

EXCAVATIONS AT BRAMDEAN, HAMPSHIRE,
1965 AND 1966, AND A DISCUSSION OF
SIMILAR SITES IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND

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WITH APPENDIX ON LAND MOLLUSCA

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INTRODUCTION

INTEREST has recently been aroused in the diversity of settlement and enclosure types which existed in Dorset and Wiltshire during the Iron Age and Romano-British period (Bowen and Fowler, in Thomas, 1966). This paper stems from a study of settlement and enclosure types in Hampshire. The research for this was based mainly on an analysis of a large number of aerial photographs representing a total of over 150 sites in an area described as the Hampshire chalklands, undertaken as part of a PH.D. degree submitted to Reading University in 1967.

Attention is focussed here on one particularly distinctive type of enclosure to which brief reference has already been made (Perry, in Thomas 1966), and for which the term 'banjo' enclosures has been suggested. From among several enclosure types thought to belong predominantly to the Iron Age these seemed to represent both the most readily recognisable and the most common form found in the Hampshire chalklands. Convincing parallels can be found in other parts of southern England.

Basically, these sites consist of small enclosures, generally between quarter acre and one acre and only rarely reaching $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres; they are generally circular or subcircular, but are occasionally subrectangular. In the few cases where earthwork remains are still visible the enclosure is generally delimited by an outer bank and inner ditch. The small enclosure is approached by a distinctly long entranceway, consisting of ditches which run more or less parallel for a considerable distance, then swing outwards to form, in many cases, a larger enclosure encompassing the smaller one. This larger enclosure varies considerably in size and layout from one example to another, but may occupy up to nine or ten acres. What appears to be an important sub-group of the same basic type lacks the larger encompassing enclosure, and instead, the smaller 'banjo' enclosure is joined by parallel ditches to a linear ditch.

The limited evidence from sites of this type suggested an Iron Age date, but it was hoped that excavations at one of them might yield sufficient evidence to provide both a clear date and some indications of the function of this distinctive group of enclosures.

Altogether, some 32 sites are thought to conform to this type in southern England (Fig. 30), of which 24 lie in Hampshire, in addition to a few more doubtful examples. From among these sites Bramdean (Fig. 18; Fig. 30, No. 1) was thought to epitomise the group and was selected for excavations in 1965 and 1966.

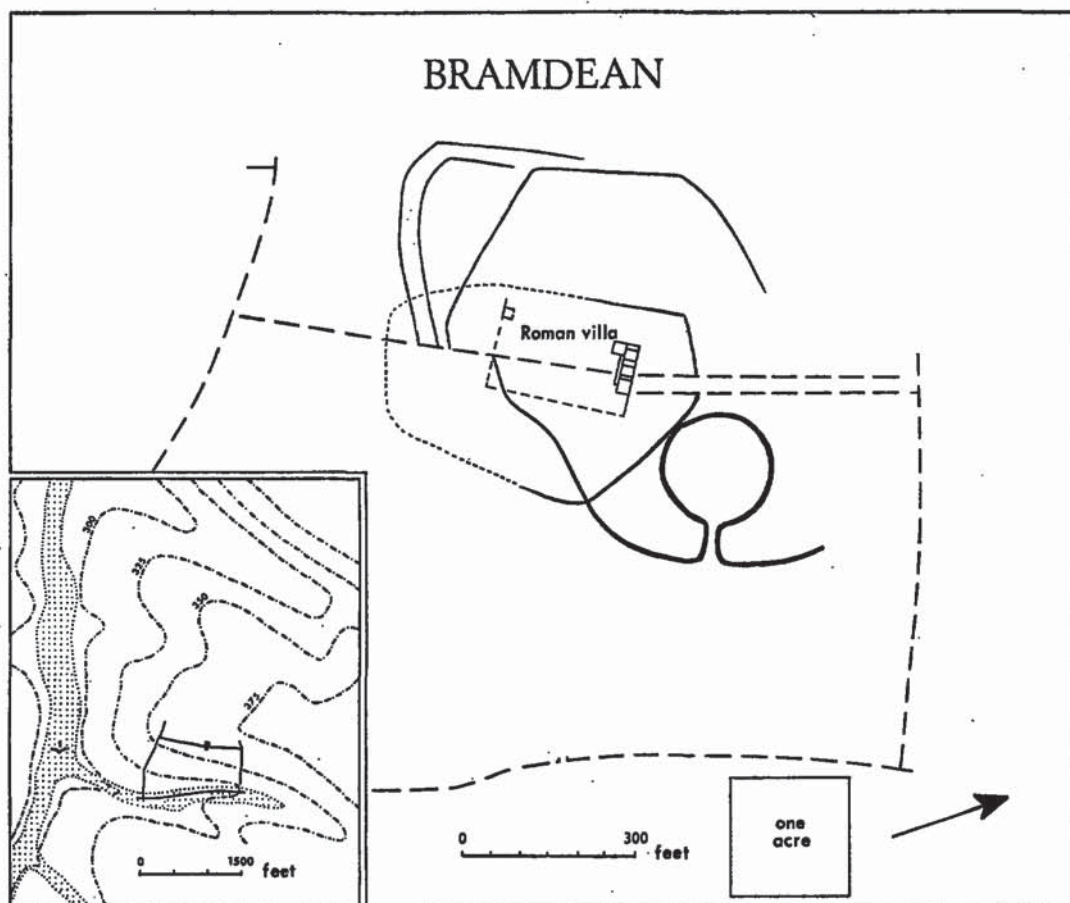


Fig. 18. Bramdean, Hampshire; general plan. The inset shows local relief, the deposit of river gravel, and the boundaries of the modern field in which the site mainly lies.

Bramdean

The site has been photographed from the air as a cropmark, no traces of it being visible on the ground, although the enclosure ditch can sometimes be seen from the opposite side of the valley in the early morning when the ground is moist. It consists of a small circular enclosure of about half to three-quarters acre, approached by an entranceway some 70 ft. in length, the ditches on either side of which clearly form a continuation of the enclosure ditch. At the far end of the entranceway from the enclosure the ditches splay outwards and double back to partly encircle the enclosure. The more northerly of these ditches appears to end abruptly, while the southerly one continues until it disappears into the next field, where, as a cropmark, it is lost (Fig. 18).

The site lies on a gentle, south-east-facing slope of a little dry valley, which in former times carried a small stream, as evidenced by a deposit of river gravel in its bed (Fig. 18

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inset, based on Geological Survey six-inch Map, sheet li N.E.). Mr. Silk, the owner of the land, recalls that as recently as the 1920's a spring used to rise at certain times of the year in this dry valley about 100 yards down valley from the site.

The air photographs suggest that the enclosure is of one-period construction. At the same time its proximity to a Roman villa provided an opportunity to test the chronological relationship between the two, since sites of this type frequently lie close to Romano-British settlements of various kinds, sometimes in a way that suggests contemporaneity. The air photographs also indicate a number of other ditches which presumably enclosed the villa during the various stages of its development.

The villa lies on level ground at the top of the valley slope within only a few yards of the enclosure, but it is not possible to tell from the air photographs the relationship between them. The villa was discovered in 1823 when two mosaic pavements were unearthed. These were kept for some time under a flint building whose walls were built directly upon the Roman foundations. By 1900, this building was ruinous, and the mosaics destroyed, but the ruined building provides an exact location for what was presumably the main part of the villa.

Bramdean lies in an area of intense prehistoric or Romano-British cultivation. Two possible but very much eroded 'Celtic' field lynchets lie in the same modern field as the enclosure, one of them apparently overlying its entrance, and therefore presumable post-dating it. These two apparent lynchets seem to form part of an extensive, though fragmentary, 'Celtic' field system which extends discontinuously for some one and a half miles to the north-west, and over two miles to the north-east of the villa.

THE EXCAVATIONS

Excavations in 1965 (Fig. 19) centred first on the entrance, and secondly on the western end of the enclosure opposite the entrance (Cutting B). In addition a series of four trial trenches were dug in the centre of the enclosure, two of which provided a starting point for the work in 1966. The excavations in 1966 explored a larger area in the interior of the enclosure; a small extension was made to the excavated area at the entrance, and two further trenches, Cuttings C and D, were made.

(1) *The Entrance, 1965 and 1966:*

An area 36 by 23 ft. was stripped at the entrance in 1965, which was extended in 1966 to the north-west (Fig. 20). Within this area were revealed parts of the two enclosure ditches and a total of ten postholes.

Cutting A:

A section approximately 10 ft. wide was cut through the southerly ditch (Fig. 21), which proved to be 6 ft. deep (all measurements of depth relate to depth beneath the present chalk surface), distinctly V-shaped, with a narrow but flat bottom about 6 in. wide. The ditch filling suggested one continuous silting process, six main layers being distinguished. Layer 1 consisted of loose angular chalk rubble with many air spaces, representing the primary silt. It merged gradually with layer 2, a fine silty loam with chalk rubble and runs of chalk fragments. This gave way gradually to a more compact clayey silt, layer 3. Layer 4 was a very clearly defined zone of dark brown soil, above

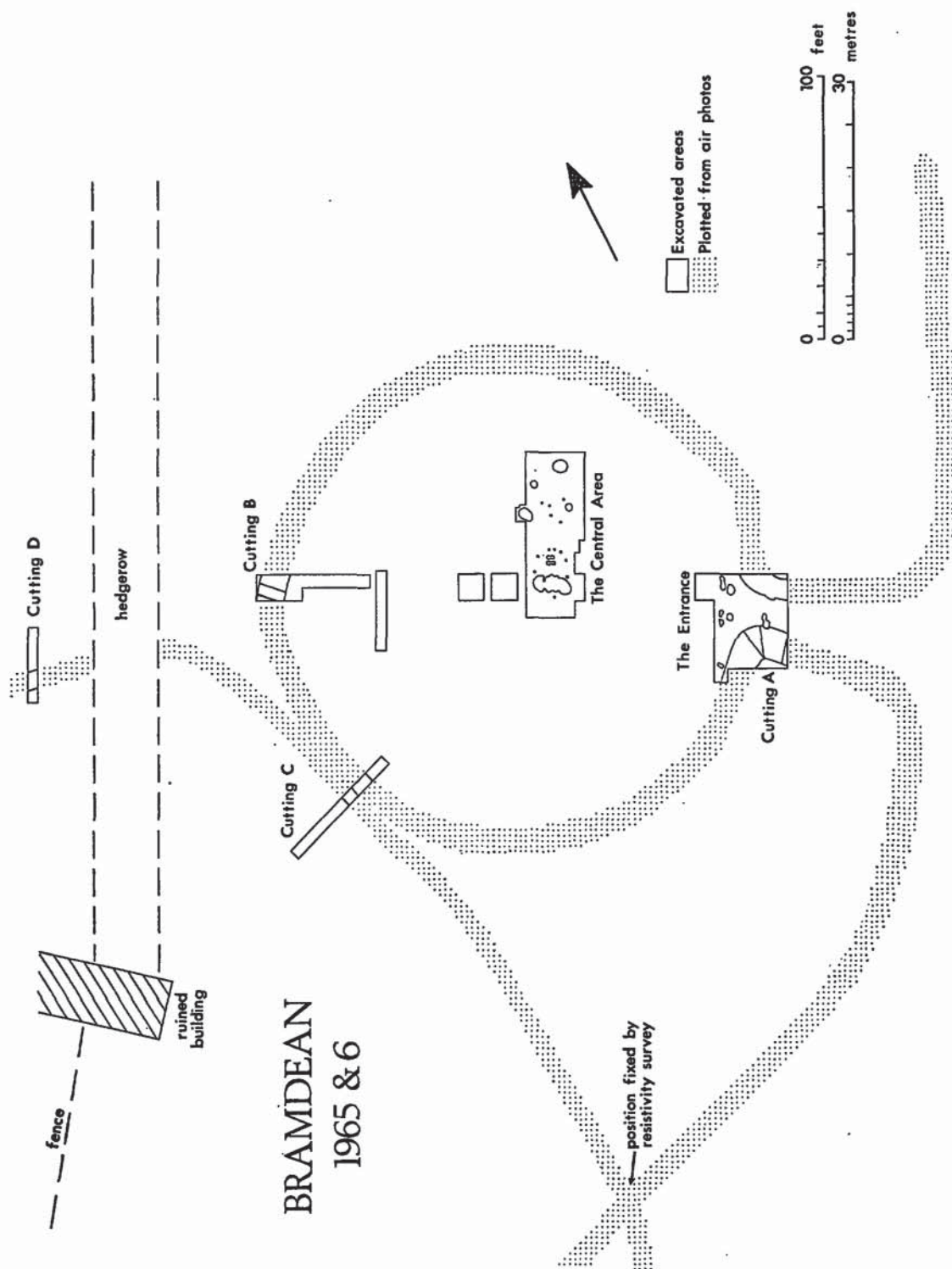


Fig. 19. Plan of site, showing areas excavated.

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which lay a further band of compact clayey silt. The two upper layers, 5 and 6, were closely similar to one another, both comprising a dark fine loam with a good deal of flint, layer 5 being somewhat more flinty.

All the layers of the ditch filling, with the exception of layer 1, yielded Iron Age pottery, the only Romano-British material being a few scraps of pottery from the top-soil. This section therefore indicated that the enclosure was entirely of Iron Age date, with no evidence of subsequent reconstruction.

