Excavations at Ham Hill, South Somerset

Part III

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I. Introductory Remarks

The two previous Reports on the Excavations at Ham Hill appeared in *Proceedings*, vol. lxx, 104–116; and vol. lxxi, 57–76.

It was hoped that the work at the S.W. end of the N. spur of Ham Hill (Ham Turn) would have been so far advanced that Report III might include a complete description of Cuttings IX, X, and XIII; but the latter cutting—a very large one—could not be completed last autumn (period of work, October 18 to 30, 1926) owing to bad weather which prevailed during the greater part of the time.

It is proposed, therefore, to describe the chief relics found in Cuttings IX and X in 1923 and in Cutting XIII in 1925 in this report.[1] Descriptions of the constructional details, except as far as Plate XIII is concerned, and the pottery from all the Ham Turn cuttings will be held over for a future report.

A southerly extension of Cutting XIV on the E. side of the N. spur of the hill has proved that the entrance into the camp in this position is not of ancient construction.

Four men were employed this season, including W. E. Young, of Ebbesborne Wake, as foreman. My thanks are due to Dr. S. L. Brimblecombe for assistance rendered and for kind hospitality; and to Mr. H. Hebditch for the loan of a shed.

[1] The depths given in this report represent in all cases the depth below the surface of the ground at the points the objects were found.

II. Extension of Cutting XIV, 1926

In 1925 when the fosse cutting (no. XIV) was made in the middle of the E. side of the N. spur of the hill, we were unable to determine with any degree of certainty whether the causeway leading up the hillside across the fosse and along the line of the breach through the vallum was of ancient origin.

A cutting, 2·5 ft. wide, had previously been made across the entrance-way (grass-clad roadway), as described in Report II (vol. lxxi, 60), and although we excavated to a depth of 8·65 ft. below the surface at the S.E. end, no very satisfactory deductions were obtainable.

This season we made an extension cutting (20 ft. by 2 ft.) farther up the hill, on the general line of the middle of the fosse, the nearest point 10 ft. S. of the main cutting (no. XIV) of 1925—in such a position that had there been a solid rock causeway left across the fosse for the purpose of an ancient entrance we should probably have struck it at a depth of three or four feet. At the S. end of this extension cutting, where the ground was highest, we excavated to a depth of 6·2 ft. without reaching solid rock and the material removed appeared to be the rough stone and mould silt of the fosse.

In carrying out this work we met with some human bones at a minimum depth of 3·5 ft., and this fact caused the extension cutting to be enlarged 6 ft. square at the N. end to determine whether any more bones belonging to the same skeleton (or part of a skeleton) remained. As a matter of fact only a few broken human bones were found, of which the greater part of a left femur was retained and sent to Professor Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., for examination. In his short report he says :

'A comparison with other left femora makes me think this one from Ham Hill was originally about 490 mm. long and the owner a man about 5′ 9″ or 5′ 10″ in height. The various flanges and buttresses at the upper end are common in both Celtic and Saxon bones ; the only feature of this specimen which is not so common are the markings for the insertion of the gluteus maximus. The upper part of this insertion is raised into a ridge,—the trochanter tertius,—while the lower part is grooved and roughened. I do not know the functional significance of this. At 25 mm. below trochanter minor, the transverse diameter of the bone is 37 mm.,



Fig. 1. Face of Cutting IX, looking N., showing the excavations in progress on the edge of the S.W. part of the N. spur. The figure is trowelling on the margin of the Hearth shown in Fig. 2

