

REPORT ON THE TRIAL EXCAVATIONS AT WARDS COOMBE, IVINGHOE. 1971.

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During 1970 woodland clearance on National Trust property at Wards Coombe, near Ivinghoe Beacon (Grid Reference S.P. 973155), revealed a small but pronounced earthwork. It comprised a penannular bank, open on the south-eastern side, with an internal ditch enclosing an area 50 metres in diameter.¹ The site was re-planted and permission was given for small trial trenches to be cut by the Bucks County Museum between the rows of saplings in August 1971.²

The site occupies relatively flat ground at the head of a small dry valley facing north-east across the upper and now dry valley of the River Gade towards the Dunstable Downs. It lies at the base of a wooded slope, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the main chalk escarpment of the Chiltern Hills and the important prehistoric trackway, the Icknield Way. (See Fig. 1.)

The area is fairly rich in Iron Age and Roman discoveries. The nearby hillfort on Ivinghoe Beacon has been dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age transition, while later Iron Age sites are known from Lodge Hill Saunderton, Pitstone, Bulpit Hill, Ellesborough and Marsden, all within a radius of 15 miles of the site. Roman finds are equally plentiful, and in the immediate vicinity Roman farmsteads are known at Moneyburgh Hill and Pitstone, while the course of the Romanised Icknield Way runs only 300 metres west of the site.³

THE EXCAVATION

It must be stressed that this cannot be regarded as a definitive report on the site. The 1971 excavations were limited to narrow trial trenches designed to establish the date, and if possible, the character of the earthwork, but could not be expected to provide much further information. Of the four main trenches excavated three, numbers A-C (fig. 2), defined the boundaries of the earthwork while the fourth, D, examined the south-west end of the bank and ditch.

As already stated, the earthwork comprised a penannular bank and ditch. The bank on the south-west and most prominent side stood to a height of 40 centimetres, while on the north it was much less well defined and in places

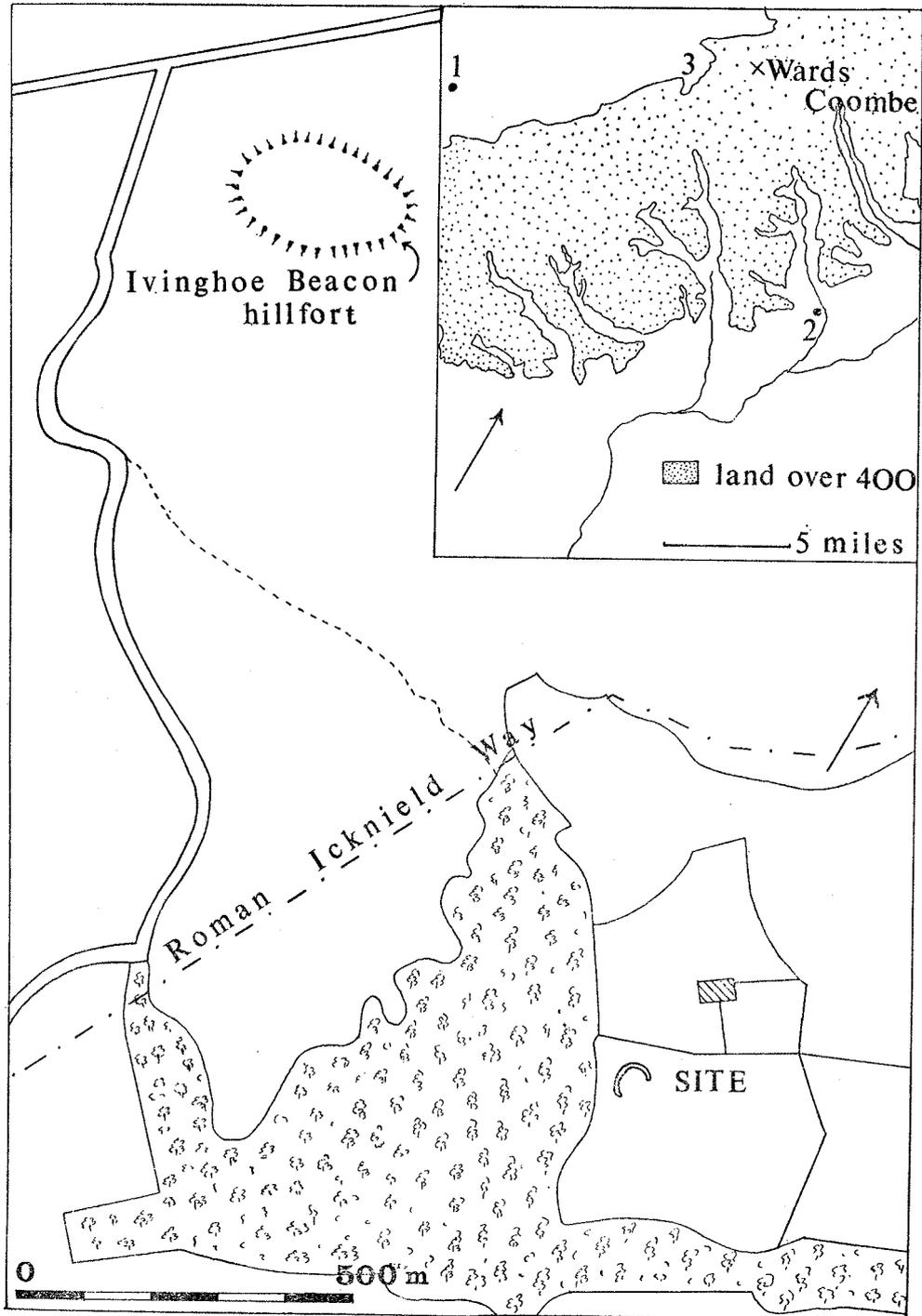


Fig. 1. Plan showing the Position of the site. 1—Aylesbury, 2—St Albans, 3—Ivinghoe.

