

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

Bronze Age Burials round Basingstoke.

By G. W. WILLIS, F.S.A.

SINCE the discovery and excavation of the Bronze Age urnfield at Dummer in 1888, which contained some 20 urns, several isolated discoveries of burial urns have been made in this district which deserve record.

No. 1. The first was found in 1918 at Choseley Farm, North Warnborough, when a hole in a ploughed field, made by the hoof of the ploughman's horse, revealed the existence of an inverted urn, with its base smashed in. It contained a layer of burnt bones. The urn fragments were recovered by the then owner of the farm and were eventually reconstructed at Reading Museum. The urn has now passed into the possession of Mr. P. Parsons of Lodge Farm, North Warnborough, the present owner of the field.

The site of the find is about 400 yards E.S.E. of the farm buildings. (O.S., Hampshire, 6-inch, Sheet XIX, S.E., Long. $0^{\circ} 51' 50''$, Lat. $51^{\circ} 14' 45''$).

No. 2 was found in the same field about 1939 and was secured entire, thanks to the vigilant observation of Mr. Parsons. Noting a circular patch of slightly darker earth in the surrounding plough he carefully removed the top soil and found beneath a layer of large flints, the circular base of an inverted urn. The slabs of flint round were carefully removed and the urn lifted entire, uncovering a layer of whitened bones, which, on examination, proved to be those of a child of 8 or 9 years. This urn is also in the possession of Mr. Parsons.

No. 3 was discovered by the unfortunate horse hoof method in Middle Long Barrow Field, south of Preston Candover in 1935. The site can be given as O.S., Hampshire, 6-inch, Sheet XXXIV, N.W., Long $1^{\circ} 8' 20''$, Lat. $51^{\circ} 9' 24''$. It has been presented to the Basingstoke Museum by the landowner, Brig.-Gen. J. F. R. Hope, of Preston Grange.

No. 4 came to light during house building operations and was found and excavated by the builder, Mr. Cook, of Oakley. It came from under the bungalow in the angle between Kempshott Lane and Homesteads Road in Kempshott Village and is now in the Basingstoke Museum. The site can be found on O.S., Hampshire, 6-inch, Sheet XVIII, S.W., Long. $1^{\circ} 5' 15''$, Lat. $51^{\circ} 14' 50''$.

PLATE IX



No. 1. Urn found in 1918 at Choseley Farm, North Warnborough.

PLATE X



No. 2. Urn found in about 1939 at Choseley Farm, North Warnborough.

No. 5. A beaker was found, with other pottery, in the extensive gravel diggings at Chilton Candover about 1933 and was presented to the Basingstoke Museum by the proprietor Mr. Hamilton. The site is O.S., Hampshire, 6-inch, Sheet XXXIV, N.W., Long. W. $1^{\circ} 10'$, Lat. $51^{\circ} 9' 10''$.

Two New Roman Sites near Basingstoke.

By G. W. WILLIS, F.S.A.

Two new Roman sites have recently been added to the local list, thanks to the kindly co-operation of Mr. Thomas of Palace Gate, Odiham. The first was found some years ago in deep ploughing of alluvial soil at Potbridge Farm, Winchfield. A considerable quantity of red roofing and other tile was disclosed, but with a conspicuous absence of the stone tile fragments usually associated with local sites. This site is practically on a line joining Scotland and Potbridge Farms slightly to the west of the western branch of the River Whitewater and can be located as Hampshire O.S. 6-inch, Sheet XIX, N.E., Long. $0^{\circ} 56' 10''$, Lat. $51^{\circ} 16' 35''$.

The second site, reported this year, lies on the footpath running East from Hook Cross-roads to Holt, *via* Bell Pond, about 60 yards West of this pond. Here the usual evidence of tile, tesserae and pottery, including Samian, has been seen. Its position is Hampshire O.S., 6-inch, Sheet XIX, N.E., Long. $0^{\circ} 57' 25''$, Lat. $51^{\circ} 16' 55''$.

There has recently come to light a coin found on the Roman site at Balchester, near Ramsdell. It has been identified as a denarius of Alexander Severus, A.D. 222 - 235, with the date of issue A.D. 225, thus giving some definite indication of the period of occupation of the Balchester Villa.

