

SETTLEMENT SITES OF THE LATE PRE-ROMAN IRON AGE IN THE SOMERSET LEVELS

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SUMMARY

Settlement sites producing Glastonbury pottery have recently been excavated at Alstone, West Huntspill and Westonzoyland. These sites lie on low sand islands in the Somerset Levels. Durotrigian and Romano-British pottery was also found at Westonzoyland. The Late Pre-Roman Iron Age and Roman pottery sequence in the area is discussed.

TERMINOLOGY

The terminology followed is that proposed by F. R. Hodson (1962 and 1964).

WESTONZOYLAND (Fig. 14)

Westonzoyland is a village and parish situated $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the east of Bridgwater. It lies on the western and lowest end of an outcrop of Burtle Bed sand which extends east to Middlezoy and Othery. The clay and peat surrounding this outcrop would, in the Late Pre-Roman Iron Age (hereafter referred to as L.P.R.I.A.), have been marshland. The highest point at Westonzoyland is 23 ft. O.D. as opposed to the 13 to 17 ft. of the surrounding levels. The excavations took place on a new housing estate adjacent to the A372 and 200 yds. east of the church (ST 354348). During building work a quantity of pottery was collected, which included both L.P.R.I.A. and R.B. wares. The former were mostly Durotrigian but there were also some decorated Glastonbury sherds. An excavation was carried out by the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works. It took place during three weeks in August and September 1968 under the direction of the authors. The finds have been placed in the Admiral Blake Museum, Bridgwater, and the field notes at the Somerset Archaeological Society's library at Taunton Castle.

THE EXCAVATION (Fig. 1)

GEOLOGY

The site lay on Burtle Bed sand which here rests on Keuper Marl. Our trenches never extended below about 6 ft. from the modern surface, and consequently little can be added to the information given by Bulleid and Jackson (1937). In trenches D to H a layer of sandy, light brown clay, 2-5 in. thick, lay about 1 ft. 6 in. below the surface of the natural sand. In D this clay layer consisted of rounded nodules of clay 4-6 in. in diameter. These have been noticed at other places in the Burtle Beds. Below these nodules was the Keuper Marl, a hard, pinkish, sandy clay, on the surface of which were black patches that were probably remains of vegetation. The Marl was also found in E to H with 2-6 in. of sand separating it from the sandy clay above. It was not found in A to C. In C between 8 and 11 in. of pinkish-brown, silty clay lay over the sand. This clay was probably the result of local flooding at some period preceding the L.P.R.I.A. In all trenches the surface layers of sand were in places concreted into slabs. A number of shells were found, all of species noted by Bulleid and Jackson.

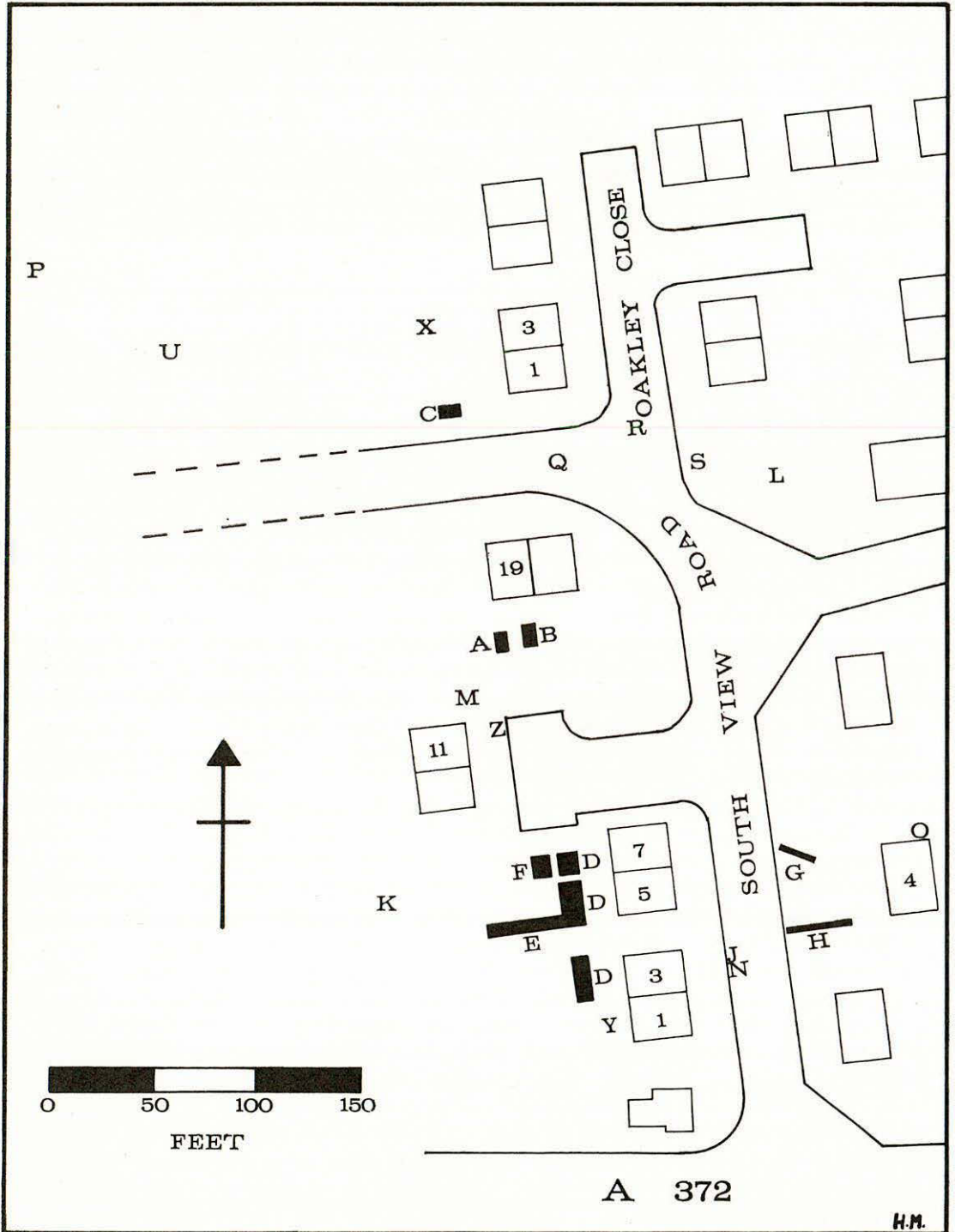


FIG. 1
 Westonzoyland excavation. Position of trenches (A-H) and location of chance finds (J-Z).
 Buildings as during September 1968.

