

GORSEY BIGBURY THE SECOND REPORT

A CATALOGUE OF MATERIAL SALVAGED AND NOTES ON THE ORIGINAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The following summary has been written as the original report is not now readily available; [1] further, many discoveries made during the fifteen years that have passed since the excavation have served to place certain important features of the site in their true perspective. In the interim, much of the material and all catalogues and excavation notes have unfortunately been destroyed by enemy action. Consequently, apart from the catalogue of salvaged pottery and the recording of certain potsherds presenting noteworthy features, this report is limited to a summary of the results of the excavation and a discussion of questions raised by the original account. In this I have had the benefit of many conversations with members who were present at the excavations, particularly Dr. H. Taylor.

THE SITE

Gorse Bigbury (National Grid Reference 31/484,558) is situated on gently sloping ground, some 800 feet above O.D. between two arms of the Longwood valley, two miles north-east of Cheddar. The earthwork is on Carboniferous Limestone covered by clays, loam, and Old Red Sandstone débris, but the well-watered Lower Limestone Shales lie only a hundred yards to the North [2].

The earthwork is apparently a "Henge" monument of the single causeway type, consisting of a circular rock-cut ditch, with an external rampart of earth and stones, enclosing a flat central area without any form of upright. The causeway is to the north. The diameter of the work is about two hundred feet and that of the central area approximately seventy feet. The causeway is about fifteen feet wide. The central area yielded only a few flint implements and flakes; the depth of soil was less than that of the surrounding fields and the surface was some 9 inches lower. The rampart, which had been robbed, and was nowhere more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, was probably about 25 feet wide with a six-foot berm between it and the ditch. It was sectioned in two places, yielding only a few flint flakes.

The ditch varied in width from twelve to twenty-one feet and in depth from four to nine feet. In the north-west segment, an incomplete male skeleton of Beaker type was found in a roughly walled grave at the bottom, here six feet nine inches below turf level. Associated with the burial were four bone needles, a bone scoop, a well-worked flint knife, a small barbed and tanged flint arrow head and a beaker shard. The ditch filling in the vicinity yielded further fragments of this skeleton and of another. Finds were scarce throughout the greater part of the rest of the ditch, but the north-east and south-west segments yielded abundant material of the Beaker culture.

This deposit was separated from the ditch bottom by a barren layer of yellow clay silt. In two places a platform of closely packed stones was interposed between the clay and the beaker deposit, which consisted of a dirty rubble, whose base was marked in places by a band of fragmentary charcoal* up to three inches thick. This rubble was made up of charcoal, earth and stones with large quantities of potsherds, flints and animal bones. The bones were mainly those of domestic animals, especially ox (*Bos longifrons*) and pig (*Sus scrofa palustris*). Some four thousand flint flakes were found including a large series of Beaker flint types, as well as a few contemporary microliths in the local epipalaeolithic tradition. The pottery was mainly of A-C Beaker type (including rusticated ware), probably at least a hundred beakers being represented, but a few shards of Neolithic B ware were also found. Above the occupation deposit the ditch filling consisted of brown clay, with stones probably derived from the rampart. This layer also yielded some Beaker and Late Bronze Age potsherds. No sign of stone or post holes, walling or any other structural remains was observed in any part of the excavation. There was no evidence to suggest that the A-C Beaker occupiers practised agriculture, used metal or had any knowledge of metal working.

DISCUSSION

(a) *The Central Area*

Comparisons with similar structures suggest that if the earthwork was completed this area may have held uprights or burials, but no evidence of their presence was found. In view of the shallowness of the soil over the central area it seems impossible that wooden uprights could ever have stood there, without rock-cut post holes remaining. However, if stones of suitable shape were used an orthostatic structure could once have existed without stone-sockets being necessary [3]. In this connection it is interesting to note that there is a local story of "some large stones" having been removed from "the top of Mendip" at some time in the past. There is of course no reason to suppose that this necessarily refers to Gorse Bigbury.

* Jones' term "hearth," as used here, only implies an area where fires had burnt occasionally.

The scarcity of finds from the central area is reminiscent of Armingham. Judging by excavations conducted (1949) to discover the nature of "vegetation circles" in the same field the number of flints from the central area is more than can be accounted for by chance surface flints.

A hypothesis which explains the barren central area is that whether the monument was complete or not, the central area had sufficient sanctity for the Beaker occupants of the site to refrain from occupying it or leaving any occupation debris there. Even the Late Bronze Age squatters on the site only scattered a few potsherds in the ditch and left the central area clear.

