

HUCKSWOOD QUARRY.

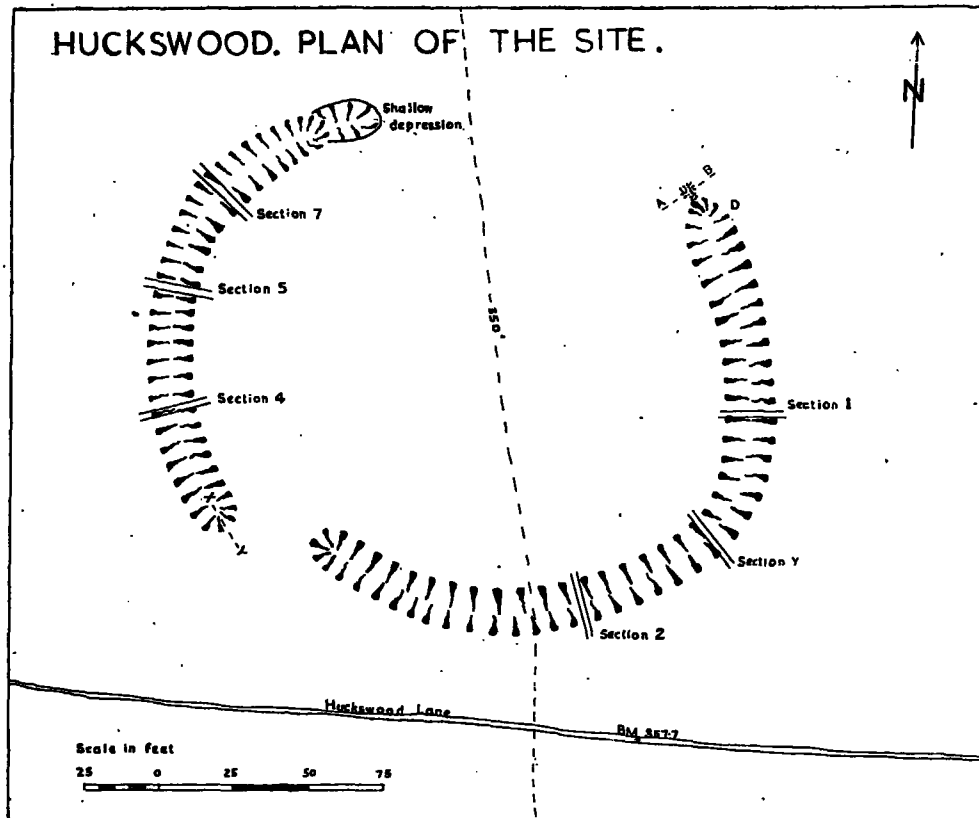
By A. H. COLLINS, M.A.

DURING the early autumn of 1948, Agricultural Contractors Ltd., of Sudbury, Suffolk, were removing the top-soil from a site on the north side of Huckswood Lane—Map Ref. 748155—in order to expose the underlying chalk, when they found a roughly circular patch of soil remaining in the otherwise clean expanse. When they began to scrape this soil away to provide a perfectly clean surface, quantities of pottery, mixed with animal bone, came out in the scoops. The Company's Southern Area Production Manager—J. Hanson, Esq.—realised that the pot and bone might be of some archaeological interest and reported the finds to the present writer as Secretary of the Excavations Committee of the Chichester Civic Society. Agricultural Contractors Ltd. were agreeable to the site's being explored during the winter period, while quarrying operations were suspended; and the owner of the site—Major A. F. Clarke-Jervoise, J.P., of Idsworth, Horndean—very readily gave his permission for digging to proceed.

Working parties went out from Chichester at week-ends between October 1948 and February 1949 and succeeded in establishing the plan of the ditch (which had been much obscured with chalk sludged back over it during quarrying) by taking sections at various points. Parties were provided by the Bishop Otter Training College, Chichester, under the direction of Miss J. G. Pilmer, M.A., M.LITT., and of the Principal, Miss K. M. E. Murray, M.A., F.S.A.; and by the High School for Boys, Chichester, under the direction of Messrs. A. H. Collins, M.A., and R. C. Sherriff, F.S.A. Valuable assistance was given in visits from Norman Cook, Esq., of the Hants Field Club, S. S. Frere, Esq., and others. All the work was carried out in consultation with Dr. A. E. Wilson, Director of the Chichester Excavations Committee.

Description of Site.