barely discernible; it finally petered out at point Y (fig. 2). The bank was made up of a layer of clay and flints over a core of chalk rubble, and at the south-west end of trench A.1 a black "old turf line" was sealed beneath the bank's core. The bank was separated from the ditch by a narrow berm, 75 centimetres wide. The ditch, like the bank, differed markedly in the south-west and north-east sides of the enclosure. On the south, in trenches A.1, B and D it was of pronounced V-shaped cross-section, carefully and neatly cut,

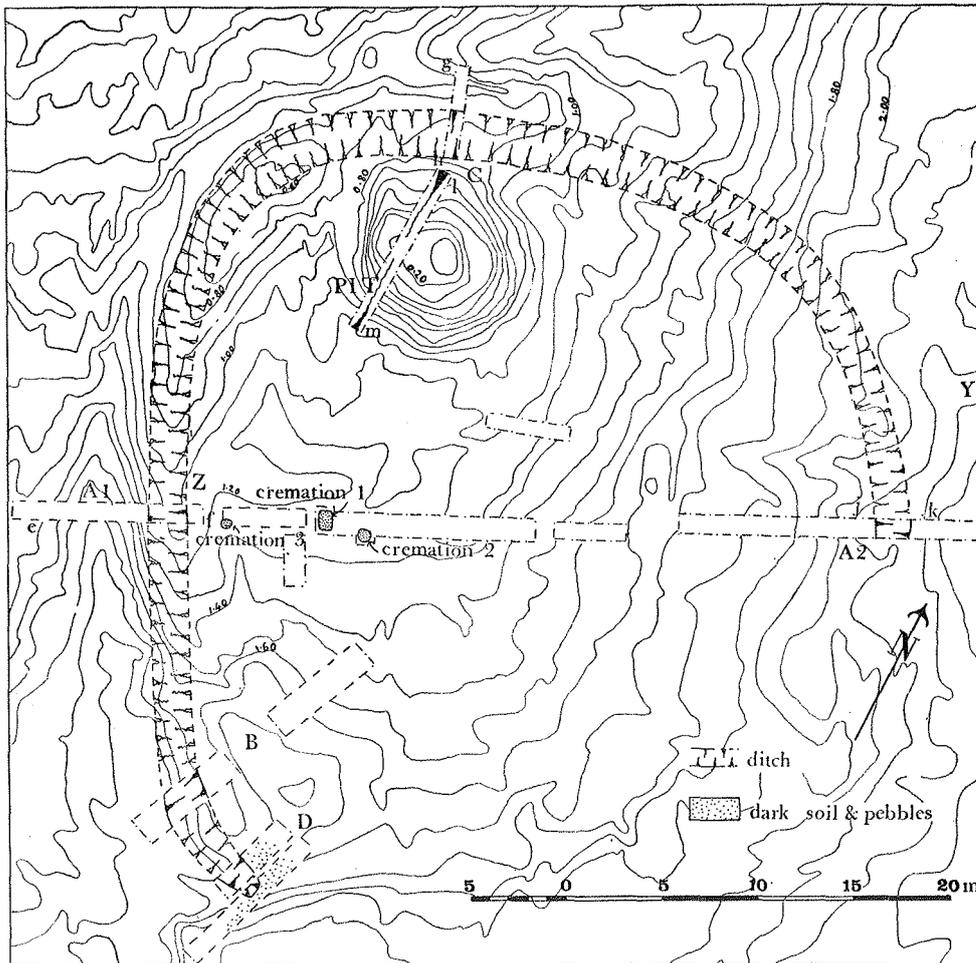


Fig. 2. Plan of the site.

2 metres wide at the top and 1½ metres deep at the centre. It was filled with dark grey/brown silt with occasional tips of flint and chalk rubble; in trenches A.1 and D tips of charcoal were also incorporated. The filling in trench B produced several human bones and a tip of Romano-British roof tiles near the top of the fill, while Mr. J. Wilson, excavating in the ditch near point Z (fig. 2) found part of the skeleton of a child. In all the excavated sections of the

ditch numerous pieces of pottery and animal bones were found, particularly in the upper levels of the fill. The evidence all points towards a natural silting up process taking place in the near vicinity of human occupation.

On the northern side, the profile of the ditch was in contrast small and untidily cut. In trench A.2 it was found to be only 70 centimetres deep with straight, slightly sloping sides and a flat base. It looked very much as if the ditch had never been finished here, and its slight dimensions would explain the correspondingly small size of the bank on this side of the earthwork.

In trench D the south-west end of the bank and ditch was exposed. The butt end of the ditch had been carefully rounded off and obviously marked the true end and not simply the point at which work happened to have been abandoned. Immediately south of the butt end was an area of dark, almost black soil incorporating a large proportion of rounded pebbles. Although this area was noticeably more stony than elsewhere it did not merit the description of an intentionally cobbled surface but rather one that had been exposed and repeatedly trampled upon.

No trace of structures was found within the enclosed area. The ground was comparatively level, although sloping gently down from the north-west to the south-east. Within the enclosure a thin layer of black topsoil, not more than 25 centimetres deep, overlay layer 2, a sterile layer of pale brown, rather clayey loam, in places extremely stony. There were frequent flecks of charcoal contained in the layer. In a few places layer 2 overlay a thin layer of much darker loam (layer 3), which included a few lumps of chalk, but elsewhere it lay directly on the natural subsoil—over most of the site clay with flints, but overlain in places by a fine chalk wash derived from the slope to the west.

Cut through layer 3 and into the subsoil, but sealed by layer 2, were two Belgic cremation burials, and a third cremation of early Roman date was cut into layer 2. (See plates 4a and b.)

Cremation 1 was set in a carefully cut pit, 20 centimetres deep and measuring 80 by 100 centimetres, with near vertical sides and a flat base. The cremated ashes were contained in a large urn (no. 1, fig. 4), and near its mouth, resting on the top of the ashes, was an iron brooch, possibly used to pin a cloth or bag which may have enclosed the ashes but of which no trace remained. The cremation urn was accompanied by a small jar, a dish, a platter containing two rib bones of a sheep or goat, and a triangular iron knife. The entire deposit lay on the floor of the burial pit and had been covered by two burnt planks laid flush with the upper surface of layer 3, which may represent the contemporary ground level.