There has also recently been brought into the Museum a complete ground axe of volcanic rock with hour glass perforation. It is oval in shape and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. It is due to the intelligent observation of a small boy—Hugh Oliver-Bellasis—that this axe was secured. Only two other drilled axes are recorded from this area. It was found north of Crooked Row Copse, Monk Sherborne. Hampshire O.S. 6-inch, Sheet X S.W. Long. W. $1^{\circ} 8' 30''$; Lat. $51^{\circ} 18' 10''$.

Hampshire Field Club Excavation in Colebrook Street, Winchester, 1951.

By F. COTTRILL, M.A.

THE demolition of cottages at No. 4 Colebrook Street, Winchester, in 1951 gave an opportunity for excavation against the internal (west) face of the city wall, which is here running southwards from the site of the Eastgate along the right bank of the River Itchen. With the permission of Messrs. Eldridge, Pope and Co. Ltd., the owners of the site, a trench was dug at right angles to the wall, 19ft. long and 6ft. wide at the top. It was carried down to the subsoil, which was found at a depth of 6ft. 9in. The topmost 18in. were dug through recent rubble, below which the ancient levels were found undisturbed.

The trench exposed both the Roman city wall and the medieval wall above it. The Roman wall, of flint rubble, remained to a height of 3ft. 4in., and against it was a ramp, partly of clean sand and partly of varicoloured soils. Underneath the ramp and the wall was a layer containing Roman pottery of the first and second centuries A.D., and early Roman pottery also came from the filling of a depression in the subsoil.

The face of the medieval wall was over 5ft. east of the face of the Roman wall. It showed three periods of construction, the walling of the latest period being comparable with late 14th century work at the Westgate. The pottery evidence for the dating of the two earlier periods awaits detailed study, but they would both appear to fall within the 13th and 14th centuries. The medieval layers behind the wall were complex, the two most noteworthy features being a cobbled area at the west end of the trench which may be as early as the 12th century and a layer of chalk rubble which had been left by the builders of the late 14th century wall.

Medieval finds include a stone cresset and a bronze harness-bell. There is a considerable quantity of stratified pottery, both Roman and medieval, providing a useful addition to knowledge of local types.

The excavation confirmed and added to evidence obtained earlier in the year from trenches dug on the adjacent plot to the south. From the combined results it would appear that the Roman city wall was built about the end of the 2nd century A.D. (cf. Silchester). By about the 13th century the section of it between Colebrook Street and the river was in ruins, and it was then replaced by a new wall, which was itself repaired or rebuilt on more than one occasion, evidently in response to the threat of French invasion. It may be that the archaeological evidence for work done on the medieval wall can be related with documentary evidence.

PLATE XI



No. 3. Urn found in 1935 near Preston Candover.

PLATE XII



No. 4. Urn found at Kempshott Village.

Site at Woodham's Farm, Kingsworthy.

By F. E. GLADWELL, B.A.

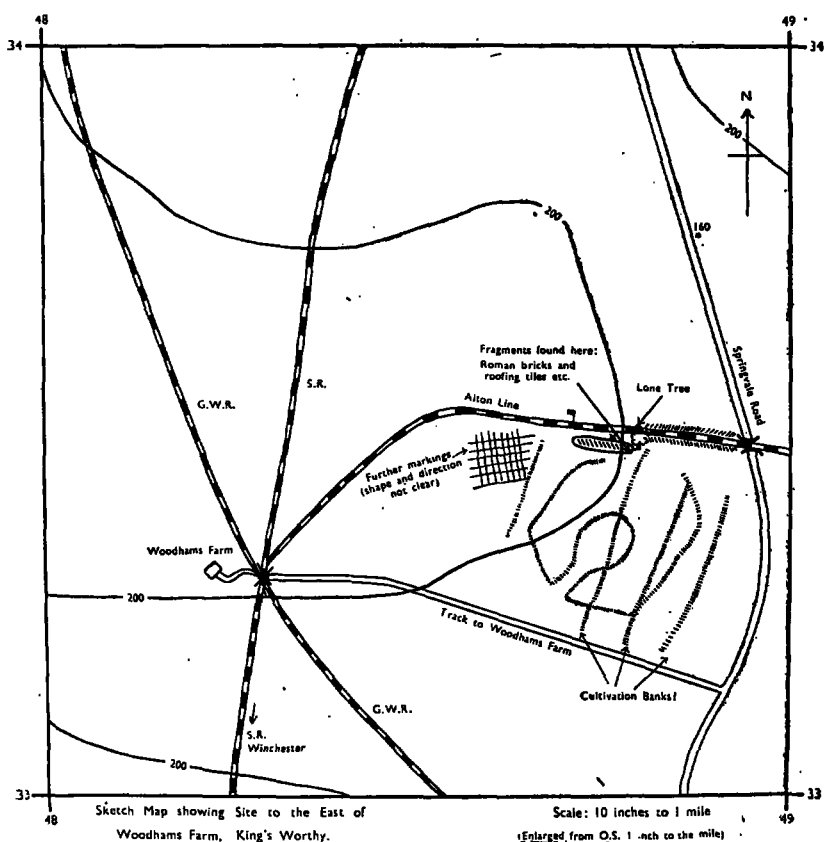
THE drying-out of a wheat-crop was responsible for the discovery of what promises to be an interesting Romano-British site at Woodham's Farm, Kingsworthy, near Winchester. The site occupies the lower half of a field bounded on the east by Springvale Road, on the north by the Alton/Winchester railway line, and on the south by the track leading from Springvale Road up to Woodham's Farm. (A Romano-British dwelling (300 - 250 A.D.) was discovered in the upper extreme northern corner of this field in 1927.)