Dr. Taylor has suggested as an alternative explanation that as the soil over the central area is much shallower than that of the surrounding field, a foot or so of soil may have been removed from the central area at a later date.

(b) *The Rampart*

Owing to the partial levelling noted by Skinner [4] only the flattened core of the rampart remains.‡ Consequently the Bronze Age surface of the rampart cannot now be recognised. The absence of Beaker remains from the body of the rampart and the old land surface underneath suggests that the construction of the rampart may ante-date the Beaker colonisation of the locality, but this cannot be considered as proven in view of the partial nature of the excavations in the rampart. An eight-foot length of "kerb" stones was found in the rampart on the east side, but no evidence of any extension, nor of its purpose, was found.

(c) *The Causeway and Entrance*

The causeway was of undisturbed rock, and neither it nor the entrance gap, which was much denuded, present any features requiring discussion.

(d) *The Ditch*

The thin layer of barren silt found at the bottom of the ditch may indicate a short interval between the excavation of the ditch and its occupation by the Beaker folk. In this view the Beaker burial in the north-west ditch segment may represent the use of a convenient pit, especially as quarrying in the limestone would be arduous with the very primitive methods in use at that period. It might alternatively be thought of as an offering to placate the deity whose sanctuary had been appropriated by the Beaker invaders.

However, if the Beaker people excavated the ditch, the burial may represent a foundation burial, although it is more likely in view of the apparent lack of sanctity attached to the ditch that the Beaker occupiers used it quite indiscriminately for dwelling and disposing of their dead. Scattered human bones were found in the occupied portions.

This burial was certainly one of bones and not of a complete body. Evidence of some form of bone cleaning or preliminary exposure has been found in A-

‡ Complete destruction seems to have been prevented by the intervention of Sir Richard Colt-Hoare. cf. *Archaeological Journal*, Vol XVI, p. 154.

Beaker burials in Somerset. This may be the result of contact with Neolithic A folk who seem to have practised (in some cases) preliminary exposure before inhumation.

Finally it is interesting to note that in a site yielding a very large quantity of Beaker pottery, the apparently undisturbed burial was associated with only one small beaker-potsherd, which was almost certainly all that was originally present. The significance of this is not clear, but it serves to emphasise by contrast the probable domestic nature of the pottery from the occupation deposit. This occupation deposit, as Grimes pointed out, is a contemporarily disturbed one and has little stratigraphic significance. The upper ditch levels appear to represent a gradual filling up of the ditch from Late Bronze Age times onward, the material being derived in part from the levelling of the rampart.

CONCLUSIONS

Two hypotheses as to the construction of the earthwork may reasonably be considered.

Some of the evidence set forth in the preceding sections suggests that the earthwork was possibly not constructed by the A-C Beaker inhabitants. Certainly it seems improbable that the Beaker people should quarry in the limestone a ditch two hundred and thirty feet long, more than fifteen feet wide and six feet deep, merely to live in a small portion or to use it as a rubbish tip, especially as ditches of similar type are sometimes held to have had some ritual significance for their makers. In this view the earthwork may be attributed to a Grooved Ware or B-Beaker group. (Both these groups have been recognised in the surrounding district [5], the last-mentioned only two miles away at Burrington.) (Barrows T5, 6 and 7, see note below.) It must be admitted, however, that there is no positive evidence on which such an attribution can be made with any certainty. Clearly if the monument was complete and the A-C Beaker folk were its constructors, then the ditch had no other significance than as a quarry for the bank and as a means of defining a sacrosanct central area.

Of "Henge" monuments which have been excavated, the two most closely resembling Gorsey Bigbury are Woodhenge and Arminghall. The first of these yielded Grooved Ware* [6], which in East Anglia is contemporary with early B2 Beakers, and rusticated vessels resembling Dutch megalithic bell beaker "Glockenurnen" [7].

