believed that the flints and potsherds found in barrows were placed there,—thrown in singly, strewn abroad or “sown” ([15] p. II). It seems probable that this tradition arose from the accounts of witnesses<sup>A</sup> [16], although no doubt the deductions of excavators have helped to

<sup>A</sup> Small letters refer to notes, page 170.



preserve it. The present tendency is to regard the small finds either as chance contents of the building material or as contents of soil brought from dwelling sites for religious or magical reasons. The latter explanation scarcely differs from the traditional one, that domestic debris was added without soil for just such reasons. Sir Cyril Fox has shown that barrow-burial was associated with ritual practices as elaborate as any the early workers suggested [17].

In addition, many tumuli bear traces of occupation. Their slopes and ditches offered wind-shelter, their tops vantage points for shepherds and herdsmen watching their beasts. These relics of the daily life of prehistoric man are not less important than his burials, funeral customs and barrow architecture.

Further evidence has modified the conclusions reached in our last report [4]; it is discussed fully in the appendix to the present paper. The presence of most, if not all, the scattered finds in the earthen tumuli at Tynings Farms was accidental, signifying that the builders camped close to their work, in and around the excavations from which they were bringing building material. The chief objections to this view were the occurrence of domestic debris in tips of subsoil as well as humus, but this is readily explained by the occupation of pits; and the admixture of calcined human bone, which may well have been debris from the funeral rites. The soil was not brought from the site of the pyre, where black ash and charcoal must have been far more abundant than bone, for these were practically absent; nor from a habitual camp or domestic hearth, for similar reasons. The great concentration of finds in a small volume of soil near the base of the tumulus<sup>B</sup> is what might be expected if the tribe squatted or sheltered in its quarry pits; if it arrived well stocked with flint but was unable to obtain more locally; if it did not replace its broken pots because busy carrying soil or because they were made solely for the funeral rites, and did not continue to spill calcined human bone about its camp after the funeral ceremony.

Nevertheless flint, pottery, calcined human bone and charcoal were added without soil to certain cairns, e.g. the Central Barrow (T.14) and the stone cap placed in Late Bronze Age times on the North (T.10). They were deposited whilst the cairns were being built, for many lay in "sealed" positions which they could not have reached later. Further, the majority lay near the base. They were not derived from occupation *in situ*, for (1) many flints and sherds were burnt although no fires had existed in the cairns, as was shown by the absence of burnt stones, fine charcoal and ash; (2) small flint chips were missing; (3) all the bone was fully calcined and all that was identifiable was human. The fragments, therefore, were gathered elsewhere—the bone perhaps from the funeral pyre, the flint and pottery probably from the builders' camp. The two latter were identical in character with the debris of normal occupation such as that in the ditch of the South Barrow, except for the absence of small chips; the proportion of burnt pieces was about the same, 7%—10%. Unlike much of the flint in



cinerary deposits they had not been subjected to the intense heat of the pyre. They were of contemporary type, Early Bronze Age in T.14, Late in secondary T.10.

It is scarcely credible that the builders habitually collected and carried waste of this kind, which they might drop accidentally on the growing cairns. Deliberate gathering for inclusion in them appears almost certain. In that case the abundance of the fragments, their character (small waste) and in some cases their very even distribution render it more probable that they were broadcast than that they were deposited singly.

Did they represent tools, weapons, pots and slaves for the dead? Was there a taboo on his possessions? Were they seed sown for harvest in this world or another, or but dust returned to the Earth?

Despite what was said above, it is possible and even probable that some of the debris in the Middle Bronze Age earthen barrows T.10-12 was added deliberately in this way. They were intermediate in date between the Early and Late Bronze Age cairns in question; there is reason to suspect much continuity of race and culture despite the arrival of new elements, as will be seen. Further, it does seem that domestic waste and calcined human bone were added to the filling of the Middle Bronze Age pit C of the South Barrow. Survival from this period best explains the adoption of the practice by the Late Bronze Age folk; note its presence in pits P of the North Barrow and I of the South, with their mixed Middle and Late Bronze ceramic, as well as with all the later burials except T.13.2.

Since the domestic debris was from 30 to 600 times more abundant in the hearts or "cores" of the tumuli than in the surrounding or underlying soil we may accept it as mainly due to the builders, and contemporary, whether it was the accidental content of occupied soil or collected and added separately; for as a rule the only considerable sources available to Bronze Age man were his own dwelling sites. On the one hand he had little cultivated ground from which to collect antiquities; on the other, it is incredible that he chanced to use the soil under an ancient hut at the same stage in building each of the four earthen barrows (North, South primary and secondary and East) and in filling several pits; for in each there was such an intense concentration near the base. The industrial remains did in fact form distinct Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age series according to the barrow or pit from which they came.

Scattered calcined human bone was found only in and under the concentration zone in the "cores" of the barrows and in pit fillings. It is unknown in Mendip cave and surface sites. Almost certainly it was debris from the funeral rites, indicating that the soil was from the camp of the builders and the domestic waste their own, or alternatively that fragments had been gathered from camp or pyre and strewn in the tumuli.

The scattered bone may well represent additional individuals. Although



many hours were spent in comparing its very small fragments with those of the primary burials we failed to prove duplication; but it was strongly suspected a dozen times in Middle Bronze Age T.11. Middle Bronze Age T.10 contained no burial to which the bone could have belonged; *A* was apparently of charred soft parts, *B* (the only normal cremation) was probably a secondary interment and in any case a few pieces were duplicated in the mound. None of the earthen barrows can have contained more than 5% of a burnt skeleton in its substance. Was a companion or attendant cremated but not given other burial than this? Was a victim sacrificed for purposes of augury, appeasement of a god, cannibalism or some other ritual, or perhaps as a consecration deposit? Were his remains burnt in the funeral pyre?—they were fully calcined. Were his ashes allowed to lie about the camp and thus included accidentally in the building material, or were they strewn purposely in the growing earthen barrows as they were in the cairns?

The scattered calcined bone of Blackdown I and the Tynings Central Barrow may be in a different category, representing the principal burials. The first was perhaps burnt *in situ*, the second collected from the pyre and scattered within the burial enclosure; mainly on the ground surface, but some amongst the lower stones of the cairn; scarcely any had been placed in the miniature pit.

These problems demand the collection of all scattered scraps of bone when a barrow is excavated, to determine whether any fit those of the burials, whether they represent missing parts or whether they are duplicated. Nor may the domestic waste be overlooked. Barrows are intercalated deposits separating the relics of earlier and later occupation, and the debris on their flanks and in their ditches may be considerable. In addition, many contain domestic waste which seems to be mainly that of their builders. This should be especially valuable for the Middle Bronze Age, of which little is known although we suspect that it provided half our tumuli and pre-Roman surface finds.<sup>6</sup>

The small finds made in this group of tumuli show light occupation at Tynings Farm from Upper Palaeolithic times onwards, but especially at the several periods represented by the burials. Contemporary material is summarized in the section on the barrow group. That in the graves of the South Barrow is described in this report. An account of the remainder will be published later.

## B. THIRD REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS

### THE TYNINGS FARM BARROW GROUP

Five barrows cluster around the joint head of Rowberrow and Long Bottom, valleys rising south-west of Mendip's highest point, Blackdown. In his catalogue Tratman numbers the North, South, East, West and Central T.10-14 respectively [1]. The burials were of three periods.

1. The West and Central Barrows were round cairns each retained by a kerb and enclosed by a single-causewayed ditch. Each concealed a burial en-



closure. That of the former was bounded by a ring of recumbent limestone blocks, broken by a funnel entrance facing the causeway. The funnel ended at an area disturbed by previous excavation and a secondary burial pit; no passage could be traced. The ring of the Central Barrow was composite—a bank of Old Red Sandstone boulders built like a wall externally, surmounted by a coping of long blocks and faced with large upright limestone slabs. It seemed that an entrance flanked by larger slabs had existed facing the causeway, but on one side all structure had been destroyed by slipping, and any continuation towards the centre by some early excavator. Enough slabs to have formed a long funnel, passage or cist were found in this region, though there were none elsewhere in the cairn.

Such internal walls are well-known features of Beaker as well as Megalithic tombs; the former are without entrances and causeways, as at Wick [19], Chewton Mendip [20], and Charmy Down [21]. The wall of the last was faced with upright slabs.

Under the West Barrow unburnt human bones had been placed in a sunken stone cist too small to contain the body, together with an anomalous vessel resembling a B.I. beaker but possessing lugs. Some calcined human bone lay on the ground surface; it was distinct from that of a secondary interment whose makers had violated the cist.<sup>D</sup> It is conceivable but scarcely probable that the pot was introduced by them.

In the Central Barrow calcined human bone was spread over the whole floor of the enclosure, further traces lying in a small central pit. Another pit contained dark earth only. Fragments of a small hollow-necked carinated vessel were present in the region of a large secondary burial pit. A few fine arrow-heads (leaf-shaped, long oval, hollow-based and both ogival and triangular barbed-and-tanged), fluted hollow-based "points" or rather barbs (Clark's "petit tranchet derivatives" type H) [23]<sup>E</sup> and other flint implements confirmed the presence of a mixed culture of Early Metal Age date.

2. The earthen barrows, North, South and East, belong to the phase of cremation and occasional urn-burial, marked by a ceramic of Foodvessel antecedents, which followed the supposed overthrow of the Beaker Folk<sup>E</sup> and formed our earlier Middle Bronze Age. The primary interments included:

*North Barrow, T.10*: a charred mass free from bone. Two narrow "collar" rims were represented in the domestic debris [4, Fig. 11, no. 3].

*South Barrow, T.11*: a cremation in an inverted collared (i.e. early Overhanging Rim) urn, typologically early and clearly an enlarged concave-necked Foodvessel of the Yorkshire type (*Plate XVII A*); a minor one in a shallow pit with isolated potsherds and flint implements (*Fig. 30*).

*East Barrow, T.12*: a burnt burial in a central pit beneath a small heap of stones, associated with a perforated slate "hone"; another in an inverted collared



urn beneath which were beads of jet, segmented beads of vitreous paste and a bronze awl [3, *Plates* X, 3 and XI, 4-6]. If we may accept the Egyptian origin and strangely brief period alleged for the manufacture of the segmented beads and allow 50-100 years for their diffusion and survival, they date this burial about 1370-1300 B.C. There is some reason to regard it as the latest of its group.

Contact with the Wessex Culture [24] in this phase may be indicated by three pigmy cups which accompanied a cremated interment in a marginal (secondary or subordinate?) position in the North Barrow. Each bore decoration unusual locally, one punctate, one grooved and one in twisted grass (?). Morphologically, however, the first and second were debased Foodvessels of the same concave-necked type as the urn of T.11, or rather of the subtype having a pressed-down "expanded" rim; the third may have been derived from the globular Irish Foodvessel bearing "all over" ornament. Similar associations have been recorded from South Wales [18].

3. Next came a better-equipped folk who possessed horses, grew grain and used an abundant, relatively fine pottery which may be called, provisionally, "finer Late Bronze Age" (*Fig.* 29, nos. 4, 6-13). Although hostile enough to violate graves they did blend to some extent with the native population. Their earliest burials seem to have been two in large shallow pits centrally placed in the North and South Barrows, each tumulus being enlarged afterwards; the pottery in these showed a blend of Middle Bronze Age and new features. That in the North contained only dark earth, scattered sherds and flints. That in the South held a cremated interment in an inverted biconical urn with lugs, a finger-printed rim and shoulder-cordon, resembling the Late Bronze Age bucket urns; but the neck bore chevrons in twisted-cord pattern of Middle Bronze Age type (*Plate XVII B*). Many sherds and flints accompanied it.

Burnt burials in similar large pits in the West and Central cairns were given rough stone cists, no doubt for protection against the loose stones. Neither contained a vessel. That in the Central Barrow was dated by numerous potsherds of the "new" type. Each pit had been made unnecessarily large, perhaps in order to expose and remove the primary interment.

Finally, two burials by cremation were placed in biconical urns, this time erect, in the North Barrow. The vessels [4, *pl.* IV, nos. 1 and 2] appear to have Iron Age A features but the associated domestic sherds were of the "finer Late Bronze Age" type.

*Period 1. Early Bronze Age.* In structure and burial rites the little cairns T.13 and 14 recall the Western Group of megaliths—the passage graves of the Boyne and Anglesea—although it is not clear whether a passage or chamber persisted even in a roofless form. Both cremation and inhumation were practised by the makers of Bryn-celli-dhu [25] and of the humble, but not necessarily later, "entrance graves" of the Scillies, Cornwall and S.E. Ireland. It seems that passage graves continued to be built for centuries, perhaps even until the Middle



Bronze Age, undergoing the inevitable degeneration. They were introduced, probably about 1800 B.C., by coastal traders coming from the Mediterranean via the Iberian Peninsula and Brittany—a movement distinct from the contemporary invasion by Beaker folk [26]. The entrances and causeways of the Tynings Farm cairns distinguish them from Beaker tumuli, despite a certain resemblance to British and Low Country (Bell-Beaker) types [27]. Probably they may be ascribed to the mixed B-Beaker and cremating "Neolithic" group<sup>p</sup> which built the somewhat similar cairns Blackdown 1 and 2 [11] and perhaps the circular earthwork Gorsey Bigbury [10] but was apparently dispossessed by A-Beaker folk. It is not clear whether they mark the recovery of power by the earlier group or are pre-A-Beaker in date.

*Period 2. Middle Bronze Age.* When compared with the cairns the earthen barrows T.10-12 show changes in burial customs and tomb structure, presumably due to new rulers or a new dominant group, who perhaps came from less stony districts to the east where barrows must be built of turf, loam or rock scrapings, e.g. chalk. This is in keeping with the current view that the collared urns were evolved in Southern England. It requires the existence of a numerous Foodvessel folk in that region at the close of the Beaker Period, presumably a subject population which combined with invaders from Brittany to overthrow its masters, create the Wessex Culture and become the Overhanging Rim urn folk. This is confirmed by the pigmy cups; it is believed that the practice of using very small funerary vessels was brought by the Breton invaders both to Wessex and West Wales [18], but the original exotic types were soon accompanied or replaced by what seem to be native Foodvessels adapted to a purely ceremonial use by reduction in size and often by disproportionate diminution of their cavities.

The question for us is not where the collared urn evolved but whence came the prototype and the idea of burying the ashes in a pot, since our earlier urn (*Plate XVII A*) stands at the beginning of the collared series beside Abercromby's nos. 10, 11 and 16 from Wiltshire [14]. In this respect Abercromby's typology is confirmed by Grimes [18]. These urns are clearly large Foodvessels of the type common in Yorkshire and Derbyshire (*cf.* [14] nos. 24, 28, 65). South Wales has some claim to be considered the immediate source since it has yielded a series of similar urns, since cremation was the burial rite in a much higher proportion of its Foodvessel interments than was the case in Yorkshire and since it is better placed to receive the idea of the cinerary urn early, at least if that idea were brought from Brittany or from the Mediterranean by the coastal route. On the other hand it seems that the men of Wales specialized in cairns and mixed stone-and-earth tumuli; whereas our barrow folk deliberately discarded even the stone from their ditch.

There need be no great interval between these earthen tumuli and the cairns T.13 and 14, even if the latter were pre-A Beaker. But one definite A-Beaker



burial is known from Mendip, that in the ditch at Gorsey Bigbury. There were two, either A or B Beaker, at Chewton Mendip [20].

Whatever their leaders, to judge by their industrial remains the builders of T.10-12 were of mixed origin—Foodvessel, Neolithic and Mesolithic—and perhaps largely derived from the local population of the Early Metal Age. The unusual causeway in the ditch of the South Barrow may be a local survival, although it is not without parallels in Wiltshire and the North. The less perishable and less precious equipment is illustrated by the debris in the barrows and in the ditch of T.11. It is summarized below.

Pottery is scarce, perhaps indicating a way of life even less settled than that of the Beaker Folk although less purely pastoral. Since it seems too coarse and weak for use it may have been made for the funeral rites only. It resembles that of the cinerary urns and is apparently of Foodvessel origin.

*Fig. 8*, nos. 1 and 2, from the body of T.11, are amongst the few sherds which escaped our museum fire. 1 bears fine twisted-cord impressions; 2, chevrons probably impressed by a comb or notched strip, not by a whipped cord. Several lost sherds bore chevrons and girth lines, herring-bone pattern, etc., impressed by a twisted cord much coarser than that of no. 1. Others showed stab-marks, mostly resembling those of a finger-nail, either scattered or arranged rather far apart in horizontal rows covering a wide area (cf. those from T.11 C, described below). The triangular, flat "false relief" impressions and small stab-marks on the urn of T.11, the "maggots" on that of T.10 and the twin lines in fine twisted-cord pattern of *Fig. 29*, nos. 3 and 5, may be added to this list, although the two latter sherds were Late Bronze Age in date. The fine round-toothed "comb" decoration, grooved lines and basket-like twisted grass ornament of the pigmy cups were not repeated on the supposedly domestic sherds. T.10 yielded scraps of two plain narrow collar rims, T.11 a simple rim, several plain low cordons possibly at shoulders, traces of hollow necks and subconical or slightly bulging bodies and a simple flat base.

The flint industry is summarized in *Figs. 30* and *31*, showing the very typical group from the burial pit T.11 C and the principal types respectively. It resembles that of the neighbouring A-Beaker site of Gorsey Bigbury both basically and in what seem to be local peculiarities (such as the presence of microliths) but with important differences. The finer and more characteristic implements are missing; several types appear or perhaps re-appear; the workmanship is bolder and cruder, so that even the scrapers are separable when seen in series; there seem to be changes in the source of raw material. The most important addition is the serrated flake (either toothed or irregularly, finely notched) which is often sickle-shaped and suggests a certain amount of arable farming (*Fig. 31*, nos. 20-22). This is in keeping with evidence from elsewhere [18],<sup>c</sup> but it should be remembered that sickles can be used to cut fodder and bedding, e.g. the local bracken; clear evidence of the use of corn does not appear in our barrows before the Late Bronze Age pottery and saddle querns.



The addition of "false tranchets"—Clark's "petit tranchet derivatives" types C.1—F [23]<sup>F</sup>,—is also of interest (*Fig. 31*, nos. 2, 17—19). They appear to replace the hollow-based "points," or rather barbs (his types G—I) which alone occur at the Beaker site of Gorsey Bigbury and in T.14. The use of weapons barbed with these implements or with microliths may account for the relative scarcity of arrowheads on Mendip. Wooden points armed with microliths seem to have been used in fowling, which long remained important around the great marshes of Somerset and may explain the survival of "pygmy flints" of Mesolithic type into our Middle Bronze Age.

Arrowheads were either of the ogival barbed-and-tanged variety, *Fig. 31*, nos. 5, 6 (their barbs and tangs usually ending in a straight line like those of the triangular weapon of the Beaker Folk) or small variants of the leaf-shaped. One of the latter types possessed a truncated, rounded base (*Fig. 31*, no. 8a); another had one curved edge and one bluntly-angled (no. 7). These three varieties were found at Gorsey Bigbury also, but at that A-Beaker site the commonest type was the simple triangle, and true triangular barbed-and-tanged and hollow-based forms occurred as well; all of which were missing from our Middle Bronze Age and later barrows. Some arrowheads, lance-points and barbs (false tranchets) from these barrows possessed a blunt median-plane edge unknown at Gorsey Bigbury. Large points for lances or spears were very rare (*Fig. 31*, no. 1).

The tranchet-like weapons (*Fig. 31*, nos. 2, 17—19) were commoner than the arrowheads. They included all Clark's types C.1—F. In this district all *dated* examples of these belong to the Middle Bronze Age. Their secondary work is the rather crude medium-angle retouch of that period, whereas the Peterborough-Grooved Ware-Beaker "hollow-based points" of Clark's types G and H (all earlier) are beautiful implements flaked at a low angle in the manner of normal arrowheads, and often fluted. *Fig. 31*, no. 2 is an intermediate form. It is not clear whether the "false tranchets" of types C.1—F were introduced by our Cinerary Urn folk, or copied by them in their inferior technique from the Gorsey Bigbury barbs of types G and H, or whether they were already in use here by the descendants of the pre-A-Beaker population; the last seems the most probable, but we have no considerable or pure Neolithic site for comparison. The plain edge of all these implements (types C.1—H) is usually too fragile and irregular for any use. Presumably it was set in the side of a pointed shaft, the worked edges of the flint projecting as a barb.

Most of the microliths were of the long triangular or sub-triangular variety (*Fig. 31*, nos. 12—15). The illustrations are diagrammatic, based on identification sketches, since the implements were lost in our museum fire. There were a few short "rods" (nos. 9, 10). The crescents were doubtful; the blunted arc forms (no. 16) may represent unsuccessful attempts to chip an angled back; the blunted chords were merely rods made on accidentally-convex primary flakes (no. 11), which however may have been deliberately selected for the purpose.

Tools included awls with alternate retouch, commonly made on rough fragments of flint of triangular section (*Fig. 30*, no. 10, *Fig. 10*, no. 4); piercers and points worked from one face only (*Fig. 31*, no. 3), some of which may have served also for cutting and graving in the manner of burins, although of course not made by a burin blow; fabricators; doubtful strike-a-lights (was the bow-



drill used instead?) such as the rough "side-scraper" (*Fig. 30*, no. 11); hammer-stones of flint and local rock; various scrapers and knives.

The simple flake knives were by far the most numerous implements. They were of the "irregular" Bronze Age variety, the majority being rather short and broad. Most bore a certain amount of toughening retouch, usually a minute irregular serration which also improved their cutting power. In many cases it was so fine that the question arose whether it was produced by chipping or friction, e.g. whetting on sandstone. Being confined to one face, it was not due to wear. Some definitely serrated flakes, sickle-shaped and otherwise, were finely notched by a coarser but otherwise identical retouch (*Fig. 31*, nos. 20, 21, 23); the rest possessed regular, well-chipped teeth (no. 22). Long forms, for which concave-edged primary flakes were usually chosen (cf. no. 22) were probably set on the end of a wooden haft, as was a blade "from a cave at Cheddar" now in Weston-super-Mare Museum. Short thin forms suggest the use of multiple-flake sickles set in back handles, or of knives similarly mounted. But some short varieties with naturally thick or worked blunted backs must have been held in the hand and may be actual saws (*Fig. 31*, no. 23). The bevelled knife, so common at Gorsey Bigbury, was very rare (*Fig. 31*, no. 29). Its double form, the thick variety of plano-convex knife or "slug," was absent.