The southern extremity of the ditch comes within 60 feet of Huckswood Lane at a point some 600 yards west of the Hampshire—Sussex border. It lies on the lower south-western slope of West Harting Down, looking across to Chalton Down on the other side of the north-south valley, in which the Portsmouth—Petersfield railway line runs. The ground falls away—roughly from east to west—across the site; this fall becomes steeper beyond the western extremity of the ditch. The immediate vicinity of the site had been cultivated in ancient times, for a series of lynchets



at some 50-yard intervals is still traceable in neighbouring fields to the north and east. They run approximately north and south along the contours of the Down to within some 100 yards of the northern side of the ditch. Unfortunately bulldozing the top-soil away and disc-harrowing the surface of the chalk exposed around the ditch made it impossible to judge the relationship between ditch and lynchets. The same processes had removed any remains within the enclosure; and it was not possible to identify post-holes or stake-holes either within the enclosure or along the margins of the ditch. No pits were found, but parts of the ditch were used for disposing of rubbish, especially in the latter part of the period of occupation.

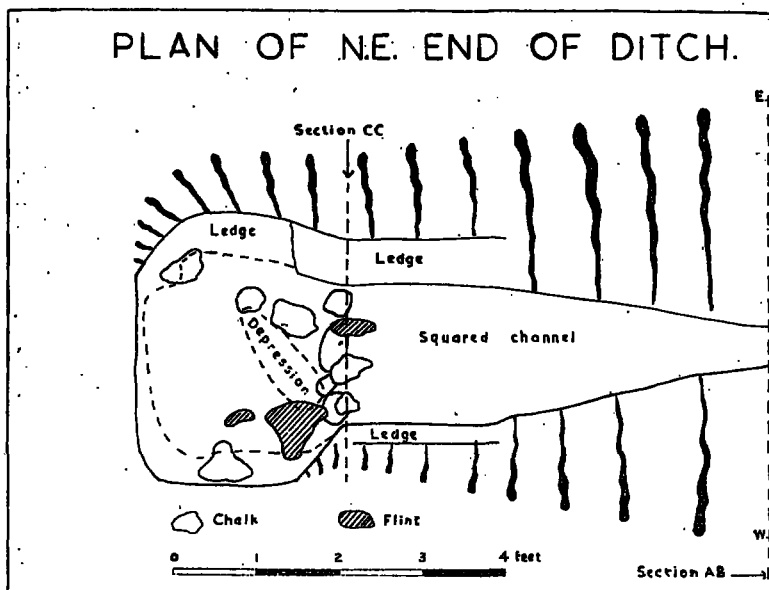
We can report then only on the plan and shape of the ditch, in which there are some features of interest; on the bone, pottery, etc., from its filling; and draw some conclusions about the date of its construction, and about the period of occupation of the site.

Description of Ditch.

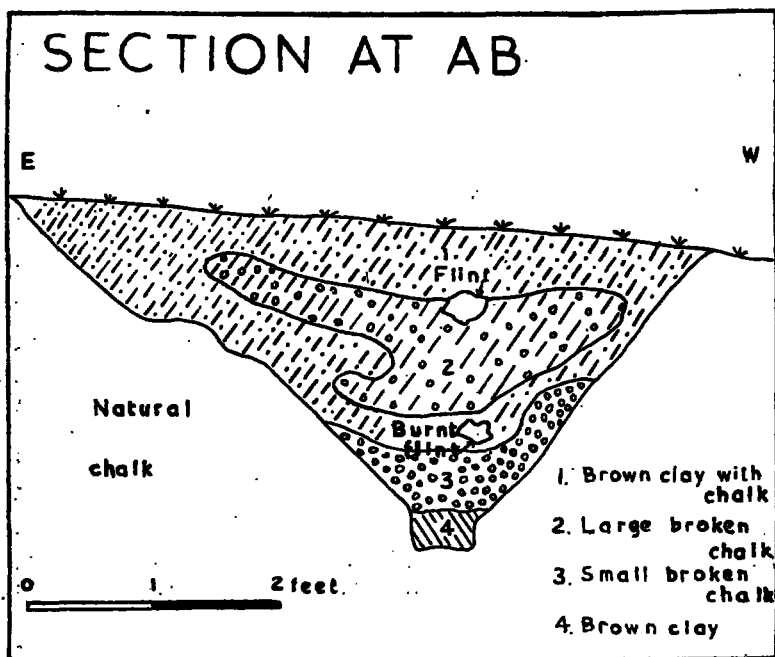
The ditch consisted of two arcs. The longer south-eastern one is probably complete, since its northern end appears to be cut for one side of a gateway (see Plan). From this point to the shallow depression at the obviously unfinished northern end of the north-western arc there is an interval of 102 feet, whereas the interval between the other ends of the arcs to the south-west is only 25 feet. At this smaller south-western gap the two arcs were not in exact alignment—the outer lip of the south-eastern arc coming opposite the inner lip of the north-western arc. The greatest distance across the enclosure—from east to west—was 185 feet.