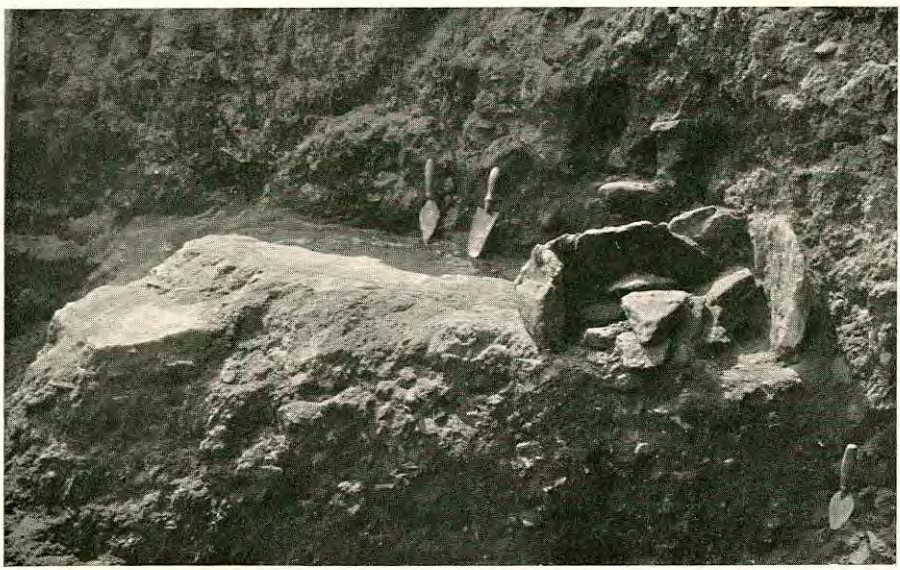


Fig. 2. Hearth of clay, with an 'Oven' of oblong plan constructed from slabs of Ham stone on the E.N.E. side.—much reddened by fire when found. It was 11 ft. deep below the surface of the highest ground, vertically measured

HAM TURN, HAM HILL, May 1923

From Photographs by Mr. H. St. George Gray

antero-posterior diameter 26 mm., index of flattening 70. At mid-shaft, the transverse diameter is 31 mm., and the antero-posterior diameter 30 mm. I think from its state of preservation and from its characters this femur indicates a man of the same breed and period as the skeleton found near by last year' (*Proceedings*, lxxi, 66–74).

III. Description of the Photographs, Ham Turn, Cutting IX, 1923, Plate XIII

As previously stated the details of construction so far revealed at Ham Turn will not be described in this report, but a short chapter explanatory of Plate XIII will be given.

In Fig. 1 we see a vertical face of material, not natural, but built up in successive layers, which in 1923 we did not fully understand. It was practically left as seen in the photograph when the quarrymen ceased operations in this direction some years ago, except that we cleared up the talus and cut back the face a few feet, nearly vertical (Cutting IX). The work proved so interesting that we proceeded to make another excavation (Cutting X) to the N., in the position in which the man is seen against the sky-line. And still further N., but quite near, we made a much larger excavation called Cutting XIII—begun in 1925 and continued in October 1926. In a future report it is hoped to describe the construction of this area and the hearths which were met with—also the pottery of which there is much material extending back to the Hallstatt period.

The three upper divisions of the surveying-pole shown in Fig. 1 are 1 ft. each. The lower man is trowelling on the margin of some clay and stone, which when uncovered proved to be a clay hearth, etc., as seen in Fig. 2 of the plate. This was the first hearth found. The trowels rest on the clay, and on the E.N.E. side an erection of slabs of Ham stone is seen, which partly collapsed before it became covered with débris. The clay of the hearth did not extend under these stones. The hearth was 11 ft. deep below the surface of the highest ground, vertically measured, and well below the level at which remains of the Roman period were found. The hearth was very smooth and fairly level; the blackened and burnt surface was circular, 1·85 ft. in diameter, surrounded by a ring of greyish clay

(apparently unburnt), diameter 2·4 ft. The area round the hearth consisted of clayey earth somewhat burnt, of more or less oval outline, 4·5 ft. from N.E. to S.W., with a max. width of 2·6 ft. The hearth was also bounded by large Ham stone slabs lying fairly flat and without order on the S. and S.E., and on the E.N.E. by a group of vertical or slightly leaning slabs, some 1·3 ft. in length, which enclosed an oblong area, 1·5 ft. N. and S. by 1 ft. E. and W., and 1 ft. in height, more or less filled by much smaller slabs and pieces (about nine of them). All these stones were partly reddened by the action of fire. The vertical slabs overlapped considerably and helped to thicken the sides of what was presumably an ' oven '. Three fragments of a small iron knife were found near the S. margin of the hearth, but at a level 1·25 ft. lower.

IV. Relics found in Cutting IX, Ham Hill, 1923

The following found in Cutting IX, below the 5·3 ft. level :

C 1. Fragment of a crucible, having part of the outer surface much glazed.

E 2. Piece of bronze tubing, length 2¼ in. ; ext. diam. 8 mm.

F 3. Small flint scraper, nicely worked.