Measurements which have been made of the rate of silting of chalk-cut ditches (Curwen 1930; Jewell 1963, 10) suggest that layers 1 and 2 would have accumulated within about ten years, and that unless the ditch were periodically cleaned out, it would have been half full after about 25 years or so.

It has been noted that sites of this type of which earthwork remains are still visible normally have the ditch on the inner side. This also seemed to be the case at Bramdean, at least at the entrance. The chalk surface was noticeably less eroded on the outside of the two ditches (to the extent of about three inches) suggesting preservation under a former bank. Additionally, since the ditches were separated by only about 12 ft. at this point there simply is not sufficient room to accommodate two banks and a means of access.

The Postholes:

Of the ten postholes revealed in the two seasons' work at the entrance, all but three, P3, 4, and 5, were excavated.

P1 and P2 (excavated 1965). Of these two intersecting postholes, P1 was 26 in. deep, about 18 in. wide and nearly 4 ft. in total length; P2 was about 16 in. deep, 24 in. wide and 3 ft. long. It was noticeably flat bottomed and squarer cut than P1. Both were filled with fine silty loam containing many large flints, and yielding pottery identical to that from Cutting A.

P3 (unexcavated) merged into the upper levels of the ditch filling at the chalk surface, was less clearly defined than P1 and 2, but seemed to form a counterpart to them on the opposite side of the entrance. It seemed to be similar in size to P1, but orientated at right angles to it.

P4 and P5 (unexcavated) were very clearly defined at the surface with the packing stones still in place. P4 measured about 3 ft. by 4 ft. and must have held a timber about 18 in. in diameter. P5 was somewhat larger and more rounded with a diameter of about 3 ft. 6 in.

P26 and 27 (excavated 1966). The chalk surface surrounding these two postholes was very disturbed with many natural clay hollows. P26 reached a depth of 15 in., and was filled with fine silty loam; P27 reached the same depth, contained some larger flints in the fill and also an Iron Age rim sherd.

P28 and 29 (excavated 1966). P28 was a very distinct posthole partly undercut, and 15 in. deep. P29 also had a clearly defined edge but was only 9 in. deep. Both postholes were filled with a fine silty and chalky loam, but like P26 and 27, contained no very large packing flints.

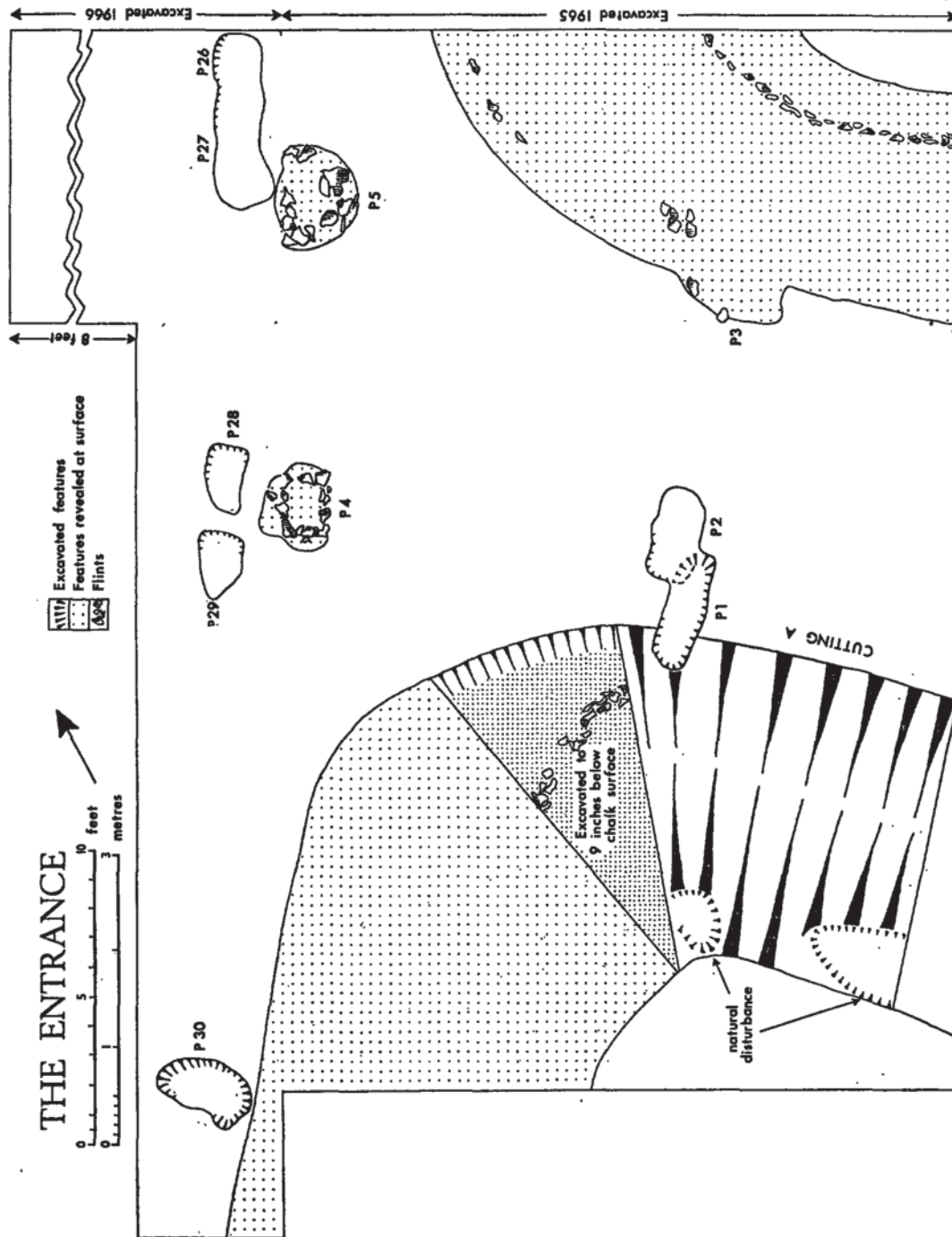


Fig. 20. Brandean; plan of entrance to the enclosure.

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P30, a very doubtful posthole, was very irregular and round bottomed, unlike all the others which were distinctly flat bottomed, and only 13 in. deep. The surrounding area was very broken by pockets of natural clay, and the hole itself contained a clayey fill, and yielded no finds of any kind.

Judging by the symmetry with which the ditches and postholes are arranged in relation to one another at the entrance (Fig. 20) it seems clear that they all belong to the same entrance scheme, except for the very doubtful P30, and that the postholes represent part of a four-sided structure. P1, 2 and 3 might represent the three components of a gate, in which P2 represents the main hanging-post, P1 a diagonal supporting strut, and P3 the latchpost. The two other posthole groups, P4, 28 and 29, and P5, 26 and 27, the symmetry of which suggests that they were contemporary, may represent the postholes of a larger, more substantial gateway, of which P4 and P5 held the main uprights and the remaining four postholes the supporting timbers (see note 1).

(2) *Cutting B, 1965:*

Cutting B at the western end of the enclosure opposite the entrance (Figs. 19 and 21) produced evidence of a two-period ditch, consisting of a V-shaped ditch, some 3½ ft. deep (i.e. the enclosure ditch, which was therefore considerably shallower than at the entrance), with a later ditch, U-shaped and wide-bottomed, partly cut into it. A small gully was presumably, though not certainly, contemporary with the earlier V-shaped ditch.

The distinction between the two intersecting ditches was difficult to define precisely from the section (Fig. 21), and the earlier enclosure ditch, represented by layers 1 and 2, contained no dating evidence. Samples of the land mollusca taken and examined by Dr. J. G. Evans of the Institute of Archaeology, London (Appendix) from throughout the ditch filling helped considerably to distinguish the two ditches. Layer 1 consisted of fine chalky silt, the mollusca bearing witness (appendix, '... below 92 cm. ...') to a period of rapid infilling, as would be expected from the early stage of a natural silting process. Layer 1 merged imperceptibly into layer 2, a rather more compact silty loam, the mollusca from which ('... between 72 and 92 cm. ...') suggest a stabilising in the ditch filling.

The later U-shaped ditch, represented by layers 3 and 4, presented a complete contrast to the earlier ditch both in composition and in the quantity of archaeological material which it produced. Layer 4 consisted of a dark brown homogeneous loam containing many flints, animal bones and an abundance of Romano-British pottery attributed to the second half of the first century A.D. The molluscan evidence (appendix '... at 70 cm. ...') suggests a rapid filling of the ditch at this stage, and the lack of any apparent stratification within this layer suggests that it may be the result of artificial filling rather than natural silting.

The gully was a small rounded feature about 1 ft. deep. It contained no dating evidence but its fill, identical to that of layer 2, suggested that it was contemporary with the V-shaped enclosure ditch. Its function is uncertain at this stage.

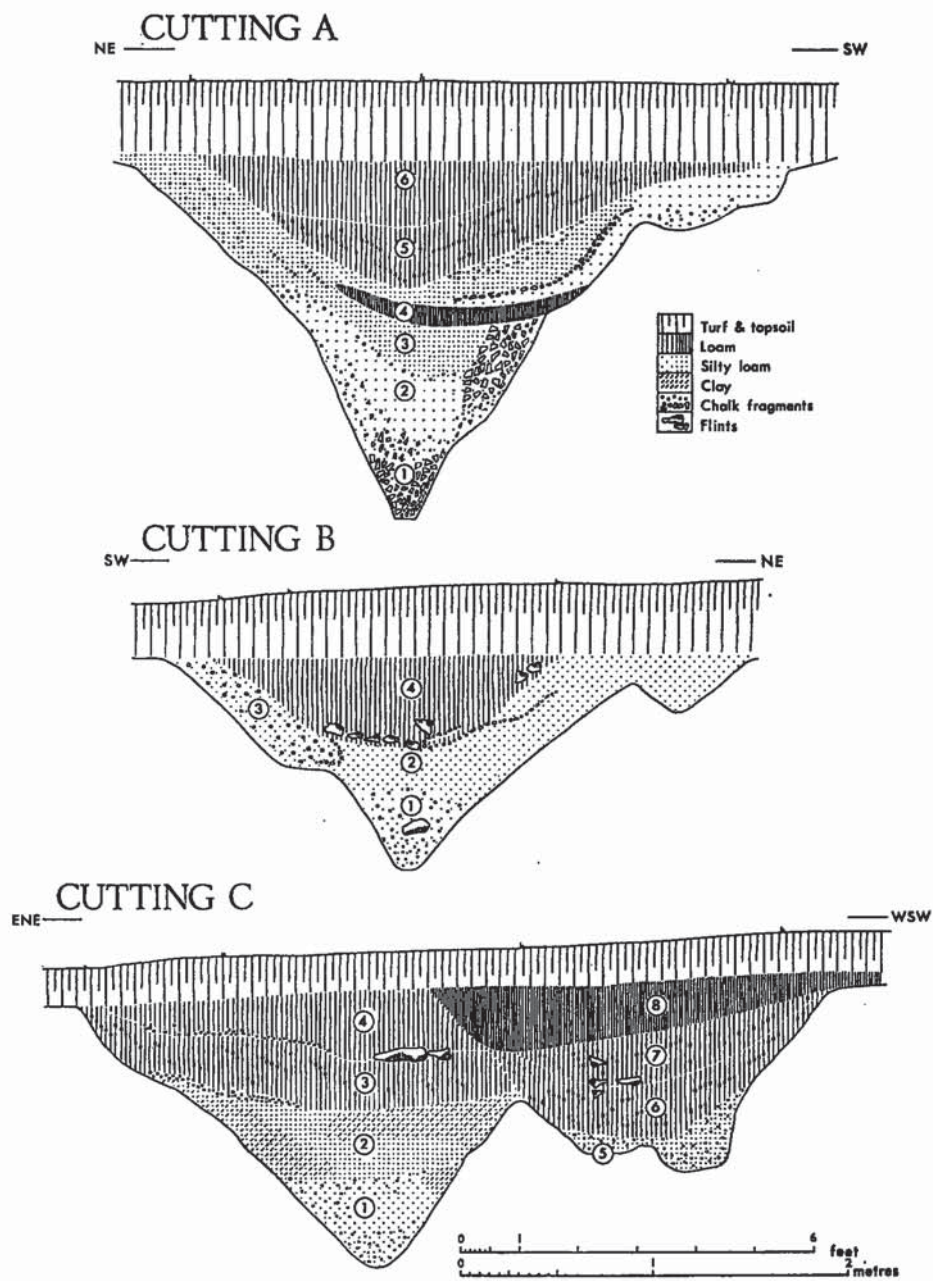


Fig. 21. Bramdean; cuttings through the enclosure ditch.

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(3) *The Central Area (1965 and 1966)*

In 1965 four centrally placed trial trenches, each 10 ft. square, were excavated down to the chalk surface. Of these, the westerly two revealed no archaeological features, but the easterly two revealed the top of a large irregular feature, together with one posthole, P21. These features were not further excavated in 1965 but were incorporated in the central area excavated in 1966 (Fig. 22). An area measuring approximately 23 by 63 ft. was stripped, revealing a small structure defined by postholes, four pits, and an irregular hollow of uncertain purpose.

The Pits (Fig. 23)

The four pits revealed in the Central Area were sectioned and then emptied.

Pit 1. This was almost circular, measuring 3 ft. 6 in. in diameter, and was about 12 in. deep. It contained an unstratified fill of grey-brown earth, rotted chalk, flints, burnt flint, animal bone, etc.