Cremation 2 lay $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres south-east of cremation 1 and was contained in a small roughly circular scoop, 50 centimetres in diameter and cut into the subsoil. The cremation itself was contained in a large urn (no. 5, fig. 4), which also contained a fine bronze brooch. The cremation urn was accompanied by a small platter and a butt beaker. There was no sign of any timber either within or covering the burial pit.

Cremation 3 lay near the modern surface, 2 metres south-east of the inner lip of the ditch in trench A.1. The cremation jar was extremely fragmentary (no. 25, fig. 5), so much so that it was impossible to restore the complete pro-

file, but it was in sandy, grey Roman fabric with a small everted and reeded rim and is unlikely to be earlier than the Flavian period. Although so incomplete, it was clear that the jar had been associated with a cremation; a pile of cremated bone was found mixed with the pot sherds in a shallow scoop in layer 2. It is unfortunate that this cremation was extensively disturbed, probably during ploughing or in more recent tree planting.

None of the three cremations showed any signs of markers above ground, such as posts or cairns, and not enough area was examined to establish whether or not the cremations lay in any regular pattern.

At the north-west end of the site, approximately at the centre of the north side of the enclosed area, was a large pit, clearly visible today and with a depth of one metre, the most prominent feature on the site. This appeared to be a modern rubbish pit, especially in view of the large quantity of early twentieth-century refuse left lying in it. Nevertheless trench C was extended to make a trial cut through it.

The pit was found to have been carefully dug at least 2 metres deep with steeply sloping sides. Beneath the modern rubbish and more recently accumulated humus, was a thick turf line, below which the filling consisted of fine brown loam with occasional flints, but with few finds other than a small number of Romano-British sherds.⁴ Near the centre of the filling however and cut through both it and the overlying turf line was a second, smaller pit containing the articulated skeletons of three horses superimposed on one another. (See section L-M.) Apart from being secondary to the pit itself, the date of these bones is uncertain and although they may well be relatively modern the possibility remains that they are pre-historic and that both they and the pit were an integral part of the site.⁵

DISCUSSION

It is clear that the site had a long history. Associated with the primary silt in the ditch were several pieces of hand-made pottery, dating from the early Iron Age. While these pieces could admittedly have been already old by the time they found their way into the ditch it is noticeable that they show no sign of appreciable weathering and that the Belgic and Romano-British sherds, although occurring comparatively frequently elsewhere on the site, were not found in these primary contexts. It therefore appears that the initial construction of the earthwork took place before the arrival of this later pottery on the site. The occurrence of the Belgic cremation 1 also indicates pre-Roman use of the site, although it cannot be related stratigraphically to either bank or ditch. The bronze brooch in cremation 2 suggests a rather later date for this deposit and probably belongs to the period of the Roman conquest, or even slightly later.

As can be seen from the coarse pottery report below, the hand-made sherds could date from as early as c. 300 B.C. The forms persisted in use however and some of the sherds from Wards Coombe may represent the local pottery in use here at the time of the introduction of Belgic vessels in the area.

At the other end of the scale, cremation 3 shows continued veneration of the site into the early Roman period, while the later Roman sherds (nos. 31

and 32, fig. 5), may reflect an even longer life for the site; although ploughing activities or casual visitors could equally well account for these unstratified pieces.

As has already been stressed, the 1971 excavations were extremely limited in extent and consequently only tentative conclusions can be drawn from them. Nonetheless, the plan shows striking similarities to that of the early Iron Age shrine at Frilford, Berks.⁶ Admittedly Frilford is considerably smaller, covering an area only 6 metres in diameter, but the penannular ditch is similar in conception. The initial date of the Frilford site is *c.* 300 B.C. but it also seems to have continued in use as a sacred site well into the Roman period.

Within the area enclosed by the Frilford ditch were found 6 postholes, apparently not supporting a structure but possibly ritual "totem poles". No such postholes were found at Wards Coombe but the excavated trenches were too narrow to make this point conclusive and structures could well have existed outside the excavated areas. Possible supporting evidence for the theory that Wards Coombe was a shrine comes from the discovery by Mr. Wilson in 1970 of the child's skeleton at point Z which is reminiscent of the infant burials associated with a later phase at Frilford.⁷

It must be emphasised however that the Wards Coombe earthwork seems to be earlier than the Belgic cremations, and although the cremations indicate a ritual use for the site in its later phases, the earthwork itself need not necessarily have been originally designed for ritual purposes. The evidence set out above suggests very strongly that the earthwork did in fact delimit a sacred area and this theory is attractive not least in that it explains the comparative rarity of purely domestic refuse, flint, bone and metal objects.⁸ It is only by much more extensive excavation however, that the alternative explanations for the site, that of a domestic enclosure or a cattle compound, can be ruled out. It is very much to be hoped that further excavation will be possible at a future date on this potentially important early Iron Age site.

THE COARSE POTTERY

A—The hand made sherds. (Fig. 3)

- 1 Dense dark grey fabric, fairly micaceous. Rather uneven red exterior, in places with a slightly fluted appearance produced by faint finger moulding. Flat-topped rim decorated with rather carelessly executed finger-nail impressions. Trench A.1. Primary ditch silt. (See section E-F.)
- 2 Fabric as no. 1 but with white grit inclusions. Short upright neck and flat-topped rim with finger-tip decoration along the top. Trench A.1. From the loam above the primary silt. (See section E-F.)
- 3 Pale grey, rather hard and sandy fabric, with sparse grey grit inclusions. Exterior carefully smoothed. Rounded bowl with sharply everted rounded rim. From the primary silt, trench A.1.
- 4 Gritty grey fabric with occasional soft white inclusions. Red-brown exterior. Slack-shouldered jar with rounded, everted rim. Row of finger-nail impressions round the shoulder. From the upper silt in the butt end of the ditch, trench D.