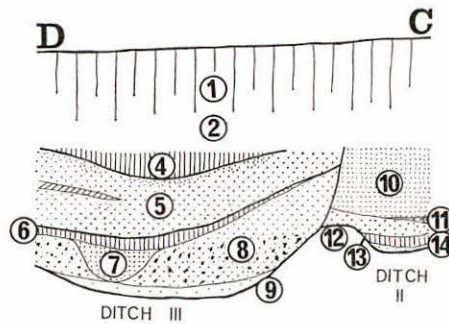
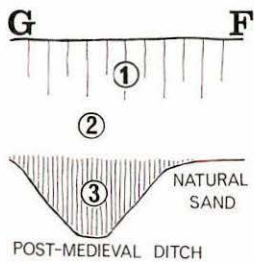
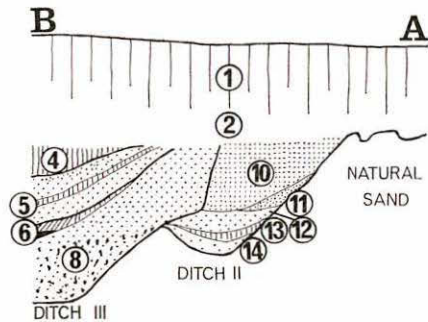
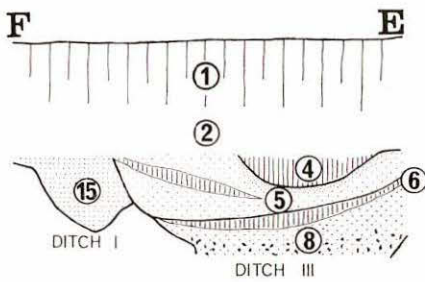
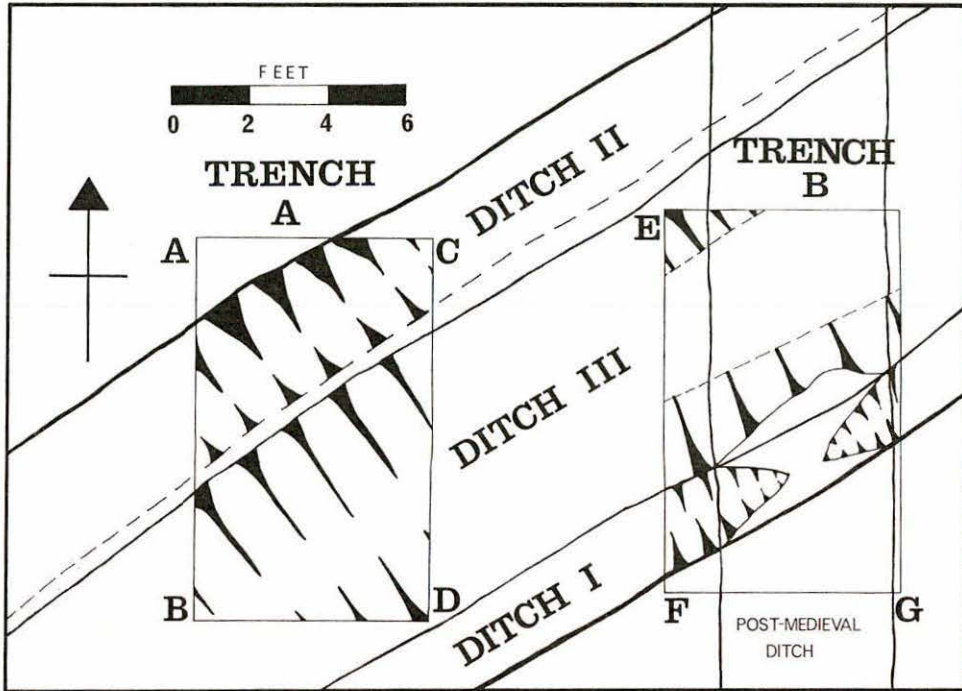


FIG. 2

Westonzoyland excavation. Plan and sections of Trenches A and B.

HM

TRENCHES A and B (Fig. 2)

A revealed a small ditch (Ditch II) partially cut away by another, larger, ditch on the same alignment (Ditch III). Both produced sherds of decorated Glastonbury pottery. B was dug to check the alignment of these ditches. This picked up the southern lip of III, which here cut into a third ditch (Ditch I): I and III were here cut across by a post-medieval boundary ditch, running north-south and probably the same as that found in D.

Description of layers and features:

- (1) Topsoil, here including much dumped building rubble. P 1.
- (2) Brown sandy soil into which topsoil passes gradually. P 2-5.
- (3) Dark brown, slightly sandy soil filling post-medieval field boundary ditch, cutting through the tops of the L.P.R.I.A. ditches. P 6 and some post-medieval sherds.
- (4) Very dark brown, slightly sandy soil. Top layer in III. P 7-13.
- (5) Light brown sand with very little humic content. Tip lines of black soil and ash. Pottery, page 28.
- (6) Black, slightly sandy soil. P 14-15; SF 5.
- (7) Soft, grey, sandy soil filling a recut or disturbance in III. P 16.
- (8) Light grey-brown, sandy soil. Lower part heavily stained with green iron salts and concreted into small lumps. P 17-20.
- (9) Grey sand on bottom of III. No finds.
- (10) Brown sandy soil. Top layer in II. No finds.
- (11) Very dark brown, slightly sandy soil. P 21-22.
- (12) Light brown, sandy soil. No finds.
- (13) Dark brown, slightly sandy soil. P 23-25.
- (14) Light brown sand on bottom of II. No finds.
- (15) Hard, brown sand filling I. No silting or tipping lines. No finds.

Animal bones were found in all layers of Ditches II and III.