Pit 2. This was oval in shape at the surface, measuring 5 ft. 8 in. by 4 ft. It was sectioned along its longest axis, and was somewhat bell-shaped in section. The fill consisted of grey-brown earth, with chalk fragments, flints, burnt flint, clay, cob, animal bone, with lenses of rotted chalk and clay, and a thick layer consisting mainly of loose burnt flint.

Pit 3. This was very much larger than the other three pits. It was oval in shape at the surface, measuring 6 ft. 3 in. by 4 ft. 8 in., and was 6 ft. deep. With the exception of the bottom layer the fill resembled that of Pit 2. The bottom layer, however, consisted of a fine silty loam, rather distinct from the grey-brown earths found mixed in the other pits and quite distinct from the remainder of the fill. It also contained practically all the finds from this pit, including several semi-complete vessels. Other finds included a good deal of animal bone, including three skulls, two of horse and one of cow, which were complete save for the lower jaw which was missing in each case.

The impression was that this pit had been left open long enough for the bottom layer to silt up to a depth of about 13 in., during which time the refuse accumulated. It had then been rapidly filled.

Pit 4. This was about 2 ft. 8 in. in diameter, and about 15 in. deep. The fill was similar to Pit 1, but contained a bottom layer of dark brown loam with large flints.

The Postholes (Fig. 22)

Within the Central Area a total of 20 postholes or possible postholes were revealed. Of these, 11 belong to a small wooden structure (P6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13, and 22, 23, 24, 25).

These postholes, which varied from 4 to 10 in. in depth, seem to form a sub-rectangular structure, measuring 12 by 6½ by 13 by 6½ ft., represented by P6 and 7, P11 and 13, with an 'apsidal' end to which P8, 9, and 10 belong. P22, 23, 24, 25, which seem to be related to the same structure, contained a quantity of daub. P21, very circular, and 9 in. deep, may also belong to the same scheme, in which case the structure would take on a less regular shape.

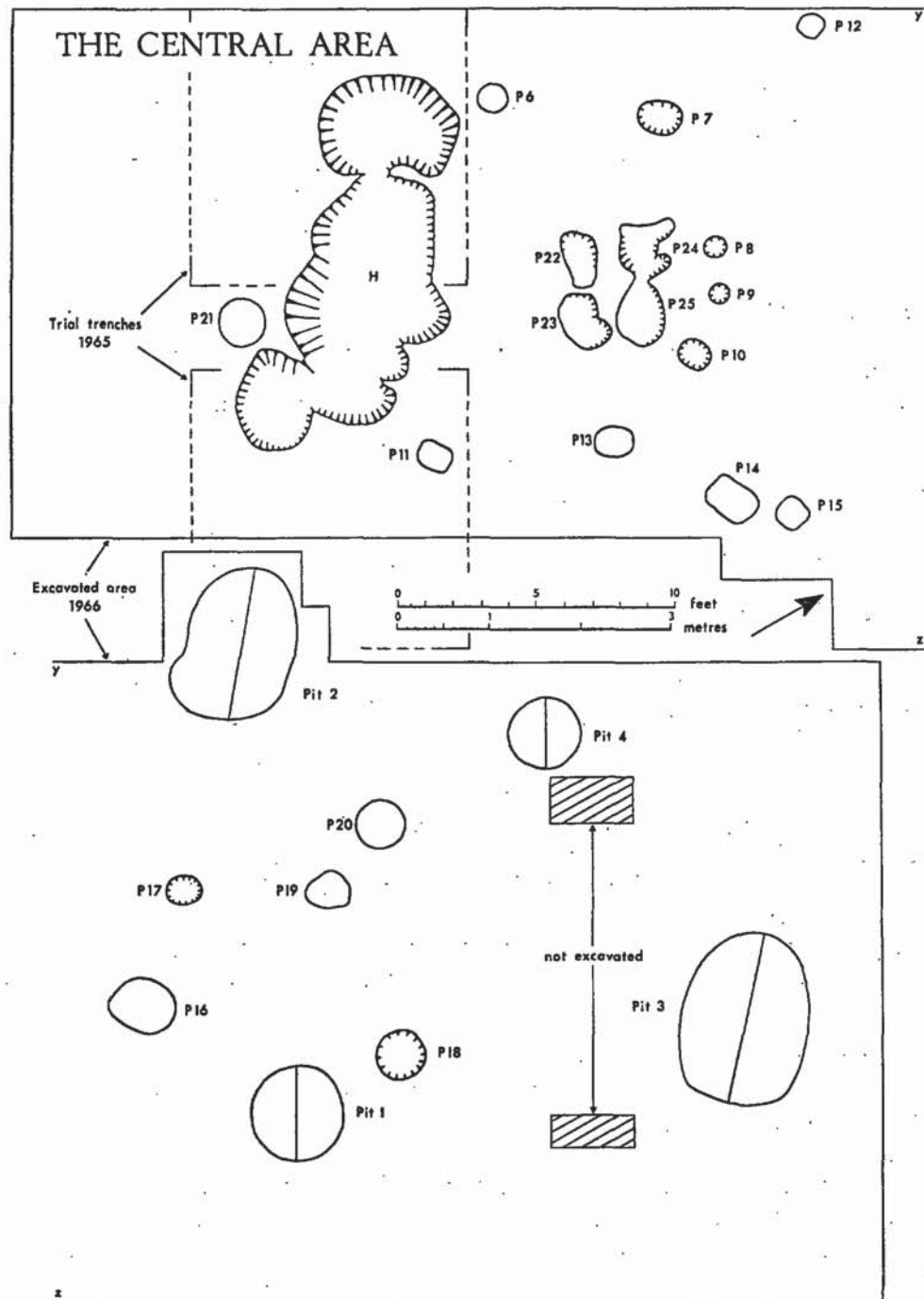


Fig. 22. Bramdean; excavated area inside the enclosure.

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The purpose of this structure was not evident but it would seem too small to represent a permanent dwelling. It lies on a slope with a gradient at this point of 1:13½, steep enough perhaps to require terracing if the building were intended for habitation. There was no evidence of a hearth, and only a few fragments of pottery had found their way into the posthole fill. A quantity of daub in the internal postholes (P22 to 25) gave some indication of the nature of this structure, but until more of the enclosure is excavated, and it can be seen how this structure may relate to others, it is difficult to suggest its precise purpose.

The remaining postholes in the central area, P12 and P14 to 20, do not form any recognisable pattern.

The Hollow (Fig. 22, 'H')

This was a very irregular feature whose purpose is unknown, neither was it possible to tell how it related to the postholes. It had a very irregular bottom and contained a uniform fill of very chalky silty loam. It produced a small quantity of animal bone and pottery, sufficient to indicate that it was man-made, and that it was probably later than the other features in the central area.

(4) *Cutting C*, 1966 (Figs. 19 and 21)

This cutting was put down to try to find the chronological relationship between the enclosure ditch and the presumably later ditch running tangentially to it. The section revealed that the two ditches intersect.

The enclosure ditch reached a depth of about 4 ft. 6 in. Four main layers were distinguished. In layer 1 a chalky silt gave way gradually to a very fine silt, which in turn merged into layer 2, a more friable layer of silty loam with pockets of harder, compact clay. Layer 3 consisted of a grey-brown silty loam with chalk fragments, burnt flints, etc., giving way to layer 4, a dark brown loam. Dating evidence was scanty but layer 2 contained two Iron Age sherds, layers 3 and 4 a total of 11 Roman sherds.

This enclosure ditch was cut into by a later ditch, in which four main layers were distinguished. Layer 5 consisted of a very chalky silt, which gave way to a silty loam with small flints and chalk fragments, layer 6. This became harder, more clayey and less chalky in layer 7. It was difficult to distinguish, in section, layer 7 from layer 3 of the enclosure ditch, but layer 8, consisting of a rich brown clayey loam was readily distinguishable from layer 4. This ditch contained little dating evidence, two Roman sherds from layers 5 and 6.

(5) *Cutting D*, 1966 (Figs. 19 and 23)

This cutting was made at a point where a cropmark was visible on the air photograph, and it was thought that this might represent a ditch enclosing an early version of the villa. The ditch proved to be flat bottomed, about 3 ft. deep but produced only two or three scraps of Roman pottery. Three layers were distinguishable; layer 1 consisted of loose chalk in fine silt, becoming less chalky and more silty towards layer 2, which contained a greater admixture of loam with small flints and chalk fragments. Layer 3, more clearly distinguished, consisted of a lens of fine loam.

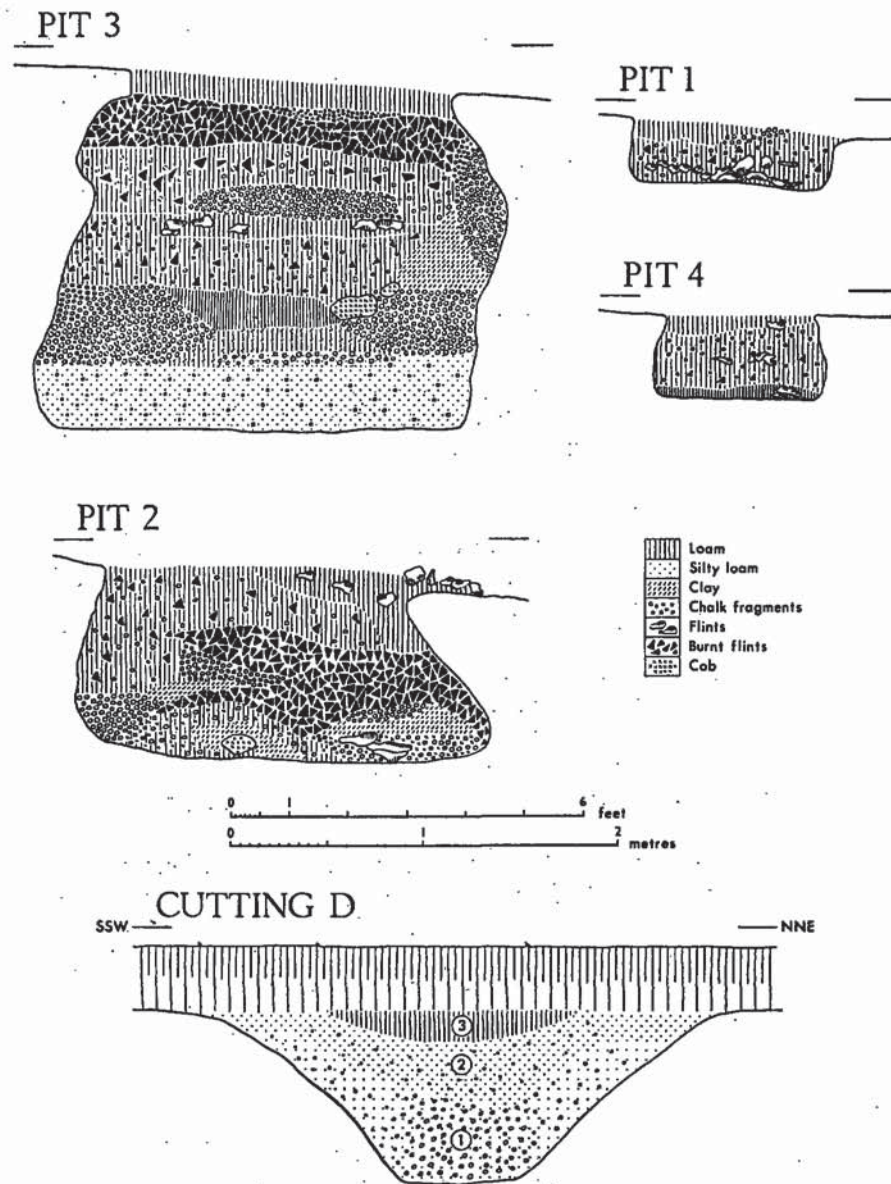


Fig. 23. Bramdean; sections through Pits 1-4, and Cutting D, 1966.

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There were thus three ditches dated to the Roman period on the site, in Cuttings B, C, and D. The relationship between these was difficult to ascertain but the Roman ditch in Cutting B, on the basis of the abundance of finds, seems to be quite distinct from the Roman ditches in Cuttings C and D, which contained little in the way of dating evidence.

It is suggested that the Roman ditches in Cuttings C and D, which though dissimilar in terms of fill, resemble one another in terms of shape and depth, represent sections through a ditch enclosing a precursor of the villa. The course of this ditch to the south-west is indistinct on the air photograph, but is indicated tentatively on the diagram (Fig. 18). The course of the Roman ditch in Cutting B is not clear at this stage.

Dating Evidence

The excavations provided firm evidence regarding the date of the enclosure. The pottery found in the excavations is clearly divisible into two groups; the first, Iron Age, from the enclosure ditch and central area, and the second, Romano-British, from the second-period ditch in Cutting B.

All the Iron Age pottery belongs to one group described by Cunliffe (1964, 2) as the 'St. Catherine's Hill Group' which forms a distinct component of Hawkes' 'Southern Second B' culture. It is similar to that found at a number of sites between the river Arun in Sussex and the Salisbury Avon, and pottery in this group seems to have been in wide circulation during the first century B.C.