By far the commonest shaped tool was the round scraper, varying a good deal in size and form and usually worked around something between a half and three-quarters of its circumference (*Fig. 30*, nos. 1, 2, 4, 12; *Fig. 31*, nos. 24-27). The steeper work and absence of channel-flaking enables a series to be distinguished from one from our Beaker sites; the steep-edged, thin tabular variety appears to be rather characteristic (*Fig. 30*, nos. 2, 12; *Fig. 31*, no. 27). Horseshoe scrapers and most of the convex end- and convex side-scrapers were merely incompletely worked round ones; subdivision is unjustifiable. But there were also a very few steep keeled end-scrapers and keeled or blunted-back side-scrapers, the thickness or prepared finger-platforms of which showed that they were held in a different way. A small steep square scraper, usually worked on one edge only, occurred repeatedly. Hollow or notch scrapers of varying size were fairly common (*Fig. 30*, nos. 13-15; *Fig. 32*, no. 28). A number of flakes had been struck from polished flint tools, frequently unpatinated or nearly so and probably contemporary; one accompanied the implements in Burial C of the South Barrow.

Cores were of the irregular Bronze Age type (*Fig. 30*, no. 3; *Fig. 31*, no. 30), except that a few small prismatic or pyramidal cores for microlithic flakes were present (*Fig. 31*, no. 31). Most had been struck until too small for further use. A few seemed to have been employed as planes or scrapers. The group from Pit C is described individually in the report on the South Barrow.

Allowance must be made for the presence of a few older implements in the soil of the barrows and ditch-silting. If in the same numbers as in the humus beneath the tumuli they should form from 0.3% to 1.6% of the implements in the richer deposits and not more than 3% of the total from all regions. In the above account conclusions have been based only on types present in much greater numbers than in the underlying soil, made of the varieties of flint and having the degree of patination usual in the barrow or ditch. Those in the former were often almost fresh.

A comparison of this material with that from Gorsey Bigbury shows that material culture had changed little. Its best element, the Beaker complex, was



lost, but very probably had been confined to one section of the community or to a separate group, since it left so little mark on its successors. What is apparently new seems to be of native Foodvessel or Neolithic, and perhaps largely local, origin.

In contrast, burial customs differ radically from those of the A-Beaker folk. The emphasis is on fire. Did it purify, or free the earth-bound spirit or banish him for the comfort of the living? Cremation is used for some (and eventually, it seems, for all) principal burials. Funerary beakers disappear, isolated potsherds or Foodvessel-like pigmy cups sometimes taking their place, though the cups may perhaps mark a rather later period. Cinerary urns, also resembling Foodvessels, come into use, although in our three Early Middle Bronze Age barrows they enclose only two out of five (and probably six or seven) burnt burial deposits. Causewayed ditches seem to be a Neolithic feature. Do these changes signify only the overthrow of one dominant class or group and its replacement by another, for barrows were still made for the few? Or do they tell of a new religion or a great revival of an old Neolithic faith that swept all before it? Perhaps it was lit or fanned by influences from without, e.g. the Wessex invaders from Brittany, but there is nothing to suggest mass immigration.

*Period 3. Late Bronze Age.* It seems that one or more immigrant Late Bronze Age, or even depleted Iron Age, cultures were superimposed upon that of the native Middle Bronze Age. At first (in T.11 and T.10, P) new and old types of vessel were made in either type of ware and decorated in either style or both, for new and old motives and techniques appear upon the same pot. This might be explained by the employment of captive native women as potters. Some genuine fusion of race and culture is suggested, however, by the funeral customs and flint industry, which seem to be largely native Middle Bronze Age. Most of these native features had disappeared before the late secondary interments of T.10 and 14.

Pottery is far more abundant than at any previous period. This suggests a more settled way of life; though it could be explained by the possession of carts or wagons or perhaps pack animals bearing panniers of basket-work. At Tynings Farm there were horses as well as oxen, pigs, sheep and dogs. Characteristic saddle querns, indicating the use of corn, appear in the ditch of T.11 at the same horizon as the new pottery. The flint industry is a degraded copy of that of the local Middle Bronze Age without a single new feature; suitable rough pieces are used almost as often as shaped tools and struck flakes,—some unretouched, some after a minimum amount of working. It is obvious that a degraded industry by no means implies an inferior culture. Probably flint was regarded as a cheap substitute for metal, so that few troubled to acquire more skill in its working than was necessary to produce an effective tool.



*Pottery.* Fig. 29, nos. 3-13 are the only domestic sherds of interest remaining from the Late Bronze Age deposits of T.11, though much plain ware escaped the fire of 1940. A small series from T.10 has been figured [4]. One from T.14 will be described in a future report.

Middle Bronze Age survivals may be the fairly numerous coarse friable potsherds; chevrons and herring-bone pattern; various cord and comb techniques of decoration (*cf.* the cinerary-urn of T.11, *Plate XVII B*, and the domestic sherds Fig. 29, nos. 3 and 5). Punch-marked decoration is doubtless common to both cultures (Fig. 29, nos. 4, 11). New features are the abundance of pottery; the finer fabric of the majority of the sherds; the biconical rather than hollow-necked jars and urns (nos. 12, 13 and the urns of T.11 1 and T.10 1), including a debased variant of the biconical, the bucket with contracted mouth (no. 9 and Urn 2 of T.10); flat rims (*cf.* the last urn), some slightly expanded by pressure (no. 6); rims wedge-shaped in section (no. 8); cordons (nos. 3, 10, 12, 13) at least when decorated by the finger-tip (nos. 12, 13); fingertip-marked rims, rounded (Urn 1 of T.11) or flat (Urn 2 of T.10); lugs and bosses (Urn 1, T.11), some applied (sherd of vessel with tall hollow neck from squatting-site in lee of T.10, also represented by sherds in T.10 P); knife-edged impressed decoration,—it was not apparently incised (nos. 6, 7, 12, 13); pseudo-lattice motives, actually a jumble of confused chevrons (nos. 7, 13). Nos. 4 and 8 are rim fragments from vessels with splayed lips, the one decorated inside with punch-marks, the other by a single line of cord pattern below the rim. The jars represented by nos. 12 and 13 bore a striking resemblance to the contemporary cinerary urn from the same barrow, T.11 (*Plate III B*).

No sherd contained evident added grit or sand, with a single exception,—a dull black fragment full of glassy sand found in the slow silting of the ditch of T.11. Some were so rich in carbon as to suggest the addition of organic matter to the clay. Most of the ware resembled that of the cinerary urn of T.11 1, described in the report. It was like some of the better Late Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury fabrics and some coarse Iron Age A wares from All Cannings Cross. However, nothing characteristically Iron Age was found at Tynings Farm, with two exceptions from the surface soil, described below. There were no roughened, tooled, haematite-coated or black slip-wares, no bulging rims, specialized bases nor markedly hollow necks (the jars were biconical or contracted at the mouth, rarely splayed); no bowl forms, carinated or otherwise, with a single exception from the probably late burial pit 1 of T.14; no incised, hatched, cross-hatched nor true lattice decoration; no rolled rims, curvilinear decoration nor wheel-made ware. It is probably much more significant that the commonest Iron Age wares were entirely missing,—the coarse dark brown and black varieties often containing white grit.

*Flint implements.* We must allow for a higher proportion of old implements than before, some present in the soil of which the barrows were built, some found and re-used. In type, workmanship and raw material the industry resembles that of the local Middle Bronze Age but degeneration is evident in the quality and extent of the secondary work and in the very frequent use of rough fragments as tools; indeed the last is its principal characteristic, as at All Cannings Cross. As before, the majority of the implements are simple flakes, some toughened by a minute serrating retouch, and the most numerous shaped tools are the convex scrapers. As a rule only a short arc of these "round" scrapers is worked



(*Fig. 32*, nos. 5, 8–11). The arrowhead *Fig. 32*, no. 1, the short-arc round scraper no. 8, the keeled triangular scraper no. 12, and the blunted-back knife no. 13 were from the secondary burial pit of T.11; the deeply-serrated "sickle flint" no. 2 and the false tranchet no. 3 lay beneath its small heaps of stones. The following were from the substance of the secondary part of that barrow: 4, a flake with boldly-worked blunted edge; 5, a sketchy round scraper; 6, a fabricator; 7, a well-made keeled, double, convex end-scraper; two spherical hammerstones much smaller than those of All Cannings Cross. The scrapers 10 and 11 were from the skirts of the same tumulus.

It seems that Late Bronze Age products appeared in this country about 1000 B.C., but the actual invasions, marked by bucket and globular urns, began about 800–700 B.C.; the full Iron Age A (Hallstatt) culture of All Canning Cross being dated about 500 B.C. [16] or even a century later [6]. Doubtless the last did not reach Mendip until a still later date. It would seem that our burials belong to the latter part of the interval, for the turned spindle-whorl in lignite or brown shale, *Fig. 29*, no. 14, has a very Iron Age aspect; it lay upon the slow silting of the ditch of T.11 but beneath the secondary barrow. But the ceramic differs markedly from that of the local Iron Age and equally from that of All Cannings Cross. The only objects clearly of that period were found in the surface soil of T.10 and T.11 respectively, along with a little Romano-British, mediaeval and later material: (1) the base of a ? La Tene vessel bearing an incised circle; (2) the iron rim of a wooden spade. An iron ox shoe from the humus upon T.11 was of uncertain date.

#### THE EAST BARROW, T.12

This Middle Bronze Age barrow awaits full excavation. It is very probably the latest of its group and is important for dating purposes. The bowl-shaped earthen mound, ploughed down to a height of 2' 6" and a diameter of about 35 feet, was originally at least 50 feet across. A ditch has not yet been looked for.

The barrow covered two pits in the ground, each containing a burnt burial. A small heap of stones sealed the more nearly central, those around its mouth forming a distinct ring. Amongst the bones were a polished pebble and a small slate "hone" having a biconical perforation near one end, both perhaps cult objects or amulets [3, *Plate X*, 4]. Flint implements and waste were present amongst the stones.

The other burial was that of a young woman (?) and child. It was enclosed in an inverted collared (early Overhanging Rim) urn, typologically later than that of the South Barrow but not so late as the plate suggests; the neck was cavetto but could not be restored correctly owing to distortion in drying [3, *Plate XI*, 3]. Rim and neck were decorated with chevrons in the so-called "whipped cord" technique, in this case probably impressed by a close, broad-toothed comb or similar object. Under its mouth were segmented beads of green and blue vitreous paste, barrel, spindle and disc beads of jet, a triangular plate of jet with central



perforation and a lozenge-shaped bronze awl [3, *Plate X*, 6 and 5]. The pit was sealed by black "unctuous" matter flecked with ochre, then by a large flat stone.

The remains of fires were present beneath the barrow mound, the substance of which contained much domestic waste and calcined human bone.

The jet may show contact with Yorkshire, a point of interest in connection with the revival of cremation associated with pots resembling the concave-necked Foodvessels of that region. The segmented beads, if of Egyptian origin and made only around 1470 B.C., suggest a date between 1400 and 1300 B.C. when allowance is made for their diffusion and survival. They may mark contact with the Wessex Culture. The slate, Dr. F. S. Wallis reports, is from North Devon or North Wales. The industrial remains, however, suggest a culture of Neolithic and Mesolithic origin similar to that of the local Early Bronze Age but without the Beaker element, to which one or two flint types and a very scanty ceramic of Foodvessel derivation may have been added.

#### THE NORTH BARROW, T.10

This tumulus, 5 feet in height and originally about 65 in diameter, was an earthen bowl barrow bearing a turf-clad stone cap of later date. It possessed neither a ditch nor the holes of a stone or timber circle unless they were exceedingly shallow or more than 12 yards from its boundary. Beneath it were three cists quarried in the rock and the ashes of a fire or fires.

The nearly central cist *A* contained carbonized matter, burnt stone, disintegrating ox bones and red deer antler; Cist *C*, clean loam showing a few scraps of charcoal. Perhaps these deposits represented inhumations which had left no trace, but that in *A* suggested a burial of burnt soft parts only, for neither charred nor calcined bone would have disappeared.<sup>6</sup> Similarly that in *C* may have been an unburnt burial of soft parts, some ritual deposit or possibly a filling after the exhumation of a "preliminary burial" such as has been suggested above.

In Cist *B* were three pigmy cups [4, *Plates II and III, Fig. 5*] and a heap of black ash containing calcined human bone, charcoal, three bone pins, a bone hook, a clay bead, flint, minute fragments of the cups and a few bones of mole, shrew and rabbit or hare,—all cremated. The cups may mark the arrival of the Wessex Culture or its "influence" [24, 28]. The flat rim of one bears a grooved chevron, another is decorated all over with chevrons, parallel lines, etc., impressed by a convex row of fine rounded teeth, such as those of the small bone combs found in the Bronze Age deposits of Rowberrow Cavern and Brean Down. The decoration of the third, perhaps impressed by twisted grass, resembles coiled basket-work. Each of the cups is simply a miniature Foodvessel, its thick walls and small, undifferentiated cavity indicating adaptation to a purely ritual use; in two this is confirmed by an unsteady, rounded base. Unpractical form is combined with careful, ornate decoration. Two are of the concave-necked Yorkshire



type, the third may be derived ultimately from the globular Irish Foodvessel completely covered with ornament. "Scabbard hooks" have been attributed to the Wessex Culture (Childe [28], p. 153, Piggott [30]).

Cist *B* was quarried in the rock near the edge of the barrow and concealed by stones overlapping like the natural strata, above which were a few unburnt bones of ox and ? sheep. Probably it was an early secondary interment.

Amongst the calcined human bone and domestic waste in the barrow substance were two shallow collar rims [4, *Fig. 10, 3*] approaching the laterally compressed roll type seen on the cinerary urn from the East Barrow. These may possibly represent a stage in the evolution of the true Overhanging Rim. As in all the tumuli of this group the bone must represent either a contemporary cremation (but perhaps of a second individual) or some victim less honorably burnt.

At a later date two pits had been sunk in the top of the mound and a thick layer of stones had been added to it. One pit, *P*, was certainly earlier than the stone cap. It contained a layer of black ash with domestic debris,—flint tools, flint waste and sherds from several vessels, some of coarse fabric but some of the "finer Late Bronze Age" type already described. A coarse pot with doubly-bevelled rim, hollow neck and applied hemispherical bosses was represented here and in a squatting site in the lee of the tumulus [4, *Fig. II, nos. 1 and 2*]. In the other pit, *I*, was a burnt burial in an upright biconical urn having a simple rim and a row of widely-spaced finger-tip impressions at the shoulder [4, *Plate IV, no. 1*]. This may have been later than the stone cap. A similar burial had been placed in a shallow pit amongst the stones, 2. Its urn was a debased variant of the last like a bucket with contracted mouth, the flat rim decorated by the finger-tip in Hallstatt fashion [4, *Plate IV, no. 2*]. Both urns were in the "finer Late Bronze Age" ware. Sherds of many similar vessels (presumably domestic), flint tools and waste and calcined human bone were included in the stone cap, but no coarse ware nor any bearing Middle Bronze Age motives or techniques [4, *Fig. 11, nos. 4-25; Fig. 12, nos. 1-19*]. We found no evidence of an additional individual amongst the scattered bone, indeed two fragments fitted those in the urns.

It proved possible to reconstruct the calcined skull and many other bones from Cist *B*. Our first President, the late Dr. Edward Fawcett to whom this Society and especially the writer owe so much, found it barely dolicocephalic. The frontal eminences were prominent, the eyebrow ridges slight, i.e. female in type. The bones were relatively slender, the teeth small. As he pointed out, too much must not be made of this distorted material. The supposed scabbard hook conjures up a Bronze Age Boudicca, but perhaps it might serve equally well to fasten cloak or belt.

The writer burned a small series of teeth and bones in a wood fire for comparison with those of prehistoric cremations. The results appeared to show that,



as a rule, only a "probable opinion" can be given on the sex of a burnt burial and that determinations of age should be taken with a grain of salt.

*Sex.* Critical parts are usually distorted and crushed. The size of teeth and slenderness or muscularity of long bones are uncertain criteria, even in unburnt material, at least in a mixed population. A world-famous physical anthropologist was misled by the male skeleton in Corston Beaker Cist no. 1 [8]. He deduced two individuals, male and female, from broken bones which were found to fit together when further pieces were recovered. A recent claim that the sex and age-group of calcined bones can be determined radiologically awaits confirmation [31].

*Age.* Fused and almost obliterated cranial sutures may open when a skull is calcined, the fissures due to shrinkage following their serrations with no more than occasional deviation across the processes to show that the suture was closed or nearly so. The skull may then be mistaken for a young one.

Further, the closing of a suture does not occur at a fixed age, as one might think from some reports. It is a gradual process extending over years and is subject to individual variation; authorities have disagreed even upon the average figures. To a less extent this is true of the fusion of epiphyses. Finally, can we apply to-day's figures to all prehistoric races? How far are they affected by early sexual maturity?

## THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11

### SUMMARY

At the time of excavation the South Barrow was a bowl tumulus without trace of a ditch, about 5 feet in height and 55 in apparent diameter (*Plates XXII, XV A*). It was found to be of two periods: (1) a ditched earthen bowl barrow of the early Middle Bronze Age, unusual in that it possessed a causeway (if our reading of the complicated stratigraphy of its ditch be correct); (2) an earthen cap 2 feet thick and 72 feet across, added in Late Bronze times by a mixed immigrant and native group.

When buried under the Late Bronze Age cap the original mound was about 54 feet across and 3 high, its ditch 11 feet wide and only 2 feet deep owing to silting. This "Ditch 2" had been dug in the filling of an earlier, Ditch 1 (*Plates XV B, XVIII A, XIX, XX, XXI, XXII (Figs. 26, 27)*). In the east, part of the filling had been left to form a causeway. The outer wall was supported by a rough stone facing or bank of O.R.S. boulders where a great depth of surface soil rendered it unstable (*Plate XXI, Fig. 26B*).

Ditch 1, quarried in the limestone bedrock before the mound was raised, had been at least 72 feet in external diameter. It had varied from 5' 0" to 6' 3" in depth and 8' 0" to 10' 0" in width (minimum figures<sup>H</sup>). It had possessed an internal vallum of loam or turf 4-5 feet thick<sup>J</sup> and had enclosed a level space. A causeway, cut through later by Ditch 2, seems to have existed in the S.S.W. (*Plate XVIII B, Fig. 28*). No detectable stone- or post-holes were present in the enclosure or in a belt of ground 6 yards wide outside the ditch (*Fig. 23*).



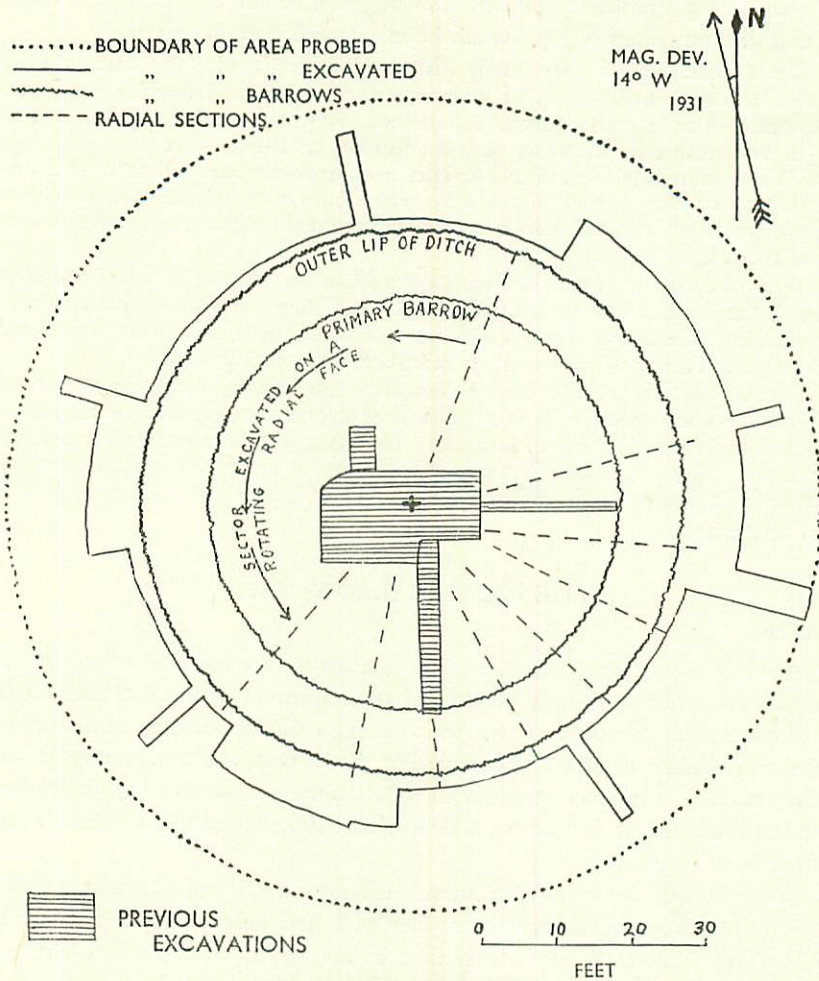


Fig. 23. Excavations, 1930-31  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11

Ditch 1 was somewhat polygonal in plan externally, as if laid out on markers etc., *Plate XXII*).

Thus the earliest structure on the site was a burial enclosure about 45 feet across internally, bounded by a vallum and Ditch 1 and entered by a causeway in the S.S.W. Although it remained open long enough for the vallum and earlier pit-fillings to become grass-grown, it does not seem to have been either a burial circle or a 'henge, for reasons to be given, but a site for burial D. It



existed only whilst the ditch was being quarried. Was such a temporary burial enclosure the origin of the ring barrow?

