

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

A Beaker Burial at Weeke, Winchester

By GILLIAN CHAPMAN, M.A.

With a report on the skeleton by

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IN May 1953 a skeleton was found by workmen digging a water-pipe trench at Rowlings Road on the new Winchester Corporation housing estate at Weeke, on the north-west outskirts of the city. The find was reported to Mr. F. Cottrill, Curator of the City Museums. The bones and the pottery beaker which accompanied them had been removed by the workmen before they could be examined *in situ* and fragments of both were lost, but Mr. Cottrill was able to excavate on either side of the trench to the limits of the grave in which they had been lying. Facilities for investigation were given by Mr. P. H. Warwick, City Engineer, by Mr. L. Dineen, Clerk of Works on the site and by the contractors, Messrs. C.P.C.

The site (Nat. Grid Ref. 41/466313) lies on the brow of the northern slope of a dry valley in the chalk leading towards the River Itchen just south of the village of Headbourne Worthy, between the 275 and 250 ft. contours.

The grave had been cut down vertically into the chalk, the top of which lies 8ins. below the present surface. Its shape was roughly rectangular with rounded corners. It was 2ft. 7ins. deep from the top of the chalk, 4ft. 6ins. wide and 6ft. long and lay in a S.W.-N.E. direction. The filling of the grave was chalk rubble. At a low level in the filling was a band some two inches thick of black material which contained a considerable quantity of charcoal. There was no trace of a barrow surmounting the grave. During the building operations many acres of land around the site of the discovery had been trenched by the workmen and the area had been visited twice by Mr. Cottrill, but no other finds were reported.

The workmen's description suggested that the skeleton had been lying with its legs bent, but it is not possible to say whether they were flexed or fully contracted. The head lay to the south-west and if certain features of the skull are due to deformation *post mortem* the body lay on its right side. The beaker seems to have been to one side of the head. Dr. I. W. Cornwall, of the Department of Geochronology, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, very kindly examined the skeleton and his detailed report follows this account. His general conclusions were that the skeleton

is that of a person about thirty years old, although certain peculiarities make the exact age uncertain, and that the skeleton is probably, but again not certainly, that of a woman. The skull is well within the brachycephalic category typical of the Beaker people.

The beaker was in fragments when recovered but has been reconstructed. Its height is 8.25ins., the ware black-cored with a pinkish-brown surface. It is decorated with bands and panels of 'hyphenated' lines and other impressed ornament. The beaker is a fine example of the class 'A' beaker of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period. There seem to have been no other grave goods. The workmen reported no other finds and a search of the dumps revealed nothing further.

'A' beakers are rare in Hampshire. Outside the Bournemouth region only three others are known—from Lymington, Brown Candover and Alton. Burials are not usually found with either 'B' or 'A' beakers in Hampshire, probably because many of the sites where beakers have been found are on soils inimical to the preservation of bone. Excluding the Bournemouth area and Avon valley, only three have been found with burials, two on Stockbridge Down and this example. The two Stockbridge examples being burials with 'B' beakers, this is the first discovery in Hampshire of an 'A' beaker with a burial.

The skeleton and beaker are now in Winchester City Museum.

Report on Skeleton found with an 'A' Beaker at Weeke, Winchester.

Skull and mandible.

The braincase was large, the bones of moderate thickness. Rough measurements, taken without the proper instruments, were as follows: maximum length 193 mm., breadth 160 mm., auricular height, 123 mm. From these, the cranial index was calculated—83.0—putting the skull in the brachycephalic category (index over 80.0).

The forehead is vertical, or even bulging. To what extent this latter feature is due to deformation *post mortem* is hard to assess, but the presence of a metopic suture has probably contributed to it. The brow-ridges are slight, but the frontal sinuses, exposed internally, are fairly extensive, reaching laterally almost to the supra-orbital foramina. The temporal lines are not strongly marked. The mastoids are small, the occiput smoothly rounded without a prominent inion or deep muscular impressions. The occipital bone is markedly more prominent on the right side. If this, like the protuberance of the frontals, is not due to deformation, it might indicate a degree of left-handedness in the individual concerned. As to deformation, the attitude of the skull in the ground might help, if known, to decide how far the peculiarities may be due to

this cause. The right side of the occipital being involved, one would guess that the body, presumably crouched, lay on the right side.