All the Iron Age rims and bases have been illustrated (Figs. 24, 25, 26). The pottery consists of 'saucepan pots' and jars in flint gritted paste, sometimes burnished, and occasionally decorated with lightly tooled patterns, either below the rim, giving the appearance of a beadrims (Fig. 24, Nos. 1 and 5), or else on the body of the vessel in a cross-hatched pattern (Fig. 24, Nos. 13-16).

A representative selection of the Romano-British pottery from Cutting B has been illustrated (Fig. 26). Beadrims jars and necked jars were present in quantity and in a variety of pastes, together with native copies of Gallo-Belgic wares - several platter forms, a carinated beaker and a bowl - and imitation butt beaker. There was no Samian ware, no true Gallo-Belgic ware and no true butt beaker. Absence of true Gallo-Belgic wares, despite the presence of several examples of native copies, suggests a date towards the end of the first century A.D. Nothing in the Romano-British group suggests a date running into the second century.

THE FINDS

Iron Age Pottery (Figs. 24, 25, 26)

Provenances. Cutting A, layer 2: 1, 2, 3, 18; layer 4: 4, 6, 8, 11, 12; layer 6: 5, 7, 9, 13-16 and 2 similar sherds, 17. Entrance, posthole P1: 10; P26: 19. Cutting C, layer 2: 20. Central Area, postholes P16: 27; P21: 21, 22; 'H': 23-25; Pit 1: 26; Pit 4: 28-29.

1. Hard, black flint-gritted ware with burnished exterior; shallow tooled line below the rim giving the appearance of a proto-beadrims.
2. Straight-sided pot in hard, black flint-gritted ware with slightly burnished exterior.

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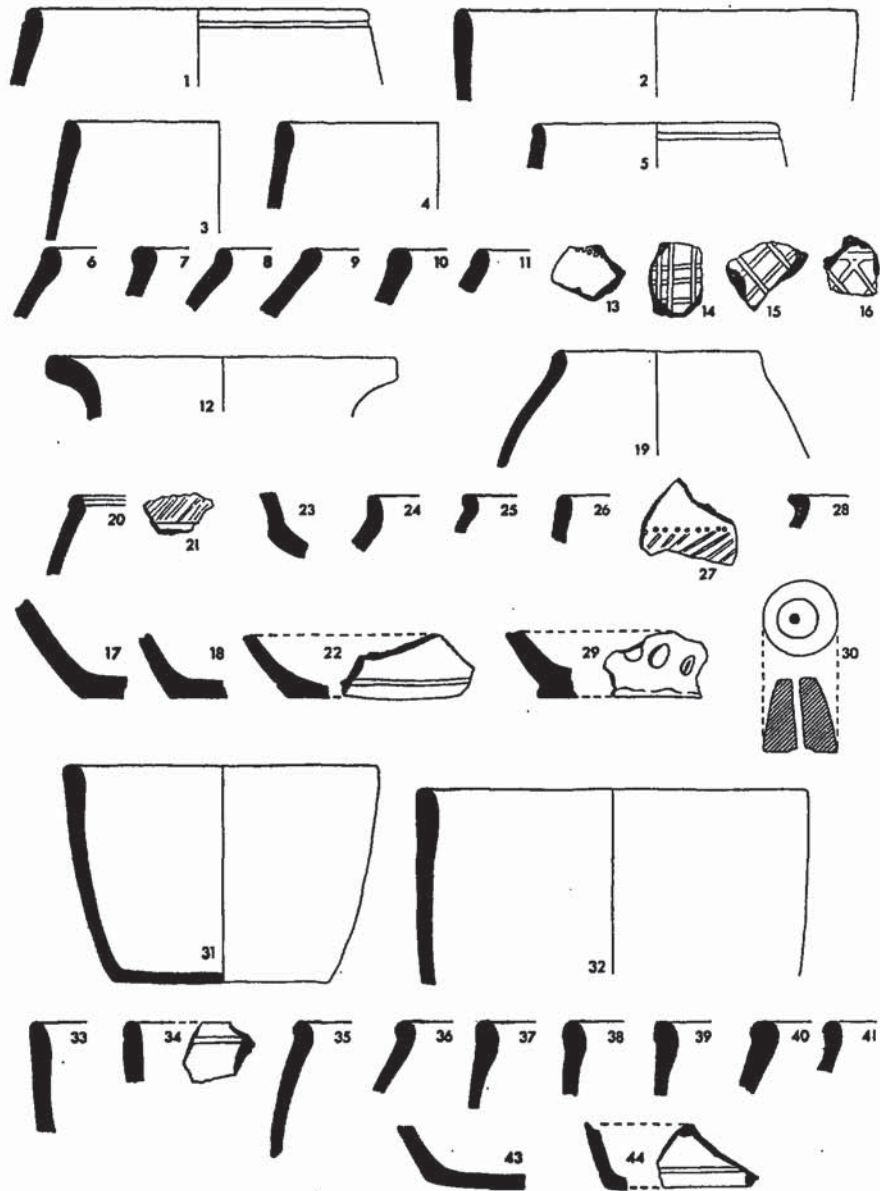


Fig. 24. Bramdean; Iron Age pottery. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

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3. Straight-sided pot in reddish flint-gritted ware, fired to black; top of rim slightly flattened and slightly thickened internally.
4. Similar to 3, in rather harder grey-black flint-gritted ware.
5. Smaller pot in black flint-gritted ware with a shallow tooled line below the rim.
6. Reddish flint-gritted ware, fired to black with internally thickened rim.
7. Similar to 6 with thickened rim.
8. Black flint-gritted ware with proto-beadrim.
9. Similar to 8.
10. Reddish flint-gritted ware, fired to black, with slightly burnished surface and an internally thickened rim.
11. Small fragment with proto-beadrim.
12. Jar with out-turned rim in reddish flint-gritted ware, fired to black.
13. Sherd of black flint-gritted ware, decorated with a line of shallow punched dots, burnished interior.
- 14, 15 and 16. Sherds decorated with shallow tooled cross-hatching, in grey-black, flint-gritted ware, fired to red externally (*cf.* Cunliffe 1964, Fig. 6, No. 16).
17. Slightly sagging base in coarsely flint-gritted red/black ware.
18. Coarsely flint-gritted ware, fired red/black externally with buff interior.
19. Black flint-gritted ware with slightly burnished exterior.
20. Coarse, red flint-gritted ware, fired to black, with proto-beadrim; shallow groove on inside of rim.
21. Sherd of black flint-gritted ware with burnished exterior, decorated with shallow tooling.
22. Flat base in black flint-gritted ware with tooled line.
23. Side of shouldered vessel in reddish flint-gritted ware, fired red/black.
24. Black flint-gritted ware with burnished exterior.
25. Small jar in hard smooth flint-gritted ware with burnished exterior.
26. Coarse, crumbly reddish ware with proto-beadrim; exterior fired black.
27. Side of jar, burnished internally and externally, decorated with a row of punched dots and lightly tooled grooves.
28. Small flat-topped rim in coarse black ware fired to red.
29. Very coarsely flint-gritted base, decorated with finger nail impressions.

Central Area, Pit 2: 31-44

31. Saucepan pot, about one-third complete, in hard red/black flint-gritted ware, with lightly burnished exterior.
32. Larger saucepan pot in grey ware, fired black internally, red/black externally; rim slightly thickened internally.
33. Reddish ware, with burnished exterior.
34. Reddish ware, fired to black internally, with slightly burnished exterior; groove beneath the rim, giving appearance of a proto-beadrim.
35. Hard, red proto-beadrim jar.
36. Proto-beadrim jar in hard, black flint-gritted ware, with burnished exterior.
- 37, 38 and 39. Black ware, burnished internally and externally, with internally thickened rim.

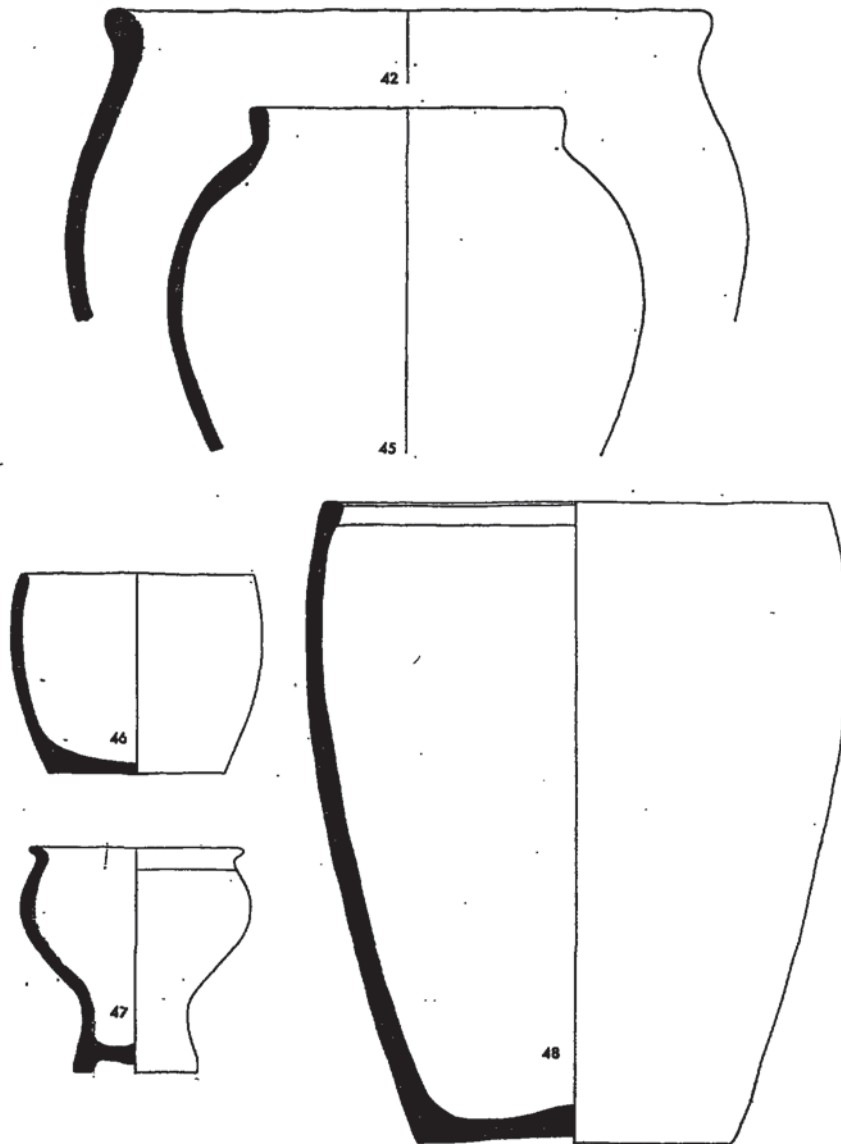


Fig. 25. Bramdean; Iron Age Pottery. (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

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40. Proto-beadrim jar in black flint-gritted ware.
41. Small proto-beadrim jar.
42. Large storage jar in coarse black flint-gritted ware, with black interior, red/black burnished exterior.
43. Sagging base in black flint-gritted ware, black internally, red/black externally.
44. Base in reddish flint-gritted ware, decorated with shallow groove.

Central Area, Pit 3: 45-64 (all except 53, 54, 57, 58, 61, 62 and 64 from the bottom layer)

45. High shouldered jar in reddish flint-gritted ware, fired to black; about half complete.
46. Small saucepan pot in poorly made coarse grey-black ware; about one-third complete.
47. Well-made jar in smooth black sandy ware with burnished exterior, and pedestal base; very shallow tooling below rim inscribed with sharp instrument; about half complete.
48. Large storage jar in coarsely gritted black ware, fired red/black; almost completely restored.
49. Jar in coarsely gritted black ware.
50. Smooth grey-black coarsely-gritted ware with burnished exterior.
51. Large storage jar in coarsely gritted black ware, fired red/black externally, burnished internally and externally.
52. Storage jar in coarse grey ware fired to black externally, with reddish interior.
53. Coarse poorly-made jar in black ware.
54. Very coarse black ware fired reddish externally, and with blackened interior.
55. Flattened rim in grey sandy ware.
56. Flattened rim in black sandy ware with slightly burnished exterior.
- 57 and 58. Flattened rims in grey-black sandy ware.
59. Grey-black sandy ware fired to black externally, red internally; burnished exterior.
60. Jar in grey-black flint-gritted ware with flattened rim.
61. Small jar in hard black flint-gritted ware, with flattened rim.
62. Small rim in black flint-gritted ware.
63. Base of large coarsely gritted storage jar, black internally, red/black externally. This base may possibly belong to No. 51.
64. Base and side of saucepan pot in coarsely flint-gritted black ware.
65. Base in coarse black ware.

Romano-British Pottery (Fig. 26)

Cutting B, layer 4.

67. High shouldered beadrim jar in hard black ware.
68. Beadrim jar in coarse flint-gritted grey-brown ware with thin black slip on exterior.
69. Beadrim jar in hard black sandy ware; decoration on roughened exterior.
70. Beadrim jar in hard red sandy ware; decoration three parallel horizontal lines.
71. Small beadrim jar in coarse grey sandy ware. Another closely similar vessel.
72. Jar with simple upturned rim; coarse grey/black flint-gritted sandy ware.