The width and depth of the ditch varied considerably even in those areas of the extreme east and west, where the surface had scarcely been reduced by recent quarrying. A maximum width of 15 feet in Section I contrasts with only 9 feet in others. The vertical depth, reckoning the inner lip as zero, varied from 5 foot 6 inches in Section I to 2 foot 9 inches in others. (Section I was practically undisturbed; the others may have lost 6 to 9 inches in recent quarrying.) The shape of the ditch also varied from a steep "V" to a wide "U", with a length of squared channelling at the north-eastern extremity. The shallow depression at the northern end of the shorter arc had a maximum depth of 12 inches where it dropped into the ditch proper—here 3 foot 6 inches deep. Considering the large interval of 102 feet from the eastern end of the depression to the "gatepost" at the northern end of the longer arc, it would appear that the ditch was never completed, and that this depression is the relic of the abandoned next extension of the shorter north-western arc.

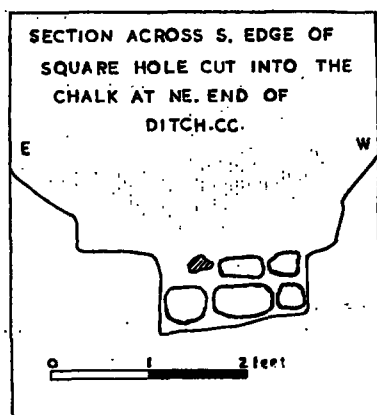
PLAN OF N.E. END OF DITCH.

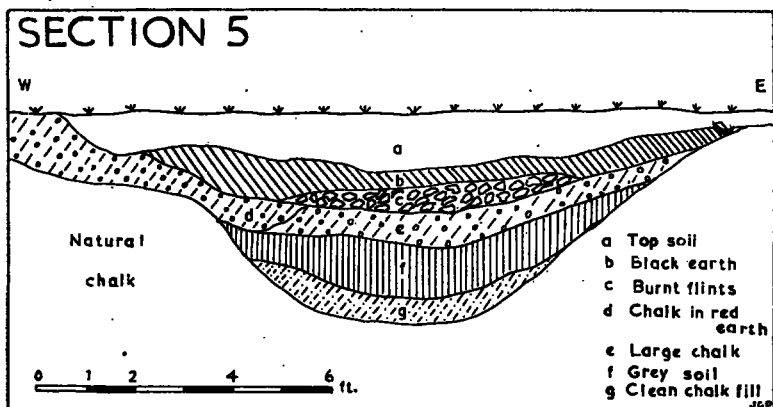
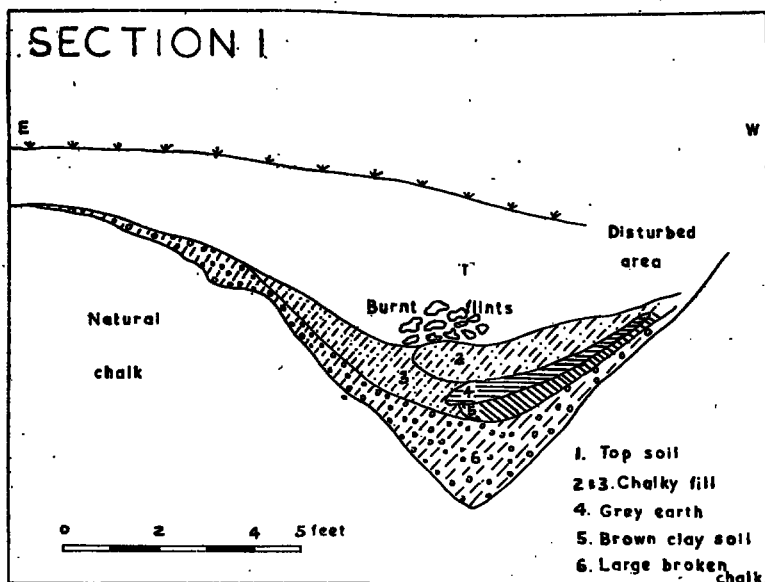


SECTION AT AB



On the other hand the "gatepost" at the northern end of the longer arc does indicate that that arc was brought to its planned finish. For its last 17 feet the inner lip continued its course unchanged, but the outer lip curled in to reduce the width at the top from 8 to 6 feet; and the rounded bottom of the main ditch passed into a squared channel 12 inches across and 4 inches deep, with something of a ledge 4—5 inches wide on the outer side. After a 9 foot run with these dimensions, continuing the line of the main ditch, the squared channel gradually expanded over the next 3 foot 9 inches until it was 20 inches wide and 10 inches deep. For a further 2 feet at this increased size it had ledges on both sides—the original outer one now 12 inches wide, the new inner one only 3 inches (Section CC). Over this 2 foot run the sides of the channel were very smooth, still showing tool marks and weathering. This wider deeper channel then dropped over a 3 inch step, and turned out on each side to form a rectangular box—4 foot by 2 foot 3 inches, and 2 foot deep—the longer sides set across the line of the channel and main ditch. There was a packing of large flints and lumps of chalk across the step. A large flint and a large piece of chalk on the inner side of the box seemed specially chosen for their shape to provide packing for posts; there was some charcoal in these presumed postholes. (It should be noted that recent removal of surface chalk would have reduced the depth of this box by some 6—9 inches.) One may suggest that the box was designed to hold the main timbers of one side of a gateway—with flanking shuttering along the squared channel for another 15 feet, to the point where the channel debouched into the main ditch.