Successive pits and fires were made in the enclosure, probably representing three burials during its construction (A, B, C; P and Q, the last a hearth which may possibly have served more than once; see *Plate XXII, Fig. 24*). Another burial and fire were made immediately it was finished (D and R, *Figs. 24 and 25*). It seems that the site was intended from the first for this last interment, which was the most nearly central and was associated with the central, and greatest, fire, whereas the earlier pits had left the centre clear. Further, this burial was made immediately the ditch was finished and was protected immediately by a mound which covered the enclosure, begun whilst its fire R was still burning. We shall see that the ditch began to be filled with broken limestone (presumably quarried debris cleared from the site) and parcels of loam before any silting had occurred in its last-made sector, the N.N.E., and that this sector appeared to have been completed in haste. Did a chief prepare the site of his (or her) own tomb, burying there one or more persons who died during the work or perhaps making consecration deposits, and dying himself before it was completed? If not, were his remains stored or exposed for some years until the site was ready? The quarrying of the ditch was no brief task; as has been said, the vallum and earlier pit-fillings were exposed some years since they had become overgrown with vegetation before it was finished.

The barren pits A and B may have contained ritual deposits or totally-decomposed inhumations, possibly of soft parts only. They also qualify as possible sites of body-storage before the cremations D and C respectively; A, at least, had been disturbed at the appropriate time. This has been discussed in the section on reburial.

C contained a cremation in which only parts of a skull and foot bones were recognizable, together with flint implements (some probably burnt in the pyre), isolated sherds of coarse ware bearing a diaper pattern of finger-nail impressions, a foreign pebble and a large quartz crystal<sup>k</sup> (*Fig. 30*). It was dug through the saucer-shaped hearth Q. In D was a double cremation in and around an inverted early collared urn, morphologically an Enlarged Foodvessel, which bore Foodvessel motives (*Plate XVII A*). The bones had been gathered from the pyre, in contrast with the "whole ash" deposits of C and T.10, B. Upright wooden stumps in pits B and C were unusual features. S, S, were patches of charred grass presumably lit by the central fire and J a heap of carbonized matter without bone or charcoal, whether a ritual deposit or an early, i.e. pre-secondary barrow, "token" secondary interment.

Ditch 1 was largely filled in building the mound. It was reopened on a smaller scale as Ditch 2, a causeway in the east replacing that in the S.S.W. A certain amount of squatting occurred in the ditches at all stages.



The date of the primary interment should be about 1400 B.C., that given for the beginning of the Overhanging Rim Urn series [16, 18]. Its makers would appear to have been largely of local pre-A-Beaker origin, under new leaders whose pottery was derived from the Yorkshire type of Foodvessel, but who had not necessarily come from that centre. Their origin and industrial remains have been considered with the barrow group.

After an interval during which the ditch became half silted up, a Late Bronze Age folk left in it traces of their occupation; flint implements, saddle-querns (the first positive evidence of the use of corn in the neighbourhood since Neolithic times), a new, much more abundant pottery (*Fig. 29*, nos. 4-13) and a turned spindle-whorl in lignite or brown shale (no. 14). They possessed horses. In this barrow their pottery was characterized by an admixture of what seem to be native Middle Bronze Age forms, motives, techniques and wares. Their flint industry and some features of their burials suggest a real degree of cultural and racial fusion rather than the mere employment of captive native women as potters. Such survivals would seem to show that they had not been present long in the district. The date must fall between that of the first Late Bronze Age or "bucket urn" invasion (800-700 B.C.) and that of the full Iron Age A, Halstatt culture of All Cannings Cross (about 500 B.C.) or its arrival on Mendip one or two centuries later. It is probably late in the interval; note the shale spindle whorl (*Fig. 29*, no. 14) which resembles Iron Age examples.

This mixed folk made a burnt burial in an inverted biconical urn having a shoulder-cordon and lugs and twisted-cord as well as finger-tip ornament (*Plate XVII B*). This they placed in Pit 1, sunk in the top of the existing barrow, protecting it by stone slabs and by some covering which has become an ochre-studded black paste. Near it they buried the skull (not the head) of a horse and a few flint implements, apparently in small pits capped with heaps of stones (*Plate XXII*, 2-5). They then filled much of the ditch, added a belt or perhaps a low wall or kerb of heaped O.R.S. boulders and finally buried all beneath a cap of loam.

The core of the original mound and of the Late Bronze Age cap each contained much domestic waste and calcined human bone, probably because the builders occupied the ground from which they were bringing soil, but the intentional addition of some part of these is not excluded. It appeared probable in Pits C and I. In the case of the Middle Bronze Age barrow, at least, there was a strong suspicion that the bone represented an additional individual not given normal burial.

These features will be described in turn.

#### EXCAVATION. *Fig. 23.*

Work was begun by a sector method. Each excavation started as a tangential trench well outside the barrow, its inner side forming a working face which was dug towards the centre. Radial strips were left standing between the sectors to provide sections for reference but were to be dug eventually. They soon



collapsed owing to their height and bad weather, after which every sector was made continuous with the last, each in turn providing a radial face. Eventually it was found better to excavate on a radial face rotating about the barrow centre. Such features as the vallum could not be followed otherwise. The complex stratified deposit in the ditch demanded excavation in this way, but one sector of Ditch 2 was emptied separately to show its form and stone facing (*Plate XXI*).

All working faces were vertical in order to display intrusive pits, but were dug in steps the depth of which varied so that each represented a layer or fraction of a layer seen in the section (see "*Stratification*"). They were taken down to bedrock or to a minimum depth of 4' 0" below the natural surface, since the subsoil was rather vaguely stratified. In addition the suspicious cavity under the centre was cleared out to rock bottom, 10' 6" below the natural surface, a total depth of nearly 16 feet. It proved to be of natural origin as the intact subsoil had indicated. All bedrock reached was tested with the pick for concealed deposits such as T.10 B and T.14 B.

Pits were emptied independently, from above as far as possible, in order to preserve them and the plan of their contents. Their fillings were re-examined minutely and samples were kept for future pollen analysis, etc.

Small finds were taken from the working face as far as practicable. Those not found *in situ* were grouped according to the step and area from which they came. Large-scale close "sorting" for such objects requires a special technique akin to that of the diamond miners. The soil is best placed at one end of a table-top or large sheet and passed in a thin layer across it. A sieve is too small, although a useful tray if given a solid bottom to avoid the loss of small objects! If shaken it is destructive and disguises the clean surfaces of finds beneath a coat of dust or soil. What it passes must still be examined for beads, microliths, scraps of human bone, etc., thus no time is saved; the grading does not help in any way. The late J. A. Davies tried a sieve in flowing water but found it impracticably slow in average soil; further, agitation is especially destructive to wet objects.

The usual photographic records were made, a ladder lashed to a hay-wagon being used for general views.

In a search for post-holes, etc., the further areas shown in *Fig. 23* were dug to rock bottom. All unexcavated ground within 18 feet of the ditch was probed; holes in the ground were excavated but all proved to be natural solution cavities, potholes or rifts. "Bosing," or ground percussion with a rammer, seems to be of little use in this soil. It did not indicate even the known ditch, doubtless because the upper filling of clayey loam was sufficient to damp the resonance of the stones below.

The barrow was replaced, allowed to settle for a year and then re-shaped so that it appears untouched. Over 2,300 hours were worked, half by hired labour. All excavation was supervised by the writer or a competent deputy.

A point of vital importance to excavators is that each of the Tynings Farm Barrows proved to be larger than it appeared, although probably ploughed over. Each had shrunk, not "spread under the plough"! That phrase has undoubtedly caused the loss of much information and material in the past. Had excavation been limited even to the full apparent area of our barrows, the ditches, kerbs and at least three burials would have been missed. Further, it would have been unsafe to leave undug any part of the tumuli or their underlying soil, for some



burials were found at the periphery, others beneath an intact "turf line" or base layer, one beneath actual vestiges of turf and two actually concealed in the bedrock.

#### STRATIFICATION

Layers 1-3 formed the Late Bronze Age cap, 4-6 the original Middle Bronze Age barrow.

1. Turf and humus, 9".
2. Reddish loam with a few O.R.S. boulders, maximum thickness 1' 3". Faintly marked parcels of variable, but apparently local, soils were distinguishable towards the base.
3. Brown "base layer," maximum 1", present only at depths of 18" or more. The so-called turf line upon the older part of the barrow but actually iron pan forming in the base of the later part.
4. Paler reddish loam, 6". The humus upon the elder part of the barrow. Indistinguishable at depths less than 18" owing to weathering of the layers above.
5. Red and reddish yellow loams, maximum 2' 6". The deeper parts showed lamination and brown streaks (due to soil parcels and perhaps turfs), a few O.R.S. boulders and an occasional slab of limestone. All appeared to be local.
6. Dark brown base layer. Iron pan, often very hard. Maximum thickness 4"; development proportional to its depth beneath the surface, beginning at about 18".

This was a part of the barrow and not the remains of the underlying turf or humus, for it lay upon the charred grass of the natural surface at S, *Plate XXII*. It was loam cemented by iron salts, etc., apparently carried by water percolating through the mound until arrested at the relatively impermeable original surface. Its formation in this permeable soil seems to be largely dependent upon turf for it was thinner in burnt areas and almost absent on stones and the charred logs R. The importance of this will appear in the discussion of pits A-D, two of which it "sealed down." Neither an intact layer of iron pan nor even vestiges of turf beneath a barrow prove the ground undisturbed, for turf may have grown or have been replaced upon the filling of a pit. A foot or so of stratified subsoil should be exposed in the working face. Failing this the underlying rock should be tested for concealed deposits.

7. Paler, sometimes smoky, yellow or reddish yellow loam, 4"-5". Original humus. Not detectable at depths less than 18" beneath the top of the elder barrow, i.e. 2' 6" or more below the present surface.

8. A thin brown line, seen only under the highest part of the mound. It resemble a faint base layer; presumably it was formed similarly but upon the compacter, more clayey soil beneath the original humus. It seems to be normal beneath our large earthen tumuli.

9. Red loam, 6"-1' 6". Weathered subsoil.
10. Ill defined, variable layers of red and yellow clayey loam, up to 10' 6" in depth. Subsoil.
11. Bedrock. Mountain limestone near its junction with the shale. Usually met between 1' 0" and 2' 6" below the original surface.

The one trace of previous disturbance, other than this Society's excavations, was a collapsed rabbit burrow almost confined to the friable original humus. It



was followed from its terminal chamber until its two branches were lost near the edge of the tumulus. At first it was mistaken for a long gutter (*Plate XVI B*, foreground).

### THE PRIMARY SOUTH BARROW

#### THE MOUND, UNDERLYING VALLUM AND BURIAL ENCLOSURE

The Middle Bronze Age mound, about 54 feet across and three high, showed in section ill-defined parcels of subsoil, humus and probably turfs together with a very occasional slab of limestone and O.R.S. boulder. Many slabs and fragments of limestone rested on the natural surface near the ditch, from which presumably they were derived; thus it seemed that the ditch was made before the barrow mound. They were missing from a belt 4 to 5 ft. wide, its outer margin about 18" from the ditch. This appeared to be the base of a buried earthen vallum perhaps formed of the surface soil from the ditch.<sup>J</sup> Occasionally the outline of the bank was marked in the radial sections by a few pieces of limestone which had rested on it, as well as by an inconstant faint brown line which indicated that its surface had been grass-grown or at least compact. Usually this line was present only on the lower part of the inner side of the vallum, about 6 feet from the ditch, where it sloped down and in towards the barrow centre; in contrast, the general lamination of the mound due to parcels of soil ran in the opposite sense, roughly parallel with the barrow surface. Nearer the ditch the depth was insufficient for stratigraphic details to be preserved.

The vallum was 4 or 5 feet in width and about 45 feet in internal diameter. The outer margins of pit A, hearth Q, the charred patches S, S' and heap J just reached its inner boundary (*Plate XXII*). It is not known whether a gap existed opposite the original causeway; the vallum was not recognized there because the sector was dug on a tangential face from without inwards, whereas it was detectable only in radial section. After its discovery the rest of the tumulus was dug on a rotating radial face.

No stone- nor post-holes were found within or without the enclosure, although we examined a belt of ground 6 yards wide outside the ditch.

As in Sutton 268 [17], the barrow must have seemed to rise from the bottom of its ditch owing to the stones banked against the inner wall of the latter. This effect was preserved when the final ditch 2 was opened (*Plate XXI*).

The core of the mound contained much domestic waste and calcined human bone, presumably because the builders occupied the ground from which they were bringing soil. Perhaps some of this was added deliberately, as has been said. Some fragments of bone were almost certainly duplicated, or rather triplicated, in the final burial D. If so they were derived from an additional individual not buried here, if at all. These questions have been discussed in an earlier section.

The mound sealed down pits A-D, the fires P, Q, R and the patches of charred vegetation, S, S'. Its relation to heap J was uncertain. Pits 1-5 had been sunk in its top.



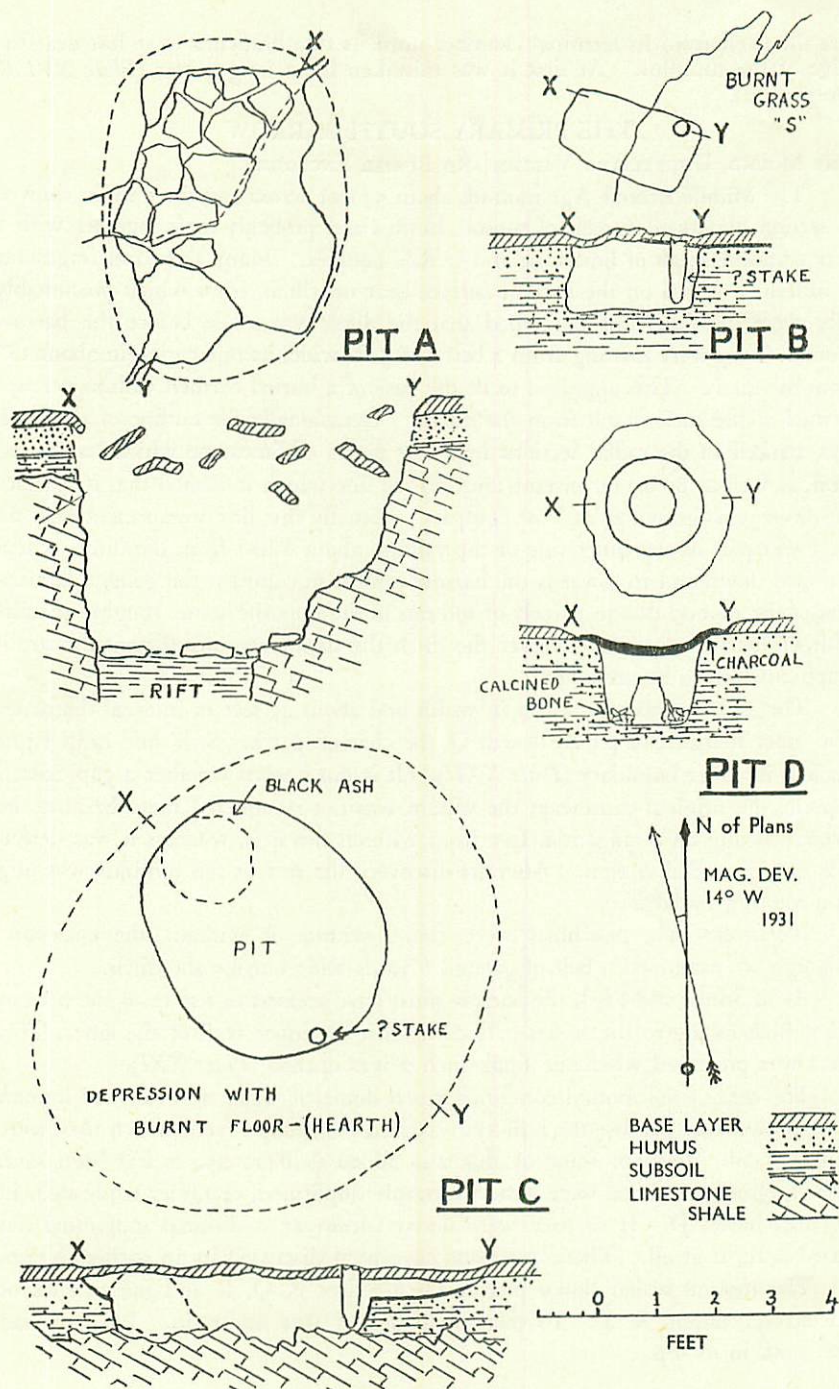


Fig. 24. Primary Pits  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11



PIT A. *Fig. 24A.* Photographs burnt.

This large cavity, at least 5' 8" by 3' 10" by 3' 10" deep, was quarried in the rock about 20 feet E.N.E. of centre, just within the supposed vallum. It was paved with slabs of limestone where a rift interrupted its floor. It contained reddish loam without soil-pattern or other trace of the former presence of a body, but it was more than large enough for an unburnt burial.

It differed from B and C in the absence of a continuous overlying "base layer" or so-called turf line. Thus whereas B and C were probably overgrown by vegetation, as will be seen, A was filled not long before the mound covered it (see "*Stratification*" and the note below on "*Relation of Base Layer to Pits*"). But there is reason to suspect that this filling followed a disturbance in which the pit had been partly emptied, for (1) its very uneven top was unlike the usual smooth surface of a grave; (2) irregular patches of the base layer formation lay at all angles on and in its upper filling, suggesting that thin turf had been thrown in amongst the last part of the soil; we have found them in no other pit; (3) at least the pattern of bones, or soft parts of any size, should have been visible, though admittedly this is not certain (cf. T.10.A and footnote G). Pit A may well have been as old as B and C, or even older, and grass-covered too before its disturbance.

Violation comes first to mind as an explanation. The use of the already ditched site by enemies or rivals for one of their own burials (i.e. D) and the raising of a mound immediately after seem probable enough. The objections to this view have been pointed out in the section on reburial. A does at least qualify as a possible site of the body storage which we suspect preceded burial D.

PIT B. *Plate XVI A. Fig. 24B*

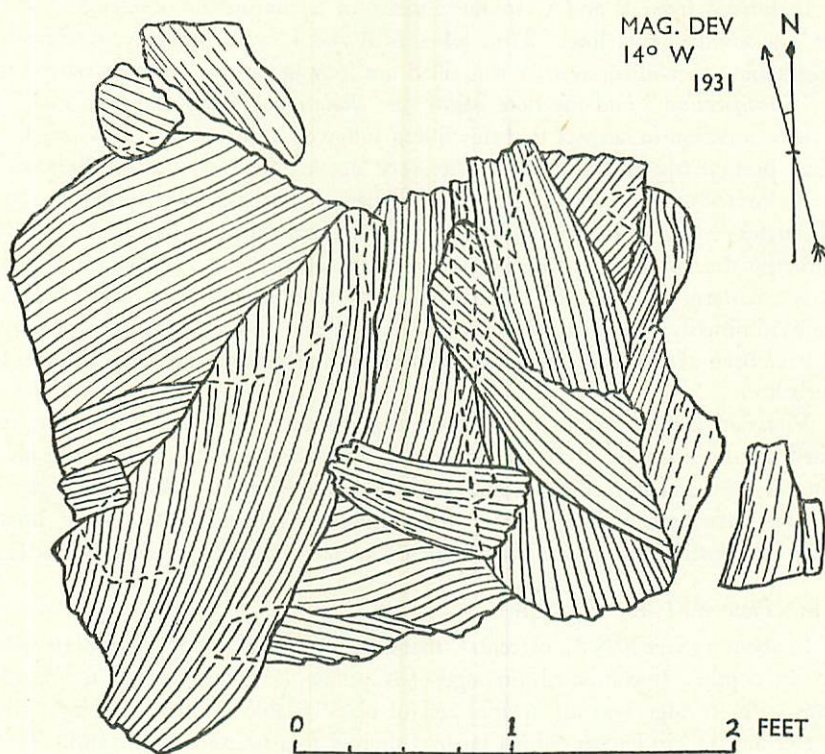
B, about 15 feet N.N.E. of centre, measured only 2' 2" by 1' 3" in plan and 1' 2" in depth. It contained homogeneous yellow loam resembling the basal humus. At its edge was an upright rod of black friable matter about 2½" in diameter and 11" in length, which tapered slightly to a rounded lower end. The irregular top of this cylinder lay just below the ground surface. Vertically striated parts and a shell of true charcoal showed it to be carbonized wood, charred externally—apparently the fire-hardened end of a stake. The formal photographs were burnt but in *Plate XV A* an entrenching-tool helve occupies the groove in the section from which the black substance had just been taken.

The filling of this pit was certainly compact and grass-covered when the barrow was raised over it, for the base layer of the latter was unbroken although uneven and slightly thinner than in the surrounding area. The layer of charred grass S overlapped the greater part of the mouth of the pit, giving evidence of the small field fire lit by the logs R (*Fig. 25*). If a stout stake did originally mark the site, projecting above ground level, it would seem that it had had time to rot before the mound was present, for it had been broken short without dislodgement.



There may be other explanations of the wooden stump but in any case it is clear that the pit was filled some few years before the barrow was raised, since grass had grown thick upon it.

Had the stake a deeper significance? Was it a cult symbol or the support of some charm or sacrifice?



### CHARRED LOGS R

Fig. 25. Fire R. The South Barrow, T.11

Pit B may have contained unburnt human remains, whether an infant's or part of an adult's; compare the yet smaller cist under T.13 which had held adult bones. Since "token" burials of a few bones (burnt or unburnt) were common in the Bronze Age, it does not seem impossible that soft parts were sometimes used for the purpose. The absence of all trace is of little significance in so shallow a pit, exposed for a time to root action. The base layer showed that it was not disturbed at the time of the last burial, D. There was no evidence of earlier



disturbance, but naturally it could not be excluded; thus the pit could have served for the preliminary deposit of the few parts found burnt in C, the earlier cremation.

PIT C and HEARTH Q. *Fig. 24C.* Photographs burnt.