- 5 Sandy grey-black fabric, highly micaceous and with unusually rough surface. Trench D, from the upper silt in the butt end of the ditch.
- 6 Dark grey gritty fabric. A rather roughly finished bowl with a flattened rim. Primary silt in the butt end of the ditch. Trench D.
- 7 Fabric as no. 6 but very soft and friable. Unstratified.
- 8 Dark grey fabric with a large number of sand-grain inclusions, producing an unusually gritty texture. Exterior dark red, interior black. Heavy bowl or jar with a flat rim. From the tip of flints over the ditch—fill in trench C. (See section H-G.)
- 9 Small open bowl in dark grey gritty fabric. Brown/buff exterior. Carefully flattened rim with traces of burnishing on its upper surface. Upper silt in ditch in trench D.
- 10 Body sherd in hard grey sandy fabric, rather laminated. Dark grey interior, pale buff/grey exterior. Surfaces originally carefully smoothed but now much weathered. Decorated with two shallow grooves, once forming a pattern of zigzags or pendent triangles. On either side of the grooves is a row of small gashes, perhaps imitating rouletting. The whole decoration is carefully and neatly executed. Unstratified.

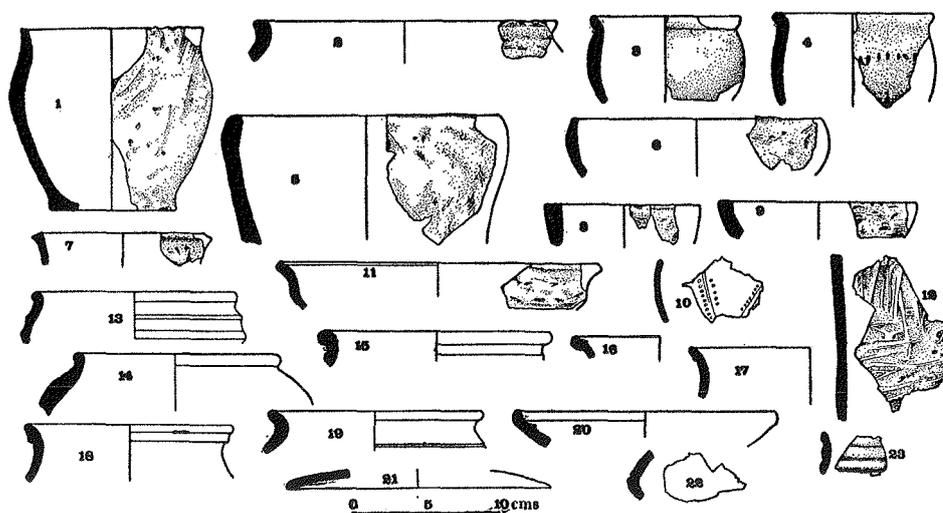


Fig. 3. The pre-Roman pottery.

The Date of the hand-made pottery.

In his recent study of the Iron Age pottery from the Chilterns, Mr Saunders⁹ has described three ceramic phases; phase 1 starting in the 7th century B.C., phase 2 in the mid 5th century, and phase 3 which was current at the time of the introduction of Belgic pottery into the area in the 1st century B.C. but whose initial date is still uncertain.

It is clear that a variety of styles is represented at Wards Coombe. Nos. 2 and 10 above probably belong to Saunders' phase 2. No. 2 is reminiscent of the coarse-ware jars from Ellesborough and Pitstone¹⁰ with upright necks

and flattened rims sometimes decorated with finger-top impressions, while no. 1 is also probably of the same type, although here it is in fine ware rather than in the more usual coarse shell or grit-tempered fabric. No. 10 is reminiscent of the fine decorated bowls of phase 2 date from Chinnor and Ellesborough.¹¹

Nos. 3 and 4 on the other hand compare better with Saunders' class 3 vessels from Lewknor, Cholesbury and Puddlehill¹² with their globular bodies and everted, almost beaded rims. No. 5 however is closer to Harding's barrel jars of the upper Thames basin, with its markedly inturned rim and "hunched" profile.¹³

The majority of the hand-made sherds from Wards Coombe were made in a dark grey/brown gritty fabric—the rather gritty texture being produced by small sand-grain inclusions, although usually the exterior of the vessels had been carefully smoothed. This fabric differs markedly from that of the Chinnor and Ellesborough material and it is best paralleled by the pottery from the Pitstone Mill¹⁴ where an occupation site has recently been excavated at the base of the chalk escarpment, two miles west of Wards Coombe. Slack-shouldered jars were a common feature of the Pitstone pottery, as were flattened rims, sometimes with finger-tip decoration, while there is one sherd, now in the Bucks. County Museum, Aylesbury, with incised decoration reminiscent of our no. 10. It must be pointed out however that forms occur at Pitstone that are not represented at Wards Coombe and *vice versa*. The excavated area at Wards Coombe however was so limited and the total volume of hand-made-pottery so small as to make this point inconclusive.

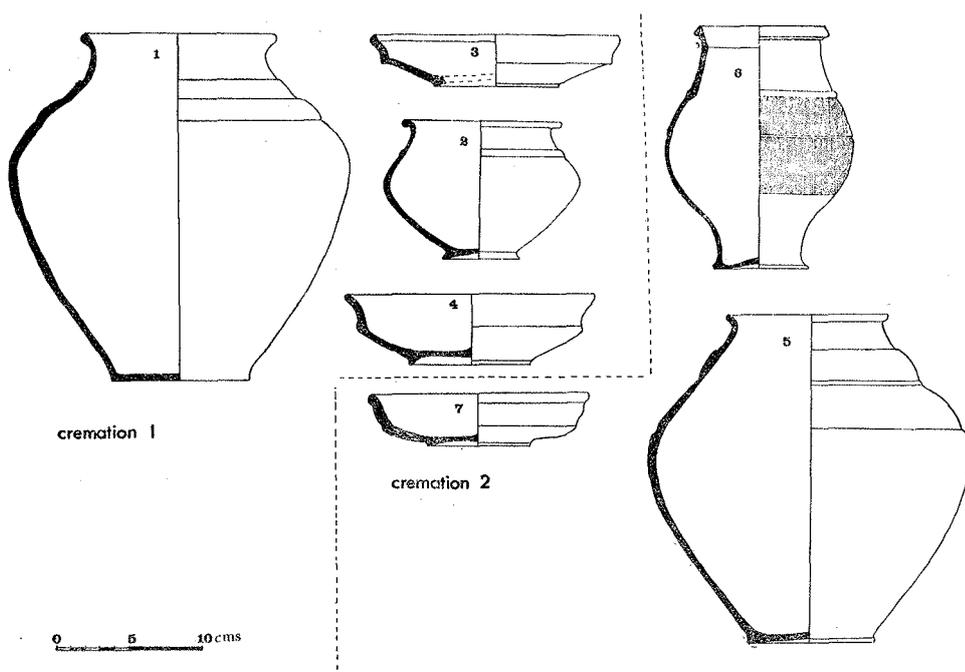


Fig. 4. The Belgic cremation pottery.