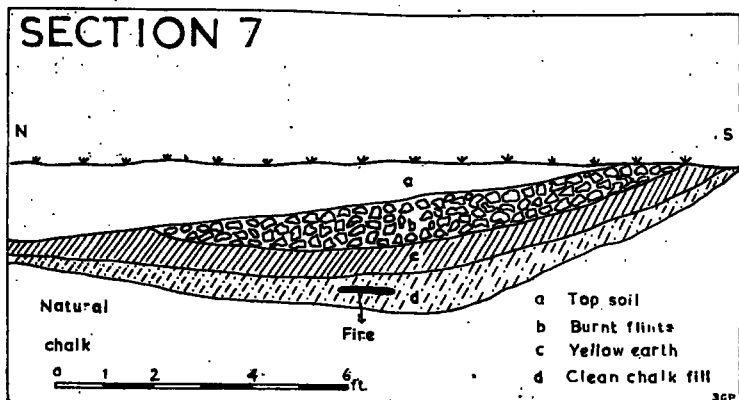
The weathered sides of the squared channel, and the accumulation of light-brown clayey top-soil in it, suggest that this part of the ditch remained open for some time—possibly only because it had no great depth, while the sections taken in other parts indicate that the rest of the ditch was partially refilled practically as soon as digging ceased. (It was, as we have shown, also never completed.) In all the other sections taken the sides of the ditch appear quite unweathered ; there is no chalky sludge at the bottom, as we would expect if the trench had been open to rain and weather for any time, and no silt of top-soil ; but the lowest stratum is always composed of a large or small clean chalk fill, such as would have slipped back first from the throw-up, or even been deliberately shovelled back to reduce the inconvenience of an obstacle no longer required. This lowest stratum has no admixture of soil or occupation material, except for the fire and its all-important associated pot found in Section 7.

In the deeper parts of the ditch to the east and south-east, the lowest levels of coarse clean chalk rubble, followed by a finer silt with some clay, appear to have come back in from both sides with a preponderance from the outer lip. Above these (see Section I) come strata with occupation material, which was naturally tipped from the inner lip : first a gray layer owing its colour to an admixture of dust and ash with fine chalk, then a cleaner chalk layer with some pot, and a deposit of crackled flints. This layer of burnt flint forms in its turn the bed of a deposit of black occupation material packed with pottery sherds and some daub. These layers coming from the inner lip are thickest towards the middle, where they come up against a fine chalk silt and, above that, a light-brown clayey top-soil from the outer lip. The considerable amount of chalk in the layers of occupation material coming from the inner face suggest that, in digging the ditch, material had been thrown up on to the inner as well as the outer edges ; and some sections showed an infilling of chalk from the inside right at the top of the section.

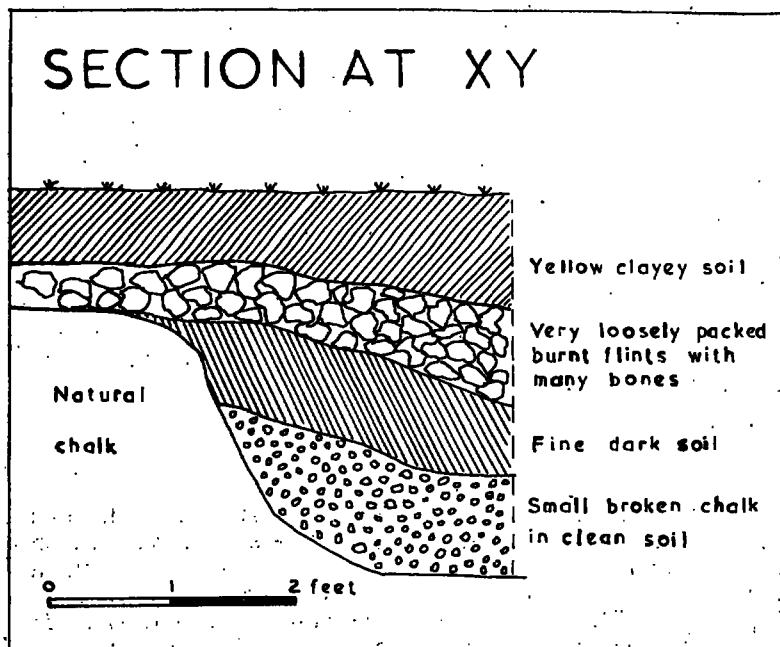
Finds.