H 1. Worked tine of red-deer antler, sawn off and probably intended for a knife-handle.

H 2. Tine of red-deer antler with knife-cuts, but broken at both ends.

Q 1. About half a saddle quern ; smooth on both faces.

Q 2. About half a saddle quern ; upper stone.

W 1. Spindlewhorl of baked clay, rounded ; damaged ; diam. about 30 mm.

The unnumbered specimens included two small, plain discs of Ham stone, and a large one, perforated, diam. 4½ in.

V. Relics found in Cutting X, Ham Hill, 1923

B 2. Needle of bone, broken across a decidedly large eye. Depth 7 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

A number of similar needles have been found on Ham Hill.

B 3. Long, narrow implement of bone or ivory, length 4 in., spatulate at both ends, one end perfect, the other con-

siderably damaged. Both the expansions are of plano-convex cross-section. The writer has never met with a similar tool with enlargements at both ends, and Mr. H. B. Walters, F.S.A., Keeper of the Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum, is unable to match this specimen in his department. It may have been used as an ear-pick, or for spreading ointment or mixing ingredients, or possibly for manicuring purposes or as a surgical instrument. Depth 9 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

B 17. Pricker formed from a splinter of bone, very finely worked and sharpened. Depth 9·8 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

E 3. Fragment of a bronze bangle. Depth 6·6 ft.

E 4. Washer of thin bronze, damaged. Depth 5·3 ft.

E 5. Bronze awl of stout construction with a flattened tang of oblong cross-section. It is thickest in the middle (6 mm.), and tapers both ways. The business-end is of square cross-section. Total length 63 mm. (2½ in.). The end of the tang is chisel-shaped. Weight 8·85 grammes. Depth 8·4 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

A somewhat slighter specimen of similar type, 48·5 mm. in length, was found on Ham Hill (Site J), with ' thumb-marked pottery ', in 1920 (Taunton Museum).[1]

A similar example, 50 mm. in length, was found by Dr. Clay at the inhabited site of La Tène I date on Swallowcliffe Down, S. Wilts, 1924.[2] Two bronze awls were found at All Cannings.[3] The type is one that is widely distributed, and General Pitt-Rivers figures four from late Bronze Age sites.[4]

Without attempting to give a full list of references, the following bronze awls in the British Museum might be quoted : Three from the Thames (one, Kingston ; two, Richmond) ; one found at Thorndon, Suffolk ;[5] a finely preserved awl found at Heathery Burn Cave, co. Durham ;[6] also three specimens

[1] *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXVII, lxxiv. A bronze awl was also found on Ham Hill (Site D) in 1910 (Taunton Museum), but it is of the Lake Village type, with ' business-end ' of circular section, the tang square (*Proc.*, LVI, i, 108).

[2] *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, XLIII, 74, and Plate vii, A 1.

[3] Plate xix of the work on the subject, figs 3, 4.

[4] *Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, IV.

[5] Evans, *Bronze Implements*, fig. 224.

[6] *Archæologia*, LIV, 100.

in the Greenwell Collection from Icklingham Heath and Eriswell (Suffolk), and Melton Constable (Norfolk).

E 6. Fragments of thin bronze, much corroded ; one piece with rivet-hole ; also a little bronze slag. Depth 8·3 ft.

F 4. Scraper of black flint, with much of the cortex remaining on the back. Depth 6·3 ft. A rough scraper was also found at a depth of 12·5 ft.

F 5. Long, narrow flake of dark flint, having a saw-like edge. Depth 7·8 ft.

H 3. Weaving-comb of antler (length 6¼ in.), the eight teeth graduated and much worn down ; thread-marks are seen on the back of the teeth. The shaft is reduced to a blunted point at the butt-end, and about 1½ in. from it there are shoulders on either side—a feature which is not exemplified in the large series of combs found in the Glastonbury Lake Village. The type is, however, represented at Meare (*see* combs, Nos. HH 16, HH 63, etc.). Depth 8 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

H 4. Dentated end of a plain weaving-comb of antler, most of the short teeth broken ; originally there were ten. Depth 6·7 ft.

H 5. Butt-end of handle of a weaving-comb of antler, ornamented with four tranverse and parallel grooves. Depth 10·1 ft.

W 2. Half a spindlewhorl of rather thin, black pottery, broken across the hole. Depth 5·3 ft.