At the end of July 1948 it was noticed that streaks were developing in this field where some of the crop was drying out. During the following weeks the drying-out along these streaks continued, and finally a definite pattern could be observed over most of the area (see attached sketch). It was not possible to photograph the site from the air and the only good viewpoints were from slightly higher ground to the east and the south. Observation under the late sun revealed that most of the streaks were caused by banks and ditches. Two main features could be distinguished. Firstly, there is in the lower third of the field, just where the ground takes on a definite slope to the east, a circular enclosure surrounded by a ditch and bank, with an approximate diameter of 50 to 70 yards. This circle is open at the south end, and two parallel banks run out from it to the south for about 30 to 50 yards. They then turn back at a sharp angle (45°), the one to the north-west, the other to the south-east. These banks turn back repeatedly at angles and thus enclose the circle with their straight lines. There are further roughly rectangular enclosures to the north of this pattern, and there is possibly a second circular enclosure lying just south of the railway embankment.

Secondly, there is a well-defined series of cultivation banks on the lower slope of the field, running roughly north-south. These banks appear to be independent of the enclosures and one of them, which is particularly well marked, actually runs through the eastern bank of the circular enclosure. Below the lowest of these cultivation banks the ground falls away steeply to the road.

No trace of these features is visible at close quarters, but fragments of Roman tiles and pottery have been found to the west of the site. (See sketch map.)

The circular enclosure and surrounding straight banks are similar to those seen in the plans and air photographs of the Worthy Down, Gussage Cowdown and Little Woodbury sites, but appear to be much more symmetrical, more coherent in character. It is much to be regretted that no air photography was possible, since



the oblique views from east and south obviously distort the picture.

Attention was first drawn to these markings by the Kingsworthy postman, Mr. H. Pretty.

[Written August 1948.]

These markings were seen again the following summer. Further, Wing-Commander Blake has stated that he flew over this area some time ago and noticed the markings. His sketch of what he saw agrees with the impression obtained from observation from the ground.

[Written September 1949.]

PLATE XIII



No. 5. Beaker found in about 1933 at Chilton Candover.

PLATE XIV



[Victoria and Albert Museum Crown Copyright.
The Godsfeld Pyx.

The Godsfield Pyx.

By P. M. GREEN.

Copper gilt.

Cylindrical with a conical cover surmounted by a cross, which is a restoration. Both box and cover are engraved with pointed foliage on a tooled ground. Height $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Diameter 3 ins.

[From a report by C. C. Oman, Keeper of the Department of Metalwork, Victoria and Albert Museum.]

THIS 14th century pyx is almost certainly one used in the Chapel of the Knights Hospitallers at Godsfield.

It is said to have been found in 1870 in a hedge on the Armsworth House estate, near Alresford, and was preserved by the owner, Mr. A. Houghton, in the house. In 1921 it was sold by his niece, Mrs. L. M. Buck, to the Victoria and Albert Museum, where it now is.

It was illustrated in the *Proceedings* of the Society of Antiquaries, 1918, 2nd series, Vol. XXXI, p. 63.

Before the Reformation the Holy Sacrament was usually reserved in English churches in a pyx, although there were other less common methods.