At Q, just within the supposed vallum, was a saucer-like hearth about 8 feet across and 4 inches deep. Pit C was dug through its burnt earthen floor; it was 3' 6" by 4' 6" in diameter and barely a foot in depth. Its own walls and floor, the undressed rock surface, showed no effects of heat.

Pit and hearth alike were filled with greyish and reddish-black soils containing charcoal, an ounce or two of calcined human bone, the calcined cheek tooth of a sheep, much highly-burnt flint, scraps of burnt clayey loam and O.R.S.; unburnt flint implements (*Fig. 30*), sherds of coarse finger-nail marked ware, an igneous pebble and a large crystal of quartz or rock crystal. The calcined bone and highly burnt flint were scattered throughout the deposit but most thickly in a heap of crushed charcoal at the west edge of the pit. All these are described below. Here it would seem that we have graves-goods added as such, rather than the accidental contents of soil brought from some occupied site; for they included no small waste, moderately burnt flint and reburnt sherds such as occur constantly in the substance of the barrows and in squatting-sites in the ditch.

At the east edge of the pit was an upright solid cylinder of black friable matter which seemed to be carbonized wood. Unlike that in B it had no definite shell of charcoal. It resembled the stump of a bluntly-pointed stake nearly 3" in diameter, broken off about 2" above the natural surface. If such a stake did once mark the site, probably it too had rotted before the barrow was raised since it had been broken short without becoming displaced. The base layer passed across both pit and hearth unbroken (though as an undulating sheet thinner than that around), indicating that the filling had become compact and probably overgrown.

Incomplete sets of calcined human bones may sometimes be explained by imperfect gathering from the pyre. The deposit in C and Q was obviously not gathered, but the whole mass of ash or a part of it. The heavily-burnt floor of hearth Q may indicate that it had served for the cremation. If so, either most of the bones had been removed (whether for ritual use or for burial elsewhere), or only some isolated parts of a skull and bones of a foot had been burnt as a token cremation.

This hearth and pit were not disturbed when Pit D was made,

The bone was fully calcined and well preserved but broken small. That identifiable was human save for one cheek tooth of sheep. The size and fused epiphysis of a great toe proximal phalanx proved it adult, otherwise sex and age were indeterminable. The crowns of the only teeth, three molars, were much worn, but this occurred early in prehistoric man. Other bones of the head and



foot only were identifiable by fragments, but most of both members was missing.

The nine sherds formed a small part of one or more large pots. They had not been deposited as a vessel for they lay apart at varying depths. They did not fit together. None appeared to have been burnt after fracture. The ware (of the usual Middle Bronze Age cinerary urn type) was red, buff or brownish-black externally, black internally. Two red sherds and one black bore a diaper pattern of vertical finger-nail impressions. One black showed the edge of a low moulding. One, red and undecorated, was plano-convex as if from the hollow neck of either an Enlarged Foodvessel or a Collared urn, but the broad band of ornament seen on several sherds is unlikely to have marked the body of a normal vessel of either type. One plain sherd has been recovered from the fire of 1940.

The burnt flint was a mass of splinters crackled, white and glossy from intense heat, quite unlike the domestic waste in any deposit. Perhaps it was burnt in the funeral pyre. It was enough to represent about 30 implements of average local size, but some were unusually large. Those recognizable are shown in *Fig. 30*, nos. 1-5: two round or thumb scrapers, a third very large and boldly chipped, a flake having a short lateral scraping edge near one end, two large flakes and a core of the "irregular" Bronze Age type. These also are lost, the figures being from a draft made for the first set of illustrations.

The unburnt flints escaped destruction in 1940, having been removed from the museum to be drawn (*Fig. 30*, nos. 6-15):

6, a flake used near its pointed end as a knife. The remainder of the sharp edge has been snapped off in a regular series of wide bays, an unusual method of removing a part too thin to be serviceable. A natural cortical surface opposite the used edge forms a platform for finger-pressure. One end is trimmed, probably for convenience only since it is unworn and is scarcely stout enough to serve as a scraper.

7 and 8, flakes having one edge toughened by a minute serrating nibble. 8 is unique amongst the barrow "saws" in that this retouch is directed from the dorsal face; it is much patinated and may not be contemporary. A small proportion of older tools intrudes into most archaeological deposits, some found and used anew, some accidentally.

9, a coarsely toothed flake, probably worked but possibly merely a "toughened" one notched by unusually regular damage.

10, a small awl having "alternate retouch" at the point. Like most in these barrows, it is made on a rough fragment of triangular section. One edge of the body has been trimmed to make it symmetrical.

11, a heavy, boldly-flaked, rough side-scraper.

12 (missing), a round scraper on a tabular piece of flint, very boldly and steeply worked although of no great thickness. This subtype appears repeatedly in our Early Middle Bronze Age barrow industry, *cf.* no. 2 and *Fig. 31*, no. 27.

13, a combined small round and notch scraper.

14 and 15, two other hollow or notch scrapers; no. 15 is missing.

A flake from a very highly polished flint tool.

A dozen flakes and waste pieces of flint, all struck from cores of "irregular" type. Most of the useful edges bear more or less toughening retouch—an almost microscopic, irregular serration due to the removal of chips at a medium angle, all by pressure from the bulbar face; the last point distinguishes it from damage



due to use. Often the chips were so fine that it is hard to see how they were detached by a fabricator. Possibly the edge was dressed by whetting it on a sandy stone.

Patination is faint or absent except upon no. 8, the atypical "saw."

This group is typical of the local Middle Bronze Age flint industry described in the section on the Tynings Farm Barrow Group, but with some omissions. The concave-edged serrated flake, perhaps a sickle flint, is not represented. Neither are there any weapons (arrow and lance heads, false tranchets and micro-lithic barbs), perhaps owing to the sex or status of the dead.

The igneous pebble, about the size and shape of a pigeon's egg, and the quartz crystal may have been cult objects, amulets or ornaments. Dr. F. S. Wallis reports that the last was derived ultimately from the granites of North Devon.

Dr. Macgregor Skene has identified the charcoal as oak. Some is from wood at least 6" in diameter.

PIT D. *Plate XVI B. Fig. 3D*

Pit D, situated about 8 feet east of the barrow centre, was nearly cylindrical, about 20" wide and 19" deep. Its walls were lined with yellow clay. It contained an inverted early collared or proto-Overhanging-Rim urn (*Plate XVII A*) in which were the calcined bones of two adults, perhaps male and female. The surplus bone was piled around the urn. It had been freed most carefully from charcoal and ash, in contrast with the "whole ash" deposits of C and of T.10.B. The gnawed fragments have been discussed. The pit was filled with pale yellowish loam (? humus) containing a few scraps of calcined human bone and charcoal.

A layer of charcoal an inch thick covered the site. It had been gathered from a large fire elsewhere, not burnt on the spot, for (1) it was clean and free from ash; (2) fragments derived from wood of all sizes were mixed together, some from boughs more than 8" in diameter—too large to have been burnt in the space; (3) the soil in contact was unburnt and showed scarcely any black film. The wood appeared to be oak.<sup>N</sup>

The barrow was raised very soon after this burial since the charcoal was not scattered or weathered. No "base layer" covered it. The charred logs R and burnt grass S were contemporary, doubtless representing an associated fire, since they too were buried whilst fresh. The disturbance of Pit A seems to have been contemporary or but little earlier, since the surface of its contents had not become sufficiently compact or grass-covered to produce a continuous base layer.

Morphologically the urn is a large, tall Foodvessel of the concave-necked type common in Yorkshire and probably of native Neolithic origin. Its decoration includes Foodvessel or Neolithic motives—something akin to "false relief," characteristic of the Irish Foodvessels, stabs and twisted-cord pattern. It is of the form regarded by Abercromby [14, *Vol. II, Figs. 10 and 16*], and accepted by Grimes [18], as the prototype of the Overhanging Rim urns. Several closely similar vessels have been found in Wales. Its date may be about 1400 B.C. [16, 18, 29]. The flakes from unpatinated polished flint tools found with Burial



C and amongst the domestic debris in the barrow support an early dating. So would the presence of inhumations in the group of burials,<sup>o</sup> but they are uncertain; A and B may have contained ritual deposits or have been mere temporary graves.

This well-made urn is about  $10\frac{3}{4}$ " in height. Probable early features are the very shallow moulded rim, scarcely even a collar; the mouth expanded, as in many Foodvessels, producing the effect of an internal moulding; the well-marked hollow neck; the sharp shoulder and its high position. The body is contracted at the foot, hence a slight pedestalled effect.

The "false relief" technique of Irish and Scottish Foodvessels appears in a debased form on the outer face of the rim, two rows of triangular impressions having been made by the flat, pointed end of some knife-like tool directed alternately up and down. The original object, to leave a chevron in relative relief, is rarely achieved.<sup>p</sup> The expanded mouth is decorated internally with a herringbone pattern impressed by a twisted cord, as in some Foodvessels and Neolithic bowls, e.g. that from Rowberrow Cavern [34]. A row of vertical "finger-nail impressions" girdles the shoulder; for a short distance small triangular stab-marks lie between their lower ends.

The ware is soft, friable, ragged on fracture but unusually thin for the Middle Bronze Age. Until the "blitz" it was buff and almost polished externally, black internally. The black paste contained an occasional minute scrap of charcoal but no added grit. The rim was burnt the same darker buff inside and out and was harder than the walls, which in turn were better fired than the base. Thus probably the urn was fired mouth down. Fracture tendencies showed that it was made in at least three parts, joined before firing—the base; the body, shoulder and part of the neck; the rim and upper part of the neck, which occasionally was overlapped by the lower for an inch or more.

The bones were fully calcined. It was found possible to reconstruct a number. The remains of two adults were mixed both in and around the urn. Perhaps they were male and female, for one was the larger and more muscular, but all critical parts were distorted. The brow ridges were not very pronounced. The cranial sutures showed no evidence of fusion. It is safe to say that neither was beyond middle age. A Wormian bone was present, as in T.10.B; was this a family tendency? Parts of at least 38 teeth were recognized. None showed signs of caries but two roots suggested abscess formation. The molar crowns, of course, were worn flat. The total weight of bone was about 55 ozs.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 lb. more than is usual for an individual cremated to-day, although calcination appeared complete. This would be a generous allowance for two Bronze Age burials of the type in which the bone was collected from the ashes, but as usual a good deal was missing.

The gnawed fragments have been discussed. Part of the shaft of the left tibia and one unidentifiable fragment were certainly gnawed. Shaft fragments from the L. fibula, L. ulna, a radius and humerus (probably both left) showed probable gnawing and undoubted tooth-marks. There was no sign of vital reaction. It appeared probable that they belonged to the larger individual and that the agent was a carnivore rather than a rodent, but a very small one.

It is almost certain that some fragments duplicated in this burial were represented a third time in the barrow substance, i.e. that a third individual was involved in the latter.



## FIRE P

P, *Plate XXII*, represents approximately the so-called hearth found in 1924, there being a possible error in its site of 3 feet in any direction. Its thickness was given as 3" but that included the base layer, the nature of which was not then understood. The samples preserved show a layer of black earth 1-2 mm. thick and some badly-weathered charcoal, embedded in the under surface of the usual dark brown slabs fully 3" thick.

The layer was free from bone and thus probably not the site of cremation, unless of soft parts only. It was too small for the burning of a whole body. Most probably it was simply the ash of a fire associated with the burial at A or B, as suggested below. The species of wood was not determinable.

FIRE R AND THE CHARRED HERBAGE S, S'. *Fig. 25.* Photographs burnt.

At the centre of the barrow the remains of at least ten burnt oaken logs or boards lay one upon another, three deep, in a pile 4 feet across. They had no special arrangement, e.g. as a chamber, coffin or platform. The largest still measured 2' 7½" by 1' 1" by 3". The earth above and below was slightly reddened and separated from the charcoal (which was not mere carbonized wood) by a film of black ash. Several logs reduced to ash could be traced as striated laminae. Thus they burnt on the spot and were smothered by the barrow.

All the logs were relatively flat and thin, as if split to assist burning; it is also possible that they were boards or beams. They were not flattened by the weight of the barrow, for the charcoal was not crushed. Since the heap was free from bone it does not seem to have been a funeral pyre. No trace of nor place for remains existed on, in or below it, thus it cannot be compared with burial platforms of the Wessex Culture, coffins, wooden chambers, or face-coverings like that of the A-Beaker burial at Cairnpapple [33] nor are such structures normally burnt. It was presumably the remains of a fire connected with the rites of Interment D, for that too was freshly made when covered by the barrow.

The charcoal appeared to be oak<sup>N</sup> but quicker-burning woods may have been represented amongst the ashes. The size of the logs burnt in so small a space is remarkable. Clearly they were very dry, unless brought burning from a greater fire.

No sooner had we detached the sized and dried logs for transport than a drenching thunderstorm began, so that they had to be covered and left on the spot for some hours. In the best tradition thunder should come from a clear sky, but this was a much more effective deterrent. Unfortunately it had not been predicted! The Tynings Farm Barrows seem to have no folk-lore.

The grass of the ancient surface had been charred for a foot or so around the heap, but as far as the supposed vallum on the N.N.E., no doubt fanned by the usual strong west wind. At the edge of the burnt area and throughout its extension S fragments of charred grass were recognizable occasionally, together



with rare traces of bracken and fern. They seemed to represent no more than the vegetation on the spot, the black film being exceedingly thin and its outline that of a field fire, not a deposit. The base layer above it was slightly thinner than that around. Doubtless the smaller burnt patches S' were kindled by sparks. We might have been able to determine the species of grass and the season when the fire and burial were made by the flower or seed heads present, but the specimens have been destroyed.

#### HEAP J

A layer of black earth 2 feet across and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick in the middle rested approximately on the original surface at J, *Plate XXII*. Its thickness, upward convexity and sharp, rounded outline suggested the deposit of a heap of ash rather than the burning of a fire on the spot. Moreover it was free from charcoal and featureless under the microscope. In this region the primary barrow was ill stratified owing to lack of depth, thus its relation was uncertain, but J was earlier than the Late Bronze Age cap. It was therefore either an early secondary deposit in a pit little more than a foot deep, or a primary one laid on the natural surface. In the latter case it was probably not a burial, for local burials of the period seem to have required pits.

#### RELATION OF THE BASE LAYER TO PITS A-D

The base layer or turf line is not the remains of turf but the base of the barrow cemented by salts of iron, etc. Nevertheless its formation depends upon a relatively impermeable surface, normally the original turf; it was found to be thinner where the grass had been burnt, poorly developed upon stones and ordinarily missing above pits, e.g. D and those of T.10. Since pits A-C contained permeable loams similar to those of the mound above them (partly burnt and yet more permeable in the case of C), the presence of this layer upon their fillings shows that their surfaces had been specialized in some way. They had not been turfed, for there was no trace of a separate humus between the base layer and the fillings. It would have been especially obvious in Pit C, the contents of which varied from black to grey and reddish; the soil amongst the roots of turf laid on them could not have matched them everywhere. It would probably have been distinguishable in the other pits also.

The possible explanations are:

1. That the fillings had become overgrown by vegetation, having been exposed for some years but not for a sufficient time to form a new pale humus (the soil would require many years to become leached).
2. That they had been covered with a layer of organic matter which might have the same effect as turf, e.g. leaves, grass, skins or fabric.
3. If a compact surface without organic matter can produce a well-marked base layer, that the fillings had been trodden or rammed down. This assumption seems unlikely, for the layer was scarcely formed upon stones.

Either (1) or (2) might be true of A and C. The first was proved in the case of B by the fact that the charred grass of the natural surface, S, crossed it without change or interruption except slight undulation. The one explanation



of all the facts appears to be that the pits were overgrown by grass, etc., having been filled some little time before the barrow was raised. This would account for the presence of the base layer upon all but the latest pit, D; for the charred grass upon B; for the stakes and their decay and fracture at ground level, if they did once project as posts or markers; for the succession of fires, P weathered and dispersed, Q with slightly weathered charcoal and R fresh.

The patchy, irregular base layer in the topmost filling of A suggested that that pit had been disturbed and that its turf had been returned amongst the last of its filling, and that this had occurred not long before the barrow was raised upon it since no further compact surface capable of producing a base layer had been able to form. It is admitted that other explanations are possible.

#### SEQUENCE OF THE PITS AND FIRES

The remains of fires of at least three ages suggested as many funeral ceremonies. There may have been a fourth, its fire concealed by one of the others, since there were four pits; but perhaps one pit served only some ritual purpose. It would seem that A, perhaps B, and C had received interments successively during the construction of the ditched enclosure, whereas D contained one made immediately this was finished (for the burial at D immediately preceded the building of the mound, which began so soon after the completion of the ditch that no silt had formed in the last sector of the latter; i.e. no rain had fallen since it was quarried. The season was dry, hence the grass fire at S). The sequence A-B-C is not quite certain. These three pits were not covered by a mound until after the burial in D, whether because their dead were of inferior rank, because they contained only consecration or other ritual deposits, because A and B were temporary burials and C an inferior permanent one or simply because the ditch was unfinished. Probably the latter took years to quarry; long enough for grass to grow thick on the vallum and pit-fillings and for stakes to rot, but not for the charred stumps and fire-residues to become unrecognizable.

The central fire R belonged to the last interment, D, an urned cremation, since both were covered immediately by the barrow. Hearth Q was an integral part of C, an earlier burnt burial containing little bone, as is not uncommon, and may have been the site of its burning. Thus fire P was most probably associated with A or B, preceding the others, for its charcoal was scattered and in much the worst condition. Further, the base layer above it was of full thickness, just as that above B and the more nearly horizontal patches in A were thicker than that covering C.

It would seem that the barrow was designed for the nearly central burial D which accompanied the great central fire and was protected immediately by a mound, whereas the earlier deposits had been left unprotected and kept clear of the centre. Did the two bodies whose ashes rested at D lie waiting (in A or elsewhere) whilst the ditch was quarried and the enclosure made ready for their ceremonial burial—a matter of years? We have seen that the cremation of at least one was probably delayed. Or did a chief prepare the site of his (or her)



own tomb, burying there some who died during the work, or perhaps making consecration deposits, and dying himself before it was quite ready? There is some evidence that the enclosure was completed in haste; certainly the mound was raised very soon afterwards. And was his companion in the urn killed to accompany him?

It may be suggested that the barrow site was a family tomb in use for a generation or so, but the barrenness of pits A and B and the apparent disturbance of the former require explanation. It was this barrenness and disturbance and the size-relationship between the two pairs of pits which raised the question whether the two earlier had been used for the temporary inhumation of the remains buried in the two later; whether A had contained two bodies which were exhumed, burnt and reburied ceremonially at D as soon as the enclosure was finished and ready, and whether B had served to store the few parts burnt and buried rather earlier at C. Other explanations are possible, for instance violation before the mound was built.

#### THE BURIAL ENCLOSURE STAGE

In its first phase the tumulus seems to have been an earthen "circle" having an external ditch and a causeway, but no stones nor posts requiring holes for their support. Apparently this was no more than a stage in the construction of a bowl barrow, for immediately the structure was finished the principal burial was made and a mound was raised over the whole. The "circle" would seem to have been constructed for the funeral rites.

#### THE BUILDERS

A note on the community and their leaders will be found in the section on the Tynings Farm Barrow Group (page 119).

#### THE SECONDARY BARROW

In the Late Bronze Age a burial was made in a large pit in the top of the barrow, apparently associated with four smaller pits each crowned by a few stones (*Plate XXII*, 1-5). The ditch, already almost half silted up, was filled with loam on the uphill sides—the south and east—perhaps to facilitate the carriage of soil to enlarge the mound. A pavement of O.R.S. boulders was laid on the causeway. We found similar stones scattered on the filling of the ditch; these may indicate that the pavement encircled the barrow or may represent a retaining wall, a heaped-up kerb or the beginning of a stone cap like that upon T.10. But perhaps they were simply rejected from the building material. They are the commonest stones in local soil and stream beds.

The filling of the ditch and laying of the pavement on the causeway were dated by "Late Bronze Age" occupation debris and scraps of calcined human bone beneath the loam and stones used. Thus they probably followed the burial or at least its preliminary rites.



After the burial the ditch, pavement, girdle of scattered stones and primary mound were covered by an earthen cap about 72 feet in diameter and 2 feet thick at the centre.

#### Plt I

*Plate XXII I* shows the approximate site and plan of the floor found in 1924, obviously that of a pit sunk a foot in the primary barrow. No sides were visible under the conditions of excavation—holes sunk from above and refilled daily. The floor was marked by a sprinkling of scraps of charcoal, calcined human bone, flint and potsherds. These passed over the urn and its protecting stones (described below) and are hard to explain except as the result of a deliberate scattering, probably of collected debris rather than "occupation soil" since dark earth and small chips of flint were absent. In addition, a few sherds, flints and scraps of calcined human bone were found at all levels in the filling of the pit and in the base of the secondary barrow raised over it.

In the south of the pit a collapsed, inverted urn contained the burnt bones of an adult. It rested upon a fantastically perforated, but natural, slab and was protected by leaning slabs, all of limestone. Its upturned base was covered by most of that of another vessel, then by a small flat stone. Black "unctuous" matter coated a large part of the stones but did not seal all their gaps. It was studded with pea-sized granules of red and yellow ochre, thus resembling that found about the late urns of T.10 and the Middle Bronze Age one of T.12. The black layer appeared to be too thick to be the remains of robes, food or the like (unless, perhaps, preserved by having been charred). As in T.10.1 the neck of the urn had been broken before burial, accidentally or otherwise, for several sherds were packed inside it.

The urn (*Plate XVII B*) is biconical, about 16" in height. It seems to be related to the Late Bronze Age bucket urns although nothing very similar is figured by Abercromby [14, Vol. II]; the nearest may be his 414, 415 and 419 from Dorset and 426 from Wiltshire, but the Mendip ware is finer and more attractive, perhaps owing to our ochreous clay. The closest parallel, apart from the fragmentary vessels in the ditch (*Fig. 29*, nos. 12, 13), may be a biconical urn from a barrow on Collingbourne Down, Wiltshire. This has lugs and a finger-printed shoulder cordon (lightly pinched up, like those from our ditch) but a plain rim and neck.<sup>9</sup>

The prominent shoulder cordon, almost square in section, swells out to form four bracket-like lugs. Like the top of the slightly everted and thickened rim it is scalloped by "finger-tip" impressions showing no nail groove. A confused chevron in twisted cord pattern occupies the upper segment.