W 3. Spindlewhorl of tin with flat surfaces ; diam. 25 mm. (1 in.)., much corroded. Depth 8 ft.

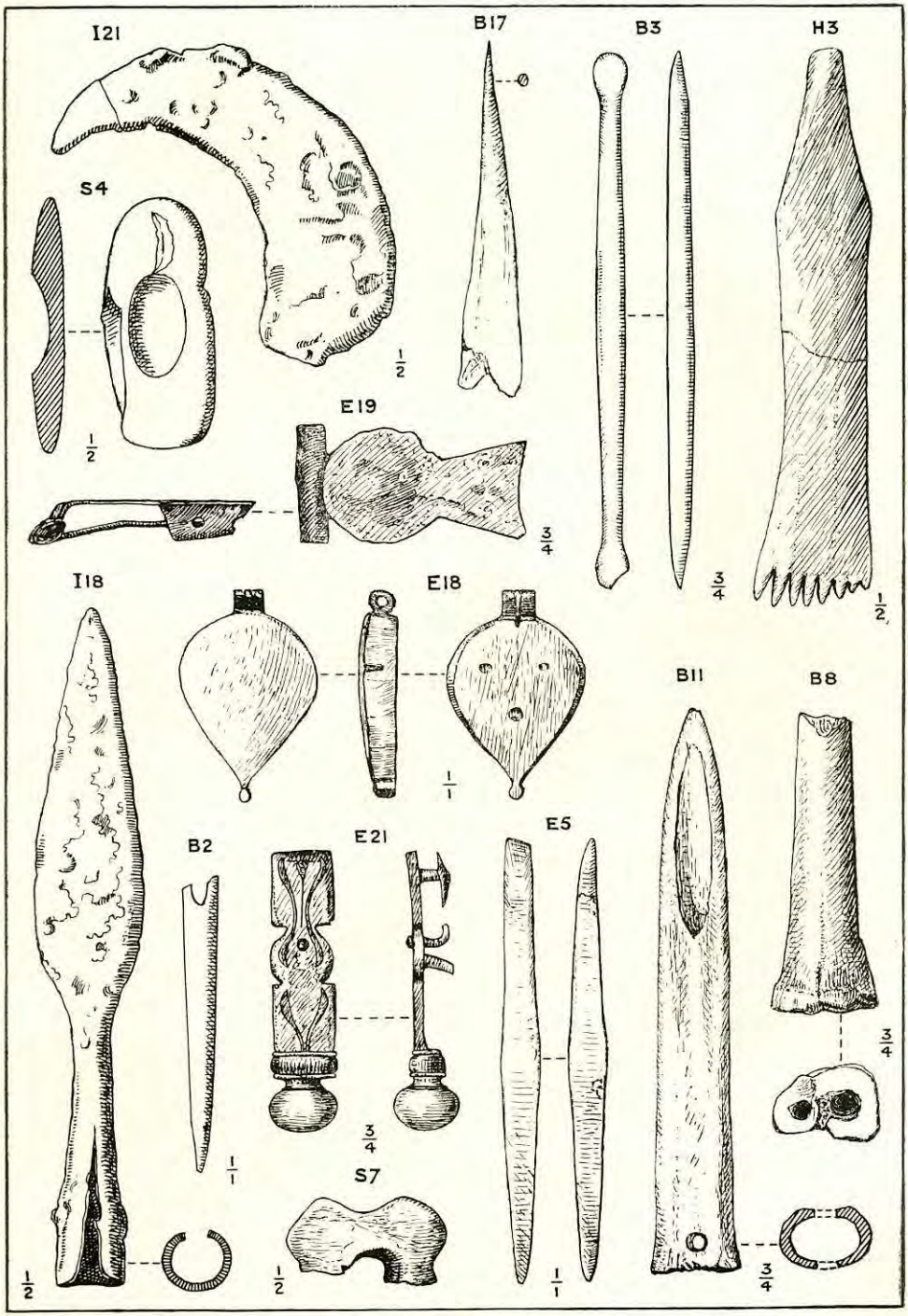
W 4. Spindlewhorl of sandstone, having flat surfaces ; split and damaged ; diam. 38 mm. Depth 7·5 ft.