A well-worn AS of Trajan (98—117 A.D.) was found in the black pit soil at the top of a section to the south-east, and very close to it in the same stratum a native quarter stater of a type hitherto unrecorded, but judged by J. Allan, Esq., of the British Museum Department of Coins and Medals, to be closest to the type Evans E3, and to have been current in the 1st century A.D. There also appeared later, in the spoil heap taken by the mechanical excavator from this trench, an AS of Domitian, and a 3rd century imitation radiate.

SECTION 7



SECTION AT XY



The only other objects found were the bent end of a bronze pin— $3/8$ ths of an inch each way ; and a green translucent spindle whorl or bead about an inch in diameter, removed by a visitor to the site.

The few pieces of charcoal recovered were identified by Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne of the British Museum (Natural History) as "almost certainly" hazel. Dr. J. Wilfrid Jackson was kind enough to examine the snail shells from the site. He reports "there is nothing against their being Roman", and of one group that "they may be pre-Roman from their condition, but this is quite uncertain, I would not like to say they are much earlier." One imperfect example of *Helicodonta Obvoluta* (Müller) "is perhaps the most interesting species as it inhabits ancient woodlands mostly of beech, oak and hazel in Hampshire and Sussex. It is unknown elsewhere in the British Isles". The bones from the site were identified by Miss J. E. King of the British Museum (Natural History) as of ox, pig, and sheep or goat, with one metacarpal fragment distal end—width 42 - 38 mm.—from an animal slightly larger than the New Forest pony ; and among the ox bones a humerus fragment distal end—width 68 - 74 mm.—from an animal rather smaller than the Chillingham ox. There were, also—probably intrusive—rabbit bones.

Period of Occupation of the Site and Date of Construction of the Ditch.

The earliest pottery goes back to the A2/AB period of the Iron Age. It then runs continuously through the types of the next period—Iron Age C—associated with the Belgic incursions of c. 50 B.C., right on into the late Romano-British period—represented by the New Forest piece, and the wide cavetto-rimmed jar to be placed in the early 4th century A.D. The coin evidence begins with a native quarter stater of the early 1st century A.D., and ends with a late 3rd century barbarous radiate which goes to confirm the dating established by the late pottery types.

The fact that the ditch was not completed, although the site continued to be occupied until near the end of the Roman period, suggests that the digging might have been a defensive measure against attackers who gained control even before it was finished ; and the crucial evidence for dating this event is the vessel with rounded shoulder and incipient beadrin (No. 8) found by the fire in the otherwise clean fill at the bottom of Section 7. This late La Tène II piece would indicate that the ditch, if defensive in purpose, was dug in the face of the Belgic invaders of c. 50 B.C.,

The newcomers seem to have ordered some immediate backfilling, for the back fill is otherwise clean ; there had not been sufficient time for dirty silt to accumulate in the bottom of the ditch or for the sides to become weathered. And it would be during this operation that the fire was lit and the broken pot left beside it. Further west (*e.g.*, at Twyford Down) the late La Tène sites more directly on the route of the Commius invasion were wrecked and burnt at this period ; it is plausible that the La Tène occupants of Huckswood—rather off the direct invasion route—surrendered without a fight, and without completing their defensive ditch. Judging by the numerous transitional pottery types they quickly fused with their “conquerors”. Again, when the Roman invasion came a hundred years later, we may guess from Cogidubnus’ immediate alliance with the Romans in the Chichester area, and from the significantly numerous Belgic pot forms in Roman paste on our site, that the Romanisation of the Huckswood settlement was also a comparatively peaceful process.

The Pottery.

By MISS J. G. PILMER, M.A., M.LITT.

The pottery, which came from the ditch sections, from the flints at the unfinished ends of the ditches and from soil removed by the mechanical excavator, was of three distinct types.

TYPE A. Iron Age A2—AB.

There were very thick sherds of a rather “corky” fabric, usually pink or pinkish-brown, though occasionally black or greyish in colour, and containing large pieces of flint grit. Rims of these large vessels were flat-topped or thickened (Nos. 1, 2). There were other sherds in similar ware of smaller straight-sided vessels—“saucepan” pots—of Iron Age AB type. Some were decorated with finger-nail and thumb impressions (Nos. 4, 5), and with shallow grooved lines both vertical and oblique. In one or two cases there were shallow punched holes combined with the grooved patterns (Nos. 4, 6, 7). A finer version of this ware was darker in colour with smaller pieces of grit, and some of the vessels (Nos. 8, 10) had been burnished on the outside. A vessel with incipient bead rim (No. 8) of the La Tène II period was found among the embers of a small fire which had been lighted in the clean chalky material which filled the bottom of the ditch in Section 7.