The flat-rimmed bowls, nos. 6-9 from Wards Coombe, cannot yet be paralleled from other Chiltern sites and it may be that they should be placed in Saunders' phase 3. Mr. Saunders has stressed¹⁵ that as so far only four sites have produced phase 3 material, little is known of the phase and it is therefore quite possible that not all the forms then current have yet been recognised.

In summary it appears that the hand-made pottery (with the exception of no. 11 for which see below) dates from phases 2 and 3 of Saunders' classification, and a date near the end of phase 2 and the beginning of phase 3 may prove acceptable. Saunders suggested that the Pitstone material fell late in phase 2, while a date after c. 350 B.C. would agree with Harding's dating for the barrel-jars of the upper Thames basin.

B The Belgic Pottery (Fig. 5)

Apart from no. 11, the Belgic material from the site consists of a small group of wheel-made pottery distinguishable from the Roman material by the soft and distinctively soapy texture of the ware, as well as in some cases by the form. The fabric was generally a grey/brown, rather sandy fabric, often red at the core and dark on the surfaces.

11 Part of a platter in fabric very similar to that of the hand-made sherds described above, but finer and darker. Hand-made, but clearly imitating the Belgic platter form as fig. 4 nos. 3 and 7.

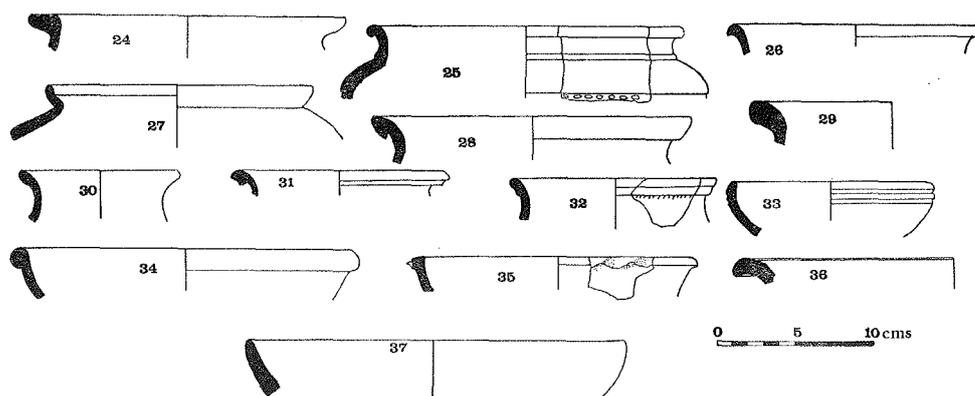


Fig. 5. The Roman pottery.

Wheelmade sherds.

12 Body sherd of a large straight-sided storage jar in hard pale grey fabric with occasional quite large translucent grit inclusions. The exterior is a uniform buff colour and is decorated with rather carelessly executed grooves and ridges producing a rusticated effect. Upper silt in the butt end of the ditch trench D.

- 13 Bowl in dense dark grey fabric. Smooth, paler grey surface with broad shallow grooves on the shoulder. *Cam.* form 229.^{15, 16} Upper slit in ditch in trench C.
- 14 Fabric as above no. 13 but slightly more micaceous. Shoulder grooves absent. *Cam.* form 257. From upper silt in ditch trench A.
- 15 Necked jar in grey gritty fabric with rough dark grey exterior. Unstratified.
- 16 Jar with slightly swollen rim in very soft, dense fabric almost black at the core but with brown/red surfaces, carefully smoothed. Upper silt in ditch, trench A.2.
- 17 Rim of a necked jar in dark grey laminated fabric. Roughly smoothed black surfaces. Broad, but very shallow groove along the bead rim. Unstratified.
- 18 Rim of a vessel very similar to no. 17 above. Unstratified.
- 19 Necked jar in hard grey sandy fabric incorporating occasional large grits. Carefully smoothed grey surfaces. Upper fill of the ditch. Trench B.
- 20 Very weathered rim of an open bowl in grey gritty fabric with weathered pale grey surfaces. *Cam.* form 28, imitating a Gallo-Belgic form. Unstratified.
- 21 Fragment of a lid in brown/grey fabric with very "soapy" texture. Unstratified.
- 22 Body sherd of a carinated bowl in dark grey sandy fabric. Red exterior, carefully smoothed above the carination but rough below. The carination itself is defined by a broad groove. Unstratified.
- 23 Body sherd in fine dark grey ware with black burnished exterior, decorated with three broad horizontal ridges. Unstratified.

THE CREMATION GROUPS. Fig. 4.

Cremation 1.

- 1 Cremation urn in sandy red/brown fabric with black surfaces carefully smoothed on the exterior. Two slight bulges on the shoulder. *Cam.* form 232. See also a close parallel from a Belgic burial at Verulamium. *Herts. Arch.* 1. page 16, fig. 4.
- 2 Small jar with a cordon at the base of the neck. Fabric as no. 1. *Cam.* form 221.
- 3 Platter. Fabric as no. 1.
- 4 Dish. Fabric as no. 1.

Although the two jars are common Belgic types the date for the group is provided by the platter and the dish. Both imitate Gallo-Belgic types and are unlikely to be earlier than the first century A.D. or the last decades of the first century B.C.¹⁷

Cremation 2.