Before the "blitz" the ware varied from red to ochreous brown externally but was black internally. Its paste, rich in carbon, contained no obvious charcoal, sand or grit. It was harder and finer than local Middle Bronze Age ware and



most Deverel-Rimbury Late Bronze Age fabrics, but softer than most of its accompanying domestic sherds because less well fired. Fresh fractures were short, old ones slightly ragged.

Judging by the lines of fracture, the urn was made in at least four main segments, joined before firing: the base, the two truncated cones and a narrow ring forming the shoulder, cordon and lugs. It seems to have been fired mouth down. The making of the shoulder and cordon in one additional piece seems to be an innovation; it avoids the tendency of encrusted cordons to peel off whilst retaining much of their prominence. The chevron above the shoulder has much the effect of the encrusted loops of Abercromby's Southern Group II, etc., when they happen to be subtriangular.

The urn contained or covered about a pint of calcined human bone, far too little to fill it. This was apparently derived from one person of indeterminable sex between about 35 and 45 years of age, if to-day's figures for the fusion of cranial sutures be applicable. All parts of the body were represented, but incomplete. Most of the small bones were missing. The muscular impressions were strong—we might guess, male. The one molar crown amongst parts of a dozen teeth was worn flat.

Also in the urn were a few scraps of flint burnt glossy white, many burnt encrinite segments from the local limestone, scraps of charcoal and pieces of its own rim and neck. The fossils could have been worn as beads but bore no sign of any use. Perhaps they were gathered owing to their superficial resemblance to broken bone shafts. Although they occur in the soil, their numbers suggested that cremation was carried out in contact with limestone shale, as if in a built hearth or furnace.

#### OTHER CONTENTS OF PIT P

All the bone scattered on the floor of the pit was calcined. That identifiable was human, with three exceptions: the molar crown of a very small carnivore (?), a phalanx of corresponding size and part of an unerupted milk molar of pig. None of the human bone was found to fit that in the urn but none was shown to be duplicated. An unburnt metatarsal of ? red deer lay in the filling of the pit.

The flint and pottery scattered on the floor were obviously domestic waste, although in a sense graves-goods since they seem to have been collected from an occupied site rather than brought in soil; for no dark earth, no finely divided charcoal and few flint chippings were present. Unfortunately the records as well as the greater part of the finds have been destroyed. They resembled those of the concentration in the base of the secondary barrow and of the contemporary occupation of the ditch, indeed the same pot was probably represented in the latter and in this pit (*Fig. 29*, nos. 5 and 3). Good implements were relatively more common, some 40 or 50 including simple flake knives. A description has been given in the section on the barrow group.

The mixing of native Middle Bronze Age and new, Late Bronze Age features was well shown in the pottery. The urn and *Fig. 29*, no. 3 illustrate this. The latter is the one survivor of several dark red, thick sherds in a very fine, black, rather soft paste, derived from a biconical urn having a slightly concave upper segment and a low plain shoulder cordon. The neck is decorated by what seem at first sight to be parallel oblique lines impressed by a "looped cord." Actually each was made by two fine twisted cords held taut side by side, for the



tiny depressions forming both rows are parallel. This is confirmed by the divergence of the ends of the rows in no. 5.

In type, workmanship and raw material the flint industry was that of the Middle Bronze Age, but degeneration was evident in the poor quality and small extent of much of the secondary work as well as in the frequent use of rough fragments as tools. Implements known to have lain in this pit include the ogival barbed-and-tanged arrowhead *Fig. 32*, no. 1, its barbs and tangs very short; the tip of a worked flake like a plano-convex knife, very densely patinated and certainly older; no. 8, a round scraper of which only a short arc is worked; no. 12, a keeled, triangular, almost unpatinated flake, two edges of which have been worked and used as straight scrapers, the third edge being plain and worn by use as a knife; a large hollow scraper; no. 13, an unpatinated flake knife with poorly-worked blunted back. The majority of the implements having any form at all were simple flake knives, as in the Middle Bronze Age series; the edges of some were "toughened" by the same fine, irregular serrating nibble or possibly sometimes by friction. Definite serrated flakes, both notched and toothed, were relatively common. Some were sickle-shaped (*cf. Fig. 32*, no. 2). The commonest shaped tool was the convex scraper, i.e. the round scraper of which only a very short arc had been worked. Most characteristic of all was the use of fragments of accidental form as scrapers, points and knives.

The charcoal of this urn and pit was from smallish wood, the largest growth-rings noted being some 3" in diameter. No species was identified.

The following features of this burial appear to be Middle Bronze Age survivals, in addition to those noted in the ceramic and flint industry: the inversion of the urn, the rudimentary cist, the sealing with ochre-studded black paste (whatever it may represent), the addition of flint, potsherds and calcined human bone (whether with or without "occupation soil"). The principal new features are the very large shallow pit, the abundance of pottery and the new fabric, forms and decoration already described.

This burial and P of T.10 (with its similar mixed ceramic) seem to mark the arrival of Late Bronze Age folk at Tynings Farm, *circa* 800-600 B.C. but probably nearer the latter date [29]. Perhaps the spindle whorl *Fig. 29*, no. 14 may indicate a yet later, in the early part of Dorset's Iron Age A. These interments should be earlier than the secondary one of T.14, accompanied only by the finer ware without Middle Bronze Age features, and the similar cist-burial of T.13; which should precede those in the stone top of T.10, placed in upright, simple biconical urns of harder fabric, decorated by the finger-tip only and also accompanied by purely Late Bronze Age pottery. The finger-printed flat rim of the later of these urns is very suggestive of the Iron Age A or "Hallstatt" culture of All Cannings Cross (*circa* 500-350 B.C.).

#### PITS OR STONE PILES 2-5

In 1924 four heaps of stones were found at a depth of 2 feet, i.e. at the top of the primary mound. Their relative positions are correctly shown but there is a possible error of about 3 feet in relation to the barrow centre. Each consisted



of four or five pieces of limestone. Between 6" and a foot below each a find was made. This may have been a coincidence. If not, it must indicate that each heap sealed the mouth of a small pit which had been dug into the elder barrow to receive an offering and had been filled with loam. No pit outlines nor floors were visible. The finds were:

Beneath 2, the skull of a horse.

Beneath 3, a horse's incisor<sup>2</sup> and a "false tranchet" (petit tranchet derivative, type C.2), *Fig. 32*, no. 3; two edges were retouched from both faces, producing the rather blunt median-plane edge often seen on local Middle Bronze Age weapons.

Beneath 4, a flint "saw" or sickle-shaped serrated flake having unusually large, regular teeth, *Fig. 32*, no. 2.

Beneath 5, a carinated oval scraper like *Fig. 32*, no. 8.

The horse skull was unburnt and fairly well preserved, but lacked much of the base and some projecting parts, e.g. the front of the upper jaw with its teeth. The lower jaw was missing. Part of one orbit from the skull was found several feet away at the level of the elder barrow surface. Thus a broken skull was buried, not a head. The absence of the atlas vertebra leads to the same conclusion.

THE BUILDERS. A note on the builders appears in the section on the barrow group.

#### THE DITCH COMPLEX

It should be noted that *Plate XV A* shows the final barrow encircled by Ditch 1. This original ditch enclosed a level space probably bounded by an internal vallum. The Middle Bronze Age barrow was encircled by the smaller Ditch 2, dug in the filling of Ditch 1. In the final, Late Bronze Age stage Ditch 2 had been filled and was overlapped by the mound.

##### *Ditch 1*

XXII. Sections<sup>s</sup>: *Plates XVIII A*, *Plates XV, XX, XIX*; *figs. 26-28*.

The original ditch quarried in the rock was about 72 feet in overall diameter, varying in width from 8 to 10 feet (minimums)<sup>r</sup> and in depth from 5' 0" to 6' 3". It seems to have been interrupted by a causeway about 8 feet wide in the S.S.W., cut through when Ditch 2 was dug (*Plate XVIII B, Fig. 28*). Its outer wall was much steeper than the inner, often almost vertical (*Plates XV*, etc.), although in the north the uppermost strata had peeled away to form a bevelled lip. The N.N.E. sector formed a notable exception (*Plate XX B*); here the wall was allowed to slope along the bedding plane, the ditch was shallower (4' 3") and far more quarrying debris had been left about the site. Thus this section seems to have been completed in haste; it was in fact the last stretch to be quarried, as was shown by the absence of "quick silting" beneath the "manual filling" which was deposited during the building of the barrow mound.



With some exceptions no attempt had been made to dress either face nor to level the floor. The shape intended was well seen in sectors filled in before much weathering had occurred (as shown by a scanty layer of quick silting), wherever the ditch passed through the clay of a rift or cavity instead of intractable rock, e.g. at the sites of *Figs. 26B* and *26C*. Where not obliterated by Ditch 2, the outer wall rose abruptly at about 6 in 1 from a horizontal floor, the inner at 3 or 4 in 1 from a curving base. The former is as nearly vertical as most people can manage to dig without a plumbline. Some rifts and patches of broken rock were sealed off by slabs of limestone.

In plan the outer wall was somewhat polygonal, more regularly so than that of Gorsey Bigbury [10]. This was not due to refractory rock, for two angles were present in an earthen sector preserved by the early manual filling, which had been kept in place by the revetment of Ditch 2 (*cf. Fig. 26B*); here the change of direction occupied 2 or 3 feet ( $\epsilon$ ,  $\times$  *Plate XXII*). The angles  $\nu$ - $\delta$  fell almost on a circle 36 feet in radius, within the limits of error in determining the original lip of the ditch. Perhaps they indicate that about twelve markers were set to guide the labourers, who would undoubtedly take the shortest route from one to the next! In general they were about 24 feet apart but less in the S.S.W. near the causeway. Comparison with the arcs of a 37-foot circle drawn in *Pl. XXII* shows a degree of accuracy which could hardly have been attained without actual measurement from the centre.<sup>v</sup> The inner wall showed no such angles nor symmetry.

The natural surface under the mound was littered here and there with scraps of limestone, especially at the inner lip of the ditch (see arrows, *Plates XV A, XX B*) and again 5 or 6 feet nearer the centre, as if on either side of a bank. Presumably they were derived from the ditch. Thus it would seem that the ditch was quarried before the mound was raised but after a vallum had been formed, perhaps of its surface soil. Much broken stone had been thrown back into the ditch upon its "quick silting," especially in the N. and N.E. (*Figs. 26C, 26D, 27D*), but at least 80 per cent. had been removed from the site. Clearly this ditch was not quarried to obtain building material for the tumulus.

In the S.S.W. two bulging parts of the ditch were connected by a small cut conforming in line, width and depth with Ditch 2. It seems that there had been a gap or causeway here about 8 feet wide, which had been cut through by the later ditch; for the quick silting was banked up against its stump on either side (*Fig. 28*). *Plate XVIII B*, though an informal photograph, shows the stump well. No other explanation was found; the rock was not more refractory. Obviously the plan is conjectural, as the white triangles indicate.

Apart from this banking up, quick silting was thickest on either side of the supposed causeway. It became progressively less in either direction (except where clay-filled rifts or deep surface soil had caused local increases), disappearing in the N.N.E. This may be seen in *Figs. 26 A-D* and *27 A-D*. Therefore Ditch 1 (or its final deepening) was begun on either side of the gap, quarried both ways



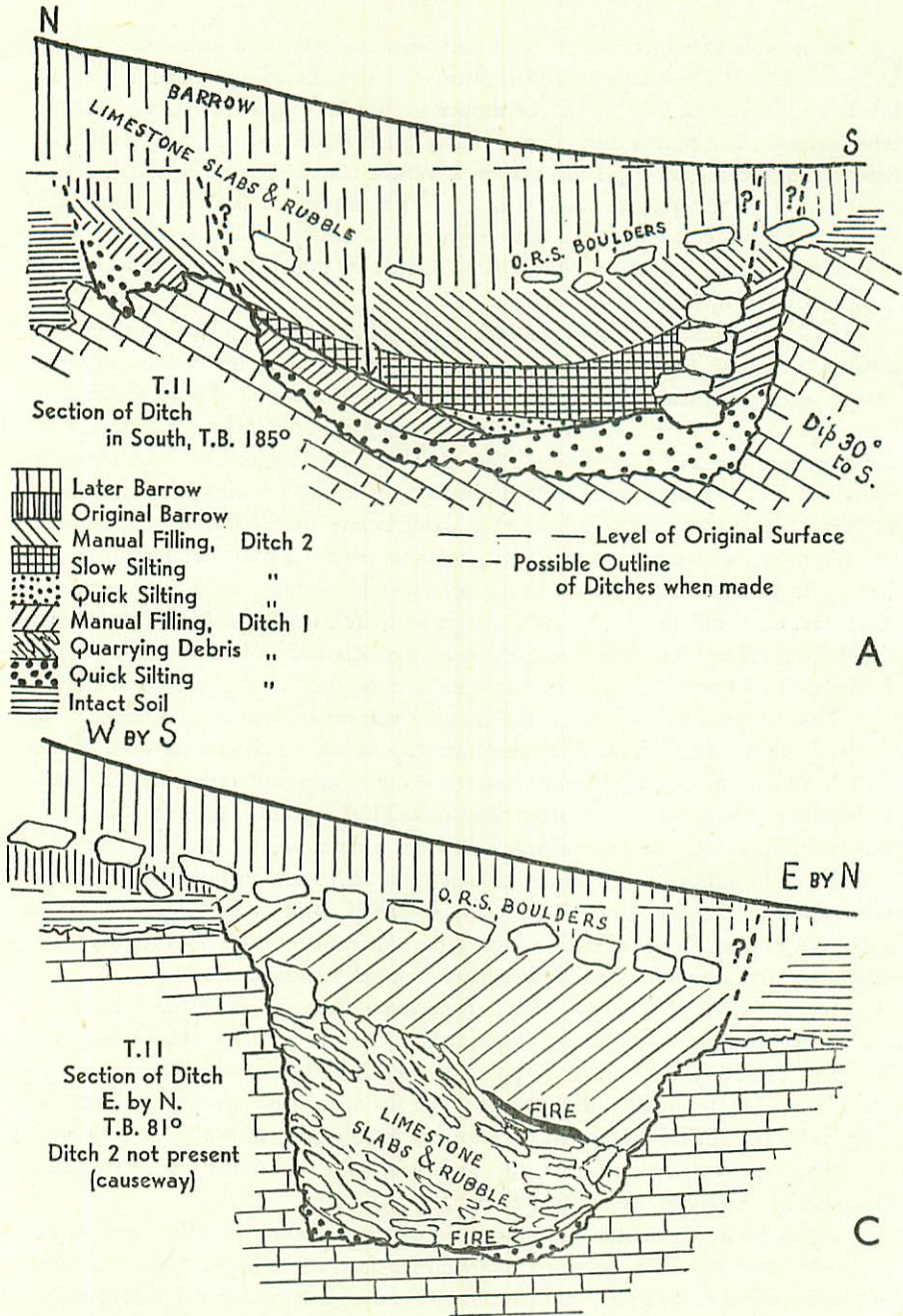
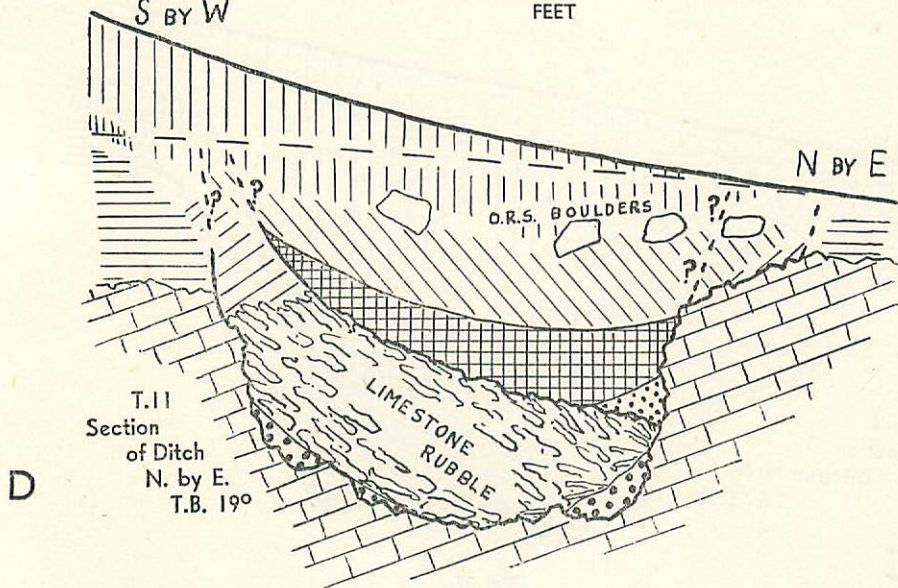
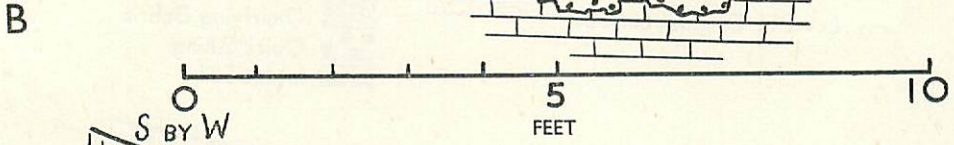
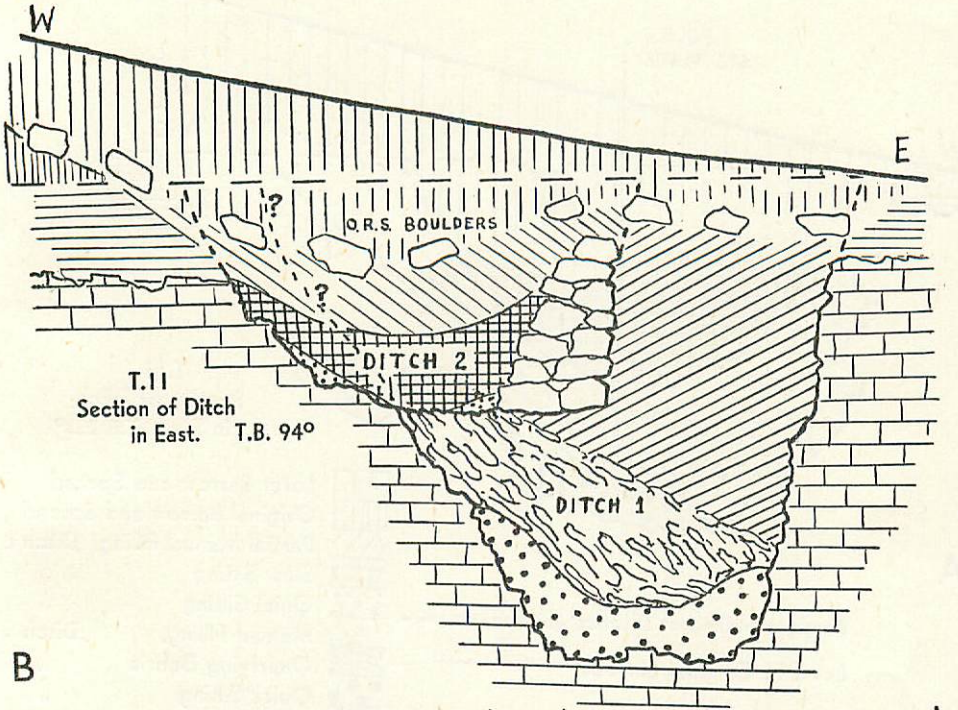
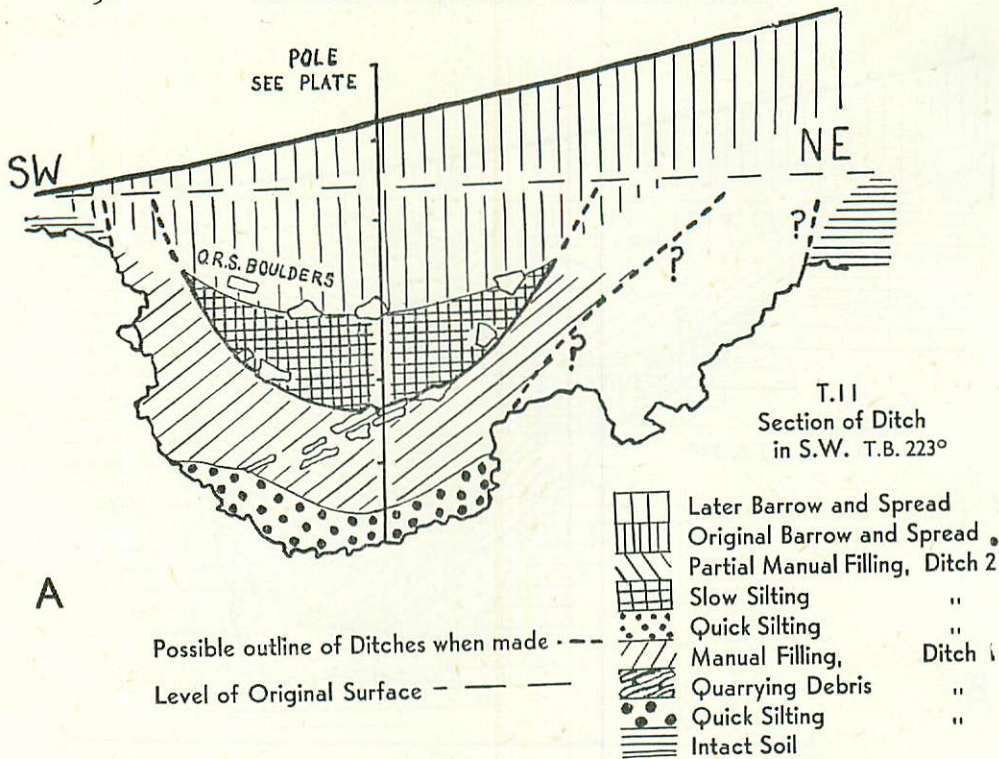