Arminghall has been ascribed to the Beaker culture on the strength of the finding of 16 shards of rusticated ware in the primary silting of the ditch [8]. It must be pointed out, however, that the early associations of rusticated ware in

* The Grooved Ware from Woodhenge was contemporary with an early "A" Beaker and not a late one as stated by Cunnington.

eastern England seem to be with B rather than A-C Beakers.* The pot forms also are either those of the "hypertrophied beaker" type resembling the Dutch vessels mentioned above, or those of B2 beakers. Further west, rusticated ware is normally associated with A-C beakers.† Thus at Gorse Bigbury shards from large, coarse flat-rimmed, beaker-like vessels are found with rusticated shards from vessels of normal A-C beaker profile. Some of the flint evidence cited below suggests that the Beaker occupation of Gorse Bigbury was nearly contemporary with the Grooved Ware settlement at Woodhenge, and with the construction of the primary cairn of the Tynings Farm Central Barrow (T.14).

The site seems to have been occupied by a purely pastoral and largely self-sufficient community keeping cattle, pigs, and a few sheep, and relying only to a lesser extent on hunting. The ditch was used as a habitation site and as a domestic rubbish-tip. With the exception of the incomplete remains of two individuals and a further few skull and jaw fragments from the occupation area, the burial places of the inhabitants are not known, so that it is impossible to estimate the size of the community, although the evidence suggests that it was a small one.

The Beaker pottery from the site shows a wide range of form and decoration, and includes all three forms of rusticated ware. As Grimes pointed out, the early pottery, although generally similar to early A-Beaker types from North Wiltshire, appears to be typologically a little later [9]. General similarities in form and decoration between our Beaker series and that of South Wales indicate close relationship. The earliest A-Beakers to be found in South Wales are of Phase II, perhaps a generation or so later than our Phase I vessels. This supports the view put forward by Grimes [10], Mitchell [11] and others that A-C Beakers reached South Wales from Wessex, through Somerset and possibly also through Gloucestershire.

Although certain of the apparently degenerate vessels seem to be the products of less skilful potters, such vessels as V.22 and V.24 show devolved form and ornament in conjunction with well-made ware and careful execution of the ornament. These debased types are presumably late, and suggest a prolonged occupation. If this is correct, the community must have been fairly small, as the amount of pottery found, while relatively great compared with that found on sites of the same culture, is not large enough to supply the needs of more than a small group for any prolonged period, even allowing for a relatively slight use of pottery by primitive peoples. That this is probably correct is emphasized by the fragility of much of the pottery, which, although well fired, is often thin and cannot have been very durable under the conditions of the occupation. The

* Some rusticated ware appears to be closely related to Grooved Ware.

† But also with B1 Beakers. c.f. *Archaeologia* 90, p. 56, fig. 2, no. 8. (Crickel Down, Barrow II.)

force of the above argument is of course lessened if the occupation was merely a seasonal one.

If the occupation was not in fact a prolonged one, then the pottery shows an unacceptably rapid degeneration, for a people whose traditions of pottery making seem to have been remarkably conservative. (c.f. Hawkes *Prehistoric Britain*, p. 54 " . . . If four shards of Beaker pottery from Spain and Bohemia, from Holland and Scotland were . . . (compared) . . . , it might be impossible to distinguish between them.")

If the dating of *circa* 1800 B.C. suggested for the arrival of A-Beakers in East Anglia [12] is accepted, and if it be accepted that the origin of Wiltshire A-Beakers was also in East Anglia [13], then, allowing for the time required for the comparatively slow penetration thence to Wiltshire and further west to the Mendips, it appears reasonable to place the beginning of the occupation as not earlier than 1700 B.C.

This dating is supported by the absence of early beaker types showing strong decorative affinities with Continental beakers, by the presence of Neolithic B elements as shown by the pottery and by the possibility of Neolithic A contacts hinted at by the Vessels V.10, V.24, and V.30. These appear to show that this group of Beaker Folk were already on the road to cultural fusion with the pre-existing Neolithic population.

An early dating would seem to be supported by the presence of mesolithic flint types, and by the amount and variety of rusticated ware found. Of this the only vessel whose complete form could be restored was a fine example of an early Type A Phase I beaker [V.38].

The absence from Gorsey Bigbury of Food Vessel or early corded overhanging rim wares, which appear in Wessex towards the close of the A-C Beaker period [14], suggests that the occupation had ended before this period as traces of the Food Vessel culture have been recognised locally in caves [15] and possibly in a cairn less than a mile away (T.14) [16].

Piggott and Savory now put the rise of the Wessex culture in Glamorgan and in Wiltshire not earlier than *circa* 1500 B.C. Its spread to Somerset appears to have taken place while "Grape Cups" and "Aldbourne Cups" were still in use but after the replacement of inhumation by cremation. The very shallow collared rims from the Tynings North Barrow and the early Type I urn from the Tynings East Barrow suggest that this series of Middle Bronze Age burials commenced around 1400 B.C. [17].