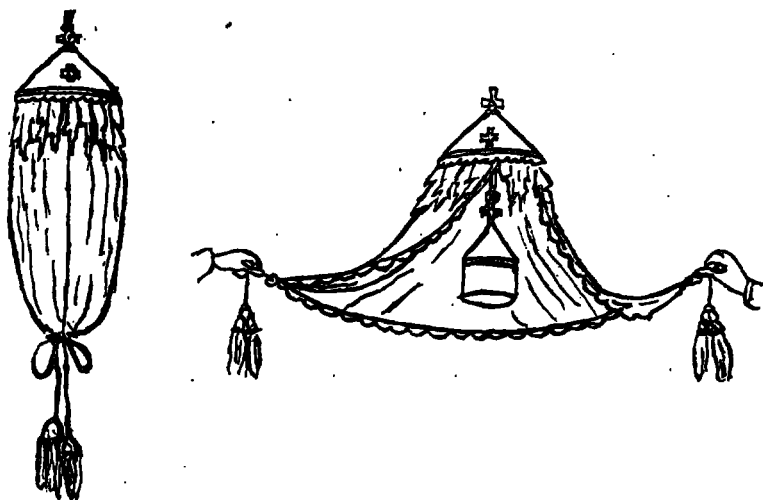
The pyx, often of precious metal, ivory or enamel, was suspended beneath a canopy above the high altar and was raised and lowered by a cord or chain, with a counterpoise, running over a pulley.

At St. Andrew's Church, Chilcomb, there is an iron hook fixed in to the east wall, over the altar, and this is probably part of the arrangement for suspending the pyx. At West Grinstead, Sussex, there is a sliding panel in the roof of the chancel, behind which is a wooden lever, which probably served to raise and lower the pyx. A fine example of a suspended pyx canopy is illustrated in the Islip Roll.

The cloth or canopy was of linen, silk, damask or other material, often fringed or decorated, and bequests for beautifying the pyx canopy can be found in mediaeval wills.

The pyx cloth either had a hole in the centre for the chain or cord to pass through, or had a crown of metal or wood to which the cloth or veil was attached by a curtain. The whole was generally known as the canopy, whether or no there was a crown.

A pyx cloth used to be preserved in the church of Hessett, Suffolk, but is now on loan to the British Museum, where it can be kept in safety. It is of linen 2ft. 4in. square, entirely of drawn thread work edged with a pink and yellow silk fringe and had tassels and gold balls at each corner. There is a hole, bound with ribbon, in the centre for the chain to pass through.



A Pyx and Pyx Canopy.

Sketched from a drawing in "English Church Furniture"
by J. Charles Cox and Alfred Harvey.

In Winchester Cathedral the pyx and its canopy was suspended from the spire of the Great Screen, which was evidently constructed for this purpose.

"Three pyx canopies, emblematical of the highest use to which textiles could be put, were the mediaeval arms of the Drapers' Company." (E. A. Greening Lamborn, *The English Parish Church*, p. 124.)

That not all churches possessed pyxes of precious metal is shown by a clause in the will of King Henry VII, in which he deplores the use in "diverse and many churches of our Reame" of "ful simple and dishonest pixes, especially pixes of copre and tymbre" and states that he has ordered the making during his lifetime of pyxes of silver and gilt, in great number, to the value of £4 each, so that every church that had not an "honest" vessel should have one. What irony that these pyxes should have been looted by Henry's immediate descendants!

The value of money has varied greatly at different periods and its exact value at a particular date is not easy to estimate exactly but £4 at the end of the 15th century was probably equivalent to about £50 at pre-war value.

Mediaeval pyxes are extremely rare in this country and this is the only known example found in Hampshire.

Two Notes on a Find at Sandel Heath, Fordingbridge.*(a) Bowl-shaped Deposit of Carbonised Wood.*

By COMMANDER E. C. WREY, O.B.E., R.N. (retd.).

This site was exposed during the removal of clay in the brickyard of Messrs. S. Read & Sons, Sandel Heath, Fordingbridge, Hants. It was first visited by Mr. J. B. Calkin, M.A., F.S.A., who, being unable to carry out an investigation, asked the writer to do so.

Two bronze axes¹ having already been found in the brickfield, the clay diggers had been asked to look out for signs of charcoal which might have indicated metal working. Wood carbonised by age very closely resembles charcoal, for which this puzzling deposit was mistaken.

The excavation was carried out on February 5, 1952.