- 5 Cremation urn in rather soft red/brown fabric, black surfaces carefully smoothed on the exterior.
- 6 Butt beaker in fine hard pale buff fabric, very dense and well fired. Exterior carefully smoothed and decorated on the body of the vessel with a zone of fine rouletting.



PLATE IIIa. WARDS COOMBE. The bank in trench A.1.

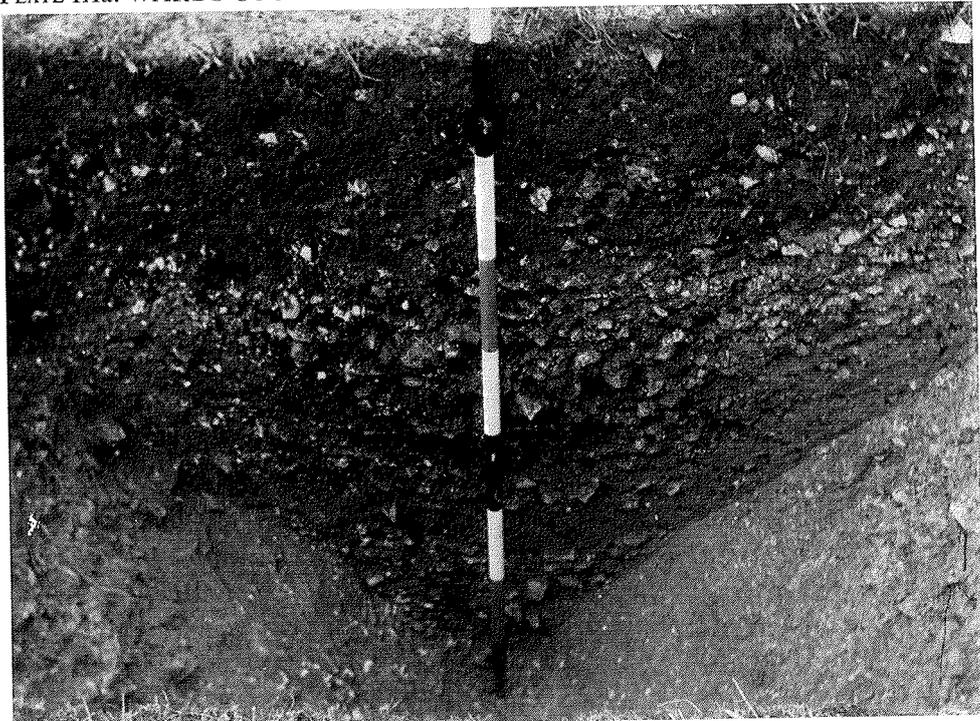


PLATE IIIb. WARDS COOMBE. The ditch in trench A.1.



PLATE IVa. WARDS COOMBE. Cremation 1.



PLATE IVb. WARDS COOMBE. Cremation 2.

7 Platter in fabric similar to no. 1 above.

The platter no. 7 imitates Gallo-Belgic examples and a date in the first century A.D. or at the very end of the first century B.C. is indicated for it. The bronze brooch found with this cremation, however, suggests a date in the mid first century A.D., possibly after the conquest.

C. The Roman pottery. (Fig. 5).

24 Rim of a jar in dense hard red/brown fabric, rather gritty in texture. Everted reeded rim. Late first to early second century. At Verulamium reeded-rim bowls are commonest between 75-130 A.D. although they appear as early at 60 A.D. and continue in use up to the mid 2nd century. For example see *Ver.* fig. 106, nos. 211-215, fig. 108, nos. 312-19 and fig. 109, nos. 326-342.

There were numerous fragments of this bowl, though no profile could be restored. The pottery fragments were much mixed with pieces of cremated bone, and there is no doubt that they represent the remains of another cremated burial (cremation 3) this time of early Roman date. Both pottery and bone lay within 10 centimetres of the modern surface and had been much disturbed in recent times.

25 Rim of a necked jar in coarse grey fabric with grey and black grit inclusions. Rough red/brown surfaces. False cordon at the base of the neck and a row of stab decoration beneath it. From the upper ditch fill, trench A.2.

26 Bead rim in hard grey fabric, dark burnished exterior. Unstratified.

27 Fragment of a bowl or jar with a cupped rim. Very hard, sandy brown/buff fabric. Surfaces black and rather gritty. There is a narrow groove along the upper surface of the rim. From the upper silt in the ditch. Cooking jars with a cupped rim were not uncommon at Verulamium. For parallels see *Ver.* fig. 101, nos. 81 and fig. 113, nos. 105-130. The type is commonest in the period 105-130 A.D., although it is represented in mid first century deposits.

28 Rim of a jar in dense grey fabric, brick-red at the surface. The neck is upright and the rim slightly undercut. From the tip of flints over the ditch fill, trench C. (See section H-G.)

29 Necked jar with a swollen rim in gritty grey fabric. Unstratified.

30 Part of a flask in hard grey fabric, paler grey burnished surfaces. Neat bead-rim. From the dark loam fill in the ditch, trench A.2. (See section J-K.)

31 Rim of a jar in very soft brick-red fabric, original surface now weathered away. Upright neck and rather undercut rim. The exterior of the rim is decorated by a broad shallow groove. Unstratified. See *Ver.* fig. 132. 100. 270-275. A.D.

32 Rim of a bowl or jar in dense red fabric originally with a red colour coat. Bead-rim with a small cordon just beneath it. Zone of fine rouletting below cordon. Oxford ware. Late 3rd or 4th century.

33 Open bowl in very hard gritty grey fabric, brownish grey at core with pale grey surfaces. Interior smoothed, exterior decorated with two broad

shallow grooves below the simple rounded rim. From the dark loam fill in the ditch in trench A.2.

For a good parallel see *Ver.* fig. 114, no. 518, there in pink buff ware. 105-130 A.D.