Fig. 26.  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11  
Transverse Sections of Ditch

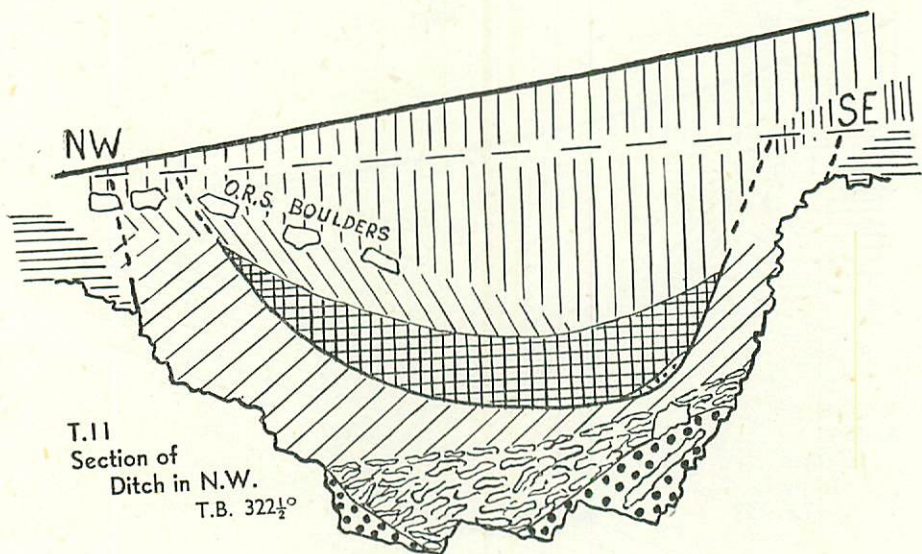








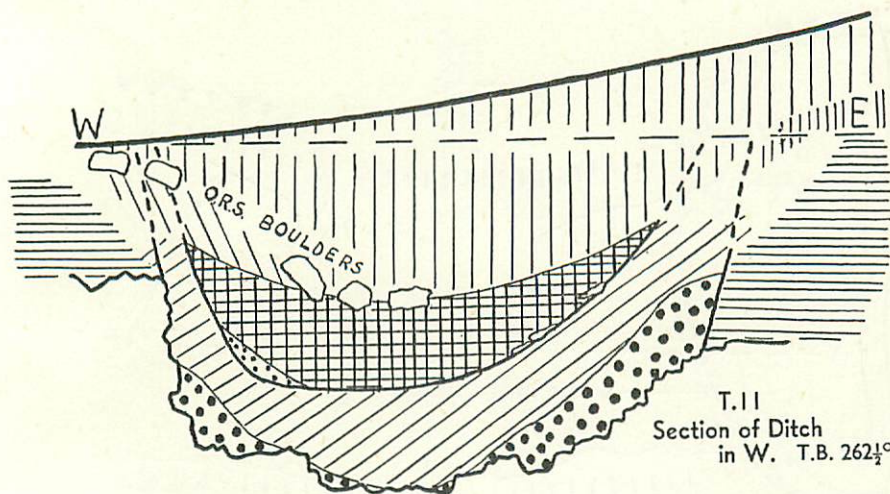
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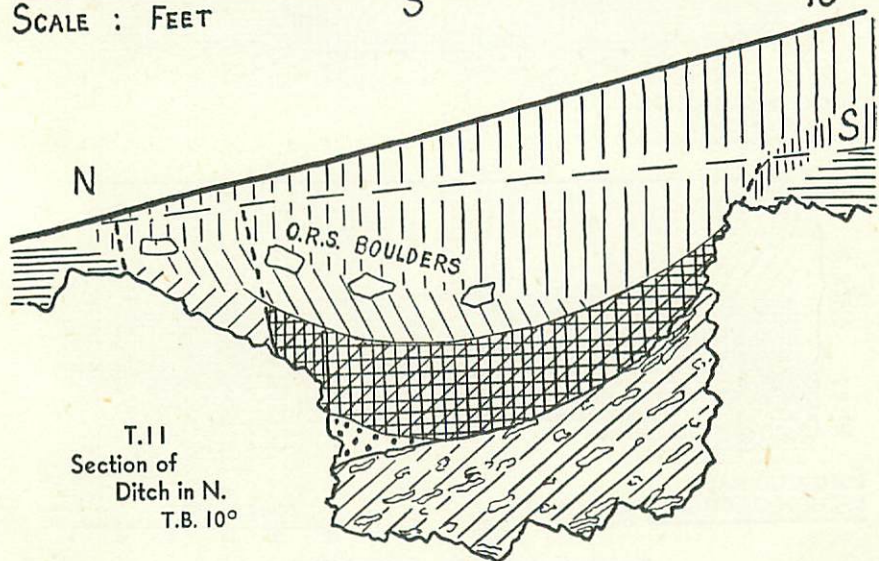
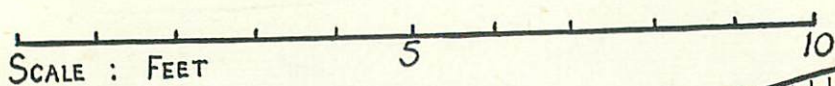
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Fig. 27.  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11  
Transverse Sections of Ditch





B



D



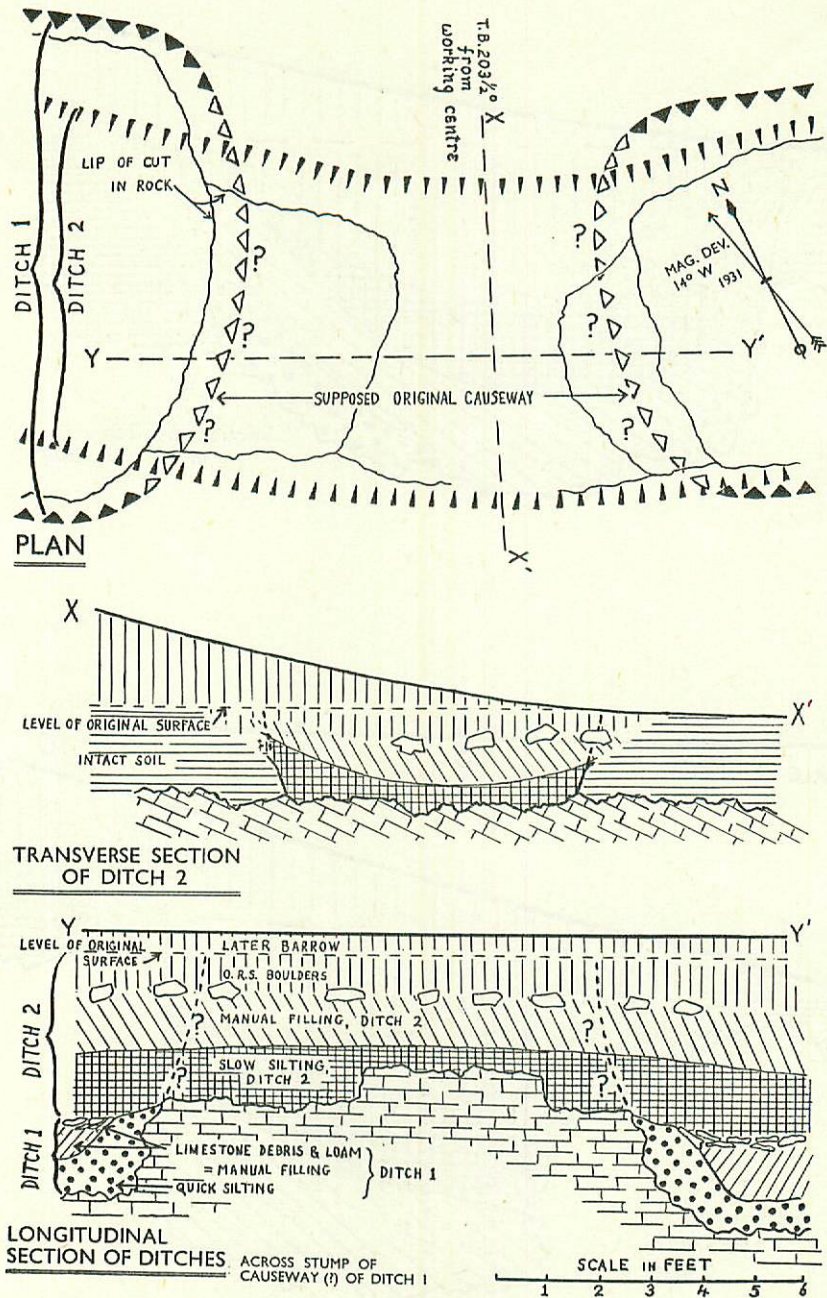


Fig. 28. Supposed Causeway of Ditch 1  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11. See Plate V A



towards the N.N.E. and filled in very soon after that last sector was completed. Perhaps it was finished hurriedly, since the ditch was shallower there, its walls less steep, especially the outer (contrast *Plate XX B* with *XX A*), and far more quarrying debris was left about the site (*Plate XXII*).

Since no slow silting was detectable anywhere, this ditch was filled or partly filled immediately after its completion, no doubt in the course of raising the barrow mound.

The rock was the base of the mountain limestone, resting on the shale with a dip of about 30° to the south. As a rule it could be quarried by wedges or levers driven between the strata. If such were used they were of wood or limestone since we found no fragments of foreign stone, suitable bone or antler, even beneath limestone rubble where bone was well preserved. The more resistant strata projected as massive steps. A few probable tool-marks and battered projections were seen. There was no sign that fire was used to split the rock.

#### DEPOSIT IN DITCH 1

This is best studied where left undisturbed as the causeway of Ditch 2 (*Fig. 26C*). It shows from below upwards, the layers 4 and 5 overlying the actual ditch—

1. Red loam with the remains of a fire upon it. Quick silting. No slow silting appears anywhere in this section.

2. Broken limestone, ? quarried material thrown back into the ditch. The remains of a fire with bones of food-animals are seen upon it. The lie of the stones may indicate that they once rested beside the inner lip of the ditch and have been simply pushed or scooped back into it. But they may have been heaped deliberately against its inner wall, for as in Sutton 268 [17], the effect is to make the barrow appear to rise from the ditch bottom.<sup>14</sup>

3. Red and yellow loams, including parcels of subsoil and a few O.R.S. boulders and pieces of limestone. This is at least partly a manual filling although the upper part may be silting from the newly-made barrow. Since no detectable silting underlies the parcels, the ditch was filled in quite soon after the stone was returned. No Late Bronze Age ware was present in layers 1-3.

4. Pavement of O.R.S. slabs and blocks, dated by a few Late Bronze Age potsherds and scraps of calcined human bone beneath them. The latter suggest that it was laid after the burial or its preliminary rites. Since the pavement is flat the filling below had sunk fully; contrast its continuation on either side, the band of O.R.S. boulders; these rested on the Late Bronze Age filling of Ditch 2, which had settled, causing the band to dip in the middle (*Figs. 26B, 26D, 27 A-D*). This confirms the difference in date between the two "manual" fillings, also shown by the presence of Late Bronze Age sherds in the latter only. The southern limit of the pavement was not sharply defined, the stones passing gradually into the O.R.S. band.

5. Reddish loam, the Late Bronze Age addition to the barrow.

The other sections were similar but for the intrusion of Ditch 2, but usually showed less quarry debris (*Plate XIX, Figs. 26 and 27*), except in the N.E. where the abundance of broken stone and the absence of quick silting on the floor of the



ditch has been noted already. In some sectors almost all the stone had been taken away, in others loam had been thrown into the ditch before what little stone there was (*Figs. 27A and B*). In the south a sprinkling of small slabs marked the surface of a bank of loam which lay against the inner wall, matching the bank of stones seen in the east and north; this effect was preserved when the second ditch was dug (*Plate XXI*).

Several fires had burnt in the bottom of Ditch 1, under, in and on its quick silting. The charred sticks of one retained much of their continuity and parallel arrangement, further proof of early manual filling rather than silting up. A few bones of pig and a score of flint implements and chippings lay around it. At another squatting site on the actual bottom were 37 tools and waste pieces within a yard radius. A few flints and bones of ox, pig, sheep and red deer were found at various points. The large number of implements abandoned at what seem to have been single sessions by a fire show how prodigal Bronze Age man might be, even in a "flintless district." At two points the bare rock forming the inner lip of the ditch appeared to have been used as a shelf for some better tools, which had nevertheless been forgotten.

Traces of occupation occurred also in the stone layer and the manual filling, including a few coarse featureless potsherds.

The industrial remains will be described in a future report. They have been summarized in the section on the Tynings Farm Barrow Group.

### *Ditch 2*

*Plates XVIII, XXI, Figs. 26 and 27*

Ditch 2 was dug in the filling of Ditch 1, most probably very soon after the barrow mound had been built. It was originally 7-8 feet wide<sup>v</sup> and 3' 6"-4' 0" deep. Its single earthen causeway, facing east, was at least 7 and probably 9 or more feet in width, the southern face being supported by a continuation of a stone bank or rough facing which revetted the outer wall of the ditch in that region. The unsupported north face must have fallen extensively; the pavement marked its residual width in the Late Bronze Age. Thus the plan in *Plate XXII* is conjectural, as is indicated by the white triangles.

In the S.E. the rock lay deep and was interrupted by rifts; hence, no doubt, the stone facing. The lack of rock walls to guide them may account for the failure of the diggers to follow the line of the earlier ditch here. In general they worked along its middle; there were no detectable angles in the walls of Ditch 2 to suggest markers.

### DEPOSIT IN DITCH 2

*Plates XVIII, XIX, Figs. 26 and 27*

1. Quick silting, which must have been extensive in this ditch dug in the filling of another. It was rarely distinguishable from the slow, both being blackened by occupation and rank vegetation; only the unblackened base is indicated in the figures. Several small fires had burnt on the floor. Near one a part of the maxilla of a small ox seemed to have decayed under root action, for five teeth were found in their natural relationship.

2. Slow silting, about 1' 3" thick. It contained little bone but a few flints



and potsherds everywhere, as well as several small "hones" or rubbed pebbles and half a dozen heavy battered ones, all of O.R.S.

Saddle querns and Late Bronze Age pottery appeared in its topmost six-inch layer. Of the former there were two and a fragment, all simple heavy O.R.S. slabs dressed on one face only. The pottery was abundant in the S.E. quadrant; it was of the mixed Middle and Late Bronze Age type already described. *Fig. 29*, nos. 5-7 are the only pieces of interest now remaining. No. 5 is probably from a pot also represented in Pit 1 (no. 3), *q.v.*; 6 is a dark brown sherd in fine black paste without added grit; the rim is flattened and slightly expanded externally, the decoration impressed by a sharp straight edge. No. 7 is similar but probably not from the same vessel.

3. Reddish and reddish-yellow loams in parcel formation, together with a few O.R.S. boulders. This appeared to be mainly a manual filling but partly a silting which had formed during the construction of the Late Bronze Age mound. It was present only in the S. and S.E.—the uphill sides, from which we might expect building material to be brought. Perhaps this section was filled in deliberately to afford passage. A few scraps of calcined human bone lay beneath the filling on either side of the causeway, thus probably the ditch was filled in after the cremation or the burning of a victim's remains. Flint implements, potsherds of Late Bronze Age type but often having earlier features, and bones of food-animals occurred sparingly throughout but in considerable numbers on its surface, where there appeared to be a definite occupation level.

*Fig. 29*, no. 8 is part of everted, obliquely flattened rim, wedge-shaped in section—a form rather characteristic of this ceramic. Externally it bears knife-edge-impressed lines, internally a single line below the rim in twisted-cord pattern. 9 is a simple rim probably from a bucket with contracted mouth (a debased biconical form), in reddish ware like that of the cinerary urn. 10, in similar ware, bears a low shoulder-cordon. These lay in the body of the filling.

Nos. 11-14 were from the occupied surface, where several large pots were represented by groups of from 15-100 scraps amongst traces of at least a dozen other vessels. The greater part have been lost. Nos. 12 and 13 were derived from two jars which closely resembled the cinerary urn (*Plate XVII B*) but that their upper segments bore knife-edge impressions in place of twisted-cord. Parts of plain, flat-topped and externally-bevelled rims and of hollow-necked and biconical vessels with fairly sharp or rounded shoulders were present. There were apparently no bowls. Decoration included plain and finger-printed cordons, one applied, a pinched-up boss and the usual mixture of cord, knife-edge and punch impressions forming oblique parallel lines, chevrons or confused lattice.

No. 14 was a beautifully-turned spindle-whorl in lignite or sepia brown shale, resembling specimens from Maiden Castle. Dr. Wheeler remarks on the fine quality of the shale work of the earliest Iron Age A period as compared with the later.<sup>F</sup> So small an object could have been introduced into the deposit in the ditch in later times, but it was most probably contemporary since it lay 1' 9" below the present surface and there was no sign of disturbance. Of course shale and jet were turned in the Late Bronze Age also, and indeed much earlier.

The surface of this deposit also yielded two saddle-querns made from untrimmed slabs of O.R.S. We failed to identify any upper quernstones. The abundance of suitable slabs no doubt explains why so many lower stones were abandoned. There were also 4 or 5 heavy battered pebbles in O.R.S.



4. Scattered O.R.S. boulders, lying directly on the occupation level.
5. Reddish yellow loam. The Late Bronze Age barrow, usually 1' 6" to 2' 0" thick.

#### FUNCTION OF THE DITCH

The ditch was not a quarry for the barrow since most of its product was not used. Nor was it solely an architectural feature for it was dug before the barrow mound was in place—a plan so inconvenient that it was actually filled more or less completely in building the mound.

Almost certainly its purpose was magical or religious. Originally it enclosed a level burial site. It may have confined the dead until he was safely "laid." It may have defended his dwelling. It may have served for the exclusion or protection of onlookers during the funeral ceremony. Its floor was too rough for a procession such as has been suggested elsewhere and little or no attempt had been made to level it. Perhaps the protection of the living best explains the difference between its walls. The outer was the more important. It was the steeper, the more regular, that which seemed to have been marked out for the workmen and that supported by stones in Ditch 2. It will be noticed that it was permissible to fill the ditch temporarily after the funeral rites. We should like to know whether it was re-opened for religious or purely architectural reasons and why the site of the causeway was changed.

Calcined human bone was found in the ditch at two sites only—(1) upon the quick silting of Ditch 1 beside the supposed southern causeway; (2) on the eastern causeway (beneath the pavement) and on the slow silting of Ditch 2 on either side. Perhaps it was spilt there accidentally during the carriage of cinerary deposits across the causeways—the primary deposits over the southern, the secondary over the eastern when the ditch was in decay.

#### APPENDIX

##### DISTRIBUTION AND SOURCE OF THE SMALL FINDS IN THE BARROWS

Although useful flint does not occur naturally in the Mendip region, prehistoric man has dropped it almost everywhere. Hence it is found in most local earthen tumuli. It was rather scarce in the soil beneath T.11, less scarce in most parts of the Middle Bronze Age portion of the barrow, less scarce again in the Late Bronze Age portion and in the soil around. But it was abundant in two small zones near the bases of those portions. The finding of similar zones in T.10 had prepared us to study their extent and to obtain figures. Over 2,100 chips and 1,060 larger pieces were found in the concentration zone or "core" of Middle Bronze Age T.11, defined below; but only an average of 2 chips and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  larger pieces in like volumes of the surface soil beneath it. Much of the core of the Late Bronze Age cap had been dug in the early work, when of course it was not treated separately.<sup>w</sup> To judge by the records and by the remaining part its total content was something like 600, whereas a like volume of the soil around the



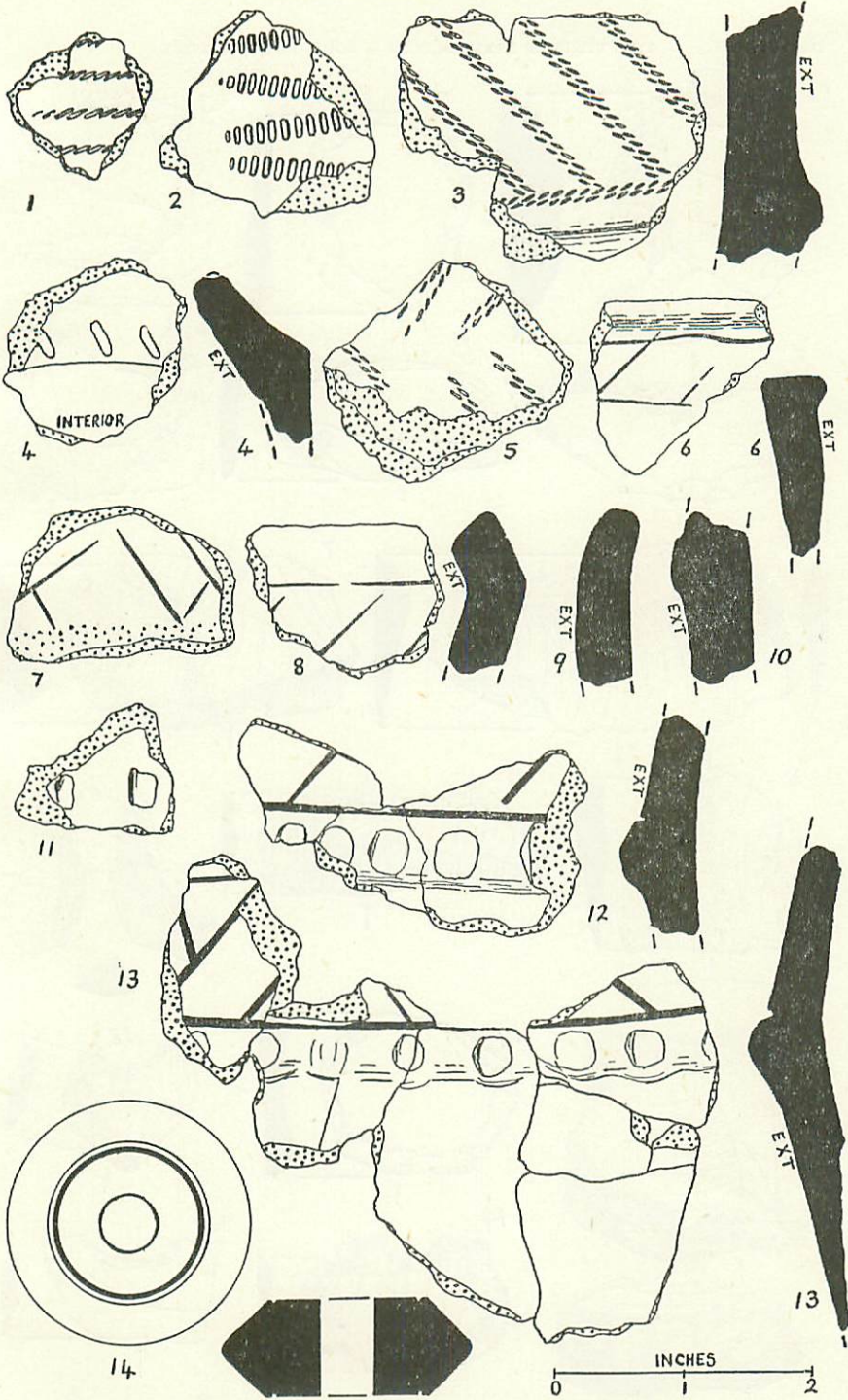


Fig. 29. Salvaged domestic sherds and spindle whorl  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11

Two thirds actual size. 1, 2 Middle Bronze Age. 3-14 Late Bronze Age.  
1, 2 from primary barrow; 3 from Pit 1; 4 from secondary barrow cap;  
5-7, surface of slow silting in Ditch 2; 8-10 from manual filling of Ditch 2;  
11-14 from surface of manual filling of Ditch 2 beneath secondary barrow;  
14 after sketch in log.