These three ditches seem best interpreted as a boundary ditch twice redug. It was not possible to relate Ditches I and II. They could have been open at the same time but this is unlikely because of the difference in their fills, the absence of finds from Ditch I and their relative abundance in Ditch II. Ditch I appears to have silted up naturally at a time when there was not much activity in the immediate area. It may, perhaps, be the earliest of the three. The profile of Ditch II was irregular; this may have been caused by frequent cleaning out. Layers (14) and perhaps (11) may be the result of rubbish tipping into it, probably from its north-west side. Ditch II was probably completely filled up before Ditch III was dug. Ditch III cut through the edges of both earlier ditches. It appears to have silted up naturally part way, when it may have been partially cleared out (7). The remainder of the fill, (5) and (6), looks like deliberate infill. After the ditch was full a layer of black soil accumulated over its top (4).

The length of these ditches is not known. An R.B. skeleton found by builders at S on Fig. 1 was said to have been buried in a "silted-up watercourse". This appears, from a sketch in the Admiral Blake Museum, to have run approximately north-east-south-west. The line of Ditches I-III, deflected only slightly from that shown in Fig. 2, would pass through S.

There were no traces of banks, but more of the filling of III came from the north-west than from the south-east which suggests that this ditch had a bank on the north-west side.

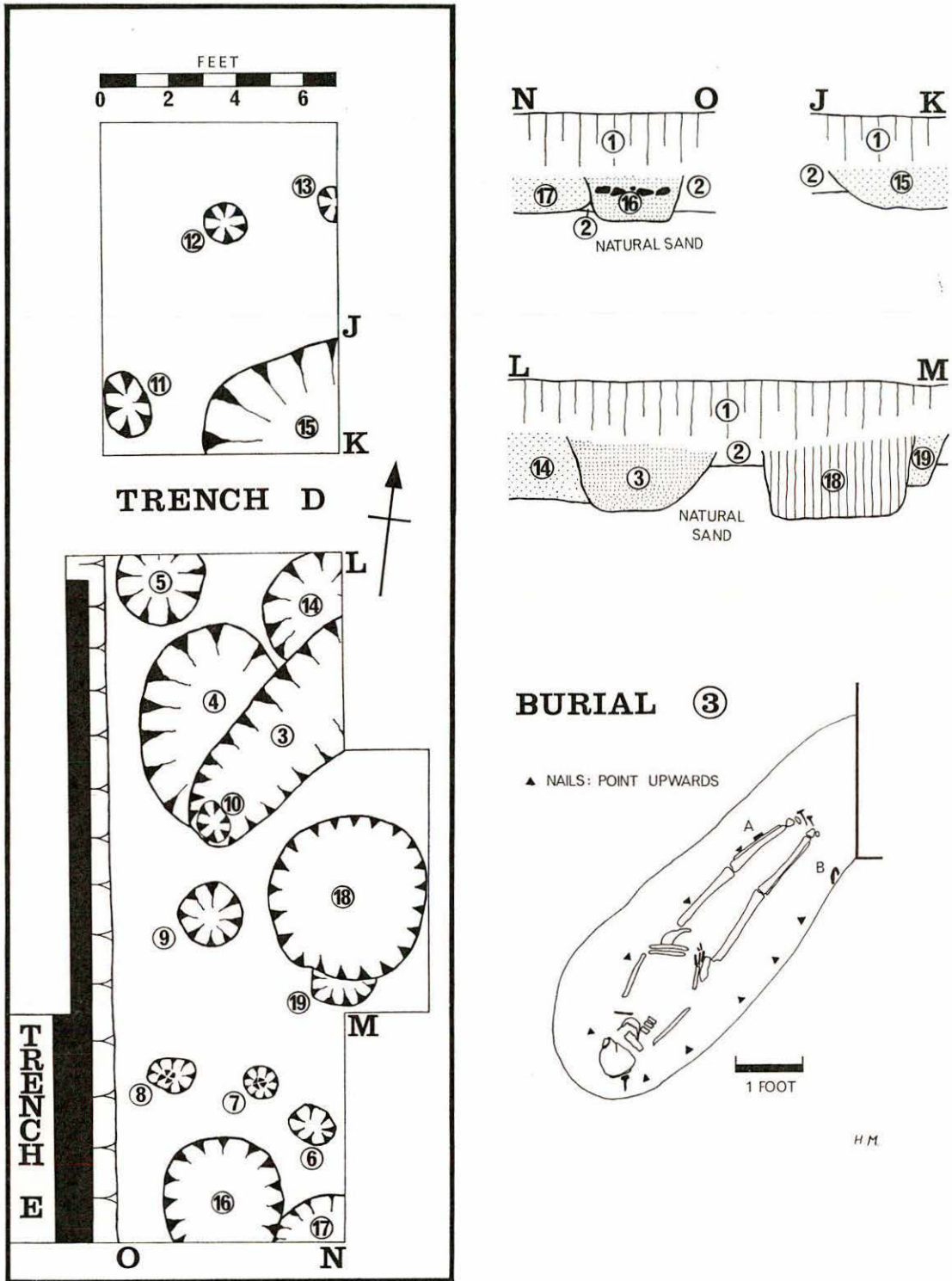


FIG. 3

Westonzoyland excavation. Plan and sections of Trench D; also detailed plan of burial, feature D (3).

The site is very flat and affords no obvious defensive position. It is also well drained which makes the digging of ditches for drainage unlikely. A boundary ditch, allowed to silt up or infilled when the need for it had temporarily disappeared, and later redug, seems the most likely interpretation. L.P.R.I.A. pottery and pits have been found on either side of it, so it may have divided the land of two adjacent communities, or have been filled in finally when a single settlement expanded. The pottery from (4) shows that the area was occupied by people using Glastonbury pottery after the boundary was obliterated.

TRENCH C (Fig. 1)

Topsoil (1) directly overlay the natural, here red clay over Burtle Bed sand. (1) produced the decorated sherd P27. The western third of the trench was disturbed by modern service trenches. These trenches had disturbed a R.B. feature as the sherds of P83 from their fill were too large to have remained unbroken in topsoil. They also cut a L.P.R.I.A. pit (2) 4 ft. wide and surviving 1 ft. 9 in. deep in the natural clay. (2) was straight-sided, filled with grey sand and produced P 28. It cut another pit (3), 2 ft. in diameter and surviving 9 in. deep, filled with black, sandy soil. (3) produced no finds.