At the site itself the working face of the clay cut straight down through the deposit, clearly revealing its bowl-like shape. The bowl was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet across the rim. About 20 in. above the western end of the rim was a dark patch of stained clay. This was first examined by removing vertical E.-W. slices about 6 in. thick which shewed it also to be a roughly bowl-shaped deposit.

The lower "bowl" was then excavated by cutting horizontal slices 6 in. thick, which revealed its shape.

The excavated material contained a large quantity of carbonised twigs and wood; samples which have been examined have contained oak, willow and hazel.

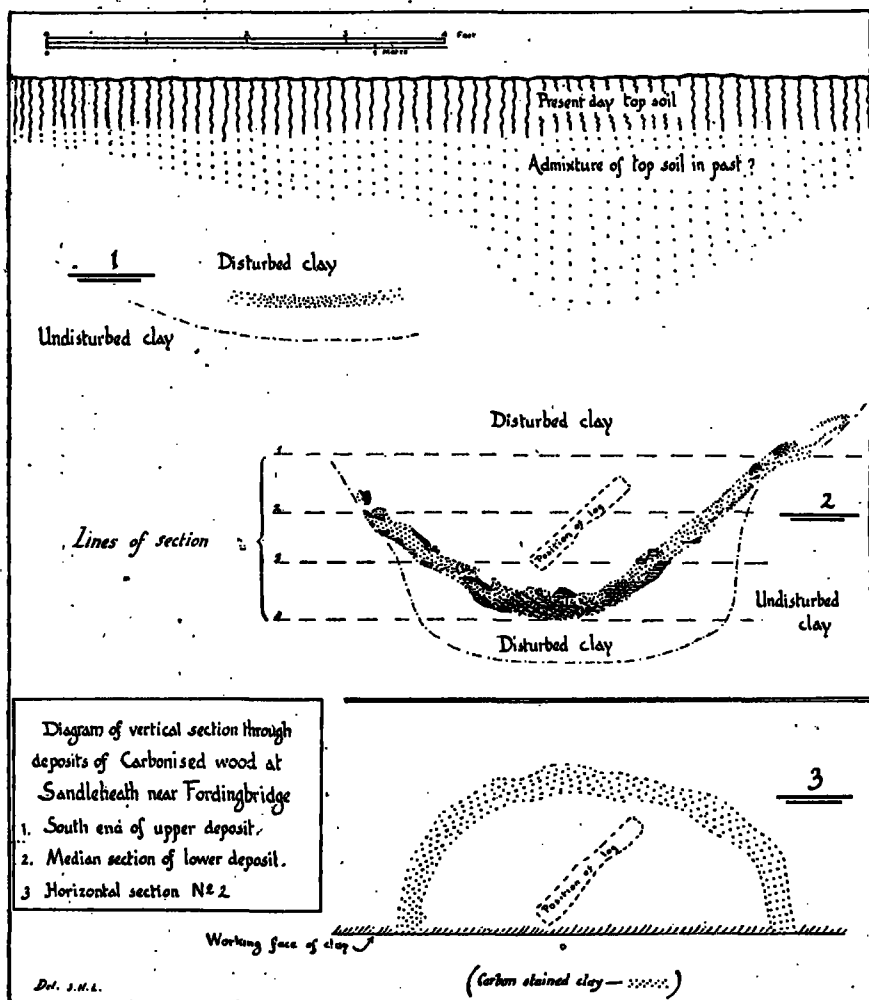
1. Archaeological Notes, p. 70.

(b) Sub-Fossil Recent Wood Interred in London Clay.

Report by J. H. LAVENDER, B.S.C., A.R.C.S.

As a result of certain archaeological finds made in the clay pits of Messrs. S. Read & Sons at Sandel Heath, near Fordingbridge, the clay diggers had agreed to report any unusual discoveries they made. In January 1952 Mr. J. B. Calkin, M.A., F.S.A., visited the site to examine a "charcoal deposit" which was reported, and after seeing it arranged for as thorough an examination as was possible to be carried out.

The working face of the clay pit, which ran East to West, showed at a depth of 1.6 metres ($5\frac{1}{2}$ feet) what appeared to be a section of a bowl-shaped outline of black, carbon-stained clay some 1.35 m. (4ft. 6in.) across, and containing carbonised wood. A faint carbon-stained patch at a depth of 75 cm. occurred above the West end of the rim. About half of the bowl, in the vertical section, had already been dug away.