Allowing for a period of settlement prior to the first burial and allowing for some time for the post-beaker fusion of Food Vessel, Corded and Beaker wares which preceded the rise of the Wessex culture the occupation of Gorsey Bigbury should end not later than *circa* 1500 B.C. If Fox's theory of a B1^B Beaker migration from Wiltshire to South Wales later than the A-Beaker migration [18] be accepted then perhaps the occupation should have ended not later than 1550 B.C.

The evidence seems to be in favour of the occupation having lasted for some two or three generations, perhaps within the period 1700 to 1550 B.C., and of the occupation having been in part nearly contemporary with that at Woodhenge.

CATALOGUE OF SALVAGED POTTERY

In re-cataloguing the material from Gorsey Bigbury the following system has been used:

Beakers of Abercromby's type A have been classified according to his three phases; A.I, A.II, A.III. For Beakers of Abercromby's types AC and C the following classification has been devised:

Type AC, Phase I

These vessels, termed Type AC by Abercromby, are generally similar in form and decoration to examples of Type A Phase I, but the waist shows a tendency to rise, thus decreasing the proportion of the height of the pot occupied by the neck.

Type AC, Phase II

These vessels are low-brimmed beakers, termed Type C by Abercromby and Type CA by Mitchell [19]. In these the neck occupies a much smaller proportion of the total height of the vessel.

This terminology has been used as it is clear that in southern Britain beakers of Abercromby's Type C are not a separate type, but are a devolved form of Type A.

In North Britain, especially in Scotland and to some extent in North-East England, the majority of C-beakers must be considered as the product of separate invasions by C-beaker folk, distinct from, although related to, the A-beaker invaders. Many of these vessels might on superficial examination be placed in Type AC. However, the comparatively short neck, the use of decorative motifs foreign to A-beakers, a tendency to use the neck as a separate unit for decoration (e.g. by horizontal grooves or mouldings), and the association with them of objects foreign to the English Beaker culture, indicate that such vessels should be placed in a separate Type "C." (Perhaps with a suffix *a* or *b* to indicate the two groups of C-Beakers, those related to Type A and those showing some sign of "B" influence.)

The term A-C is used to describe both related groups A and C. The rusticated ware has been described in accordance with the varieties recognised by J. G. D. Clark [20].

Note. Measurement of a considerable number of Beakers suggests the following:

Type	Height of neck above waist expressed as a percentage of the total height
A (all phases)	Varies between 37 and 50% (the majority being over 40%)
AC Phase I	Varies between 33 and 40%
AC Phase II	Less than 33%

In C-Beakers that seem to be the product of separate invasions this proportion tends to be under 20%.

CATALOGUE

Catalogue Number	Proc. Vol. 5 Reference Page Fig.	No. of Shards Recovered	Culture	Remarks
V. 1	26 II	2	Neolithic B	
V. 2	28 12	6	Beaker	A Phase I
V. 3	" "	14	"	A Phase I
V. 4	" "	3	"	A Phase III ?
V. 5	" "	15	"	A Phase I
V. 6	" "	8	"	AC Phase I
V. 7	" "	1	"	A Phase I
V. 9	" "	1	"	AC Phase I
*V.10	29 13	49	"	AC Phase I
V.11	" "	11	"	A-C decoration form uncertain
V.14	" "	1	"	A early
V.17	" "	1	"	A Phase I
V.19	" "	10	"	A Phase II
V.22	31 14	3	"	AC Phase II
*V.24	" "	15	"	AC Phase II
V.25	" "	2	"	AC Phase I
V.28	32 15	19	"	AC Phase II
V.29	" "	7	"	A Phase II ? debased decoration
*V.30	" "	39	"	A Phase I
V.31	" "	1	"	Finger-nail ware
V.33	33 16	3	"	Coarse finger-nail ware, similar to V.1
V.35	35 17	1	"	Rusticated ware. Holdenhurst type
V.36	" "	1	"	Rusticated ware. Holdenhurst type
V.37	37 18	1	"	Rusticated ware. Somersham type
V.38	37 18	7	"	A Phase I. Rusticated ware. Holdenhurst type