On balancing the evidence from the above features of the skull it seems probable that this was a female (but see below).

The cranial sutures are all visible externally, though synostosis was beginning at the inner table in the sagittal suture. There was a still-open metopic suture between the two halves of the frontal bone. This is a comparatively uncommon anomaly, this suture being generally obliterated, save at the root of the nose, by about the ninth year. In the present case the midline of the frontal was unusually prominent and was perhaps due to lateral pressure, the presence of the open suture facilitating deformation in the ground. The state of the sutures as a whole would indicate an age in the early 20's (but see the degree of wear of the teeth, which makes it probable that the true age was more than this).

Teeth.

A number of teeth are missing. In the maxilla, only P^2 , $M^{1,2}$ are present on the left side and P^2 on the right. Both P^1 's were lost in life, the right earlier than the left, of which the alveolus is scarcely healed. The right I^1 seems also to have been lost not long before death, for its alveolus is still open and only the edges indicate that obliteration had begun. The other missing teeth seem to have been present at death.

In the mandible, of which the left ramus and the anterior part of the right are preserved, there were no losses of teeth in life, but M_1 on the left is carious and the alveolus round the roots eroded by abscessing. Both left premolars, the canine and the two lateral incisors are present and sound. I_1 , C_1 and P_1 were all present at death.

All the remaining teeth, of both jaws, are deeply worn, even the premolars showing only remnants of enamel on the occlusal surface. The $M3$'s were unfortunately not preserved, for their evidence as to the age might have narrowed down the possibilities. The deep wear of the premolars and second molars, however, indicates an age certainly nearer 30 than 20, despite the evidence of the open sutures. Seeing that the metopic suture is still present throughout its length, it may well be that synostosis in this particular case was much delayed for some physiological reason. The much-worn teeth are perhaps a more reliable indication. They are even more worn than those of some Sutton Walls Iron Age skulls, of which the age at death was judged, from the state of the sutures, to have been 30 or more.

The mandible itself was of comparatively light build, though it had a well-developed chin and was by no means as pronouncedly female as some examples known to the writer.

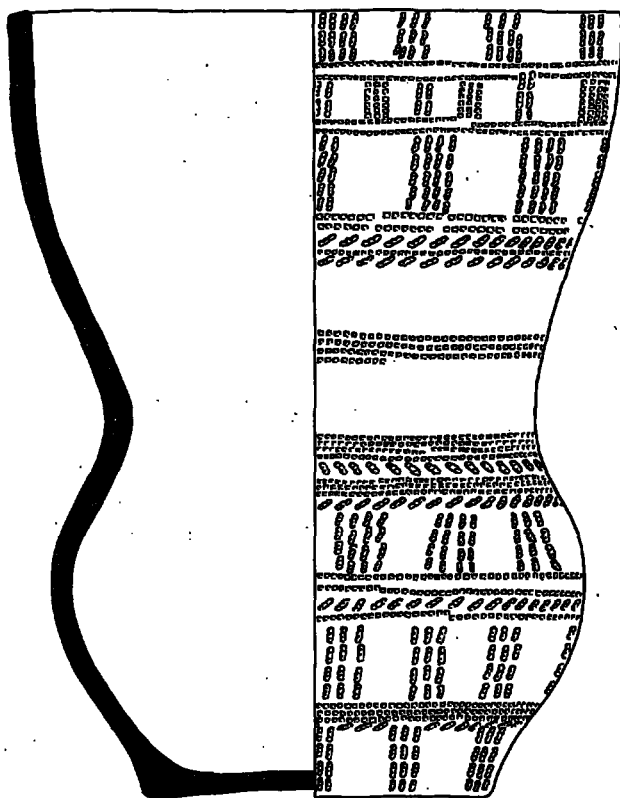


FIGURE 1

Beaker found at Wecke, Winchester
(Scale : half linear dimensions)

Pelvis.