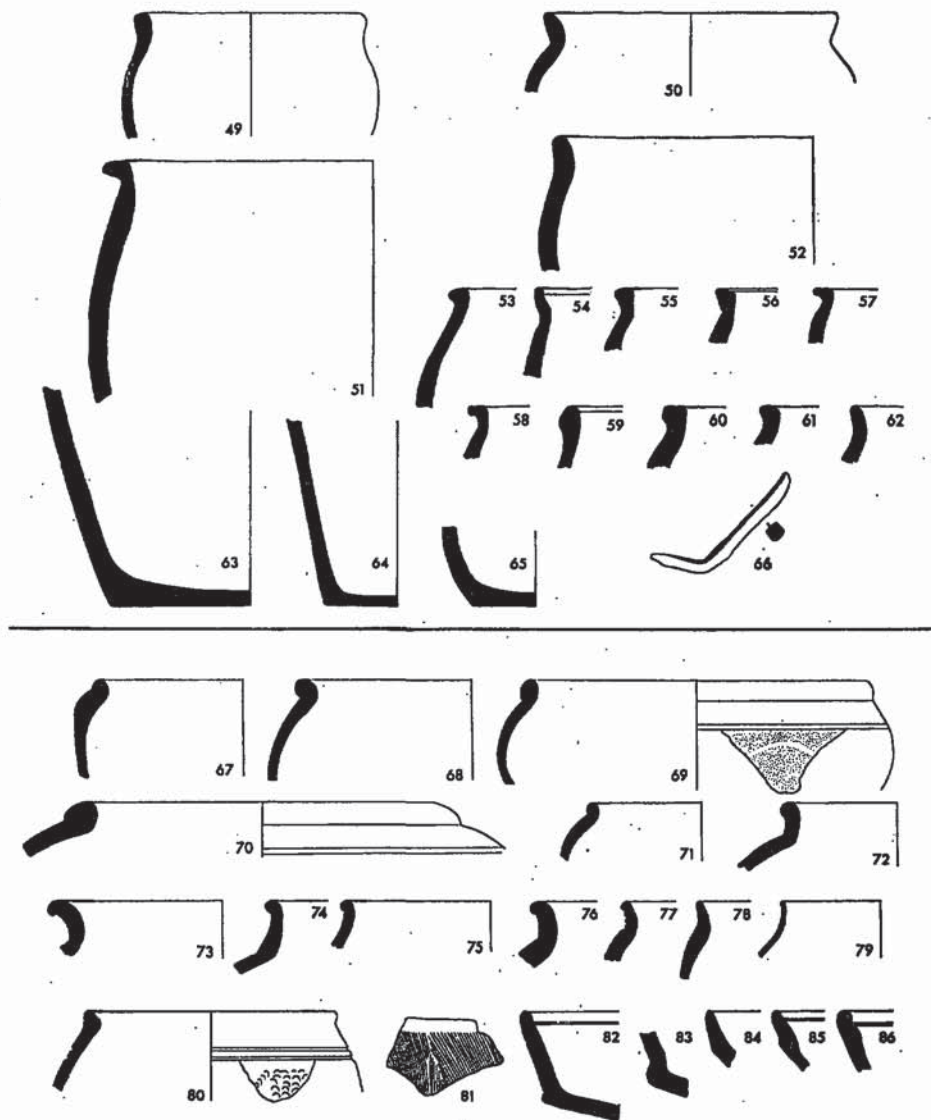


Fig. 26. Bramdean; Iron Age (49-65) and Romano-British (67-86) pottery, iron object (66).
(Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.)

EXCAVATIONS AT BRAMDEAN, HAMPSHIRE, 1965 AND 1966

73. Necked jar in buff/grey sandy ware.
74. Necked jar in buff/grey sandy ware.
75. Necked jar in hard grey sandy ware; black exterior.
76. Necked jar in hard black sandy ware.
77. Necked jar in hard buff/grey sandy ware.
78. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic bowl, with small upright rim; buff ware (*cf.* Cunliffe 1964, Fig. 16, No. 12).
79. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic carinated beaker in red/buff ware (*cf.* Hawkes and Hull 1947, pl. lviii, Form 120A).
80. Imitation butt beaker in pink sandy ware, black exterior; two horizontal grooves and punched decoration.
81. Imitation butt beaker with comb decoration.
82. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic dish with slight internal groove near the lip, and slight external groove (*cf.* Hawkes and Hull 1947, 219, form 11B).
83. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic platter (perhaps resembling Hawkes and Hull, 1947, pl. L, form 33).
84. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic platter with plain rounded rim (*cf.* Hawkes and Hull 1947, form 21); one other similar.
85. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic platter with internal groove below rim (*cf.* Hawkes and Hull 1947, Fig. 47, No. 19); three other similar.
86. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic platter in buff sandy ware with well-marked internal groove below the rim; interior coated with white slip (*cf.* Hawkes and Hull 1947, Fig. 48, No. 12, form 28).

Other Romano-British Pottery (Not Illustrated)

Twenty-one beadrim jars in grey, black or buff sandy ware.

Sixteen necked jars in grey/black or buff sandy ware.

Several coarsely gritted storage jars with simple rims.

Four lids in black sandy ware.

Several simple bases in grey/black or buff sandy ware; foot ring base and one pedestal base in native copy of Gallo-Belgic ware.

Small Finds

1. Spindle whorl (Fig. 24, No. 30) or possibly small loom weight, in sandy red-black ware. Cutting A, layer 6.
2. Romano-British bronze fibula (not illustrated): a topsoil find, probably belonging to early second century.
All other small finds were from the fill of Pit 3.
3. Iron object, probably a bent nail (Fig. 26, No. 66). Also part of clay loom weight, small piece of antler tine, well-worn, polished granite axe, several fragments of quern stone, several fragments of cob oven.

THE BRAMDEAN ROMAN VILLA

The evidence of activity on the site during the first century A.D. is of particular interest in connection with the development of the villa.

No report of the excavations last century was published and neither the mosaic pavements nor the small finds appear to have survived (see note 2). Brief descriptions, mainly concerned with the mosaics, appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (Anon. 1823; 1824) and they were further discussed by Colt Hoare (1829) and Roach Smith (1852). The fullest account of the excavations with illustrations, coin list and the only available plan was published by Duthy (1839), whose account is followed by two subsequent summaries, that of Shore (1900) and that in the *Victoria County History* (Haverfield, F., in Doubleday 1900, 307).

The principal building (Fig. 18), aligned west-east, consisted of a row of six rooms with a seventh room built onto the south-west corner, and a south-facing corridor. All the rooms in this main building, which measured 86 feet in length, were paved, two of them with fine mosaics which were in a good state of preservation when first unearthed. The pavements undoubtedly belong to the final phases of the villa's history (see note 3).

That part of the villa which housed the mosaics, although it attracted most of the attention at the time of its excavation, was only part of a very much larger construction. Associated buildings extended over an area of about three-quarters of an acre, and may have extended even further. No detailed plan of these features ever seems to have been made but Duthy's plan shows that an area 244 ft. by 126 ft. was enclosed by walls along the eastern and southern side (Fig. 18, where the villa area is based on Duthy's plan). On the southern side there seems to have been a bath-house, while the northern and western sides are said to have been covered with habitable rooms. Apartments therefore extended round three sides of a courtyard, with the fourth (i.e. eastern) side bounded by a wall only. It is uncertain to what extent these foundations were completely excavated and destroyed, but it seems likely that over a good deal of the villa area only the upper levels were uncovered, and the site would probably repay re-excavation.

The small finds were described as being of the 'usual type', but have never been illustrated, nor do they appear to have survived. Nothing is therefore known of the pottery, but the coins ranged in date from Claudius to Constantine II. Although the total number of coins is not known, the great majority belonged to the late third and early fourth centuries.

How many periods of building are represented by the features that were uncovered is not known, and an attempted reconstruction of the history of the villa must be based upon: (i) the imperfect plan of the main villa building and associated area as published by Duthy, (ii) the illustrations of the mosaics, and (iii) the coin list. It has been seen that the mosaics are probably of fourth century date, but earlier activity within the Romano-British period is witnessed by a few first century coins, and by the first century ditch (Cutting B) excavated in 1965.

Basically the plan of the buildings shows a row of rooms with one wing and a corridor. By comparison with such villas as Lockleys and Park Street, two of the very few villas where the whole sequence of construction has been fully studied, it seems very

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likely that the wing and corridor may be later additions to an early and very simple rectangular house, which was followed by subsequent rebuilding and enlargement.

Thus the first phase at Bramdean could be represented by a simple rectangular building to which a corridor and wing were at some stage added, and which in its final phase had grown into a much larger construction with the earlier building forming part of a courtyard villa.

The air photographs of the site show a number of features (Fig. 18) which seem to represent ditches partially enclosing successive versions of the villa, one of which is represented in Cuttings C and D, though this did not produce very much dating evidence. The development of the villa can only be traced from the evidence revealed by the excavations of the last century.

The period of 150 years or so from A.D. 100 to about A.D. 250 is represented by only two coins, suggesting only limited activity on the site during this period. This was followed by renewed prosperity during the latter half of the third century, to which by far the greater number of coins belong, and no doubt it is to this period that many of the buildings excavated but never fully described or planned are to be ascribed.

This would be completely in agreement with the general trend of villa development throughout southern England, with a revival towards the end of the third century, with true villas equipped with baths, mosaics and hypocausts, typically arranged around a courtyard, sometimes by adding wings to an existing corridor house.

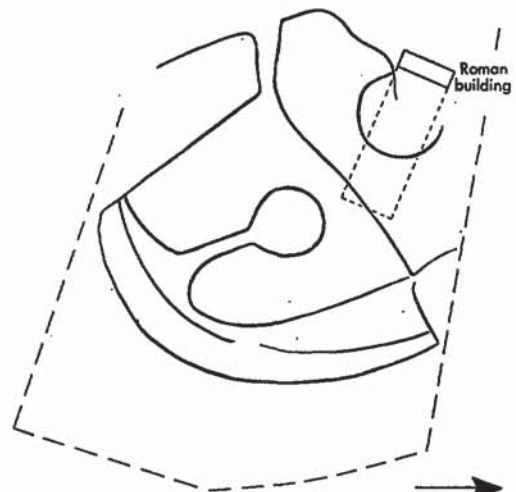
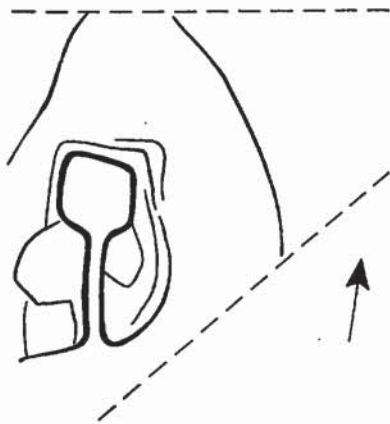
Subsequent further aggrandisement at Bramdean, in the early fourth century, included the addition of the mosaic pavements. The coins of the early fourth century are comparatively few and do not extend into the second half of the century, suggesting that the villa did not survive more than a generation or so after the mosaics were installed. The circumstances which led to the decline and abandonment of the villa are not known, but the mosaics, when excavated, were in a good state of preservation, and the early accounts do not mention any evidence of extensive burning – a point which it is reasonable to assume would have been both noticed and mentioned. It may be assumed that the villa did not meet a violent end.

OTHER SITES COMPARABLE TO BRAMDEAN ENCLOSURE

A number of sites closely similar to Bramdean are known to occur throughout Wessex, in Hampshire and Wiltshire, and in Dorset. None have yet come to light to the east of the river Meon in eastern Hampshire or in Sussex, but outlying examples are known in Somerset, Kent, and in the Upper Thames Valley, and broadly similar types of enclosure may occur in northern England, Scotland and Wales. The majority of these are unpublished aerial discoveries and will be described in turn.

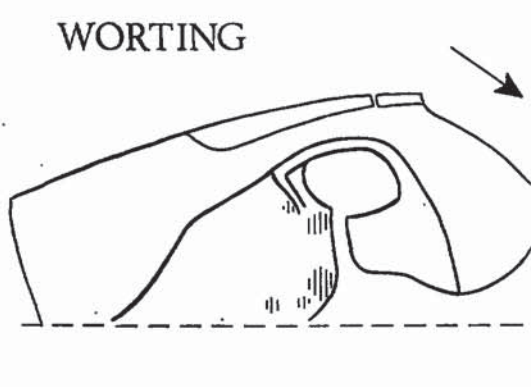
The site known as *Preshaw House* (Fig. 27; Fig. 30, No. 2) occupies about three-quarters acre and is approached by a particularly long entranceway which extends for about 250 ft. The enclosure has a number of associated outworks; their function and their relationship to the main enclosure are uncertain, but they seem to be connected with the main enclosure by means of a small entrance in its northern extremity. The enclosure is situated on almost level ground, its long entranceway dropping slightly into a shallow combe.