CATALOGUE—*continued.*

<i>Catalogue Number</i>	<i>Proc. Vol. 5 Reference Page</i>	<i>Fig.</i>	<i>No. of Shards Recovered</i>	<i>Culture</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
V.39	39	19	1	"	Rusticated ware. Arminghall type
V.40	"	"	1	"	Rusticated ware. Holdenhurst type
V.42	39	19	1	Beaker?	Rusticated ware, deeply incised Holdenhurst type
V.44	41	20	1	Beaker?	Rusticated ware. Holdenhurst type
*V.45	"	"	1	—	Finger-tip ware

None of the following is illustrated by Grimes:

*W.48	—	—	4	—	Finger-tip ware
*W.49	—	—	2	Beaker	Debased type
*W.50	—	—	2	"	Type A (? Phase III)
*W.51	—	—	32	" ?	Rusticated ware. Arminghall type
W.52	—	—	1	"	Type A
*W.53	—	—	2	"	"
*W.54	—	—	3	"	"
*W.55	—	—	3	"	"
W.56	—	—	3	"	"
188	—	—	7	"	" notched "herring-bone" pattern, similar to V.22
*433,940	—	—	2	"	Type A
629,1004	—	—	6	Neolithic "B"	Similar to V.1
227,1147	—	—	3	Beaker	From three beakers of Type A
1250	—	—	3	"	Type A. Hatched triangles decoration
767	—	—	1	"	"

(* See Notes below).

Certain of these shards are illustrated in *Figure 38.*

Note. "V" Catalogue numbers correspond to those used by Grimes. (Proc. U.B.S.S. Vol. V, No. 1).

Besides the material listed above the Society has in its possession over two hundred beaker shards which cannot be identified and which show no features calling for comment.

NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL VESSELS

v.10

Height 284 mm. Diameter at mouth 199 mm. Decoration: hanging triangles, cross-hatching and finger-nail impressions. Two vessels of Neolithic A type found by Wheeler at Maiden Castle show countersunk holes in the sides similar to those shown by our vessel. One of these also had the circular arrangement of the holes shown by v.10. (Wheeler. "Maiden Castle." p. 147. No. 19 and p. 149, No. 43.) Such countersunk holes (with a diameter of about 5 mm.) are not uncommonly found in Scottish Neolithic pottery.

v.24

Height 234 mm. Diameter at mouth 165 mm. This beaker although otherwise normal shows a ware closely resembling in quality some Neolithic A pottery.

v.30

A considerable number of shards probably from this pot has been salvaged. The ware has a black core with a dark brown exterior. It is about 9 mm. thick, friable, poorly fired, contains coarse grits, and is not of the normal Beaker type as found at the site. The external surface is decorated with circular impressions about 7 mm. across, apparently executed with a hollow reed. Similar decoration has been recorded on pottery, from a number of sites in England and Scotland in late Neolithic A and early A-C Beaker and Neolithic B contexts, and is probably of Neolithic rather than Beaker origin [21].*

v.45 AND w.48

This finger-tip ware is about 12 mm. thick, with a black core, and a reddish exterior showing finger-tip impressions. The paste is fine but soft and very poorly fired. It may perhaps be best placed with the rusticated ware, in Piggott's group of "sub-Beaker" domestic ware. (In this case of Grooved-Rusticated Ware and Neolithic "B" origin.)

w.49

Diameter: Rim *c.* 70 mm. Base *c.* 50 mm. Rim and base shards from a vessel which may have been a debased beaker. The form is uncertain, possibly it was a straight-sided cup about 7 centimetres high. The decoration has been executed, in part with a finely pointed implement, and in part rendered by finger-nail impressions. (A similar shard came from Aldro Barrow No. 30.) [22].

w.50

Diameter: *c.* 180 mm. Two shards of "fine," well-fired thick buff A-beaker ware, probably from a late beaker. The decoration is very similar to that on a beaker (Type AC Phase II) from Wincanton. (Abercromby. B.A.P. No. 42.)

* This ware is almost indistinguishable from some Woodhenge Grooved Ware. (Woodhenge p. 134, Pl. 33, fig. 32-4.)