TRENCH D (Figs. 1 and 3)

In the garden of 3 Southview Road, D revealed only post-medieval features.

Description of layers and features:

- (1) and (2) As in A and B. (1) P 29-35, P 95. (2) P 36-37.
- (3) Grave containing an extended burial in a coffin, lying approximately south-west-north-east. Nails found in position with their points upright are shown as triangles in Fig. 3. These nails suggest a wooden coffin with slightly bowed sides. Other nails were found at various depths and angles in the grave, none more than 1 ft. above the skeleton; these had been displaced as the coffin decayed and the grave settled. "A" indicates the position of an iron stud, SF Iron (d), "B" an iron object, SF Iron (e): Two groups of hobnails, SF Iron (f), were found in the grave above the bones. The skeleton was probably that of a woman; the bones were very slender; the wear on the wisdom teeth indicates that she was possibly in early middle age. The grave cut (4), (10) and (14). Some scraps of R.B. pottery were in the fill.
- (4) Pit filled with mixed grey and black sandy soil, surviving 1 ft. 3 in. deep. R.B. pottery.
- (5) Pit filled with brown sandy soil, surviving 2 ft. deep. An abraded samain sherd.
- (6)-(13) Post-holes. None produced dating evidence but (10) is cut by the grave (3). It is unlikely that any are recent because they could only be seen in the natural sand and not in (2). (6)-(8) are ovoid in shape, fairly shallow and filled with brown, sandy soil. (7) and (8) had soft, black cores in their centres about 4 in. in diameter. (9)-(13) were much deeper and filled with a brown clayey soil, rammed very hard. (12) had a grey, soft, sandy core about 6 in. across. The fills of the others were less compact in their centres. It is not possible to reconstruct any plans from these post-holes. Depths in natural sand (ins.): (6) 9, (7) 11, (8) 9, (9) 21, (10) 30, (11) 21, (12) 24, (13) 27.
- (14) Pit filled with brown, sandy soil. Plain Glastonbury wall sherd.
- (15) Pit, fill as (14). Plain Glastonbury wall sherds.
- (16) Pit, fill as (14). Containing fragments of a baked clay hearth. P 38-42.
- (17) Pit filled with light brown, sandy soil. Edges very indefinite. Cut by (16). No finds.

(18) Pit filled with dark brown, sandy soil containing many animal bones. P 43-46.

(19) Pit filled with brown sand. Cut by (18). No finds.

None of the pits at Westonzoyland appear to have been storage pits. Only D (18) is large enough but its bottom was 4 in. below the present water table in August. No pit had been lined.

TRENCH E (Fig. 1)

This cut at right angles the foundations of a nineteenth century cowshed, 17 ft. wide externally, which appears on the 1903 25 in. O.S. map. The flooring contained fragments of several eighteenth century tombstones. Its east wall, black in Fig. 3, lay over a post-medieval boundary ditch. West of the cowshed was an extensive modern disturbance. There were no L.P.R.I.A. or R.B. features but a little pottery of these periods was found. P 46-50.

TRENCH F (Fig. 1)

This exposed only modern disturbances and the post-medieval boundary ditch.

TRENCH G (Fig. 1)

Three post-holes, at the east end of the trench, all 1 ft. 3 in. across and 1 ft. 6 in. deep, were filled with brown, clayey soil and were similar to D (9)-(13). An irregular, shallow pit to the west of these, filled with brown, sandy soil, produced a few scraps of R.B. pottery. P 57 from base of topsoil.

TRENCH H (Fig. 1)

This exposed two irregular, shallow pits, containing scraps of R.B. pottery, and a post-hole 1 ft. 6 in. across and 2 ft. deep, filled with brown clayey soil, similar to features in G.

OTHER FINDS (Fig. 1)

A large quantity of pottery was found during building work. There is no definite evidence for any structures associated with this material, but much of it was found at such a depth below the surface that it must have come from pits and ditches. This would account for the number of large, unabraded sherds. The main interest of this material lies in the quantity of Durotrigian pottery. The excavation produced only a few sherds.

Several skeletons were found. At P three skeletons were excavated by the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society. These were a complete extended burial, parts of another just above it and a third to one side. There was no dating evidence. A skull was found at Q. At R was a crouched burial packed around with Lias slabs. With it were three bronze bracelets, SF 2; a spindle whorl, SF 8; and probably a coin of Carausius, No. 5 in the coin list. At S was a male extended burial in a "silted-up watercourse". In its grave were abraded sherds of L.P.R.I.A. and R.B. pottery of the first century A.D.

DISCUSSION OF THE SITE

The scatter of flints suggests occupation at Westonzoyland earlier than the L.P.R.I.A., possibly Mesolithic. Quantities of flints were found at both Glastonbury and Meare and it has been suggested (Gray and Cotton, 1966, 361) that flint was being worked at Meare during the L.P.R.I.A. The possibility of all the flints at Westonzoyland being of Pre-Roman Iron Age date should not be overlooked, although some pieces have a patination suggesting greater age.

The phase of the L.P.R.I.A. represented by the use of decorated Glastonbury pottery

on the site was probably of some duration. There is no evidence for an early phase preceding the use of decorated pottery such as that suggested for Meare (Avery 1968, 22). The phase with decorated Glastonbury pottery was probably succeeded by one during which a devolved style of this pottery was in use, some time around the date of the Roman Conquest. This in turn was succeeded by a Durotrigian and then a full R.B. phase. The Durotrigian/early Roman phase is paralleled at other sites in the area, e.g. Bush Marsh and Churchie Bushes (Dewar, Miles and Smith, 1956), both only 3 miles away in Bawdrip parish. The site in the L.P.R.I.A. may best be described as an open settlement.

The R.B. occupation probably covered a large area. In 1938 some finds were made 400 yds. to the east of our site. (ST 358347). These include a third century A.D. black-burnished flanged bowl, other pottery and a coin of Trajan.