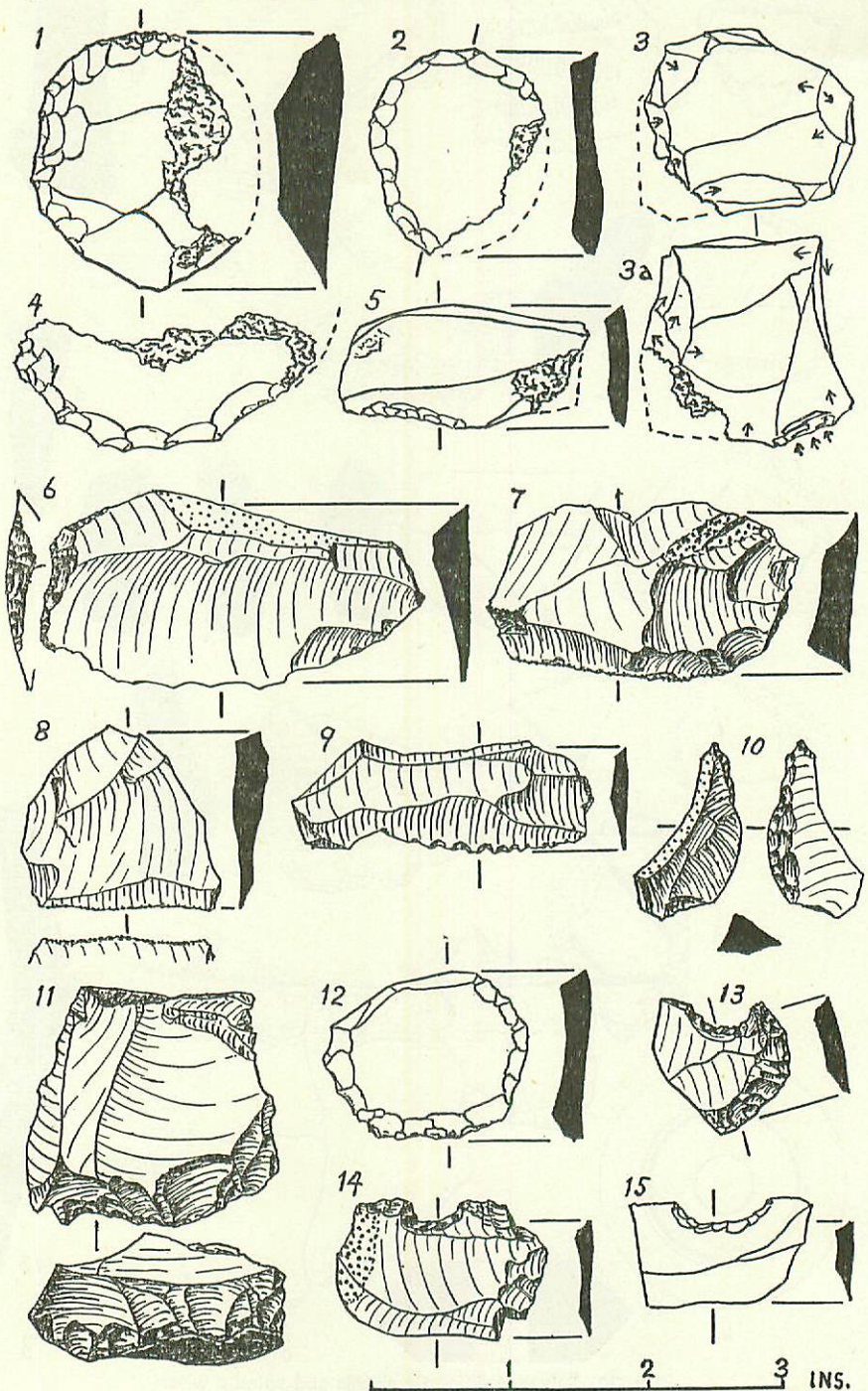


Fig. 30. Early Middle Bronze Age Flint Implements  
PIT C, THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11

Two thirds actual size. Nos. 1-5 calcined. 1-5, 12, 15 after sketches for previous report.



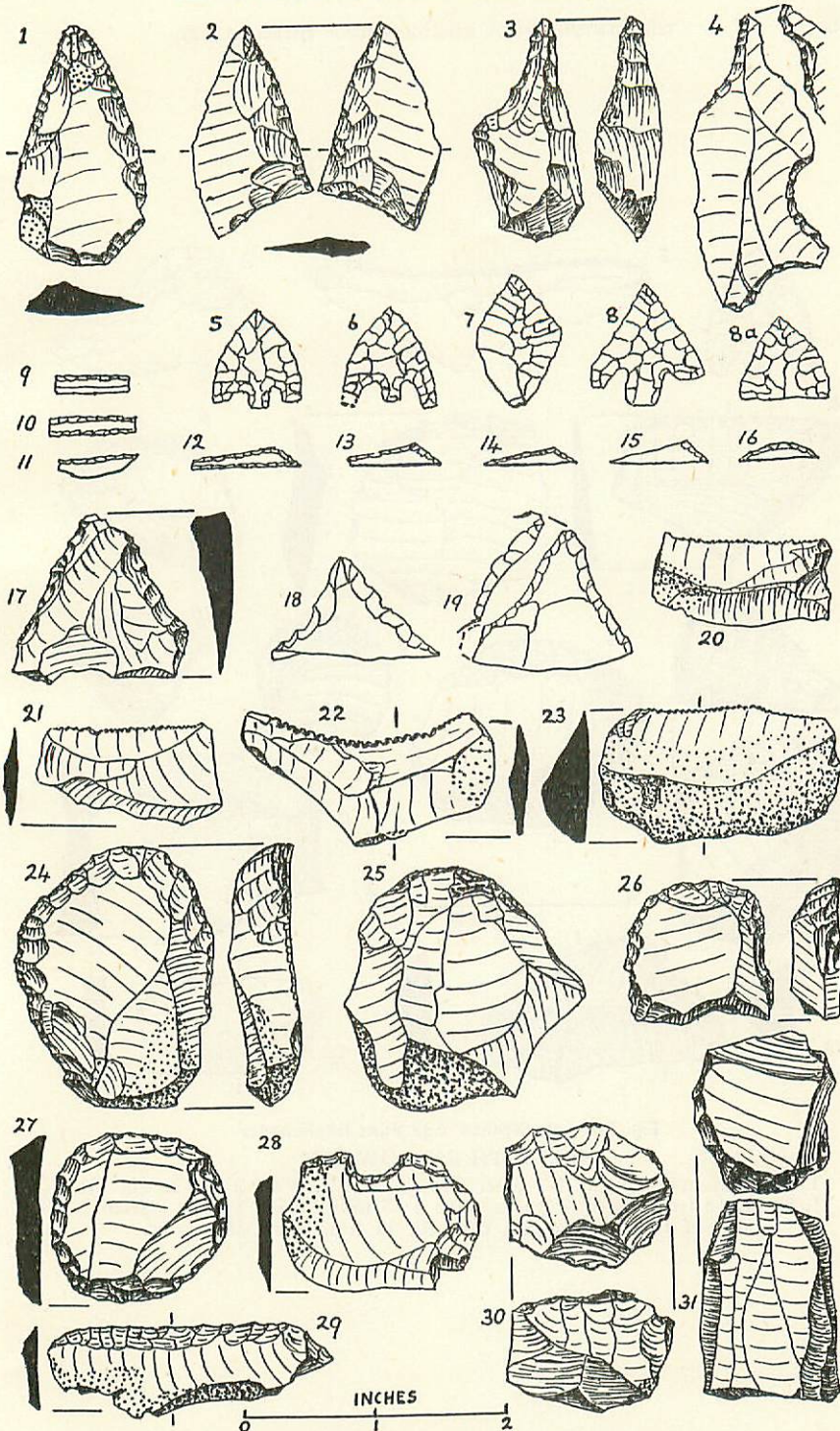


Fig. 31. Early Middle Bronze Age Flint Industry  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.II

Two thirds actual size. Nos. 5-16, 19 after sketches in log (microliths diagrammatic); 18 from *Proc.*, Vol. 2, no. 2, Fig. 5. 1-3, 5-21, 23-27, 29-31 from body of barrow; 4 from slow silting of Ditch 2; 22 from floor of Ditch 1; 28 from Pit C.



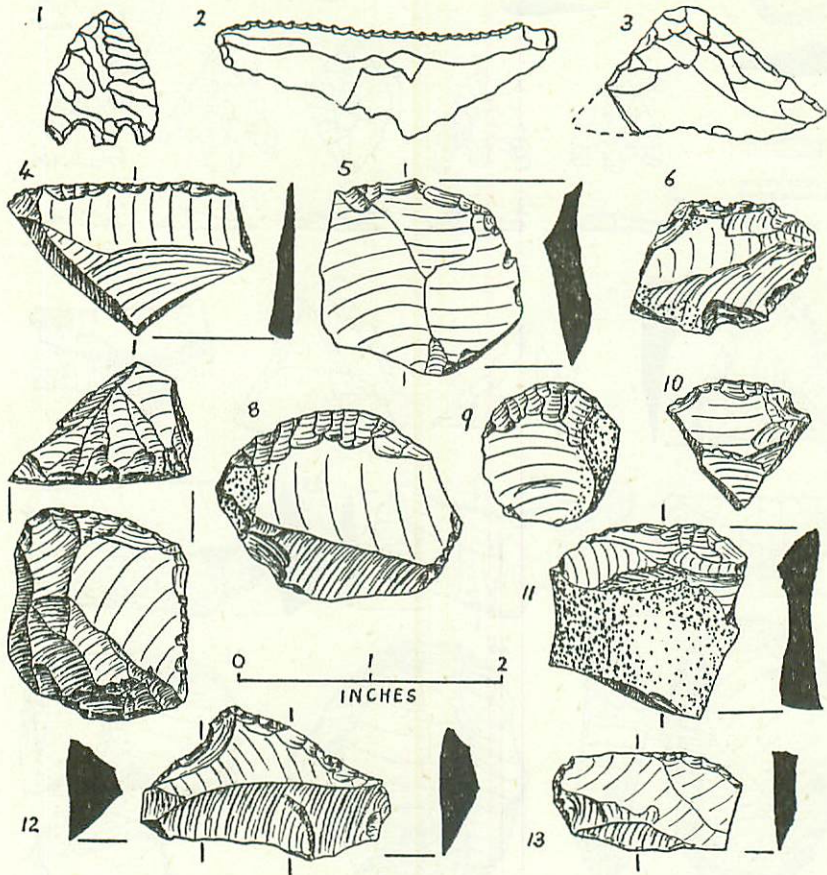


Fig. 32. Late Bronze Age Flint Implements  
THE SOUTH BARROW, T.11

Two thirds actual size. 1-3 after *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, Vol. 2 no. 2, Fig. 5;  
1, 8, 12, 13 from Pit 1; 2 under cairn 4; 3 under cairn 3; 4-7, 9 from  
body of Late Bronze Age cap; 10, 11 from skirts of barrow.



barrow yielded about 10 flints or chips on an average, some of which, no doubt, were later. These figures do not pretend to accuracy; undoubtedly many flints were overlooked; the concentrations were not defined in any way but became gradually less on all sides; the soils containing them were not distinguishable from the rest of the barrow in appearance; thus the "cores" were purely arbitrary zones recognized only by their calcined human bone and more abundant content of flint and pottery. Nevertheless two very intense concentrations of domestic waste are shown by these figures.

The core, or zone rich in flint, of Middle Bronze Age T.11 formed an inverted saucer 5 or 6 inches thick, under which the soil was relatively barren. At the centre its top lay about a foot above the base of the tumulus, sloping down to meet the natural surface 10 or 12 feet away. Thus it consisted of soil brought to the site early in the process of barrow-building but not the very first. Potsherds were concentrated in the same way as flint. In either part of the barrow, calcined human bone was found only in and beneath the core and in certain pits, with a few exceptions on old surfaces near pits and causeways. Mere traces of charcoal and of the unburnt bone of food-animals were present everywhere but not commoner in the cores. With a few exceptions the flints from either core seemed to be contemporary, forming a series homogeneous in material, patination and workmanship. The potsherds were of Middle and Late Bronze type respectively, though with Middle Bronze features surviving in the later group.

All these points had been observed in T.10 except that the stone cap contained pottery of more purely Late Bronze Age type and rather more charcoal, the last as discrete fragments, not as "ash." The base of T.12 is said to have been still richer in flint.

The presence of these basal concentrations was not due to the use of barren subsoil from the bottom of quarry pits in building the tops of the mounds, for the tops were of the same varied soils as the rest (so far as could be seen) and contained older implements in the same numbers—therefore, the same proportion of surface soil.

The obvious explanation is that the barrows consist of soil from occupied sites. It has been said that a stone-using tribe of to-day may leave enough tools to furnish a museum after a single night's camp! No doubt the exceptional abundance of such debris in Middle Bronze Age T.11 was due to the prolonged occupation, or repeated visits, necessary to quarry the ditch. Since the soil contained no dark earth and very little charcoal it was not from actual dwellings or hearths, nor yet from the funeral pyre where charcoal must have been far more abundant than bone. Since the presence of calcined human bone is unusual in dwelling sites we may suppose that the soil came from ground actually occupied during the funeral rites. Since this soil seemed to be immediately local we might further conclude that the builders camped close to their work and since domestic waste and calcined human bone were found in tips of subsoil as well as surface loam, that they occupied their excavations which became strewn with their litter and with human bone derived either from the cremation or from ritual procedures. The pits would doubtless be made as deep as possible, for the subsoil is easier to dig than the thick turf. There can have been few nights when their shelter from the wind was not welcome on a Mendip hillside.

This explanation does not cover all the facts. It is probably true of the earthen tumuli but not necessarily of all their contents. In the last report it was doubted for the following reasons:



1. The similar distribution of debris in cairns free from earth. This cannot have been an accidental content, as has been shown in an earlier section of this paper.

2. The marked concentration in the small volume of soil forming the "cores."

3. The presence of domestic and human debris in tips of subsoil, to which it must have been added during or after excavation.

4. The scarcity of charcoal and food-bones and the fact that these were not commoner in the cores, as might be expected if the latter were formed of "occupation soil."

5. The presence of calcined human bone, which we have not found in occupied sites or ploughland. Its distribution was identical with that of the domestic waste except that it was present also in the extreme bases under the cores.

It was thought that collected debris, not occupation soil, was scattered intentionally in the barrows at an early stage of their building. This seems to be true of the cairns and certain pits. In general, however, the objections to accidental inclusion are not valid. They will be considered in turn.

1. On this reasoning, it does seem probable that some debris was scattered without soil in the earthen tumuli during their construction, as has been said. Such objects should lie between tips of soil. It seemed that a few did but most did not. Unfortunately few tips were sharply defined.

2. The distribution of the domestic debris is not inconsistent with an accidental origin. It is what might be expected if the tribe arrived in this "flintless" district well stocked. The first soil they dug and carried to the mound might well contain little flint, for little had yet been lost; the next much, until supplies were nearly exhausted; the rest little again. This is precisely what was found. Similarly with the potsherds. The women may have been too busy carrying soil to replace their broken pots, or perhaps the vessels represented in the older cores had been made for the funeral rites only, for pottery seems to have played no great part in Middle Bronze Age domestic economy. Again, if calcined human bone became scattered about the camp only at the time of a burial ceremony, as is surely probable, the soil affected would soon be exhausted in the same way. The presence of such bone in the extreme base of the barrows as well as in their cores is also what might be expected. Presumably the whole was dropped in the camp before or during the burial, thus (unlike the domestic waste) it was plentiful in the very first building material. Also to be expected is the fact that the remains of meals and fires—food-bones and charcoal—were fairly evenly distributed throughout the mounds, for both were necessary throughout the work.

3. The presence of domestic and human debris in tips of subsoil suggests only that the builders made, and sheltered in, fairly deep pits.

4. The scarcity of non-human bone may have been due to dogs, for splinters were widespread and some gnawed fragments were found. It is also possible that some had decayed, although it is doubtful whether they would have disappeared completely, except in the surface soil. It was impracticable to excavate the whole barrow with the same care as a burial pit, seeking all residual soil patterns. Of the recognizably non-human pieces scarcely any were burnt, none



calcined except the small bones found in burial deposits. (Since all the identifiable human bone was fully calcined it has seemed justifiable to classify the unidentifiable pieces as "human" or "food animal" accordingly, but without drawing any deductions from them.)

The scarcity of charcoal shows only that the soil was not brought from actual hearths or fires.

The fact that neither unburnt bone nor charcoal was more abundant in the cores than elsewhere in the mounds indicated that they did not become scarcer during the work and were not included in any deliberate addition. But it did seem that discrete scraps of charcoal had been added to the cores of the cairns.

5. Calcined human bone might well be present in the soil of a camp occupied during funeral rites, whether derived from the person buried or a victim of some kind.

The relevant burial for Middle Bronze Age T.11 was D, the last primary interment. The others, including C, the one other burnt burial, were some years older since they had become compacted and probably overgrown by vegetation. We compared all the identifiable scattered pieces with the remains in the urn and pit, to see whether they represented missing parts or fitted together or were duplicated (or rather triplicated, since two sets of bones were present in the burial, a fact which added much to our difficulties). It seemed almost certain that the scattered bone belonged to another person, for despite the small size of the fragments and the relatively small part of a skeleton they represented (less than 5%), triplication was probably found. Unfortunately it was not certain. It may be added that the scattered bone represented all parts of the body.

The possibility remained that these fragments had lain in the soil from the time of some other burial, e.g. T.11.C or T.10.B, and that the barrow builders had camped on the ground containing them, using the soil around to make the tumulus. In that case it is most unlikely that they would have been confined to the core and base, and that this would have happened in all four earthen tumuli; the parallel distribution in the cairns T.14 and secondary T.10 must also be remembered. It seems fairly sure that those in T.11 were connected with the funeral rites of D and belonged to another person, not accorded a grave.

The calcined human bone in the base of Middle Bronze Age T.10 can hardly have been derived from any unburnt burial at C nor from the charred, boneless mass at A. B, the only deposit of such bone, was probably later than the mound; in any case its reconstructed skull and other bones made it easy to see that a dozen pieces in the mound belonged to another individual.

Thus in each of the three Middle Bronze Age barrows T.10, 11 and 12, we may suspect the presence of a victim, whose ashes either had been scattered about the camp of the builders by accident or design, or had been strewn in the mound as it was being raised. The absence of large fragments of bone was notable. It seemed probable that they had been removed or broken up.

On the other hand two fragments from the stone cap of T.10 did fit to others in urns 1 and 2 respectively. The pieces were often larger so that possibly our failure to find duplication had some significance. This applied equally to those of the secondary cap and Urn 1 of T.11, although no fits were found. The one point in favour of victims having been made at the Late Bronze Age burials was the abundance of the scattered bone.

It is possible that the scattered bone of T.14 and T.5 represents the principal burials. This has been discussed in the main paper.



## CONCLUSIONS

1. The presence of domestic debris in the substance of the earthen mounds was due chiefly to occupation of the ground from which the soil was being brought to build them, a matter of convenience without ritual significance. The calcined human bone may have had the same source.
2. The domestic and human debris in the cairns and certain pits was added deliberately, some certainly and some probably without soil. This may be true of some in the bodies of the earthen tumuli. The use of soil from hearths, etc., was not proved anywhere. Small objects added without soil were probably broadcast; doubtless this practice had a magic or religious meaning.
3. The finds concentrated in the cores and pits were in the main contemporary with them, whether collected or brought in soil, for reasons given in the body of this paper; note especially the parallel distribution of calcined human bone. A few older tools must be present, some accidentally, some re-used, as is usual in all but the earliest sites of a district. In the cairns there may be a few later finds amongst those not in "sealed" positions. At all times some reserve is necessary in drawing conclusions from infrequent finds and from associations not repeated elsewhere.
4. The calcined human bone on the natural surface beneath T.14 was broadcast within the enclosure, with few domestic relics. Possibly it represents the bulk of the primary interment of which a trace lay in Pit B.
5. Much of the calcined bone outside burial deposits may have been derived from additional individuals, whether it was added deliberately or as an accidental content of the soil. These may have been attendants for the dead or the victims of some ritual practice.