UPPER CRANBOURNE



WOODHAM FARM

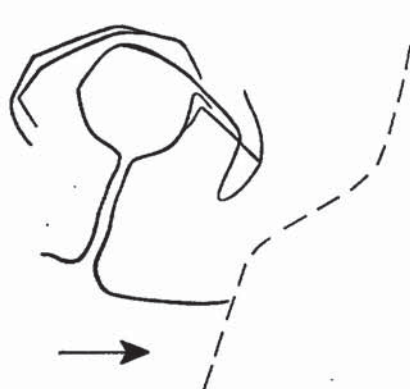
WORTING



0 500 feet

— — modern field boundaries

PRESHAW HOUSE



SOUTH VIEW

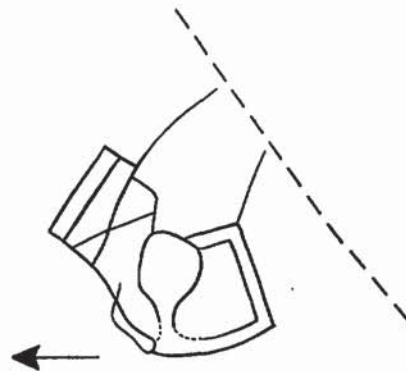


Fig. 27. 'Banjo' enclosures in Hampshire (1); Upper Cranbourne, Wonston; Woodham Farm, Kings Worthy; Worting and South View, Basingstoke; Preshaw House, Exton.

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Faint traces of a ploughed-out 'Celtic' field system can be seen in air photographs, but cannot be related to the enclosure. No signs of the original earthworks are visible on the ground, but when under plough the site yields sherds of Romano-British coarse pottery, together with some fragments of colour-coated ware.

Upper Cranbourne (Fig. 27; Fig. 30, No. 3) consists of a rather squarer enclosure of just under half acre approached by an entranceway some 200 ft. in length. Two supplementary enclosures lie on either side of the entrance. The site lies on the south-facing slope of a little dry valley, and on the ground the position of the main enclosure seems to coincide with a slight depression around which there is a faint build-up of soil.

Worting (Fig. 27; Fig. 30, No. 4) lies on almost level ground, and consists of a sub-circular enclosure occupying about half acre, approached by an entranceway some 150 ft. in length. In this case the 'banjo' clearly forms only part of a very much larger earthwork scheme, the whole of which occupies some nine acres. The site continues into an adjacent field, but does not appear in air photographs due to differential cropping. A small quantity of Romano-British coarse pottery can be picked up when the site is under plough.

Woodham Farm (Fig. 27; Fig. 30, No. 5) was known for some years from ground observation, and was watched closely from the air over a period of 20 years before it finally showed up under favourable conditions and was photographed from the air by the owner of the land, Mr. W. H. C. Blake.

Towards the top of a dry valley, a Romano-British building was excavated in 1924 by Mr. Blake and his brother (Taylor and Collingwood 1925, 243). The ground slopes south-eastwards away from the building towards the bottom of the dry valley, which, judging from the spread of alluvium in it, must formerly have carried a small stream.

Towards the bottom of the valley, two or perhaps three parallel lines can be seen on air photographs following the contour, and these have been suggested as cultivation terraces (Taylor 1944, 83). There is, however, no sign of any terracing on the ground at this point, and they clearly represent ditches, since the lines of the westernmost of them are interrupted towards the centre to form the entrance to a circular enclosure of 'banjo' type, occupying quarter to half acre. The latter has been compared to Gussage Cowdown and Fawkham, Kent and suggested as a cattle pen, presumably of Roman date. In terms of the siting of both enclosure and Roman building, Woodham Farm provides a convincing parallel to Bramdean.

Some time after the site was photographed from the air, it was rediscovered, independently, by ground observation, and a plan of it, as seen from the ground, was published by Gladwell (1953). In addition to the circular enclosure and associated ditches already described, a possible second enclosure is mentioned which is just visible in the air photographs and seems to underlie the Roman building, suggesting that the enclosures and associated ditches pre-date the Roman building.

Three 'Celtic' field lynchets seem to be later in date than the enclosure over which one of them appears to lie, and were probably contemporary with the Roman building. Slight traces of this field system can still be seen in the hedgerow on the southern side of the modern field.

At *Warren Farm* (Fig. 28; Fig. 30, No. 6) a small 'banjo' enclosure forms part of a very complex group of enclosures, ditches and 'Celtic' fields of various dates. The most

clearly recognisable component of this group is a one and a half acre enclosure, clearly associated with a 'Celtic' field system, which seems to end at a point where the lynchet (Fig. 28, x-z) meets a boundary ditch. Beyond this ditch, to the west, the air photograph seems to show a double ditched track, part of which is just visible in the next modern field boundary as a slight break of slope (q). It continues for a short distance before being joined by the ditched entrance of a distinctly circular 'banjo', of rather less than half an acre.

To the north a larger rectangular enclosure, the western part of which is still clearly visible on the ground, has yielded a good deal of Romano-British coarse pottery of first century date (see note 4). The whole site is further complicated by an intricate pattern of ditches lying between the rectangular enclosure and the 'banjo'.

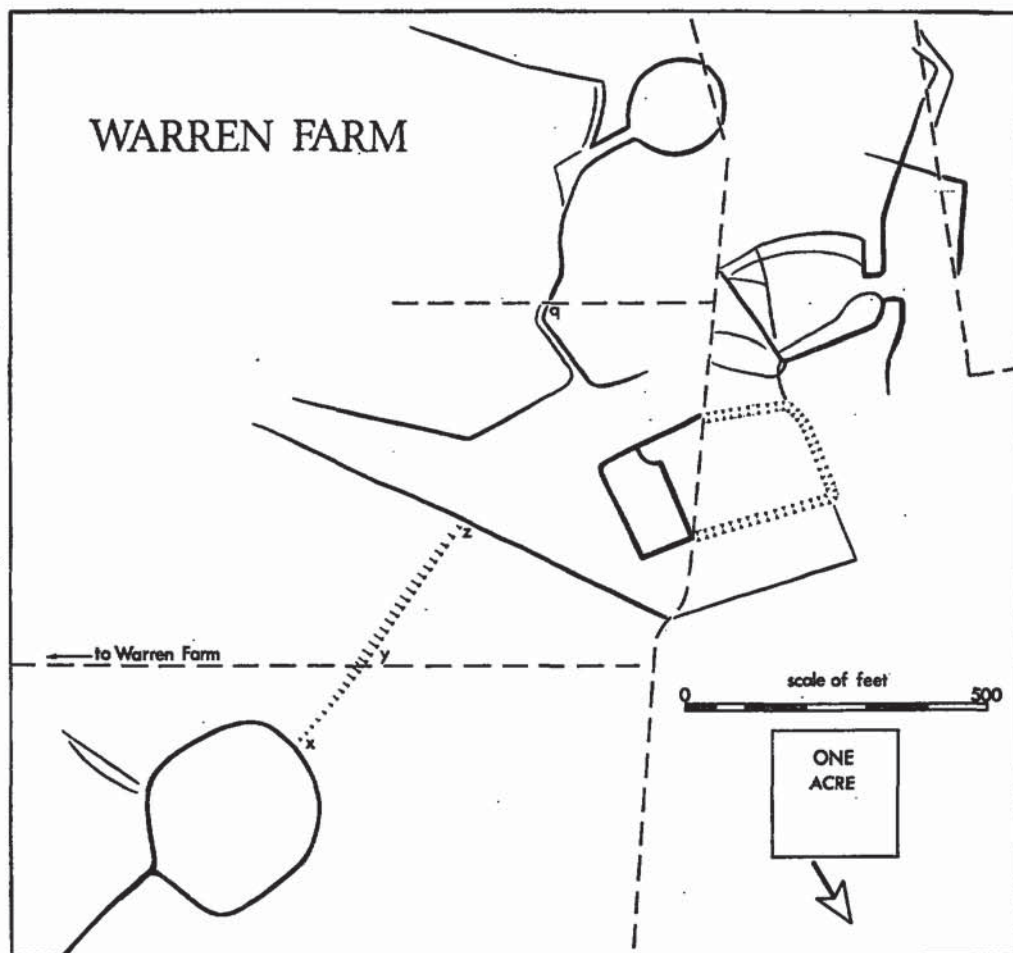


Fig. 28. 'Banjo' enclosures in Hampshire (2); Warren Farm, Tichborne.

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Slightly different from the foregoing sites is *South View* (Fig. 27; Fig. 30, No. 15), since in addition to a small quarter acre feature of 'banjo' type it embodies a number of associated ditches, more angular in form, and perhaps more suggestive of Roman influence than any of the others. The site lies in an area of intense urban expansion and must be regarded as threatened.

The site of *New Farm, Weston Patrick* (Fig. 29; Fig. 30, No. 7) was originally discovered quite by chance in 1957. It lies at a height of 500 feet on a chalk ridge, the whole site representing a number of phases of construction.

The largest and most readily recognisable feature is a large sub-circular enclosure with a diameter of about 500 ft. Built onto it to the south-west is a roughly rectangular enclosure, the two features in their final form probably being contemporary. Alternatively the more rectangular enclosure could be Roman as at Ram's Hill, Berkshire (Piggott 1940, 467).

These two enclosures coincide with a number of other features, the main components of which are a long trackway, from which branch off two or perhaps three enclosures (Fig. 29, x, y and z) of 'banjo' type. The more northerly one is almost circular, of less than half acre, and surrounded by a second more or less concentric ditch. Adjacent to it is a more elongated enclosure of about half acre. The third shows less distinctly. These enclosures are joined by means of long entranceways to the trackway which continues towards the northern corner of the field where the latter adjoins Humbly Grove Copse. Within the copse the trackway, cut first by a deep chalk pit and a modern ditch, continues as an earth-work in the form of a very well-worn sunken track in a north-easterly direction for a distance of some 700 ft. until it reaches a small circular earthwork of unusual form (q). The latter, about 140 ft. in diameter, is defined by a substantial bank, with no trace of a ditch, the material for the bank having evidently been obtained from its interior. This is presumably the earthwork described by Williams-Freeman (1915, 432) as a chalk quarry. This is unlikely to have been its purpose, since the enclosure is small in relation to the trackway by which it is approached.

The sunken track approaches the earthwork (q) from the south-west, but it is also approached from the south-east by a second track. This is less clearly defined and is only traceable for a short distance before the wood becomes impenetrable, but this trackway seems to lead to a 'Celtic' field system, which undoubtedly exists in the wood. Although the field system and the trackway cannot be related to one another with certainty, it seems likely that both these and the curious circular earthwork (q), and the three 'banjo' enclosures were originally related to the same general earthwork scheme.

Of the main crop mark complex no trace can be seen on the ground. It has been under rough stubble each time that it has been visited, and no surface dating evidence has been obtained from it.

In addition to the foregoing, seven further sites have been discovered recently in Hampshire which clearly belong to the same category (Fig. 30, List Nos. 21, 22, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32) but it has not been possible to make plans of these in the field in time for inclusion in the present paper. A number of other more doubtful sites which require further photography have also been listed (Fig. 30, Nos. 8 to 14, 17).

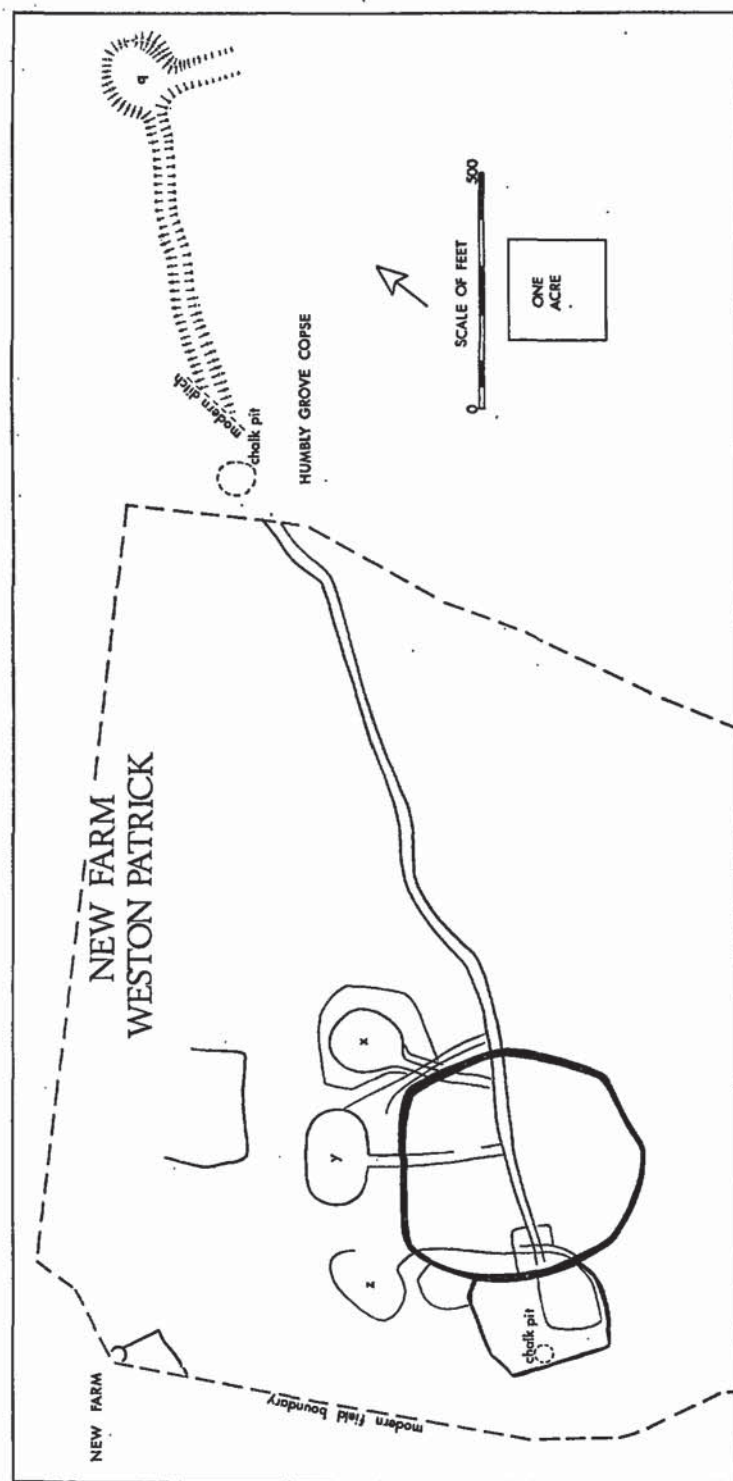


Fig. 29. 'Banjo' enclosures in Hampshire (3); New Farm, Weston Patrick.