The carbon patch at 75 cms. was first examined by making a series of vertical sections at 15 cm. (6 in.) intervals. This revealed an outline of stained clay with carbonised wood fragments, of the general shape of a shallow bowl, about 80 cm. (2½ feet) across the rim, though the deposit was very irregular in thickness and might be said to have had holes in it. The clay above was disturbed and appeared to have been mixed with topsoil, though not recently.

PLATE XV

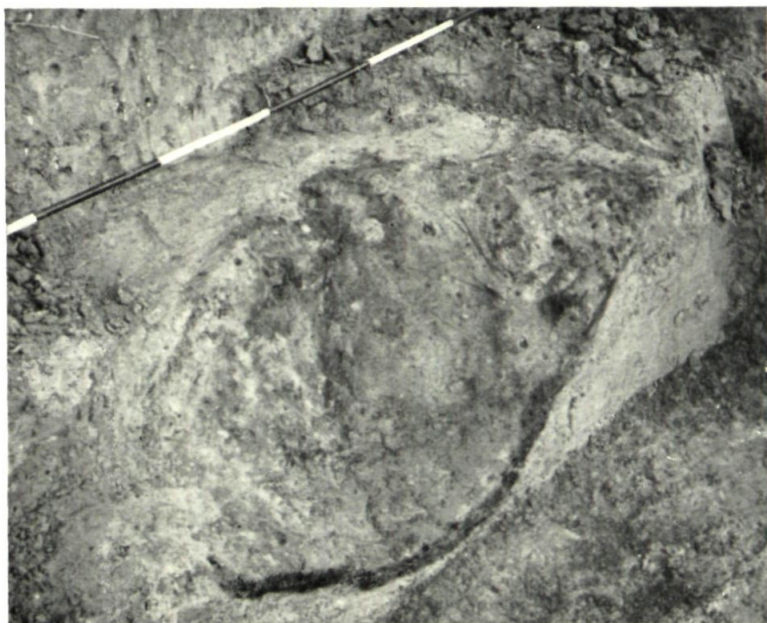


Section of bowl



Carbonised layer above west end of bowl.

PLATE XVI



Bowl with filling removed.



General view of site with bowl nearly removed

Scale drawings were made of all sections of this bowl and of the larger bowl which was next excavated. This was done by making horizontal sections, again at 15 cms. apart. The carbon-stained outline was strongly marked and continuous, except near the top, and about 5 - 10 cm. (2 - 4 in.) in thickness. It contained abundant fragments of carbonised wood, especially towards the bottom, where they formed a closely-packed deposit about 12 cms. deep. This was almost entirely removed for further examination. In the sides of the bowl were also found a few fired flints and two pieces of chert, as well as two ironstone nodules of about 50 and 150 gm. weight. Small flint pebbles occur scattered throughout the surrounding London clay, but ironstone is not found. The pieces of carbonised wood varied in size and nature. Some were small lengths of twig of about 5 mm. diameter upward, while there were a number of fragments which must have come from larger branches or trunks of at least 8 cm. diameter. There was one larger piece of about 36 cm. long and 6 cm. diameter lying, as it were, "within the bowl" and not forming part of the general outline. The twigs seemed to lie quite at random and never to have made up a definite structure, such as a wicker basket.

Samples of wood so far examined have proved to be Oak (*Quercus* sp.), Willow (*Salix* sp.), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and perhaps Ash (*Fraxinus* sp.). Below the bowl was a sub-circular region of disturbed clay about 15 cm. (6 in.) deep and of rather less diameter than the width of the bowl.

A similar disturbed area, of more ovoid shape, occurred under the upper bowl. The clay within the bowl was disturbed and contained a few scattered fragments of carbonised wood and burnt flint pebbles. According to the clay diggers a thin layer of flint pebbles about 3 feet (1 metre) wide ran from close to the bowl for about 40 metres downhill to a nearby stream where it was joined by a second and similar deposit which started about 8 metres to the East of the bowl. They ran just below the top-soil at about 30 cms. From the description given they might have been lightly gravelled trackways.

The two bowls almost certainly owe their origin to human action, but there is no conclusive evidence as to their purpose. The simplest explanation is that they were pits and that the woody deposit fell in or was thrown in, together with some rubbish from hearth or fire, before the slumping of the pit sides buried and preserved them. The bottom of a pit dug with primitive tools would in any case be bowl-shaped unless a special effort was made to order it otherwise.