W 5. Spindlewhorl of light-coloured stone, crackled by fire ; flat surfaces ; average diam. 38 mm. Depth 10·1 ft.

W 6. Whorl of chalk (?), much decayed, with hole much larger at one end than the other. Depth 9 ft.

Among other specimens found in Cutting X were :—Part of a saddle quern, depth 3 ft. ; two knife-cut bones, two discs of black pottery (for games), a burnt clay sling-bullet, depth 4 ft. to 7·5 ft. ; clay sling-bullet, depth 10 ft. ; and an infant's skeleton, depth 9·7 ft.

A carpus of ox, length 185 mm., depth 5·5 ft. to 7·5 ft., represented an animal 3 ft. 5½ in. at the shoulder. A tarsus of horse, length 251 mm., found at a depth of 10·5 ft., gave a stature of 12 hands 2½ in.



ANTIQUITIES FOUND IN THE EXCAVATIONS AT 'HAM TURN,' HAM HILL, 1923-25

VI. Relics found in Cutting XIII, Ham Hill, 1925

B 8. About one-half of a metacarpus of sheep or goat, with two holes bored longitudinally at the proximal end—a feature which did not occur in the types of perforated tarsal and carpal bones from the Glastonbury Lake Village.

Found in Layer 4, depth 4·7 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

B 9. Bone needle or pin, broken at the larger end ; length 61·5 mm. Layer 4, depth 5 ft.

B 10. Worked tibia of sheep similar to those found in the Lake Villages.[1] Layer 5, depth 6·25 ft. A rougher specimen was found in Layer 6.

B 11. Pointed implement of bone, having a socket and rivet-hole ; possibly used as a spearhead.[2] It is a common type and has several varieties ; some of these implements might have been used for a number of purposes. Several similar specimens have been found on Ham Hill, but B 11 is figured because it is a well worked example and almost perfect.

Found in Layer 7, depth 12·4 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

Quite a collection of these implements was made by Mrs. Cunnington at All Cannings, and she has given a number of references.[3]

B 12. Pricker formed from a splinter of bone ; length 44·5 mm. ; similar to B 17 (Plate XIV). Bottom of Layer 7, depth 12·5 ft.

D 1. Small ball of baked clay with hole bored part of the way through ; similar to those found in the Glastonbury Lake Village.[4] Layer 5, depth 6 ft.

D 2. Sling-bullet of baked clay, of fusiform shape ; length 37·5 mm. (1½ in.), of average size.[5] Layer 5, depth 6·8 ft. Part of a larger one was found in Layer 6.

E 18. Seal-box of bronze, pear-shaped, the lid of which has been tinned ; length 30 mm. ; max. width 19 mm. The posi-

[1] *Glastonbury Lake Village*, 419, fig. 149.

[2] See manner of hafting in *Guide, Early Iron Age Antiquities, Brit. Mus.* (1925), p. 113.

[3] *All Cannings* (1923), Plate 8, p. 82.

[4] *Glastonbury Lake Village*, 561–2.

[5] See table of sizes and weights, *Glastonbury Lake Village*, 564.

tion of the side-notch on either side and the three holes punched in the bottom are well seen in the drawings (Plate XIV). Depth 1·5 ft.

Seal-boxes of Roman date have been found commonly in Britain, and Taunton Museum contains another specimen (of circular form) from Ham Hill (Site E), 1913.[1]

The manner in which these seal-boxes were used is described in the British Museum guide books.[2]

E 19. Bronze brooch of thistle-shaped outline, the thin circular plate connected with the cylindrical cover for the spring. In this type a short, broad bow usually connects the spring-cover with the circular, or more often lozenge-shaped plate. The form of the foot is sometimes described as fan-shaped, or in the form of a bird's tail. The top of this specimen is rough and exhibits solder, showing that the ornament, perhaps of enamel or tin work, has been lost. The pin is complete and the catch-plate perforated by a hole 2 mm. in diameter. Length of brooch 42 mm.; max. diam. 22·5 mm.

Found with Roman antiquities at a depth of 1·5 ft. near the seal-box (E 18). Figured in Plate XIV.