This was far too incomplete for any judgment to be formed as to the sex on its general appearance. The right ilium was almost entire, but of the left only a small fragment bearing part of the auricular area for articulation of the sacrum could be found. In neither case is there any clear pre-auricular sulcus, which, if present, would confirm the female sex suggested by the general appearance of the skull and long bones. The sex must therefore remain doubtful, though the skull is clearly female in the majority of its features.

Long bones.

Most were broken and defective, but enough remains to show that the individual was of slight build and not of strong muscular development. In particular, the femur has only a slightly-developed *linea aspera*.

Only two long bones were sufficiently complete to be measured for a calculation of living stature; the left femur, 43.6 cms. and the left tibia, 35.3 cms. These were measured by the approved technique and the living height of the individual calculated from them. This differs according to the sex to which the individual is assigned. In the present case, where the sex is probably female but in which this conclusion cannot be confirmed from the pelvis, the calculations were carried out for both sexes.

The general reconstruction formulae of Dupertuis and Hadden were used. The results from four different formulae differed only by a maximum of 6 mm. and 5 mm. for male and female respectively and the averages from the four calculations in each case gave reconstructed heights of 166.2 cms. for a male and 162.4 cms. for a female (5ft. 4½ins. and 5ft. 3ins. respectively). This may be regarded as a very satisfactory approximation to the true values, taking into consideration that the arm bones could not be measured and thus suggest any peculiarities in proportions which may have existed.

A 'Single-piece' Flint Sickle from Titchfield Haven

By PAUL ASHBEE

THE single-piece flint sickle illustrated (Fig. 2) is reported as having been found in the immediate vicinity of Titchfield Haven, apparently shortly before the outbreak of the last war, in 1939. It passed, recently, from the hands of the original finder into those of Mr. Colin Morris of Titchfield, who, at the instigation of Mr. A. Corney of Portsmouth Museum, brought it to the present writer's notice. Mr. Morris has indicated the reputed find-spot