The tree species found imply a date not before early pre-Boreal times, say 7500 B.C., while the wood fragments are said to be in "much the same state of preservation as samples from definitely

Roman sites." (Private communication from Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne.)

Samples of wood fragments, a sample section from the side of the bowl and a copy of the scale drawings of the sections are deposited with the Red House Museum, Christchurch.

The carrying out of this investigation was only possible through the helpfulness and enthusiasm of all who were connected with the work :—

Commander E. C. Wrey, who organised the party which conducted the excavation, took the photographs, and arranged for detailed examination of the samples ;

Mr. Read, who gave every possible facility for carrying out the work in his brickfields, and who arranged for two of his skilled clay diggers to do all the really hard work for us ;

Mr. A. T. Morley Hewitt, who arranged for the production of the drawings ;

Mr. J. Kitney, who made the scale drawings of the sections ;

Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne of the British Museum (Natural History), who examined and reported on the wood samples.

Bronze-Age Axes near Fordingbridge.

By COMMANDER E. C. WREY, O.B.E., R.N. (ret.).

Messrs. S. Read & Sons' brickfield at Sandel Heath,¹ Fordingbridge has yielded two bronze axes :—

- (1) An early Bronze Age flanged axe. Now at the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Farnham, Dorset.
- (2) A late Bronze Age socketed axe. In the possession of Mr. A. T. Morley Hewitt, Fordingbridge (illustrated). This was confirmed by Miss L. F. Chitty, F.S.A., as being of Welsh type, another axe from the same mould having also been recorded.

1. "Bowl-shaped deposit of carbonised wood," p. 67.

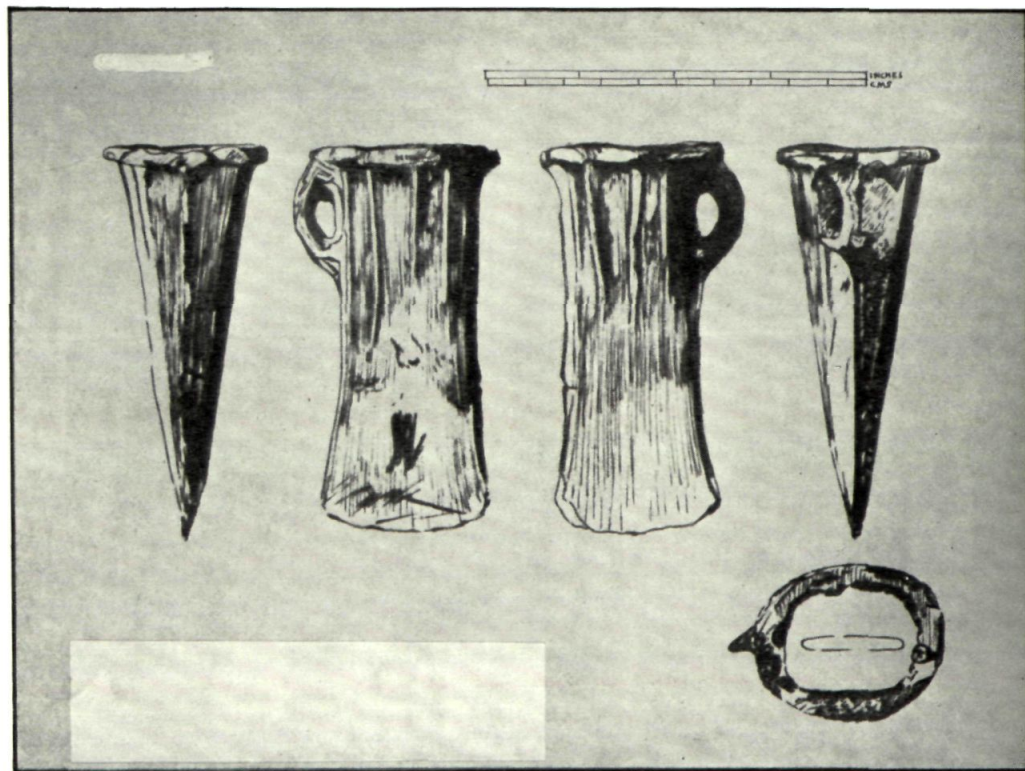


PLATE XVII

Late Bronze Celt Axes from Read's Brickworks, Sandel Heath, 1920.