There were other R.B. settlements in the Parrett Valley. Coins ranging from Trajan to Constantius II and R.B. pottery have been found at Bridgwater (Admiral Blake Museum), and an early R.B. pottery scatter at Chilton Trinity. At Chedzoy, 2 miles north-west of Westonzoyland, on a separate island of Burtle Bed sand, Stradling records digging in a field called Slapeland (Stradling, 1839, ii). He found "a nearly perfect hypocaust of large Ham Hill stones, pottery, scoriae of iron and ashes". Haverfield (1906, 359) thought that these were medieval as the remains of a chapel were known at Chedzoy but Stradling records finding this chapel elsewhere in the vicinity (Stradling, 1839, ii). There seems to have been a substantial Roman building here. In Othery parish R.B. pottery has been found in Burrow Bridge churchyard, and Roman coins in Burrow Wall Rhyne (*Proc. S.A.S.*, 85, 98).

THE POTTERY

The Glastonbury pottery is very similar to that from Glastonbury and Meare, but for only a few pieces can exact parallels be quoted. Dr. Peacock (1969) has identified decorated sherds from Westonzoyland belonging to his Group II. These sherds contain sandstone grits which imply their manufacture on Mendip. Dr. Peacock's work implies specialized centres for the manufacture of decorated pottery, which would then have been traded over considerable distances. The undecorated material from Westonzoyland appears to contain no grits which are geologically distinctive, and it is most likely that this was made locally. The association in A (13) of the large plain jar P 26 and the decorated pot P 23 provides fairly definite evidence for the contemporaneity here of the two types, which has been lacking for central Somerset. Decorated pottery was probably current at Meare from the late second century B.C. until the early first century A.D. (Avery, 1968, 22). If it is accepted that Glastonbury and Meare were the major cultural centres of the Levels, influencing the style of objects used in their vicinity, it would be reasonable to transfer the dating from Meare to Westonyozland, but if the most distinctive pottery was made on Mendip, its manufacture need not have ended at the same time as the "Lake Villages". The pottery may have continued in use on other sites until well into the first century A.D.

All of the undecorated pottery appears to have been handmade. It is difficult to be certain about the decorated material, but this appears to have been finished on some kind of wheel.

The pottery from pit (16) in D poses a special problem. P 38 and P 39 do not seem similar in style of decoration to the general run of Glastonbury pottery. The fabric of

both is very similar and they are both buff, although most of the other sherds from the site are black. These jars were found with sherds of R.B. wheel-made wares P 41 and P 42. This association suggests that the jars were not discarded until R.B. pottery was available. The R.B. sherds were found under lumps of a clay hearth in the pit and can hardly be later intrusions. It is therefore likely that the jars are later in date than any L.P.R.I.A. material at Glastonbury and Meare, and it is possible that the jars represent the decorated pottery tradition lingering on at Westonzoyland until after the Roman conquest of the area. In view of their shaky design, they may perhaps be described as devolved Glastonbury pottery. As Dr. Peacock has assigned them to his Group II, the pottery centre on Mendip may have continued in production until around the time of the Roman conquest.

All the Durotrigian material is unstratified, except for P 5, found right in the top of Ditch III, and the association of P 62, P 68 and P 71. Therefore it is not known whether it was in use before R.B. types became available. The evidence from other sites in the area suggests that it was not; for, with the possible exception of Churchie Bushes (Dewar, Miles and Smith, 1956b), no Durotrigian pottery has been found unassociated with R.B. types. In Dorset, Durotrigian pottery types were well established before the Roman conquest. Since at Westonzoyland Glastonbury pottery may have continued in use in a devolved form until around the time of the Roman conquest, Durotrigian pottery, although its absence from the group in D (16) should not be stressed, may not have been introduced until later.

The R.B. material from the site is mainly unstratified. Consequently the only method of dating it is by the transference of dates given to similar types on other sites in the South West. This method is of dubious value because we cannot be sure that changes in type were of simultaneous occurrence all over the province. It seems that, in the near future, a fruitful line of research on R.B. coarse wares will be the concentrated study of regional types in order to reveal the patterns of distribution of the products of different kilns. Only when this has been done, and these regional types firmly dated, will there be a sound basis for the dating of coarse pottery. Much of the information for the distribution, if not for the dating, of the products will come from unstratified material. For Westonzoyland a representative of every type found is included in the catalogue.

Black-burnished wares occur in some quantity. In Fig. 7 a series of burnished jars have been arranged as a typological sequence from Durotrigian to developed R.B. forms. The sequence shows the basic continuity between the two groups. The most relevant Durotrigian form, the straight-rimmed jar of Brailsford's Type 4 (1958), will have been accepted by the Romans because of its similarity to their own ollae. We should look, therefore, for R.B. kiln sites within the known distribution area of Durotrigian pottery, and one likely site is known. Around the edge of the Roman clay in the Brue Valley are at least fifty low mounds; those which have been dug into have produced briquetage and large quantities of black-burnished wares. Both Stradling (1839, 22) and Bulleid (1914) believed these mounds to be composed of the waste material from pottery manufacture, but because the mounds contain no sherds of normal waster type this opinion was not generally accepted. The mounds have been attributed to salt production (O.S. map of Roman Britain). Experiments with local clay have shown that it remains very stable during firing and does not change its shape. When a very high temperature is reached, it

either melts, or under certain unexplained circumstances, becomes very powdery and soft. One would not therefore expect wasters of normal type in these mounds, but sherds which are powdery and crumble easily are frequently found. Other sherds are cracked in a very different way from modern frost damage and are probably another form of waster. Much of the material from the mounds has been oxidised bright pink and this may have been regarded as sub-standard. Stradling describes finding "a square platform formed of clay" in one of the mounds, and this was, he thought, perhaps a kiln base. (Stradling, 1851, 56). The close dating of the material in these mounds is not easy. Forms such as P 75 and P 76 from Westonzoyland are plentiful while really late types are absent. The mounds continue west under the Roman clay for some distance; they can be seen beneath it in the banks of the Huntspill River. The clay should perhaps be dated to the late second century A.D. near Highbridge (Cunliffe, 1966, 68) and possibly a little later further inland. Consequently it is probable that the industry producing this waste was flourishing during the second century A.D. Durotrigian types can be shown to have still been in use in the late first century A.D. e.g. at Catsgore (Radford, 1951). There need have been no break in this tradition of pottery manufacture in the area.

It is difficult to date the Roman occupation at Westonzoyland from the pottery. There were only a few small sherds of samian, but this may be because the settlement was a poor one in the native tradition. Some of the coarse wares are likely to be first century A.D., but others are likely to be fourth century A.D. It is not possible to say whether the site was occupied without interruption.