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The only known site of this type in Hampshire of which earthwork remains are still extant is *Blagden Copse* (Fig. 30, No. 16), part of which was excavated in 1961 by Dr. I. M. Stead of the Ministry of Works when a Forestry Commission access road threatened to destroy part of it (Stead 1969).

The site as a whole lies on a southerly slope and consists of a linear ditch about 750 ft. in length running north-east/south-west. About halfway along it, a ditch causeway about 150 ft. in length leads off it in a westerly direction to a small sub-rectangular enclosure of about three-quarters acre internally.

The enclosure itself was not excavated, since it was not threatened, but it was noted that, except in the western corner where it had apparently been remodelled, the ditch was on the inner side. Sections were cut across the linear ditch and across the ditched roadway, and it was quite clear from the excavation that both had been constructed as part of the same plan.

The pottery from the secondary silting of the linear ditch and causeway ditch was described as 'Southern Second B', and a second group of pottery from a dark layer of rubbish formed after the ditch had almost completely silted up was described as 'Southern Second C'.

A 'Celtic' field system appears to lie to the south-west of the linear ditch but according to a plan made by Dewar (1929), the linear ditch runs into the field system rather than along its edge. Therefore whilst it is possible that the linear ditch divides arable from pasture, the relationship between the ditch and the fields is uncertain, and the present nature of most of the wood makes surveying impossible.

In Wiltshire and Dorset four known sites resemble the 'banjo' enclosures of Hampshire. Three of these were originally discovered from the air by Crawford and Keiller (1928).

At *Hamshill Ditches* (Fig. 30, No. 24) the earthworks are still preserved on the ground, and fall partly inside and partly outside a modern wood, Himsel Copse. That part of the site which lies within the copse was not surveyed by Crawford, and the consequently incomplete plan led him to liken the remainder of the site to the 'spectacles' of Pewsey Down (Crawford and Keiller 1928, pl. xi b).

The site consists of a linear ditch running for a total of some 200 yards, attached to which by means of ditched causeways are two enclosures of 'banjo' type, one outside the copse and the second, not on Crawford's plan, inside it (Bonney and Moore 1967, 118). Each occupies less than quarter acre internally. The enclosure outside the copse seems to have been built onto the linear ditch, in such a way as to indicate that the latter is slightly earlier in date, although there is little doubt that the two are related to one another in their final form. A 'Celtic' field lynchet is also related to the enclosure.

The enclosure within the copse, whilst essentially similar, is made more difficult to understand by the nature of its entrance, which resembles not so much a causeway as a bank between two ditches.

To the west of the linear ditch lies an area of about two acres covered with the remains of hut platforms cut into the gently sloping hillside. Romano-British coarse pottery can be picked up in large quantities over the whole of this area, in marked contrast to the interior of the two enclosures which yield no dating evidence at all. This point was noted by Crawford and led him to suggest that the small enclosure had probably been constructed for livestock.

Church End Ring (Fig. 30, No. 25), also discovered by Crawford (1928, pl. xvii), is a pear-shaped enclosure occupying over one and a half acres internally, and represents the upper limit, from the point of view of size, for enclosures of this type. The site, still preserved as an earthwork, lies at the head of a combe and is situated partly in the valley bottom and partly on the steep valley side. The enclosure is joined by means of a ditch to Hanging Langford Camp, with which Crawford suggested it was contemporary. The connecting ditch was recently sectioned by Mr. D. J. Bonney, and produced evidence of an Iron Age C date. The relationship of the bank to the ditch of the enclosure varies, the bank being sometimes on the inner, sometimes on the outer side. Its situation, partly on a slope and partly in a valley bottom, does not suggest that the enclosure was primarily intended for habitation, or was defensive in any sense.

Gussage Cowdown (Fig. 30, No. 23), is a small circular enclosure about 200 ft. in diameter, joined by means of an entrance causeway to a long and irregular linear ditch (Crawford and Keiller 1928, pl. xv and xvi). It is part of a very complex site representing many prehistoric periods, practically the whole of which has recently been levelled by ploughing. Crawford however planned the site as an earthwork, and noted that the ditch of the enclosure was on the inner side, and suggested that it may have served as a cattle pen. A careful ground search of the whole site was recently made after ploughing; and although the surrounding area yielded a good deal of pottery, the area occupied by the enclosure itself was noticeably devoid of any evidence of habitation. A more recent air photograph clearly indicates that there is a second enclosure of 'banjo' type joined to the same linear ditch.

A final site in Wiltshire which seems to belong to the same category is the rectilinear enclosure and associated features within *Casterley Camp* (Fig. 30, No. 26) (Cunnington 1913). It consisted of an almost square enclosure, with sides of about 170 ft. approached by two ditches, which form an entrance to it. Here again it was noted that the enclosure bank was outside the ditch. On the basis of the excavated finds the enclosure may belong to an early phase of the Romano-British period. The primary silting of the inner works contained 'beadrim' bowls belonging to a phase earlier than the appearance of Samian ware on the site.

Although it has been dated to an earlier period than that to which most of the sites mentioned in this paper are thought to belong, brief reference should be made to the small 'egg-shaped enclosure' excavated near *Woodhenge* (Cunnington 1929, 49). Stone (1954, 166) showed that this belonged to the Bronze Age but in terms of general size and appearance it resembles quite closely the sites discussed here.

Outside Wessex a number of sites clearly belong to the same type, and it seems likely that they will eventually prove to be a widespread group.

Brief mention has already been made of the enclosure at *Fawkham*, Kent (Cook 1935; Jessup 1941), in connection with Woodham Farm, which was likened to it. It consists of a rounded pentagonal enclosure about 150 ft. in diameter approached by a ditched causeway, by means of which it was joined to a ditched roadway, which apparently led to a second enclosure of similar form. It represents a striking parallel to the Wessex sites, and is clearly not to be confused with the 'Little Woodbury type' of enclosure to which it was originally compared.

Three sites of similar type have been published from the Upper Thames Valley.

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Blackditch Field (Crawford 1935, 478; Riley 1943, 86) (Fig. 30, No. 18), is the most clearly recognisable parallel, consisting of a roughly circular enclosure approached by a long funnel entrance, with associated smaller enclosures resembling those at Upper Cranbourne. *Northmoor* (Fig. 30, No. 19) (Riley 1943, 98) is a broadly similar site, and Riley mentioned a third comparable site in the same area at *Brighthampton*. From their general appearance he considered that they were probably constructed as cattle pens, and were probably of prehistoric or Romano-British date.

Another comparable site on Walton Common Down, Somerset, was planned as an earthwork by Phillips (1931).

Further afield, in Scotland, Wales and northern England, a number of broadly comparable sites seem to exist. Maiden Castle, Grinton, in Yorkshire, consists of a small earthwork about 300 ft. in internal diameter approached by a long stone avenue (Armitage, E. S., and Montgomerie, D. H., in Page 1912, 65), and a similar site exists at Chatto Craig, Roxburgh (R.C.A.M. Scotland 1965, 164, No. 305). In Cumberland there is a comparable site called Risehow, near Maryport (Blake 1960, 10), and in Shropshire, Caer Din Ring seems to be broadly similar (Wall, J. C., in Page 1908, 373). Carn Goch, Pontesbury (Forde-Johnston 1964, 84) may also be of this type (see note 5).

Recent air photography by Agache in northern France has also revealed some closely similar sites, including two recently published discoveries from the Somme valley. Estrées-lès-Crécy is the most convincing parallel which he describes as 'proto-historic' (Agache 1962, Fig. 43). A similar site exists at Bray-les-Mareuil (Agache 1964, Fig. 141), to which he mentions a possible parallel at Condé-Folie, where trial excavations have produced a 'La Tène III' date. More recently he has discovered some 15 additional examples of the same general type. Some he considers to have been farms, others to have been livestock enclosures (see note 6).

DISCUSSION

The accumulated evidence from published material, air photographs and excavation suggests that a distinctive and clearly recognisable group of enclosures can be isolated, of which there are over 20 certain examples in southern England. The general characteristics of these sites have been described in the Introduction and illustrated with specific examples.

They are generally circular, subcircular or subrectangular and range in size from quarter acre up to one and a half acres though they more frequently occupy about half or one acre. They are approached by distinctly long entranceways. Very often they have associated ditch features forming supplementary enclosures, and in many cases the 'banjo' enclosure may be encompassed by a much larger enclosure thereby forming only part of a much larger earthwork scheme, as exemplified at Worting. The 'banjo' enclosures frequently occur in pairs, as at Hamshill Ditches and Gussage Cowdown, and possibly also at Woodham Farm and Fawkham, while at New Farm there appear to be three.

A very noticeable feature among those sites of which earthwork remains are, or have been, visible, is the outer bank and inner ditch of the enclosure. This was commented upon at Blagden Copse and Casterley Camp, and is also partially present at

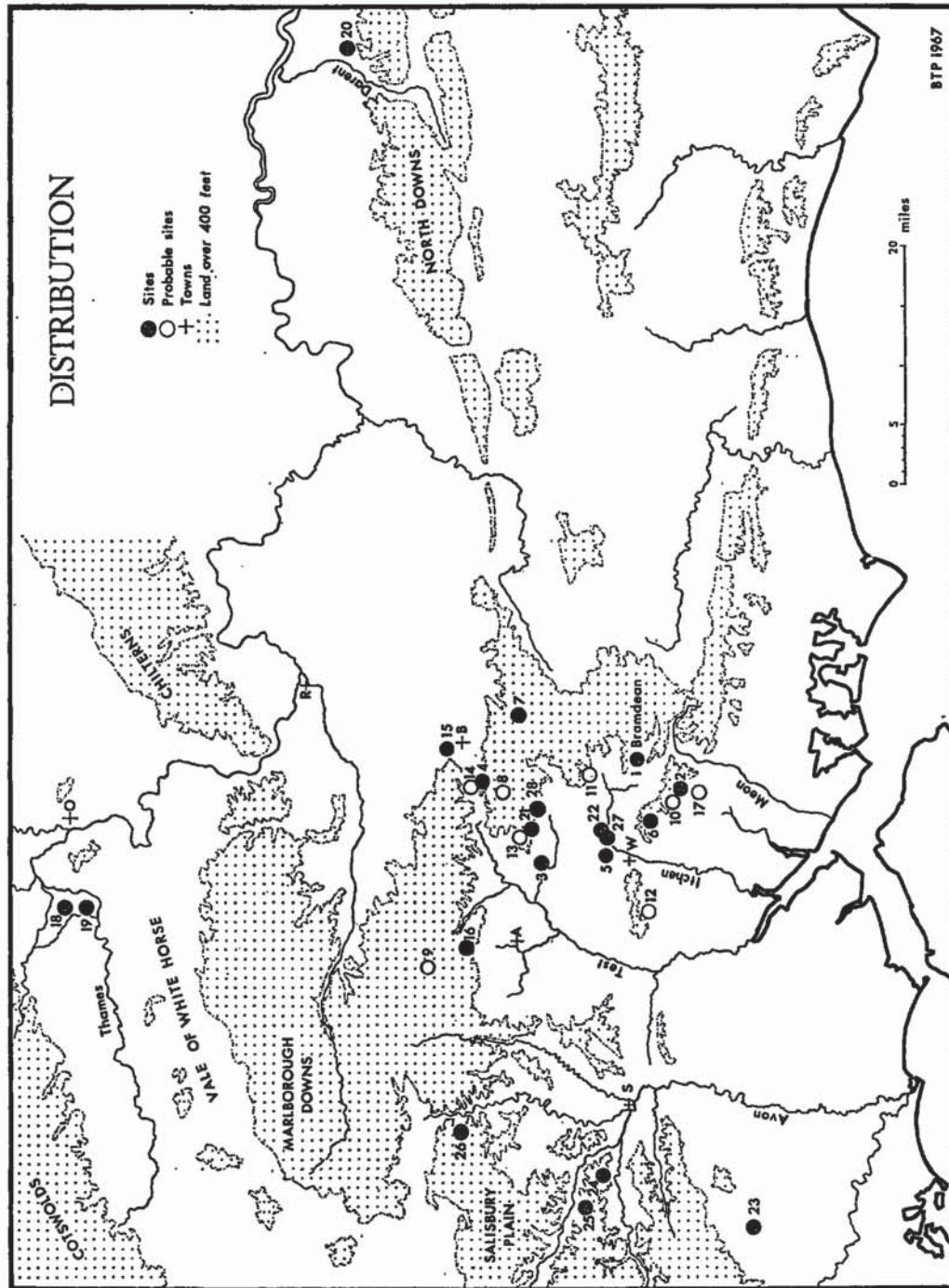


Fig. 30. Distribution map of 'banjo' enclosures in southern England.