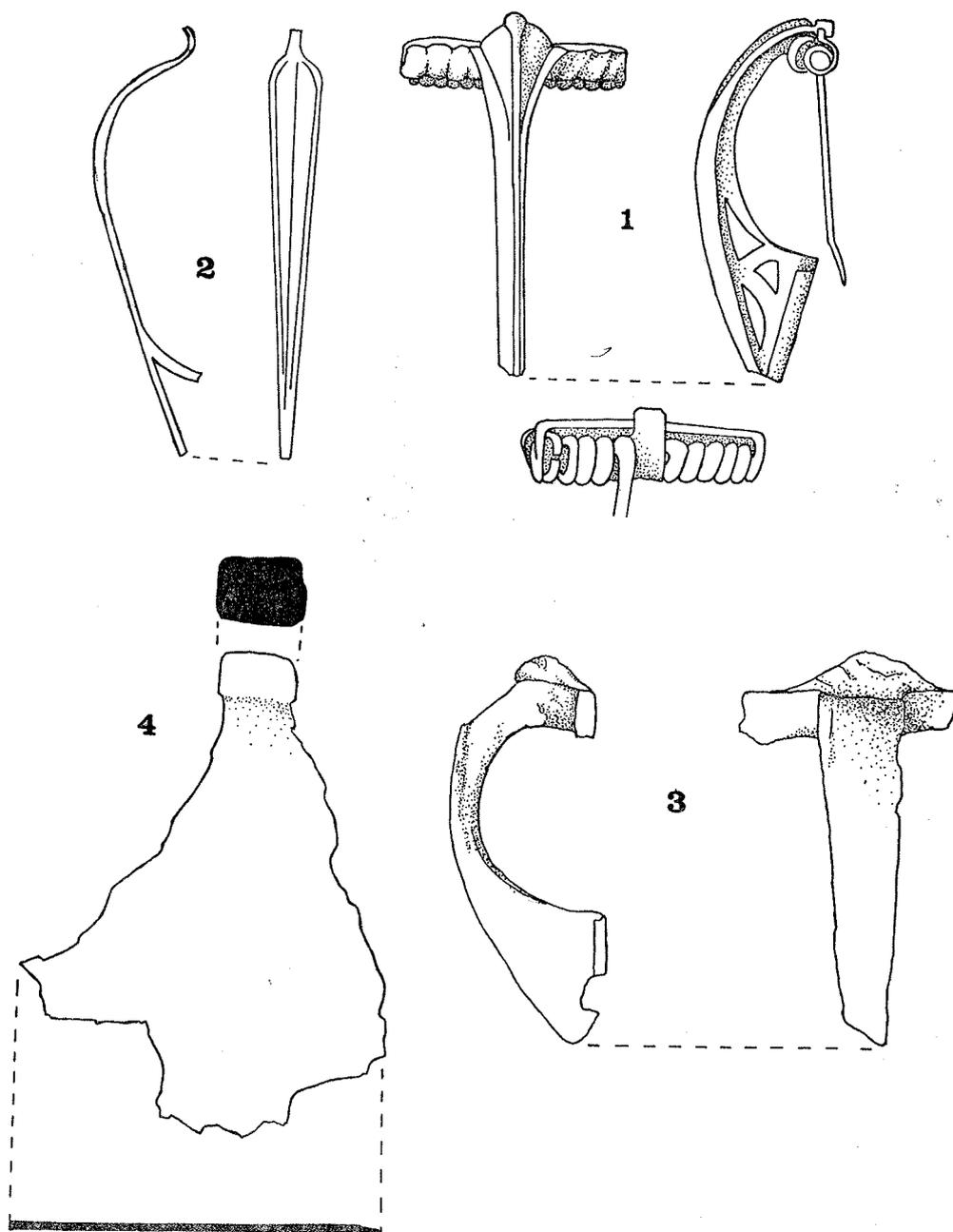


Fig. 6. The Small finds, scale nos. 1-3 actual size, no 4.½.

- 34 Rim of an open bowl in micaceous red fabric, very dense and rather soft. Plain, undecorated surfaces and moulded rim.
At Verulamium the type was common between 75-130 A.D. *Ver.* fig. 109, no. 344 and fig. 114, no. 523.
- 35 Rim of a *tazza* in very soft grey fabric, incorporating quite large grits, mainly black and white. Surfaces red and carefully smoothed. From the burnt layer in the ditch-silt in trench A.1. (See section E-F.)
- 36 Mortarium rim in hard pink/buff fabric. Unstratified. No surviving grits.
- 37 Rim of a dish in hard grey ware with black burnished surfaces. Unstratified. Not closely dateable.

It is clear from these notes that a date between about 80-130 A.D. is an appropriate one for the bulk of the Roman pottery, while a date between 105-130 A.D. is suggested by pieces 25, 27 and 33. The late Roman sherds 31 and 32 were both unstratified and could have reached the site after it had fallen out of use.

THE SMALL FINDS. Fig. 6.

- 1 Bronze brooch with pierced catch-plate from cremation 2. Colchester type IV. The spring is tightly coiled round ten times and held to the head of the brooch by a cord which passes through a pierced lug which projects from the head. The brooch is decorated with two longitudinal ridges running down the bow from the head. At Camulodunum this type is post conquest. *Cam.* p. 311. See also Wheeler, 1936. fig. 44. 24.
- 2 Iron brooch from cremation 1. This brooch is in rather bad condition. The pin is missing but the catch plate was apparently solid and side wings are attached to each side of the head. Apart from the catch plate it is similar in form to no. 1.
- 3 Incomplete bronze brooch found in the topsoil in trench D. It is a very fragile brooch with flat sectioned bow and hollow, triangular catch-plate. Both head and pin are missing.
- 4 Iron triangular knife from cremation 1. A flat triangular knife now much corroded. The blade is very thin and the cutting edge much damaged, but it seems to have originally been flat. The narrow edge on the opposite side to the cutting edge is thickened to form a heavy knob. For triangular iron knives in Belgic graves see Stead, 1961. Fig. 24. 1-3. and Stead, 1969. p. 49. Also Wheeler, 1943. Fig. 92. 8. I am grateful to Mr. C. Saunders for identifying the knife and drawing my attention to these references.