Part of a similar fibula was found on the E. side of the N. spur (East Valley) of Ham Hill in 1907.[3]

The nearest parallel the writer has been able to find is the iron brooch, silvered, found at South Ferriby, N. Lincs. (Hull Museum).[4]

The brooch, E 19, appears to be a degenerate form of the type from which it was derived, and in pursuing its study reference should be made to the following brooches of this type, among others: A fibula found at Camerton, Som. (Bristol Museum);[5] two found at Santon Downham, Suffolk;[6] others from South Ferriby (*op. cit.*); one found at Eastbourne;[7] others from Winterbourne Bassett (Devizes Museum); and

[1] *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXI, lvii.

[2] *Antiquities of Roman Britain* (1922), pp. 95–96; *Greek and Roman Life* (1908), p. 167.

[3] *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LIII, i, 88.

[4] *Hull Museum Publications*, no. 39, Feb. 1907, Plate xxviii, 4 and 4*a*.

[5] *V.C.H. Somerset*, I, 292.

[6] *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, XIII, 159.

[7] *Sussex Arch. Colltns.*, LVIII, 193.

Wylye Camp (Salisbury Museum);[1] another from Seaford;[2] another from Hook Norton, Oxon.;[3] those from Lincoln and Water Eaton, figured by the British Museum;[4] and the beautiful Æsica brooch, figured by Sir Arthur Evans.[5]

E 20. Long piece of bronze bordering of concavo-convex cross-section. Depth 2·8 ft.

E 21. Harness ornament of bronze, with silver plating traceable on the upper surface; ornamented with a typical design in niello inlay. Several specimens of this work have been obtained from Ham Hill (Taunton Museum), and a good example has already been figured.[6]

Judging from the rivets still remaining (of which there are three, one with washer in position), this object served as a fairly heavy strap terminal. It is nicely moulded at the end.

Found in Layer 3, depth 3·75 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

E 22. Small dome-shaped rivet-head; pin missing. Layer 5, depth 7·5 ft.

E 23. Fragment of bronze. Layer 7, depth 11·6 ft., just below the level of the stone 'oven' (Hearth no. iv).

E 24. Piece of a broad band of thin embossed bronze work, length 2½ in. Sufficient remains of this interesting and typical Late-Celtic ornament to enable us to record the design in the accompanying illustration, but the specimen is in a very fragile condition, and the original width of the band cannot be estimated.

Its value as evidence of date is of no importance, as it was found high up in Cutting XIII in material which had apparently been moved previously—probably tip from an adjoining quarry (1925).

The nearest parallel to this piece of Ham Hill repoussé work known to the writer is almost precisely similar, but smaller, embossed ornament on a piece of thin bronze from Hod Hill

[1] *Devizes Museum Catalogue*, II, 1911, Plate xxi, 7; *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, XXXV, 404–5.

[2] *Journ. Anthrop. Inst.*, VI, Plate xix, 309.

[3] *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.*, 2 s., XXIII, 406–7.

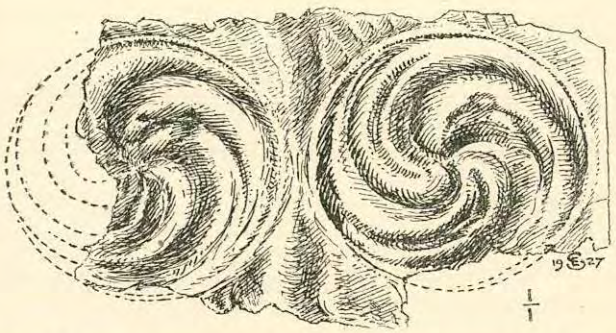
[4] *Guide to Roman Britain*, 1922, figs. 66, 67.

[5] *Archæologia*, LV, 187.

[6] *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXIX, Plate xi, fig. 8, and p. 52 (with footnote).

(Durden Coll., British Mus.), in which the surrounding ' circles ' are about 19 mm. in diam., whereas the Ham specimen has ' circles ' 35 mm. in diam.

Similar embossed bronze bands were found at Rodborough Common, near Stroud, Glos., and some of these have been figured.[1] Thin pieces of repoussé bronze found on Ham Hill



E24. Part of a broad bronze band of *repoussé* work, of typical Late-Celtic character.
Found on Ham Hill in 1925.
From a Drawing by Mr. E. Sprankling.

have already been illustrated (Taunton Museum);[2] also an embossed disc, perhaps connected with sun-worship.[3]

F 8. Scraper of dark flint, with much cortex on the back; the edge worked and bevelled in the opposite direction to what is usual. Layer 5.