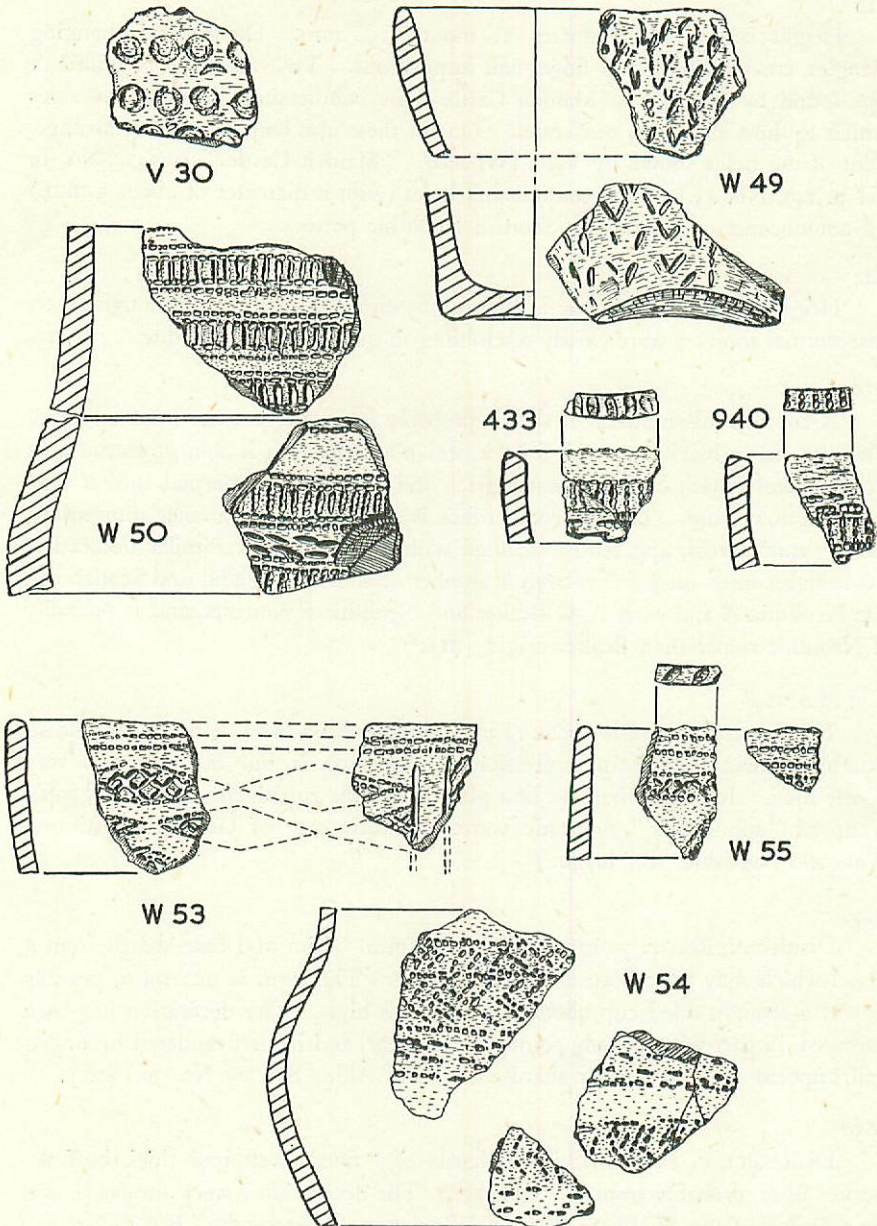


Fig. 38. Beaker Pottery from Gorse Bigbury. Scale: 1/2.

w.51

Numerous shards of thin well-fired red ware, decorated with triangular stabs, two to three mm. across. Formally this is rusticated ware of the Arminghall variety, but the type of decoration is not easily distinguished from that shown by some Neolithic B ware. Form and size of this pot are unknown.

w.53

Diameter 130-140 mm. Two rim shards of thin, olive-brown coloured beaker-ware (probably early) showing comb decoration in the form of horizontally arranged, cross-hatched lozenges combined with plain vertical panels. Parallels: Abercromby B.A.P., Vol. I, No. 60 (Stafford). M. E. Cunnington. Pottery from the Long Barrow at West Kennet, Wilts. Pl. XI, No. 107; J. F. S. Stone, Wilts Arch. Mag., Vol. 45, p. 366, Fig. 3.3. (Easton Down.)

w.54

Three shards from an A-beaker of fine, well-fired, thin red ware showing comb decoration, probably early.

w.55

Three rim sherds of thin brown ware from an early A-beaker showing oblique comb impressions on the rim.

940.433

Two rim shards showing similar decorative motifs to W.50 and having decorated rims.