POTTERY CATALOGUE (Figs. 4-9)

All descriptions are based on visual identification. "Burnished" is used to describe a shiny surface; "smoothed" one that appears to have been worked with hands or tools to give a smooth but not shiny surface; "wiped" one that has numerous fine parallel striations such as may have been produced by wiping the pot with a cloth while it was still wet; "micaceous" to describe a sherd that glitters without prejudice as to whether the constituent causing the glitter is mica. Dr. D. Peacock has examined all the decorated and some other L.P.R.I.A. material and has assigned some sherds to his Group II, of Mendip origin (Peacock, 1969), referred to in the catalogue as Peacock Group II.

A & B (1). P 1, also abraded R.B., medieval and post-medieval sherds.

P 1. Bead-rim bowl or jar. Fine, slightly micaceous, slightly sandy with some white grit. Crudely made. Brown-grey with black, lightly burnished exterior.

A & B (2). P 2-5, also about 20 small sherds from burnished bowls and jars of Glastonbury type, and a few R.B. scraps including one of samian.

P 2. Bead-rim bowl or jar. Fine, hard, buff, very sandy. The sand is shelly and probably from the Burtle Beds. Exterior well burnished.

P 3. Bead-rim bowl or jar. As P 2, but less sand. Grey, with a buff, burnished exterior.

P 4. Decorated base. As P 1. Grey, black well burnished exterior.

P 5. Hard, some fine, white sand. Dark grey core, pink zone towards surfaces. Surfaces dark brown. Exterior burnished. Probably from a jar of Durotrigian type as P 68.

B (3). P 6, also a few scraps of Glastonbury and R.B. wares, and some post-medieval sherds.

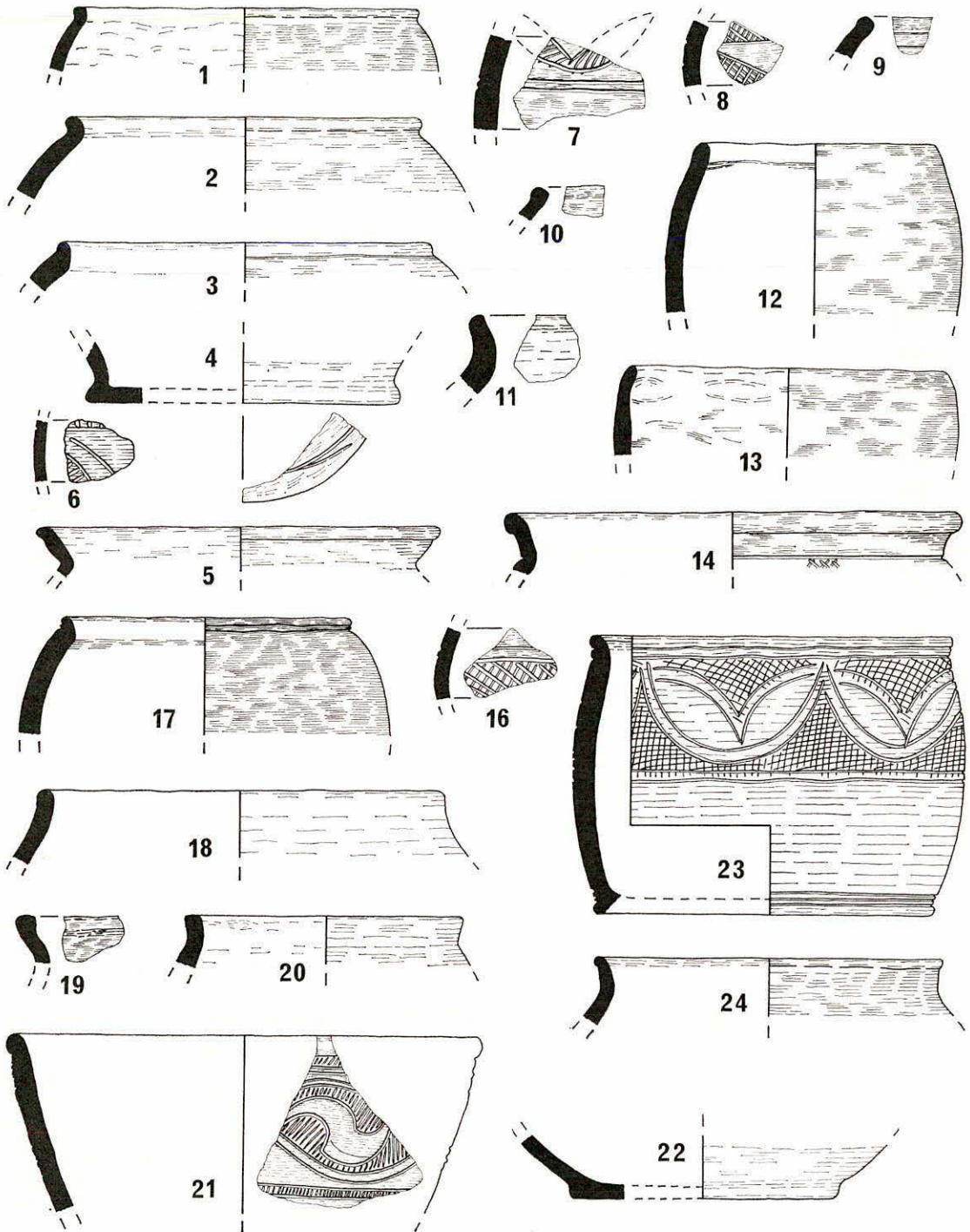


FIG. 4
Glastonbury pottery from Westonzoyland, Trenches A and B.
All 1/3. See pages 26-28.