F 9. Scraper of dark flint. Layer 5, depth 7 ft.

F 10. Large hand-tool of chert. Layer 6, depth 9·9 ft.

F 11. Scraper of flint, rough; light grey colour. Layer 7, depth 12 ft.

F 14. Small thumb scraper of dark flint. Layer 7, depth 11·6 ft., near the ' oven ' (Hearth no. iv).

[1] *Early Iron Age Guide, Brit. Mus.* (1925), p. 146.

[2] *V.C.H. Somerset*, I, fig. 63, no. 4; *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXX, Plate xiii, E 8.

[3] *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LVI, ii, 57, fig. 15.

H 6. Point of a ' cheek-piece ' of antler, with one perforation remaining. Layer 5, depth 7·8 ft.

H 7. Half a small ring of antler ; smooth, and having a slight enlargement at one end. Depth about 5 ft.

H 8. Sawn section of red-deer antler, roughly perforated through cancellous tissue. Depth about 7 ft.

I 18. Spearhead of iron, probably British of the Roman period ; length 7½ in. ; blade nearly flat (very slightly bi-convex in cross-section). It has a ' split ' socket, as seen in the drawing.

Found at the bottom of Layer 2, depth 2·8 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

I 19. Socket of an iron spearhead, of the hammered-over type ; the base of the socket has been hammered upwards for some reason. Layer 4, depth 4 ft. to 5·3 ft.

I 20. Reaping-hook or sickle of iron, no doubt dating from the prehistoric iron age, and similar to those found in the Glastonbury Lake Village.[1]

Found in Layer 6, depth 9·5 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

Q 5. Greater part of an upper stone of a rotary quern, 12¾ in. in diam. and 6 in. thick ; central hole rather irregular. Small piece of saddle quern near by. Layer 3, depth 2·8 ft.

S 4. Piece of stone, smooth and scratched (especially on the surface not drawn) and much worn—apparently a piece of indurated sandstone of Devonian origin. In the middle of one surface it has a long and narrow depression penetrating to about one-half the maximum thickness of the stone. It may have been used for the mixing of a small quantity of fine colour.

Found in Layer 4, depth 5 ft. Figured in Plate XIV.

S 5. Seventy sling-stones found together in a heap. Layer 5.

S 6. Large disc of Ham stone, diam. 4⅞ in., with piece broken off ; cupped on both surfaces,—perforation was probably intended, but was not nearly completed. Depth 3 ft.

A large number of these rough discs of Ham stone have been found on Ham Hill, from time to time, and they are of all

[1] *Glastonbury Lake Village*, Plate lxi, and pp. 369–370, where references to similar ' finds ' are given.

sizes up to 5½ in. in diameter.[1] They may, of course, have been used for a variety of purposes, but the great majority of them are too clumsy and rough (often with an excentric hole) to have been intended for spindlewhorls. Some of these holed stones may have been used to prevent rats and mice climbing down the strings by which baskets of food were suspended from the hut roof. This safeguard is adopted by some savage tribes at the present day—for instance in Samoa.

The writer first drew attention to these holed stones in 1902.[2] In the excavations conducted at ' Ham Turn ' they have been commonly met with, both in the Roman deposits and with the early Iron Age remains found deeper.

The following table shows the relative position of the thirty specimens found in Cutting X and Cutting XIII (1925) at ' Ham Turn ' :

	Approx. depth below highest point at surface.					
	2′ to 4·5′	5′	7·5′ to 8′	10′ to 10·5′	11·5′	12·5′
I. Plain discs	3[3]	—	3	5	—	1[3]
II. Discs perforated more or less in the centre	2	1	1	6[4]	1	1
III. Discs with indications of a central hole having been begun but not completed	1	—	1[5]	3	—	1

S 7. Part of a stone mace-head (?), of which presumably about one-half remains. The fracture is across what appears

[1] There is a good specimen also in Taunton Museum from Pitney. Two large perforated discs of stone were found on the West Moors, near Buttern Hill, Alternun, E. Cornwall (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.*, 2 ser., XXI, 456–461, with illustrations). *See also* a paper by J. Graham Callander on a collection of Perforated Stone Objects from the Garioch, Aberdeenshire (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, XXXVII, 166–177, with three plates).