Parallels have been found at Bury Hill (H.F.C.P. XIV, Pt. 3), Twyford Down (H.F.C.P. XIII), Worthy Down (H.F.C.P. X) and at St. Catherine’s Hill in Hampshire, and at the Trundle in Sussex, all dated to the La Tène period, *i.e.*, the period ending about 50 B.C. with the coming of the Belgae under Commius into the Hampshire region. It is interesting to note that two vessels in this coarse fabric (Nos. 9, 11) had been coated with bitumen in the Belgic manner, which suggests real continuity—with the new and old traditions going on side by side.

TYPE B. Belgic.

The second group of pottery consisted chiefly of bead rim jars—some hand-made in a black or brownish-black paste of rather granular and sandy texture, others wheel-made; and all coated with bitumen and burnished (Nos. 14-20). There were cordoned vessels in grey and in buff ware, but only one sherd of a platter in the typical highly polished Gallo-Belgic ware. This pottery was found among the flints at the ends of the unfinished ditches, on the surface of the lowest level in ditch section 5, and in all but the lowest level of ditch section 7.

TYPE C. Roman.

The third and largest group was Roman, and ranged in date from the first to the late third or early fourth century. Among the earlier Romanised forms the continuity of the Belgic tradition was obvious in the bead rim forms (Nos. 23-7), in the cordoned beakers (as No. 21), and in the platters. The latest pieces were a few flanged bowls and cavetto rimmed jars (No. 40), and one vessel only in New Forest ware (No. 39). This does not suggest a very extensive occupation in the later Roman period but the site can hardly have been deserted before about 300 A.D., for the New Forest thumb pot seems to have been common on all New Forest sites except the earliest, and the cavetto rimmed jars are not the earliest types of the form. They would fit in quite well with the late third century radiate which was found in the spoil heap. Except in section 4 the pottery came from the surface soil and from areas disturbed by the mechanical excavator. It is, therefore, impossible to say anything very definite about the occupation under the Romans; but the very small amount of Samian ware and the few coins suggests a low standard of material culture.

Summary.

This seems to have been a small settlement with a continuous occupation of some 400 years beginning with the A2-AB settlers about 100—50 B.C. These were overrun by the Belgae about 50 B.C., and the site resembles the settlements on Worthy Down (H.F.C.P. X, pp. 178-92) and Twyford Down (H.F.C.P. XIII, pp. 188-207) in that here too occupation was not interrupted by the Belgic invaders as it was at the forts on St. Catherine's Hill and the Trundle. But the settlement at Huckswood had a rather longer life, for the solitary New Forest beaker cannot have reached the site much before about 300 A.D., when occupation was evidently coming to an end, as in some of the Sussex villages (Shepherd's Garden, S.A.C. 77, pp. 223-44; Park Brow, Arch. 76, p. 8; Charleston Brow, S.A.C. 74, p. 174).

Samian Ware.

Of RVFI Rufus or Rufinus of La Graufesenque, Nero-Domitian.

Dr. 37 A badly worn sherd with vine leaf scroll and small bird below. Graffito fig. 41.

Dr. 37 Rim fragment with ovolo.

Dr. 18 Rim fragment.

Dr. 18/31 Part of base.

Coarse Pottery. Type A. Iron Age. A2—AB.

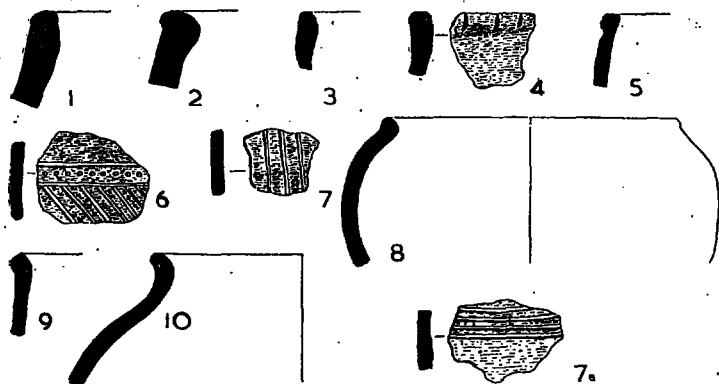
1. A flat rim of a large, straight-sided jar, 9·7 inches in diameter and with the wall $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. The surface was pink; the paste pinkish grey, very rough and containing large pieces of flint grit. From Y.
2. Similar fabric with the rim thickened inside and projecting externally. From Y.
Bury Hill, fig. 13, 10, Iron Age AB. Worthy Down, fig. 42.
3. A smaller vessel, diameter 6·9 inches, with thickened rim; similar ware. From 7c.
4. A straight-sided pot with thickened lip marked by finger-nail impressions; grey, gritty paste, pink on the outside, brownish-grey inside. From Y.
Pottery with finger nail decoration was common at Highdown Hill in the Iron Age A1 period (*S.A.C.* 81, p. 195) and at the Trundle (*S.A.C.* 70, pl. XI), but here it seems to be surviving into the later period for this is apparently a "saucepan" pot common at Worthy Down, Twyford Down (*H.F.C.P.* XIII, fig. vi, 7-10) and Bury Hill (*H.F.C.P.* XIV, fig. 13, 11-15) attributed to Iron Age AB.
5. A pot of similar shape with the rim roughly marked by thumb impressions; dark gritty paste, pink outside. From unfinished end of ditch.
- 6, 7. Sherds of similar ware decorated with shallow grooved lines and shallow circular dots. All from 7, a, b, c. cf. Twyford Down, fig. VI, 8-12, La Tène II; Bury Hill, fig. 13, 14, Iron Age AB.
8. A jar with rounded shoulder and incipient bead rim; rough gritty brownish ware. From the bottom of ditch section 7. St. Catherine's Hill, p. 113, figs. 13-14, La Tène II. Worthy Down, figs. 32-3, La Tène II.
9. A straight-sided saucepan pot in coarse gritty paste but with the outside coated with bitumen in the Belgic fashion. From D.
- 10, 11. Necked jars with rim slightly everted in gritty ware, grey and pinkish brown. In one or two cases the exterior had been coated with bitumen and polished. The latter were found with Belgic cordoned vessels in levels 5c, 5d and 1d.
St. Catherine's Hill, p. 115, fig. 13, AR 12; Twyford Down, fig. VI, 6; The Trundle, *S.A.C.* 70, p. 55, fig. 142; all attributed to the late La Tène II period. At Twyford Down a vessel of this type was also found with Belgic ware (*H.F.C.P.* XVIII, p. 193).