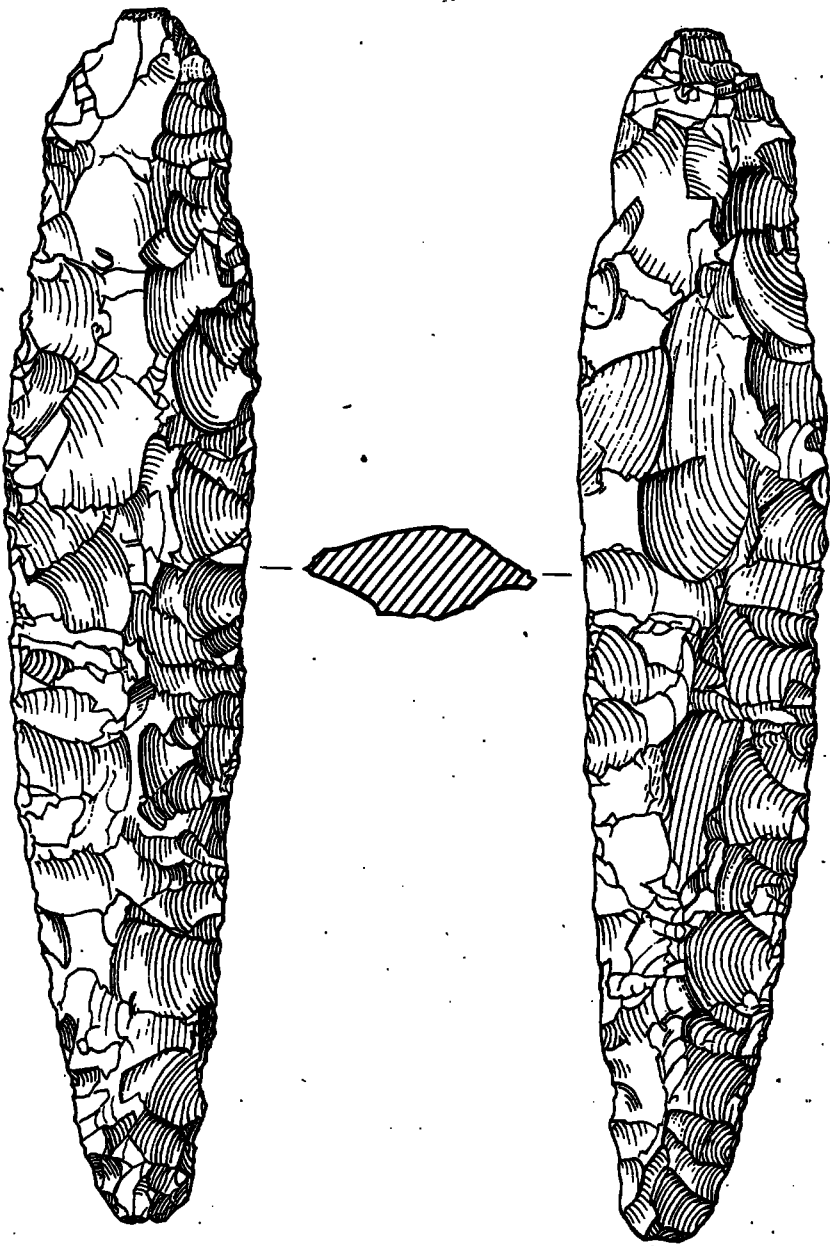


FIGURE 2

A single-piece Flint Sickle from Titchfield Haven

(Nat. Grid. Ref. 41/531029), the precise circumstances of discovery are, unfortunately, unknown. Of dark flint patinated to a light grey shade, though to a lesser extent in a band around the middle and at the butt end (which still retains, at its extreme end, a remnant of cortex), the sickle has a combination of a straight cutting edge and a curved upper edge which meet at the distal extremity in a 'screw-driver' point. The butt has been waisted, presumably to facilitate hafting. Wavy edges are a result of relatively bold trimming: both show signs of abrasion. The implement bears a certain amount of gloss which extends from the butt to the distal end, where it is more apparent. It must be stressed, however, that this is by no means the band of diffuse gloss that is sometimes claimed as a sign of usage on such tools.

The single-piece sickles have been defined as a class by Clark¹, and, for the most part, they appear to have been markedly curved, or sabre-like, although examples comparable to that under consideration do exist.² Distribution, as plotted in 1932, showed concentrations on the east coast of England,—indeed it will be remembered that subsequently it was possible to point to good parallels in Holland.³ The situation of the reputed find-spot of the Titchfield sickle is not at variance with the predominantly coastal/estuarine distribution. Curved 'knives' of presumably related forms have been shown by Gjessing as being part of his Circumpolar Stone Age assemblages.⁴

Single-piece flint sickles are included in the 'Light flint Industries' of the Secondary Neolithic Cultures, to which recently order and precision have been given.⁵ It has been pointed out that as there is no direct evidence of grain growing in these cultures the possibility exists that the sickles may have been used for garnering reeds.⁶

Notes from Alton District

By THE REV. G. E. C. KNAPP

(December 1956)

An unrecorded Barrow.

A FEW years ago, while carrying out a scouting game with my Scout Troop, in Littlewood Copse, West Worldham, I noticed a mound on the S.W. boundary of the copse, which had the appearance of a tumulus. I have taken the opportunity of the presence in this district of Messrs. Clarke and Woodhouse of the

1. "The Curved Flint Sickle Blades of Britain", *P.P.S.E.A.*, VII, 67-81.
2. *op. cit.*, No. 11 (from the Thames at Hammersmith).
3. *P.P.S.* II, 178-210.
4. "The Circumpolar Stone Age", *Acta Arctica*, Fasc. II.
5. Piggott, *Neo. Cults. Brit. Isles*, S.V.
6. *ibid.*

Archaeological section of the Ordnance Survey, to take them to the site. They have confirmed my opinion that the mound is a bowl barrow, hitherto unrecorded by the Survey.