Of the decorated rims from this site, V.5, V.23, and 940 are of normal Beaker type. V.22 and 433, however, showed inwardly bevelled rims.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Callander [23] describes several rim shards from a vessel with a diameter of about eight inches (found in a "pit-dwelling" at Mye Plantation, Wigtonshire) which had an expanded, internally bevelled rim, decorated with radiating lines and showing oblique lines on the side of the pot, all executed with a toothed stamp or comb. These shards, which were of coarse grey ware half an inch thick, he classes as Neolithic, although the use of a toothed stamp is generally thought to be a Beaker innovation. It may be that internally bevelled, decorated rims indicate Neolithic B or Food Vessel influence,* as such rims are characteristic of these cultures. However, it must be admitted that such decorated rims may be shown by Beakers otherwise perfectly normal (e.g. Wick Barrow Beaker No. 2) [24, 25].

On reading the notes written above, it will be seen that some of the pottery described shows features which may possibly be of Neolithic derivation. In no case can this be proved. The very wide range of decoration shown by the beaker

* Gordon Childe has suggested Neolithic or Food Vessel origin for similar rim forms found in Scotland. For chronological reasons our rims, if of non-beaker inspiration, should be due to Neolithic "B" influence [26].

and rusticated ware suggests that the inhabitants of Gorsey Bigbury were not an isolated group of invaders, and that their stock of decorative motifs was drawn from the main stream of A-C Beaker tradition. These widespread origins make it likely that Neolithic elements should have contributed and it might be expected that a Beaker group penetrating into the Mendip region, an area on the edge of the Highland Zone where Neolithic traditions were strong, would show signs of contact with those cultures.

THE FLINT INDUSTRY

A large and comprehensive series of flints associated with Beakers from Gorsey Bigbury is still in the Society's possession, although most of the implements figured by Jones were destroyed by the fire.

A few features shown by this industry are described below.

SCRAPERS

These are the most numerous type of worked flint. The two basic types are round thumb scrapers and end scrapers with keels or thick backs. There are also a very few hollow scrapers, a type never common on Mendip.

KNIVES

Most of the worked flint knives found have a single bevelled cutting edge and are made on long, or short, thicker flakes, or on half-moon shaped flakes. (The arc forms the edge on these.) Plano-convex flint knives showing two bevelled cutting edges included Nos. 86, 88, 94, etc.

AWLS

A few implements resembling awls were found. These were made of rough pieces of flint with only the end worked. Some show alternate retouching at the tip suggesting rotary use.

MICROLITHS AND OTHER ARTIFACTS OF MESOLITHIC TYPE

These included crescentic, rod shaped and sub-triangular forms, together with some prismatic cores and larger blades showing the steep-angled secondary flaking characteristic of Mesolithic implements. They were almost certainly contemporary with the Beaker occupation, but they appear to indicate the *local* survival of Mesolithic flint working techniques, if not of an actual Mesolithic population.* Petit-tranchet derivatives included Nos. 16, 20, 23-25 [27]; of these Nos. 24 and 25 (Class H) showed long channeled pressure flaking unmatched

* It would be tempting to assign the microliths and petit-tranchet derivatives and the Neolithic B and rusticated pottery to a group of mixed Mesolithic and Neolithic B—"Grooved Ware" folk who built the earthwork and to infer their subjection by a dominant group of A-C Beaker invaders from Wiltshire. The presence of serrated flakes or saws is suggestive in this respect.

locally. The nearest similar examples are from Woodhenge [28], and our examples might be imported from that region.

Comparison with the Tynings Farm Central Barrow shows little difference between the two industries, except the absence of microliths from the cairn, and the presence there of an arrowhead-sized biconvex flint knife, worked like the plano-convex knives assigned to the Food Vessel culture. On the other hand, the North, South and East Barrows (Middle Bronze Age) show an appreciable contrast. There a few microliths were found and petit-tranchet derivatives are not uncommon, while plano-convex flint knives and triangular barbed-and-tanged, and hollow based arrowheads, are not found in these barrows. There is also little of the low-angled flaking typical of the best Gorsey Bigbury technique.

NOTE ON BARROWS T.5, 6, AND 7. (Blackdown, Mendip) [29] [30].

T.5 yielded an early Wessex B1 Beaker, but as this barrow is now being re-excavated it seems wiser not to discuss its affinities at the present time. It is hoped to discuss this and other Early Bronze Age pottery from the Mendips and the Somerset region in a subsequent paper.

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