## NOTES

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- A According to Sir Cyril Fox [16], isolated instances of barrow burial occurred in Wales after the introduction of Christianity, and the Bronze Age practice of depositing white stones on a burial place still exists. See also Greenwell [15].
- B This almost basal distribution of debris is probably not confined to Mendip. Potsherds and calcined human bone were present about 4in. above the base of the Middle Bronze Age North Twin Barrow at Upper Wraxall, Marshfield, Wilts (to be published elsewhere by G. Gettins) but not below that level nor in the basal film of black earth. For the precise distribution in the Tynings Farm tumuli see the Appendix.
- C There is no evidence that the occupation of the Mendip highlands was interrupted in the Middle Bronze Age. It is probable that the Beaker Folk were shepherds and herdsmen, but the Middle Bronze Age groups arable farmers who preferred the better soil of the low slopes and valleys, or who abandoned the higher hills when they became too wet (in Wales in the Atlantic Phase) [18] or too dry (in Wessex, in the Sub-boreal) [6]. This was unnecessary on Mendip, which possesses good deep soil and is well-drained and well-watered. It is possible, too, that the population remained largely pastoral. Sickle-like serrated flakes in our Middle and Late Bronze Age deposits do suggest a certain amount of corn-growing, but it may be they were used only to cut fodder and bedding, e.g.



the local bracken; even so we might suspect that their users were descended from an "arable" folk. There were such flakes in the A-Beaker site of Gorsey Bigbury [10].

- D It seems that a Neolithic folk who practised cremation (not necessarily of their principal interments) was present on Mendip. A little calcined human bone had been placed beneath the "debased" long barrow at Priddy, not yet published. No other burial was found in this earth-covered, apparently structureless long cairn, though there may yet be cists in its flanks.
- Cremations (spread on the ground surface) accompanied or formed the primary interments of Blackdown 1 (B.1 beaker), Blackdown 2 and the Tynings Farm Central Barrow; traces underlay Tynings West, where the primary was unburnt. Dr. J. F. S. Stone has suggested that the groupings of secondary cremations in long barrows around the Bristol Channel may be due to a Neolithic folk from Ireland [22] (we might add, or Brittany). He also cited pre-Beaker cremating communities in Wessex and S.E. England, whose multiple burnt burials in circular enclosures may have been communal and the folk "democratic." It is perverse to make the same claim for megalithic tombs, surely derived from those of Eastern monarchs and Mediterranean "tyrants" and built for migrant merchant princes or local chiefs. They were not adequate for groups of seamen or retainers, still less for the common folk. Some seem to have been designed for a single principle, others (especially the long barrows) for several, but it is not clear whether the latter were meant for contemporaries or successive chieftains nor whether they indicate an oligarchic social structure as opposed to the monarchic suggested by the single-grave megaliths and round barrows.
- E As in other regions, the abrupt disappearance of their industrial remains seems to indicate that some disaster befell the Beaker Folk [18]. A-Beaker hold on Mendip may well have been precarious. The frequent scanty occupation of caves is as likely to indicate refugees as a strong population and that of Gorsey Bigbury suggests the need for a defensible site. It is not implied that the earthwork was built for such a purpose.
- F There are difficulties, perhaps not insuperable, in accepting Clark's hypothesis that his "petit-tranchet derivatives" were derived from his Type A, the Mesolithic "petit tranchet," probably a transverse arrowhead. This implies a change of function and a reversal of the business edge of the weapon. His series is admittedly morphological; it appears to be based on the plan alone. On Mendip at least types C.1—F are contemporary, not an evolutionary sequence, and types G—1 may well be the earlier group. The evidence will be reviewed in a future paper.
- G Unburnt bones may decay completely (Dr. Sune Lindquist, *Antiquity*, no. 87, Sept. 1948, p. 132). Local soil does not preserve them so well as had been supposed, but we might expect to find their pattern and perhaps that of an inhumed body in a deposit such as either of these. Charred bone is almost indestructible, as is calcined bone except in special circumstances, e.g., the presence of roots. These did not obtain here for the much less durable unburnt ox bone and antler had not disappeared, neither had the calcined human bone in the base of the barrow above the two cists.
- H Minimum original width before weathering, obtained by the convention described in Footnote T.
- J This may have been a wall of turf serving as a boundary for the barrow. Nevertheless it pre-existed, enclosing a level space as was shown by the limestone debris on either side. It remained separate and unburied long enough to become compact and probably grass-grown. It does not seem entirely analogous with the heaped stone kerbs of such earthen barrows as those of Breach Farm, Pembrokeshire [32, 58] and Upper Wraxall, Wilts., indeed the last was built wholly or partly after the mound.
- K Kindly identified by Dr. F. S. Wallis.

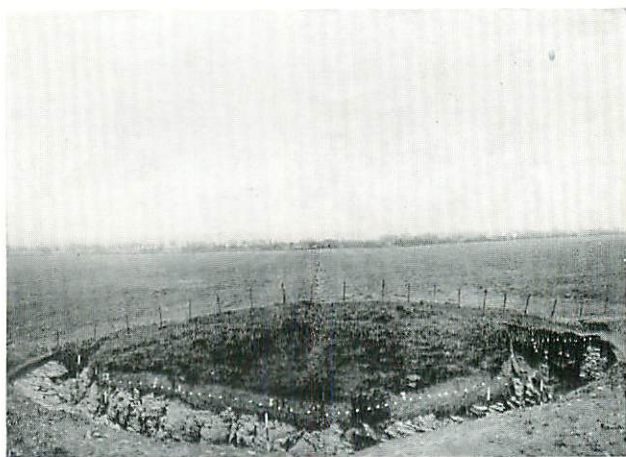


- L This effect was also obtained in other ways. The soil had been scraped from the rock on the inner lip of the ditch of the North Twin Barrow at Upper Wraxall, Wilts., so that its heaped stone kerb continued the slope of the rock wall of the ditch,—or outcrop, it is not yet certain which. T.13 and 14 also appeared to rise out of their ditches owing to the sloping inner walls.
- M Cf. an undated burnt burial at Woolacombe, Devon: *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, Vol. 6, no. 1, p. 85.
- N Kindly identified by Dr. Macgregor Skene.
- O Some communities did make both burnt and unburnt burials in historic times, but cremation seems to have become universal in our Middle Bronze Age, at least for those worthy of barrow burial.
- P Later even the alternation disappears, as on a collared urn from Rockley, Wilts., in the Wilts. Arch. Soc. Museum at Devizes.
- Q In the museum at Devizes, marked X.25. *Wilts. Arch. Mag.* X.89.
- R Not a dog's canine, as reported. It may have belonged to the same individual as the skull.
- S The K.3 filter failed to render black earth in this reddish soil. A red filter might be tried.
- T Minimum possible original width, obtained by the following convention of measurement. Since the depth at which the filled ditch was recognizable varied from 6in. to 2ft. according to the presence or otherwise of rock, characteristic subsoil, etc., it was impossible to determine the width between its lips at the time it was filled. A plan made from measurements taken at varying depths might have had little meaning. Therefore an approximation to the original plan was obtained by producing the outline of the ditch as seen in cross section to meet the plane of the original surface; when in clay the slope of the outer wall was about 6 in 1, the inner 4 in 1. Actually these corrections were almost negligible, varying from 1 to 6 inches. The irregularities of the rock introduced a further possible error of from 3in. to 9in. In making comparisons with ditches which were left open a few feet should be added for weathering.
- U It was not suspected until some time after the plan was drawn, since our measurements were taken from the working centre, not the true.
- V Original width, deduced from its outline in section. Obviously its top must soon have reached the full width of Ditch 1, except where faced with stones.
- W The early excavations reached the core of the older barrow in a very small area only.



T.11 THE SOUTH BARROW, TYNINGS FARM.

Pl. XV

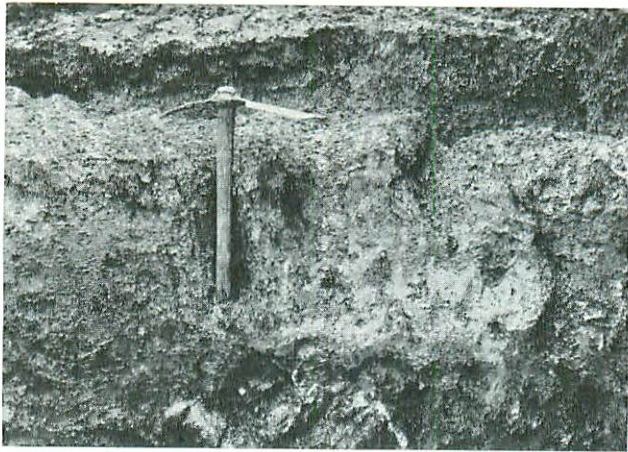


A. Looking E.S.E. Ditch 1 emptied. Original surface and section of ditches marked by rectangles, quarrying debris by arrows.



B. Ditch 1, West sector, T.11.





A. PIT B.

Helve 1 ft.  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. long in hole which had contained a stake.



B. PIT D.

Urn and surplus bone *in situ*. Gutter in foreground was an old rabbit burrow. Length of trowel  $9\frac{1}{8}$  in.



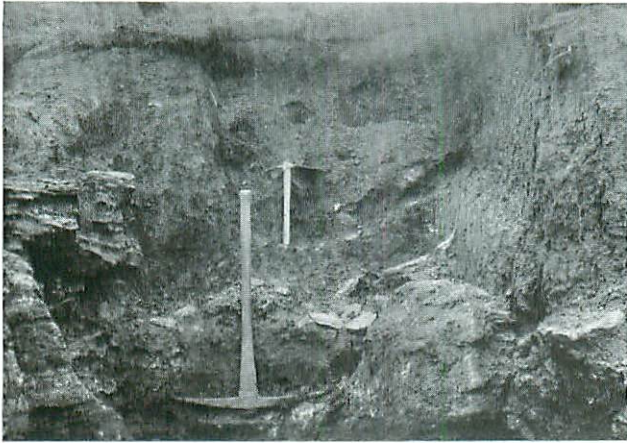


A. PROTO-OVERHANGING RIM URN  
(ENLARGED FOODVESSEL)  
*Pit D.* Primary Interment, South Barrow



B. BICONICAL URN  
*Pit 1.* Secondary Interment, South Barrow





A. DITCHES 1 and 2

Face of excavation of ditch east of centre. Length of pick-helve 3ft. 2in., entrenching tool 1ft. 4½in.



B. STUMP OF CAUSEWAY (?) OF DITCH 1.

Looking E.S.E. See *Fig. 28*.

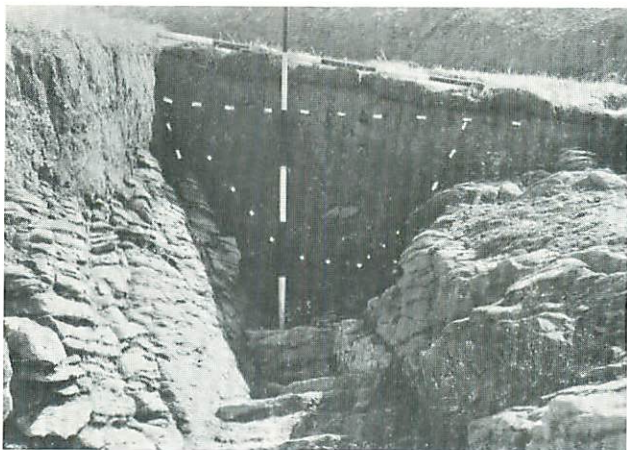


THE SOUTH BARROW.

PL. XIX.

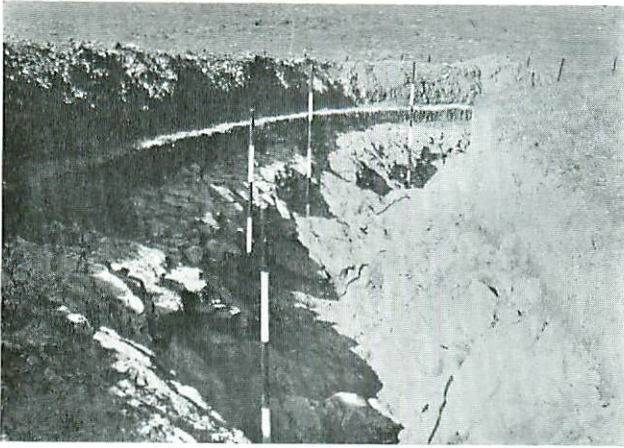


A. SECTION OF DITCH IN SOUTH-WEST.  
T.B. from centre  $223\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . See *Fig.* 27A

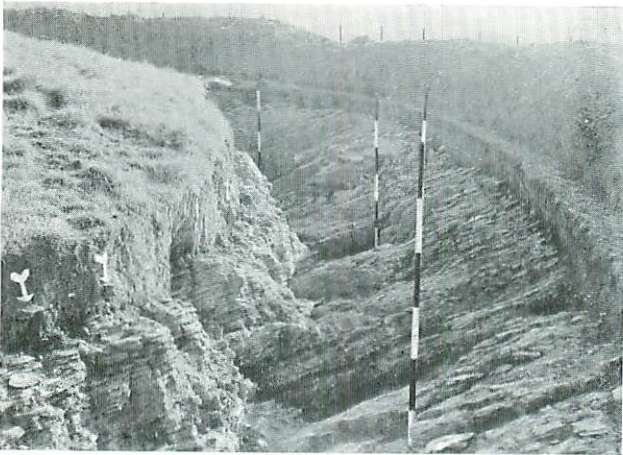


B. SECTION OF DITCH IN W.N.W.  
T.B. from centre  $287^{\circ}$





A. DITCH 1, NORTH SECTOR.  
Looking east.



B. DITCH 1, N.N.E. SECTOR.  
Ditch shallow, outer wall allowed to follow dip of strata.  
Contrast A. Looking N.W.



THE SOUTH BARROW.

PL. XXI.



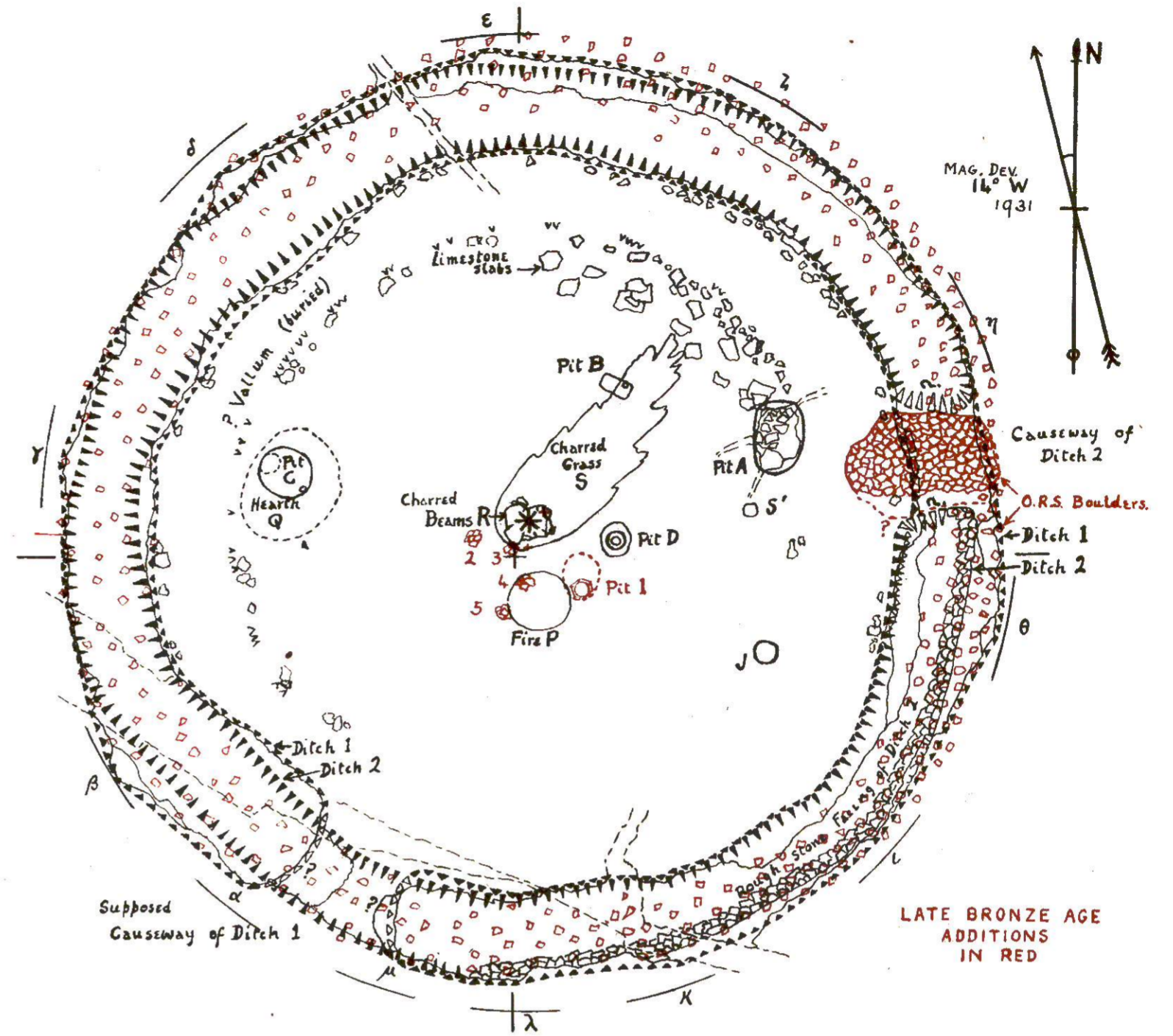
A. DITCH 2 IN SOUTH-EAST.

Outer wall supported by rough stone facing not yet cleared  
of fallen stones. Looking N.E. Length of pickhelve  
3ft. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.



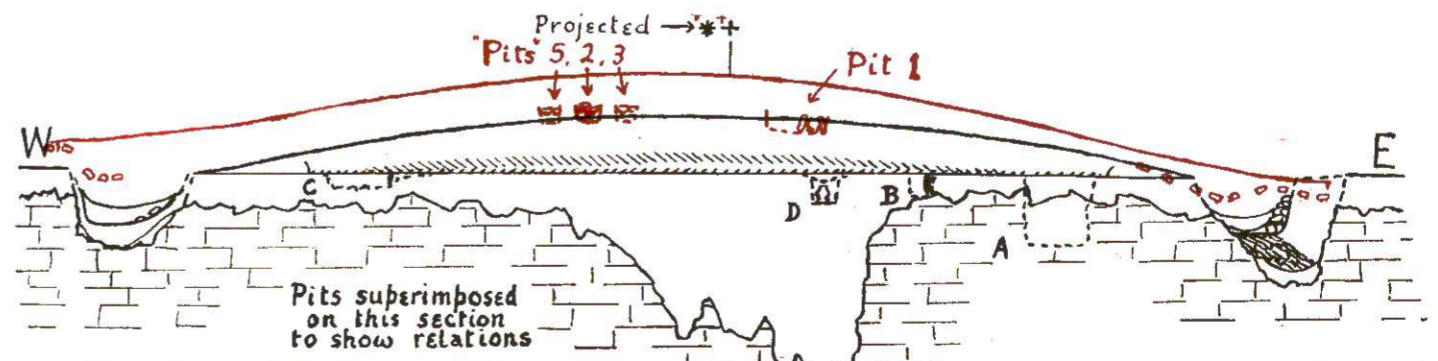
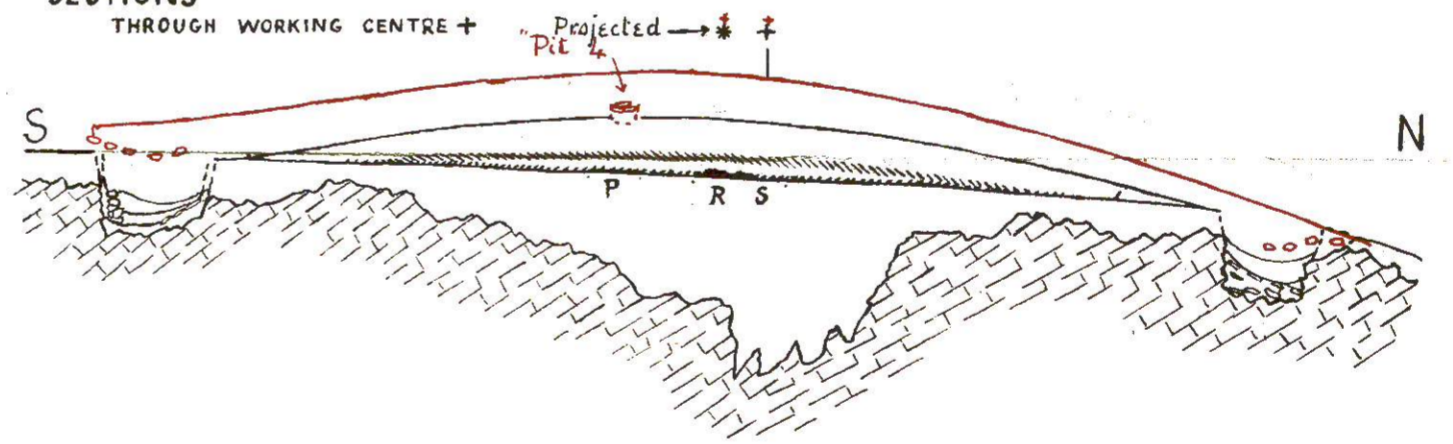
B. DITCH 2, SAME SECTOR AS IN A.  
Stone facing removed.





SECTIONS

THROUGH WORKING CENTRE +



T.II. THE SOUTH BARROW  
TYNINGS FARM

SCALE IN FEET

- |                     |                              |                                     |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▼▼▼▼ Ditch 1        | + Working Centre             | vvvv Inner Slope of supposed Vallum |
| ▼▼▼▼ " supposed     | * True Centre                | "Core" with domestic debris         |
| ▼▼▼▼ Ditch 2        | α, β, γ Changes of Direction | Base Layer                          |
| ▼▼▼▼ " supposed     | ---μ in outer wall           | — Lips of cut in rock in plan of    |
| ▒▒▒▒ " stone facing | of Ditch 1                   | Natural Rifts. [Ditch & Pit A only] |



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