The S.W. edge of the Barrow, where it adjoins the field, has been ploughed out, but it measures approximately 75ft. in diameter, and its highest point is 6ft.

The map reference of the site on sheet 169, 1in. Ordnance Survey Map, is 738-367, and it is of interest to note that the barrow lies astride the West Worldham—Hartley Mauditt parish boundary, which here takes a slight curve around the mound.

The vanished Village of Hartley Mauditt.

The Archaeological Officers of the Ordnance Survey, at present working in this district, have informed me that the ground plan of the vanished medieval village of Hartley Mauditt can plainly be seen from the air. It lies on each side of the road between the Church and old thatched cottage, known as Jeffries Farm Cottage—possibly the sole survivor of the old village. (O.S. Map 169, 742-364.) On the ground, many bumps and hollows are visible, and a circular depression, approximately 30ft. in diameter, with the remains of stone masonry on its circumference, may be the site of a well. Some of the walls of Jeffries Cottage are still of wattle and daub.

The Roman Road.

In the General Introduction to the third edition of the Ordnance Survey *Map of Roman Britain*, 1956 (p. 13), the writer states: "An examination of this edition will show many short new stretches of road, some of which attain obvious objectives while others end in the air. In many cases it is plain whither they are tending, and the map should give a lead to those who are interested in filling in the gaps. A case in point is the new road North-West of Chichester. Its objective could be either Silchester or the Farnham area, or both". In his paper 'Wolmer Forest and a new Roman Road North of Milland' (Hants Archaeological Society *Proceedings*, Vol. XIX, Part I, 1955), Mr. G. R. Rolston concentrated his attention on the latter of these objectives. A number of us in the Alton district who have been interested in the first suggested objective, and have been working out the possible routes, have had the advantage of the presence of the Archaeological Officers of the Ordnance Survey, who, mainly on the evidence of aerial survey, have established the main route of the road to Silchester. After leaving Wolmer Pond, the line passes Oakhanger Pond, through Binswood, crosses Green Street at the bottom of Worldham Hill, ascends the escarpment in a loop by Pookil's Lane, to cross the Wyck road; thence to cross the river Wey at Neatham (Roman

Building), thence *via* Holybourne Down (just east of the television pylons) to Upton Grey, and through Bramley to join the Winchester—Silchester Roman road at Hains Farm, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Silchester. The exact line in the various sections will have to be filled in by the field work of local people who are interested.

A possible crossing of the river Wey at Neatham has been located. Here the Ordnance Survey map shows a Roman building, and it is suggested that this might be a suitable site for a 'mansio' or relay station. In a straight line, Neatham is approximately 12 miles from the 'mansio' mentioned by Mr. Rolston as having been discovered astride the Iping—Milland road in 1950. From Neatham S.E. to the crossing of the Wyck road from Worldham the fields now being ploughed are under observation for possible traces of the road, with a certain amount of success. At Pookils Lane, at the beginning of the descent of the Worldham escarpment, local tradition has once more been vindicated. This lane has always been called a Roman road by local people; when I took Mr. Woodhouse, of the Ordnance Survey, to see it, we found an old man hedging. "We are looking for a Roman Road, Ben", I said. "Well, you don't have to look far", was the reply, "You're right on it". There is a Roman villa at Binsted-Wyck, $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile away, and Roman bricks and flue tiles were dug up in Worldham Churchyard, $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile distant, four years ago.