- P 6. Fine, dark brown with many white, brown and grey grits up to 3 mm. Exterior lightly burnished. Decoration made with a broad, blunt point. Peacock Group II. A & B (4). P 7–13, also sherds from burnished bowls and jars of Glastonbury type.
- P 7. Fine, hard, very sandy. Dark grey core, buff surfaces, exterior lightly burnished. Decoration made with a broad, blunt point. Similar to P 216 from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Grey, 1917, Plate LXXXII). Peacock Group II.
- P 8. As P 1. Exterior black and well burnished. Decoration made with a blunt point. Similar to P 235 from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Grey, 1917, Plate LXXXIII). Peacock Group II.
- P 9. As P 2, but with some round, black grits up to 2 mm. Grey with buff surfaces. Exterior well burnished. Lines incised with a blunt point.
- P 10. As P 9.
- P 11. Soft, fine, grey with many white grits, possibly limestone, up to 4 mm. and a few black grits as in P 9. Surface dark brown, lightly burnished.
- P 12. Plain jar. As P 9. Black throughout. Exterior lightly burnished.
- P 13. As P 9. Light grey with darker surfaces. Exterior smoothed.
- A & B (5). A few sherds of burnished Glastonbury jars.
- A & B (6). P 14–15, also six sherds of burnished or smoothed Glastonbury jars or bowls.
- P 14. Necked jar. As P 2. Dark brown. Black, well burnished exterior. Cross-hatched decoration made with a blunt point.
- P 15. (Not illustrated) Sherd from a lid flange. As P 2, but with very little sand.
- A (7). P 16.
- P 16. As P 11. Cross-hatched decoration made with a broad, blunt point. Peacock Group II.
- A & B (8). P 17–20, also sherds from burnished Glastonbury jars and bowls. One sherd (not illustrated) had vegetable filler; a few sherds from Glastonbury were tempered with chopped reeds (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, 499).
- P 17. Bead-rim bowl. As P 2. Black with well burnished exterior. Double line incised with a broad, blunt point below rim.
- P 18. As P 9. Light grey. Exterior smoothed.
- P 19. As P 9. Light grey with darker, smoothed surfaces.
- P 20. As P 5, but with a few white grits up to 3 mm. Grey core. Surfaces: interior red, exterior black and smoothed.
- A (11). P 21–22.
- P 21. Decorated open-mouthed bowl. Hard, coarse, with much fine grit. Orange-buff throughout. Exterior lightly burnished. Decoration made with a blunt point. The narrow line on the central panel is perhaps a setting-out line. Open-mouthed bowls were uncommon at Glastonbury and Meare; compare shape with Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXX, P 192, and design to Plate LXXXIV, P 252.
- P 22. As P 9. Black with light brown, burnished exterior.
- A (13). P 23–26.
- P 23. Decorated tub-shaped bowl. As P 6. Brown with black surfaces. Exterior well burnished and possibly treated with some black substance to produce a very high polish. Decoration made with a sharp point — the lines are excised. The form derives from wooden, lathe-turned bowls. The design compares exactly with P 156

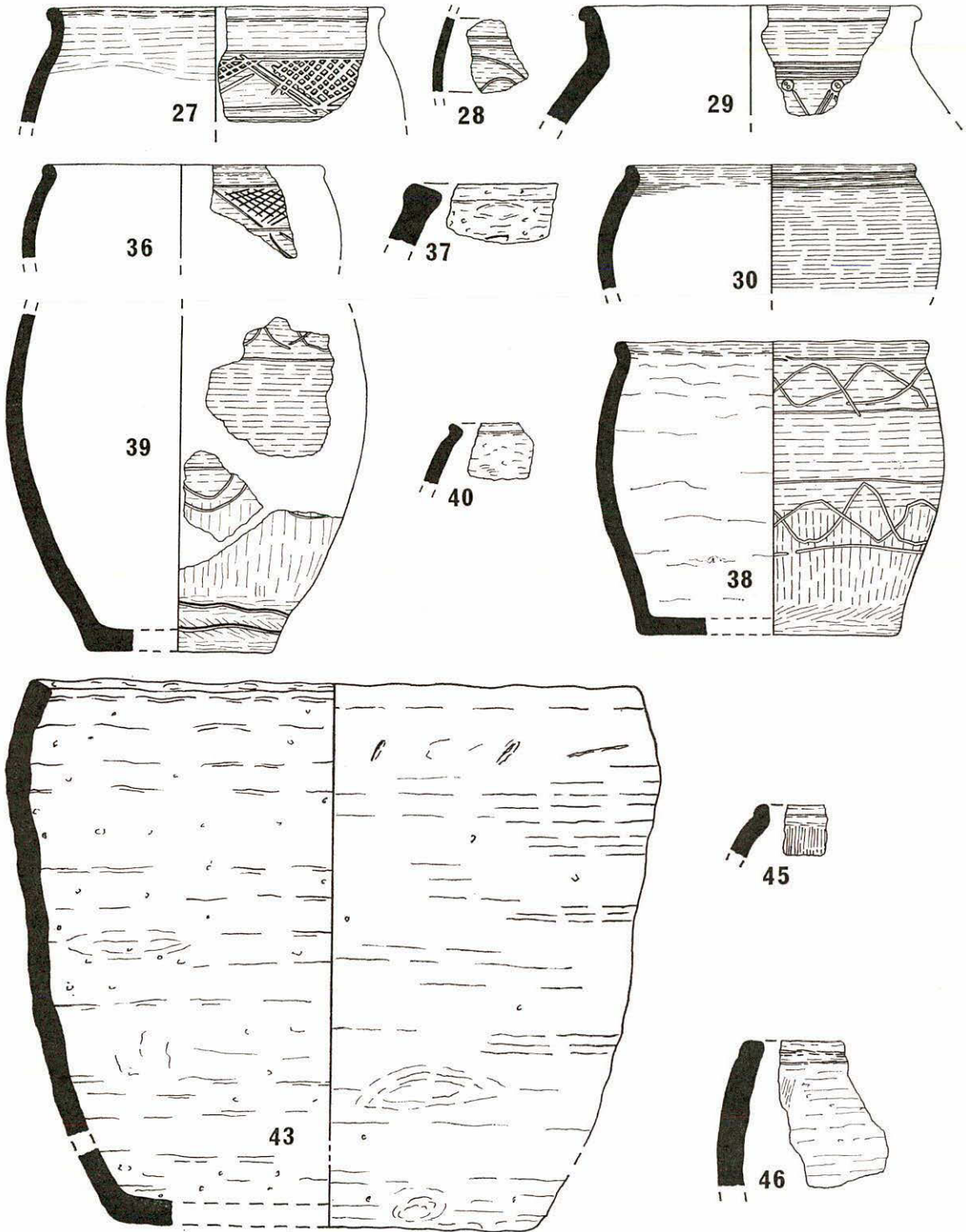


FIG. 5
Glastonbury pottery from Westonzoyland, Trenches C, D and E.
All 1/3. See pages 30-31.