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Gussage Cowdown and Church End Ring. Excavations at Bramdean indicate that the same may have been the case there. This relationship is unusual among earthworks of all dates. It occurs among certain small enclosures of Neolithic and Bronze Age date (Houlder 1963; Ratcliffe-Densham 1961), and occurs occasionally at Iron Age hillforts, for example, Rybury Camp, Wiltshire, and Wolstonbury, Sussex. Such a feature renders a camp useless as a defensive earthwork, but its incidence among so many of the 'banjo' sites clearly indicates that it was deliberate, suggesting that the function of the encircling bank and ditch was to retain rather than to defend whatever may have been inside.

The depth of the enclosure ditch at Bramdean, according to the three sections cut through it (Fig. 21) varies from 6 ft. to 3 ft. 6 in., dimensions which would hardly be sufficient to act as a defensive earthwork against man, but which could if supplemented by an external bank and perhaps also by a palisade on top of the bank, act as a means of retaining livestock. Similarly the situation of many of these sites on sloping ground, and particularly the situation of Church End Ring which lies partly in a valley bottom, does not suggest that they were defended enclosures in any sense. Three sites at least seem to have been deliberately sited on the slopes of present-day dry valleys which formerly must have carried streams – Bramdean, Woodham Farm and Church End Ring – and in each case the entranceway leads from the valley bottom uphill into the enclosure.

In six cases – Blagden Copse, Gussage Cowdown, Hamshill Ditches, New Farm, Warren Farm and Fawkham, and possibly also at Church End Ring – the enclosures are clearly related to linear ditches or trackways. These seem to represent an important subgroup lacking the larger encircling enclosure. At Blagden Copse the excavated linear ditch compares well with the similar ditches excavated at Quarley Hill and elsewhere in Hampshire and Wiltshire, and which have been interpreted as 'ranch boundaries' (Hawkes 1939, 143), an interpretation which does not seem to have been disputed.

In very many cases in Wessex the 'banjos' also lie amid or immediately adjacent to areas of 'Celtic' fields. This was noted in particular at Gussage Cowdown, Hamshill Ditches and Church End Ring, and is clearly the case at Blagden Copse, Warren Farm, Woodham Farm, Preshaw, Bramdean and New Farm. In no case can the precise relationship between 'Celtic' fields and the enclosures be determined, but the inference is inescapable that enclosures of 'banjo' type are clearly related in some way to the type of economy suggested by both linear ditches and 'Celtic' fields.

All the previously published examples – Hamshill Ditches, Church End Ring, Gussage Cowdown and Blagden Copse, and also the sites in the Upper Thames Valley – have been independently suggested as representing enclosures designed primarily as livestock compounds. The long entranceway and the inner ditch suggested, respectively, a means of driving in and retaining livestock.

The entranceway to these enclosures are so long, often considerably longer than the diameter of the enclosure, that they must have been constructed with a specific purpose in mind. It is suggested that the long and usually parallel entrance might convincingly represent a 'race' into which animals were driven with the intention of stringing them out into more or less single file so that they can be observed individually. If the long

entranceways can be seen as representing a 'race', then the excavated posthole group at the entrance at Bramdean could well represent a four-sided structure forming a 'crush' or 'squeeze' in which the animals could be restrained for slaughter, branding, gelding, or other treatment.

In several cases the very noticeable absence from the interior of the enclosure of surface finds indicating occupation, has been commented upon, most notably at Hamshill Ditches and Gussage Cowdown where it is in marked contrast to the immediately surrounding areas. This does not suggest that the enclosures themselves were intended mainly for habitation.

The air photographs had not suggested that pits were common within these enclosures, and they were an unexpected feature when they were found at Bramdean. Neither these, however, nor the small structure defined by postholes within the enclosure need invalidate the general conclusion regarding the purpose of these sites. Although the parallel cannot be pressed too far, it is interesting to note that among some of the tribes of southern Africa the cattle kraal forms both the central feature in most village settlements, and is also the centre of village life. In addition to its more obvious functions, it is associated with the ceremonial killing of cattle, with meetings and discussions on village matters, with the burial of the family head, and is also the place where grain is stored in pits (Schapera 1937, 136-140; Bryant 1949, 103).

In the case of Bramdean and similar sites it is suggested that the 'banjo' enclosure itself was constructed mainly with livestock management in mind, but might be expected to contain evidence of a good deal of other mixed agricultural activity; it was probably not inhabited but the associated dwellings must in most cases have been close at hand and are probably to be sought within the larger encircling enclosure where these occur. In the case of Bramdean they may well partly underlie the villa.

On general morphological grounds an Iron Age date for most of the 'banjo' enclosures seems likely. This is confirmed by the evidence from Blagden Copse and Church End Ring, though in neither case was the enclosure itself examined. Excavations at Bramdean, however, indicated clearly that it belonged to Iron Age B. At Casterley Camp excavations suggest a probable date early in the Romano-British period, which accords with the rather squarer layout of the site.

One of the noticeable features of the Wessex sites is the close proximity of 'banjos' to Roman settlements of various kinds. This is particularly noticeable at Bramdean and Woodham Farm, Hamshill Ditches and Warren Farm. In addition several of the Hampshire sites have produced Roman pottery when under plough, and although this is insufficient to be considered as reliable dating evidence for the enclosure itself it must at least indicate Roman activity on or near the site. So although the evidence suggests that enclosures of this type seem essentially an Iron Age phenomenon, this evidence suggests that they continued in use at least into the early Roman period.

Applebaum (1954) has shown that the Iron Age witnessed a number of agricultural improvements, and that production became intensified and more efficient in the face of expanding human population, as indicated for example by the hillforts, and a far greater number and variety of settlement sites than there is evidence for in any earlier period. He has argued for a close inter-relationship between arable and pastoral land accompanied by an adequate manuring system.

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Agricultural improvements of this kind may well have given rise to the construction of new types of earthwork enclosures designed mainly with livestock management in mind. The close association between 'banjo' enclosures, linear ditches, and 'Celtic' fields, and the distinctive features of the 'banjos' themselves, suggest that these small enclosures were designed in response to the needs of an intensive and integrated system of crop and animal husbandry.

SITES MENTIONED IN THE TEXT

Number on Location Map Fig. 30	Site Name	Parish	NGR	References and Air Photographic Source
1	Bramdean	Bramdean	SU 628282	Boyden Site No. 19 St. Joseph ALH 4
2	Preshaw House	Exton	SU 573227	Boyden Site No. 22
3	Upper Cranbourne	Wonston	SU 492424	Boyden Site No. 101
4	Worting	Basingstoke	SU 600514	Boyden Site No. 117
5	Woodham Farm	Kings Worthy	SU 488334	Taylor and Colling- wood 1925; Taylor 1944; Gladwell 1953; Boyden Site No. 139; St. Joseph AP 85
6	Warren Farm	Titchborne	SU 541269	Boyden Site No. 116
7	New Farm	Weston Patrick	SU 700454	<i>The Times</i> 21.8.57, p. 8 and photo p. 14; Boyden Site No. 34
8	Small's Copse	Basingstoke	SU 595488	Boyden Site No. 171
9	Vernham Dean	Vernham Dean	SU 341570	St. Joseph BI 25 to 27
10	Millbarrow Plantation	Beauworth	SU 559243	Boyden Site No. 165
11	Upper Lanham Copse	Old Alresford	SU 599362	St. Joseph BJ 36 to 45 Boyden Site No. 3
12	Pitt Down	Hursley	SU 420284	Boyden Site No. 26
13	Laverstoke Wood	Laverstoke	SU 512465	Boyden Site No. 114
14	Mother's Copse	Basingstoke	SU 594514	St. Joseph YD 22 Boyden Site No. 116
15	South View	Basingstoke	SU 640534	St. Joseph YC 61 to 63
16	Blagden Copse	Hurstbourne	SU 364523	Dewar 1926; Stead 1969
17	St. Clair's Farm	Corhampton and Meonstoke	SU 576209	Boyden Site No. 150
18	Blackditch Field	Stanton Harcourt (Oxon.)	SU 4005	Crawford 1935, 478, pl. IX; Riley 1943, 86
19	Northmoor	Northmoor (Oxon.)	SU 4203	Riley 1943, 98, pl. V
20	Fawkham	Fawkham (Kent)	TQ 6068	Cook 1935; Jessup 1941

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Number on Location Map Fig. 30	Site Name	Parish	NGR	References and Air Photographic Source
21	Black Wood	Micheldever	SU 524434	St. Joseph ALG 79
22	Bridget's Farm 'A'	Itchen Abbas	SU 522342	St. Joseph ALC 24
23	Gussage Cowdown	Gussage St. Michael (Wilts.)	ST 993141	Crawford and Keiller 1928, pl. XV and XVI
24	Hamshill Ditches	Barford St. Martin (Wilts.)	SU 060332	Crawford and Keiller, pl. XIb; Bonney and Moore 1967
25	Church End Ring	Steeple Langford and Wylde (Wilts)	SU 012357	Crawford and Keiller, pl. XVII
26	Casterley Camp	Upavon (Wilts)	SU 115535	Cunnington 1913
27	Bridget's Farm 'B'	Itchen Abbas	SU 519338	St. Joseph ALC 27 National Monuments Record photo No. SU 5133/4
28	Popham	Popham	SU 565435	Fairey Aviation photograph
29	Walton Common Down	Walton-in- Gordano (Som.)	ST 428738	Phillips 1931
30	Rowbury Farm	Wherwell/ Longstock	SU 341390	National Monuments Record photo Nos. SU 3439/13/114-5 SU 3439/15/284-5
31	Lone Farm	Itchen Valley	SU 533348	National Monuments Record photo Nos. SU 5334/8/111-2
32	Park Prewett	Sherborne St. John	SU 611542	National Monuments Record photo Nos. SU 6154/3

(Note: Numbers 29-32 do not appear on the distribution map, Fig. 30. Numbers 30-32 are recent discoveries by Mr. J. Hampton of the National Monuments Record.)

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NOTES

1. Since this paper was written a reconstruction of a gateway as described in the text has been built as part of the Iron Age experiments at the Avoncroft Museum of Buildings. A brief description appears in the *Worcestershire Archaeological Newsletter*, Special Edition, Number 9, Worcester City Museum, 1972.
2. An attempt to lift the pavements after the building that housed them had collapsed, sometime prior to 1900, was unsuccessful. Fragments were kept in Winchester Museum but were no longer there when Mr. Cottrill was appointed as curator. (Information from Mr. F. Cottrill, sometime curator.)
3. This is confirmed by Dr. D. J. Smith of the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne: 'On stylistic grounds the two Bramdean mosaics appear unlikely to be earlier than A.D. 300 . . . This means that I would put them down as fourth century without being very willing to venture a closer dating within that period' (Letter 10.i.1966). I am also grateful to Dr. Smith for his suggestions concerning the possible stages of development of the villa.
4. Information from Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division records.
5. I am grateful to Mr. H. Ramm and Mr. J. Radley of the R.C.H.M. (England) and Miss L. F. Chitty for pointing these sites out to me, although it has not been possible to examine any of them in the field.
6. Information from R. Agache (letter, 28.iii.1967).

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APPENDIX

LAND MOLLUSCA

By J. G. EVANS

A series of samples was taken through the ditch fill in the north side of Cutting B. 1.0 kg. of each sample (weighed air dry) was extracted for Mollusca.

Below about 92 cm. the fauna is characteristic of a woodland environment. The low numbers of Mollusca (approx. 60/1.0 kg.) suggest that the filling of the ditch at this stage was quite rapid. It is possible that a proportion of the Mollusca in these levels was not actually living in the ditch but came in with the fill. In addition the absence of any grassland species (apart from *V. costata*, which can occur in woods) and of *Pomatias elegans*, which is particularly fond of loose soil and scrub habitats, seems to indicate that we are dealing with a true woodland fauna, rather than with a fauna which has colonised the ditch as a habitat suitable for damp-loving Mollusca in an open area otherwise devoid of shelter. If this is so, then it can be assumed that the surrounding environment was a woodland one.

Between about 72 and 92 cm. a concentration of shells was visible in the section. *P. elegans*, *Arianta arbustorum*, *Helix nemoralis* and *Oxychilus cellarius* were particularly obvious as well as many smaller species such as *Discus rotundatus*, *Vitrea contracta* and *Hygromia hispida*. In this layer there is not only a sharp increase in the numbers of Mollusca compared with the layers below, but a change in the faunal composition as well. *P. elegans* comes in strongly for the first time and there are sporadic occurrences of certain grassland species, namely *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia excentrica* and *Helicella itala*. These changes are interpreted as being due to a stabilisation in the filling of the ditch and a partial opening up of the landscape.

At 70 cm. the fauna again changes; the number of Mollusca decrease and the rate of accumulation probably increases. Woodland species fall off and by 50 cm. *C. tridentatum* and *P. elegans* are virtually absent. The fauna is dominated by *H. hispida* and *V. costata*, with *V. excentrica* beginning to be important. An opening up of the environment is indicated, and a Romano-British (first-century) sherd gives a *terminus post quem* for this stage. The absence of *Helix aspersa* from any level in the ditch suggests that the filling of the ditch had been completed by the end of the first-century. This snail is present in Roman levels (early second-century) at Owslebury six and a half miles away but does not occur in earlier deposits on that site.

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