[2] *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XLVIII, ii, 28.

[3] Smooth surfaces.

[4] Diameters 3 in. to 3¾ in.

[5] Hole started from one surface only.

to be an artificial hole, somewhat oblique in direction, countersunk at top and bottom. The object has been subjected to fire.

Found in Layer 6. Figured in Plate XIV.

W 11. Spindlewhorl of pottery, found in two pieces separately and afterwards joined. Depth 3 ft. to 5 ft.

W 12. Ammonite drilled with a central hole as if intended for a spindlewhorl. Layer 4, depth 4·7 ft.

W 13. Whorl made from the head of a femur, perforated. Layer 5, depth 5·5 ft.

W 14. Spindlewhorl of Ham stone, with large hole countersunk on both surfaces ; diam. 42·5 mm. Layer 6, depth 9·75 ft.

Among other specimens found in Cutting XIII (1925) were : Several iron nails and other pieces of iron, a knife-cut bone, and a cut horn-core of goat, depth down to 3 ft. ; three iron nails, a straight piece of iron, and a knife-cut rib-bone, depth 3 ft. to 4 ft. ; small pieces of slag, cut tine of red-deer, and an unbaked clay sling-bullet, depth 6 ft. ; piece of thin bronze, depth 7 ft.

A tarsus of horse, length 245 mm., found in the Roman deposits, gave an estimated stature of 12 hands 1 in. ; a carpus of horse, found in Layer 6, gave a stature of 12 hands ½ in. : and a carpus of ox, length 185 mm., also found in Layer 6, represented an animal 3 ft. 5½ in. at the shoulder.

VII. Wood, including Hornbeam

The late Mr. A. H. Lyell, F.S.A., kindly identified these specimens of Wood found on Ham Hill shortly before his death.

From Cutting IX, depth 1·5 ft. to 7·5 ft. :

English Oak . . .	*Quercus Robur*, L.
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*, L.
Mountain Ash . .	*Pyrus Aucuparia*, L.

From Cutting X, depth 9·5 ft., in large quantity and in one mass :

Hornbeam . . .	*Carpinus Betulus*, L.

The last is an important record being found below the Roman antiquities, at Ham Turn, and in deposits in which objects of the earlier part of the prehistoric Iron Age were discovered.

The writer also had the good fortune to discover Hornbeam (identified by Mr. Lyell) at a depth of 6·8 ft. in the silting of the great fosse at Avebury (stone circle) in 1922, in close association with beaker, or drinking-vessel pottery (found 3 in. higher).

This Hornbeam must date, therefore, from at least as far back as the earliest years of the Bronze Age.

In the *Journal of Ecology* Mr. Miller Christy issued a valuable paper on the Hornbeam, and he noted its discovery (p. 44) in excavations on Roman sites at Hengistbury Head, Hants, 1911–12; Wroxeter, Salop, 1914; and Hambleden, Bucks, 1915.

The discovery of nuts of the Hornbeam in much earlier deposits, as Mr. Christy says, 'suffices to dispel any supposition that the tree was introduced by the Romans. . . . The tree has been accepted as indigenous by nearly all those writers on British forest trees who are best qualified to express an opinion.'

VIII. List of Donations to the Excavation Fund during the Year 1926

	£	s.	d.
H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (Duchy of Cornwall)	5	0	0
Society of Antiquaries of London	10	0	0
Taunton Field Club	2	2	0
Northern Branch, S.A. & N.H. Society	1	1	0
Bulleid, Dr. A.	1	0	0
Clive, Capt. E. A. B.	0	10	6
Goodland, Roger	0	5	0
McLean, Mrs. D. H.	0	10	6
Moysey, C. F.	1	1	0
Paynter, J. B.	1	0	0
Skuce, J. E.	0	10	0
Tapp, Dr. W. M.	1	1	0
Box Collection	0	8	7
Bank Interest	0	4	10
	£24	14	5

A Statement of Accounts for the years 1925 and 1926 will be found on p. xxii of this volume.

Note.—Plate XIV,—the five specimens, B 2, B 3, I 18, I 20, and S 4, were drawn by Mr. H. C. Charlewood, and the remainder by Mrs. St. George Gray. The writer also wishes to thank Mr. E. Sprankling for his drawing of the piece of repoussé bronze.