TYPE B. Belgic.

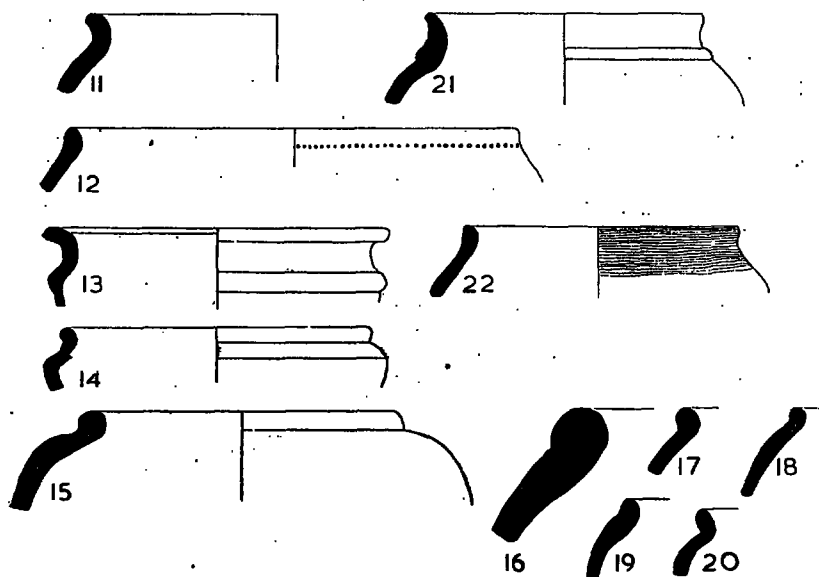
12. A bulbous jar with incipient bead in gritty buff ware, decorated below the rim with a row of shallow round depressions. From 5g.
13. The thick everted rim of a vessel with strongly bulging cordon in a buff fabric containing fairly large pieces of white grit. From 5g.
This is not unlike the Gallo-Belgic girth beakers in shape (*Camulodunum* pl. LV) but the fabric is very different, being thick and coarse.
14. Upper part of a jar with beaded lip and angular shoulder, wheel-made, in brownish black sandy fabric coated with bitumen and burnished. From 7c.
- 15-20. Bead rim bowls, some hand-made, some wheel-made, in brownish-black or black sandy ware, bitumen coated. Pottery of this type was found among the flints at the unfinished ends of the ditches and in levels 7c, 5d, and from the surface soil.
Twyford Down, fig. VII, 13; Bury Hill, fig. 14, illustrate Belgic pottery of the pre-Roman period.
21. A cordoned jar with rounded shoulder in dark sandy ware, with mottled surface. Similar jars in a finer Romanised ware were common.
22. A beaker with plain upright neck and rounded shoulder; black sandy ware, wheel-made. The part below the shoulder has been left mat; the neck has been burnished and decorated with scrawled lines. From 5d.

These burnished and unburnished zones are typical of Belgic pottery and have been noted at Bury Hill (p. 327), and elsewhere, but this particular form does not seem to occur at the parallel Hampshire sites.

TYPE A



TYPE B



TYPE C. Roman.

23-27. Bead rim and near bead rim jars in Romanised sandy grey ware.