Indications of the 'agger' where the line of the road crossed Green Street were found in modern ditches. (Malt House Farm, Kingsley, where Roman remains have been found, is $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles away.) From this point the line of the road goes in a straight line across ploughed fields (indicated by a scatter of flints in otherwise flintless fields) and through pasture (where flints exposed by recent land drainage ditches have come to the surface), to connect up with 'Stony Rigg', one of the boundaries of Alice Holt Forest, mentioned in the *Perambulations* of both 1171 and 1635. (See Major A. G. Wade's *Alice Holt Forest, its History and Romano-British Potteries*.) 'Stony Rigg' is well named; here the line of the road is unmistakable, and defined by masses of flints on the surface to a width of some 16 feet; elsewhere in the ploughed fields on each side there are hardly any flints to be seen. In the ditch dividing the fields from Binswood, traces of the 'agger' can be seen. Just inside Binswood, a trial trench was dug, and here again flints were encountered at a depth of 18in. With the assistance of the Ordnance Survey officers, to whom I showed these suggested routes of the road, probings were made in half a dozen places in the straight line through Binswood. In each case the probe struck a hard surface 18in. to 2ft. below ground level, while on each side the probe sank to its limit. The Ordnance Survey officers, with the permission of Mr. Ralph Dutton, the lord of the Manor, hope to

cut a section in a selected spot during the next few months. South of Binswood, the line has not yet been so definitely fixed, but projected in a straight line, it would pass through Hartleywood Farm, joining up with the straight stretch of the present highway at Oakhanger Bridge. (Alice Holt, *Perambulation*, 1171, "forthe as the *highwaie* leadethe throughout Okhanger into Blackmere" and 1635, "And so through the middle of Okehanger near the Eastern Hedge to the *Great Way* which leadeth to Echgate, and so about a Marsh called Okewood to Echlake and so to Boreherne so by a little Brook to Echlake aforesaid and so by the *great Way* leading to Blackmore.")

The line of the road, if projected straight, would cross the 'little brook' and through the eastern part of Oakhanger Pond (? Echlake) to again meet the straight stretch of 'the great Way leading to Blackmore'. I have not personally investigated the suggested route beyond Oakhanger Pond, but I understand that the Ordnance Survey officers have found traces of the road in the expected places in Blackmoor, and from there have fixed the line to join up with the "*Altam Viam de Wolmere ad Midhurst*" (Rolston, *ibid.*) and so to Milland, Iping and Chichester.

Selborne Priory Excavations.

The past summer has been an unfortunate season for digging. In the absence abroad of Dr. Scott, I arranged to stay at Priory Farm for a fortnight of my summer holiday in charge of the work, but owing to the very bad weather little progress could be made. The main object of this year's excavation was to cut a longitudinal section through the western part of the site to establish the levels, and to find the foundations of the west end of the Priory Church. The wet weather seriously interfered with the plans, as well as with the numbers of those who had hoped to assist, and neither of these objects was completed.

At the eastern end of the Priory Church progress was made in clearing the site of the choir and its northern wall foundations.

A few finds of interest were made. These include an unusual type of iron arrow head of a military type, 14th century; a silver penny of Henry VI, York mint, c. 1425-1452; a Calais $\frac{1}{2}$ groat of Henry VI, c. 1422; as well as many pottery and tile fragments. No new tile patterns were found.

Specimens of the glass found at the Priory have been submitted to the British Society of Master Glass Painters. Their expert on Medieval Glass, Mr. J. A. Knowles, has submitted a most interesting and full report; he states that "this glass both artistically and as a material is of a very superior quality. The date is about the middle of the thirteenth century. It has been very well made, and although it has been buried, it shows remarkably little corrosion.

and that on one side only". The full report is being published by the British Society of Master Glass Painters in their *Journal*, and will also be published when the full report on the Selborne Priory excavations is completed at the finish of the work.

Botanists may be interested to learn that the *Datura Stramonium*, in what was, presumably, the Priory herb garden, came up in great profusion this year. Last year there were only a few plants, and Mr. Lucas, the tenant of the farm, states that in some years there is no sign of the 'thorn apple' in the garden.

Eggar's Grammar School, Alton.

Material is being collected for a proposed History of the School. We have been fortunate in finding that a local solicitor has in his keeping three large volumes of the Minutes of the Feoffees, dating back to the foundation of the School by John Eggar of Mounghomer-ies in 1638, together with many deeds and documents relating to the school.