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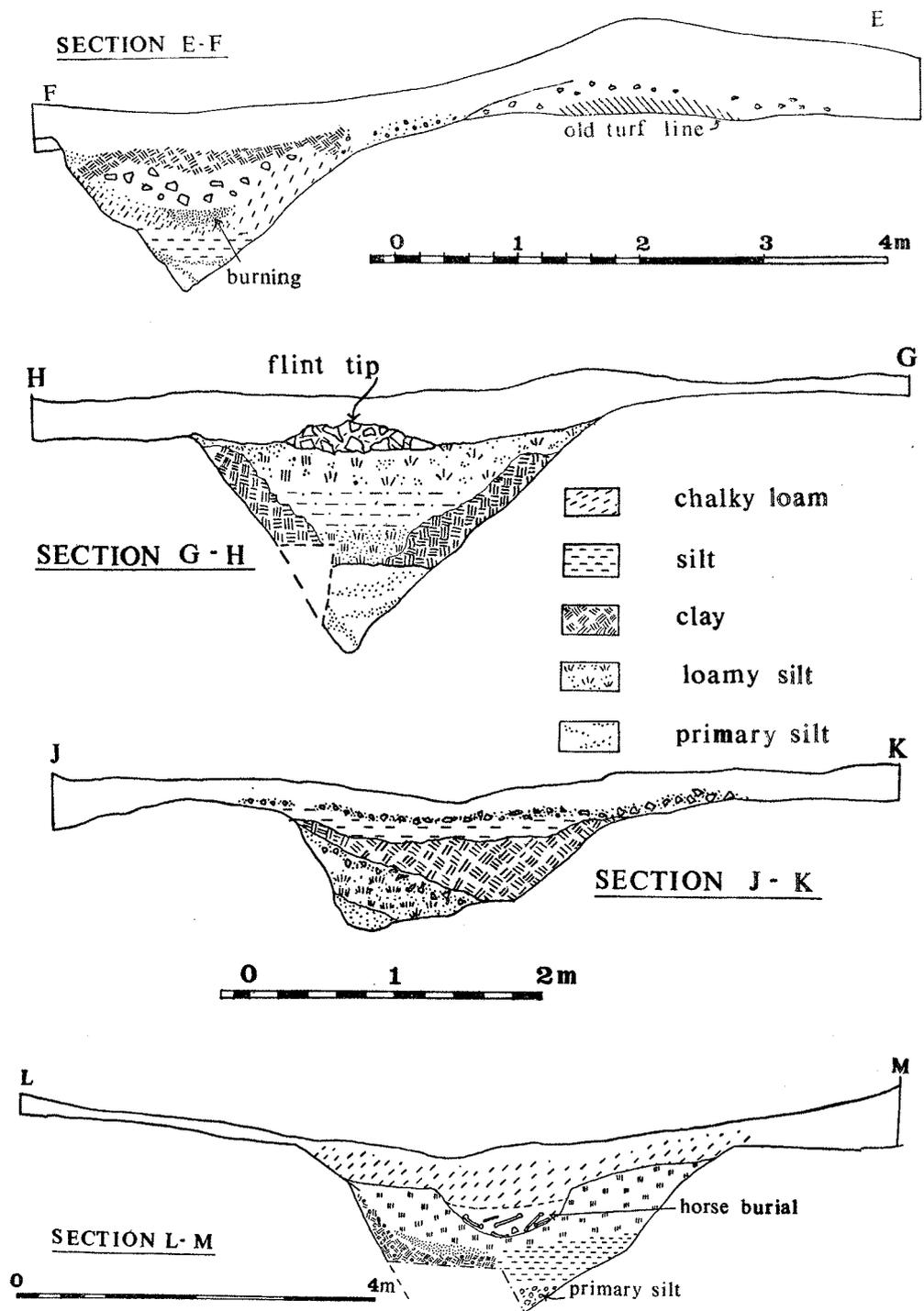


Fig. 7. The sections.

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NOTES

¹ The site was first noticed by Mr. J. Wilson, ranger for the Ashridge Estate, who brought it to the attention of Mr. C. N. Gowing and Dr. J. Evans of the Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury.

² Permission to excavate was kindly granted by the National Trust, and sincere thanks are due to them for their help and co-operation in making arrangements for the excavation. Very valuable assistance on all aspects of the excavation was provided by Mr. J. Wilson, and to him special thanks are due. The actual work of excavation was undertaken by volunteer assistants to all of whom the writer wishes to record her gratitude, and especially to Mrs. B. Hurman, Mr. D. Levy and the members of the Pitstone Archaeological Society, and to my husband who undertook the contour survey of the site. The finds from the excavation have been deposited in the Bucks County Museum.

³ The Viatores, 1964. For a recent survey of the Iron Age sites in the area see Saunders, 1971, p. 1-30, and the relevant chapters in Head, 1955. For Roman sites see Head, 1955, and Branigan, 1967, p. 129-159. For Ivinghoe Beacon see Cotton and Frere, 1968.

⁴ These sherds were all very small body sherds whose form could not be restored and are not illustrated.

⁵ They are reminiscent of the ritual horse burials at the Iron Age hill fort at Blewburton. Harding, 1972. p. 70.

⁶ Bradford and Goodchild, 1939. p. 1-80. Harding, 1972. p. 63. Fig. 8.

⁷ Harding, 1972. p. 64.

⁸ The tips of charcoal in the ditch silt and the pieces of animal bone found with them might be the remains of funeral feasts or ritual meals

⁹ Saunders, 1971. p. 1-30.

¹⁰ Saunders, 1971. Fig. 5.

¹¹ Saunders, 1971. Fig. 3.

¹² Saunders, 1971. Fig. 6.

¹³ Harding, 1972. p. 99. Plate. 60.

¹⁴ Excavated by the Pitstone Archaeological Society. Now in the Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury.

¹⁵ Saunders, 1971. p. 17.

¹⁶ The *Cam* form numbers are taken from the inventory of Belgic pottery types published in Hawkes, C. F. C., and Hull, M. R., "Camulodunum." Oxford. 1948.

¹⁷ A report on the cremated bone will be published in a later volume.