28. A jar with high shoulder and upright neck in a very sandy grey ware.

Two rather similar vessels were found in Chichester; both had been coated with bitumen, *cf.* S.A.C. 76, fig. 1, 226, which is attributed to the pre-Conquest or immediately post-Conquest period.

29. Jar with everted rim in a light grey sandy ware with a potter's mark on the shoulder. There were several examples of this type of vessel, though only one had the potter's mark.

cf. the pear-shaped urns in the Chichester burial groups, S.A.C. 80, p. 178, fig. 5, 14, late first to early second century.

30. Jar with short neck and small everted rim ; grey micaceous ware.

31. Necked jar with rim squared off at the edge ; similar ware.

32. Necked jar with beaded lip ; grey sandy ware. Bury Hill, fig. 15, 14-15. Necked jars with beaded lip are of Belgic extraction but all the vessels of this type on the site were in a Roman fabric.

33-6. Platters in a grey sandy ware flecked with mica. No. 33 is imitating the Gallo-Belgic form illustrated in Camulodunum, pl. XLIX, 12-14, and is probably early in the Roman period.

37. A flanged bowl in a dark grey paste with burnished surface.

cf. Surrey A.C. XLII, p. 68, third to fourth century. Surrey A.C. L, fig. 6, 12-14, third to fourth centuries.

38. Rim of a bowl with curved side and thick outbent lip ; grey ware. *cf.* Farnham Survey, fig. 97, R17, R18, P. 234, third century ; Thundersbarrow Hill, *Ant. J.* XIII, p. 141, fig. 21, a colander, third to fourth century ; Richborough III, 341, 342, mid-fourth and late third century respectively.

39. Rim and neck of a New Forest beaker, probably a thumb pot ; purple-grey body with a dull brown coating.

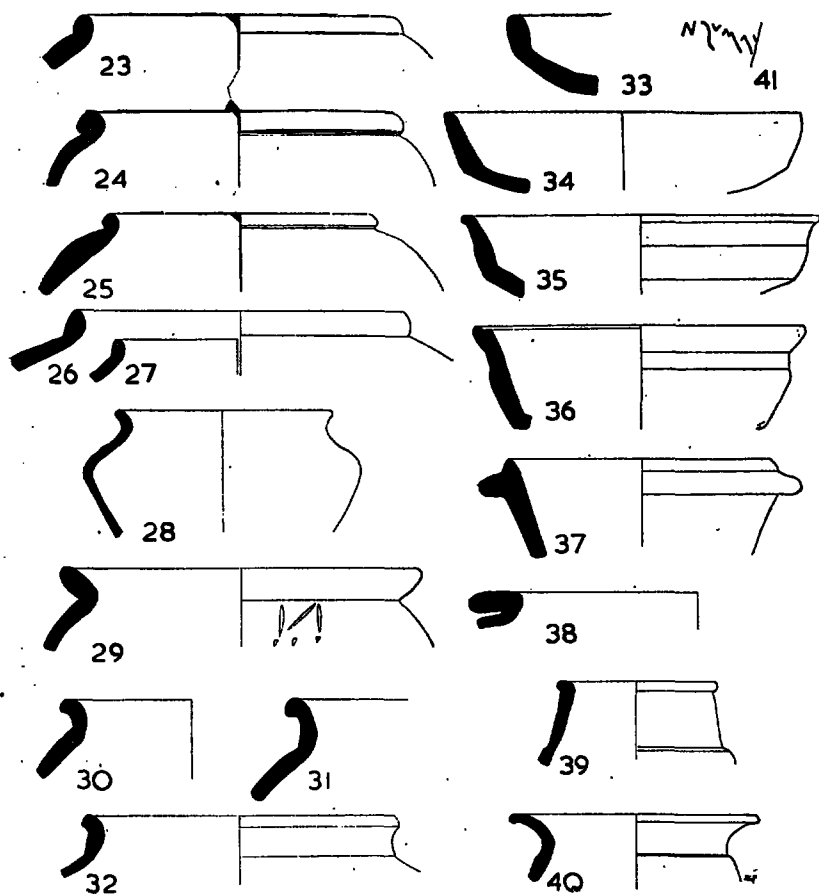
cf. Ashley Rails, pl. III, 1, 3, 5, third to fourth century.

40. A cavetto rim jar in a dark grey paste with a white slip coating. The diameter of the rim is greater than the diameter of the body and this is generally considered to be a late third to early fourth century development of the form.

cf. Farnham Survey, fig. 97, R1, 2, 4 ; fig. 107, R117-120 ; Richborough IV, 465-6, late third century.

ABBREVIATIONS.

<i>Ant. J.</i>	-	<i>Antiquaries Journal.</i>
H.F.C.P.	-	Hampshire Field Club Papers.
S.A.C.	-	Sussex Archaeological Collections.
Surrey A.C.	-	Surrey Archaeological Collections.



TYPE C. ROMAN.