- from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXXVII). Peacock Group II.
- P 24. As P 2. Light brown with black, well burnished exterior.
- P 25. (Not illustrated). Base and wall sherds from plain jar. As P 9, but black and over-fired. Exterior smoothed vertically.
- P 26. (Not illustrated). Base and wall sherds, from plain jar. Form as P 43, fabric as P 2, but with grits up to 5 mm. Grey, with patchy buff and black surfaces.
- C (1). P 27, also some sherds of burnished Glastonbury jars and R.B. platters.
- P 27. Necked jar. As P 9. Black, with lightly burnished exterior. Cross-hatched decoration made with a broad, blunt point. Peacock Group II.
- C (2). P 28, also some sherds from Glastonbury jars and bowls.
- P 28. As P 1, but with more white grit. Grey throughout. Exterior smoothed. Decoration made with a narrow, blunt point.
- D (1). P 29–35, also many sherds of L.P.R.I.A. and R.B. fabrics, and medieval and post-medieval sherds.
- P 29. Necked jar. As P 9. Black with buff surfaces. Exterior well burnished. Decoration made with a broad, blunt point. Similar to P 248 from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXXXIV). Peacock Group II.
- P 30. Bowl. As P 9. Black. Exterior well burnished. Three grooves made with a broad, blunt point.
- P 31. (Not illustrated). Wheel-made platter. Medium hard, with much fine grit. Black. Exterior wiped, interior well burnished. Base decorated with broad, shallow grooves inside and outside. Several similar platters were found during building. None had any decoration on the base, but all had wiped exteriors and well burnished interiors. Diameters up to 11 in. Fabric as P 31, forms as P 77, P 80 and P 81.
- P 32. (Not illustrated). Flanged bowl. As P 31. Grey with black, wiped exterior. Interior well burnished. Faint arcading on exterior. A similar pot from Exeter (Fox, 1952, Fig. 18, No. 58 and p. 91) was assigned to the late second or to the third century A.D. Sherds from five other bowls were found during building.
- P 33–34. (Not illustrated). Sherds from black-burnished jars. As P 31. Similar in form to P 75, also an example from Exeter (Fox, 1952, Fig. 18, No. 52) dated 120–150 A.D.
- P 35. (Not illustrated). Rim of a samian cup, Dragendorf 33. Early second century A.D.
- D (2). P 36–37, also small Glastonbury, R.B., medieval and post-medieval sherds.
- P 36. As P 9. Black. Well burnished exterior. Decoration made with a narrow, blunt point. Similar to P 216 from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXXXII). Peacock Group II.
- P 37. Very coarse, with many calcite grits up to 10 mm. Buff. Surfaces smoothed.
- D (3). A few featureless R.B. sherds. One rim similar to P 34.
- D (4). A few featureless Glastonbury and R.B. sherds.
- D (5). One small abraded samian sherd.
- D (14). One burnished Glastonbury wall sherd.
- D (15). A few burnished Glastonbury wall sherds.
- D (16). P 38–42.
- P 38. Crudely decorated tub-shaped jar. As P 1. Patchy buff and grey. Exterior burnished, upper part horizontally, lower part vertically. Shaky curvilinear decoration in two bands lightly incised with a blunt point. Peacock Group II.

P 39. Similar to P 38, differing only slightly in shape and decoration. Two other sherds with traces of similar decoration may belong to a third pot. Peacock Group II.

No exact parallels to the decoration on P 38–39 can be found. Decoration at Glastonbury and Meare is always in one band or adjacent bands. This seems also to be the case with pottery in this decorative tradition throughout the South West. It is stratigraphically possible that these pots are post-Roman, but the lack of comparable material of this date, and the similarities in fabric, shape and technique with Glastonbury pottery make a date at the end of the L.P.R.I.A. seem more likely.

P 40. As P 11. Black. Crudely made.

P 41. (Not illustrated). Sherd from neck of wheel-made jar. Hard, fine, slightly micaceous, grey with a small amount of darker grit. Early R.B.

P 42. (Not illustrated). Wheel-made jar sherd. Hard, fine, light grey with rounded black and white grits up to 2 mm. Early R.B.

D (18). P 43–45, also a small sherd from a colour-coat folded beaker, found in the top 2 in.

P 43. Large, coarse jar. Very soft and crumbly with grits up to 12 mm. Black. Buff, smoothed exterior.

P 44. (Not illustrated). Wall sherd, 17 mm. thick, from jar similar to P 43. Harder, finer, much shell, grits up to 7 mm. Black. Buff, smoothed exterior.

P 45. As P 11, but softer. Dark grey. Buff interior.

E. Topsoil and post-medieval features. P 46–50, also about 60 L.P.R.I.A. and R.B. sherds, including black-burnished, and medieval and post-medieval sherds.

P 46. As P 44. Dark grey. Buff, smoothed surfaces. Rough horizontal tooling below the rim.

P 47. (Not illustrated). Rim sherd from bowl. As P 9, but some white grits up to 6 mm. Black. Exterior burnished. Four grooves below rim.

P 48. (Not illustrated). Base angle sherd from crude jar. Black, soft, crumbly with a vegetable filler that has burnt out on the exterior.

P 49. (Not illustrated). Base of colour-coat bowl with footring. Soft, fine, buff, very micaceous. Traces of bright orange-red wash on both surfaces. Trimmed round after breakage, the trimmed edges worn smooth.

P 50. (Not illustrated). Rim sherd from samian bowl, Dragendorf 31. Second century A.D.

POTTERY COLLECTED DURING BUILDING WORKS (Figs. 6–9)

Pottery has been listed according to type, and drawings of each distinctive type included. The location of a pot, where known, is given after its description and shown on Fig. 1 by letters J–N.

P 51. Decorated tub-shaped bowl. As P 1. Dark grey. Patchy pink and black interior, black, burnished exterior. Decoration lightly incised with a broad, blunt point. Compare design with P 216 from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXXXII). Peacock Group II. Near south end of D.

P 52. Coarse; black; much white, angular grit. Exterior lightly burnished. Deeply incised decoration. Peacock Group II.

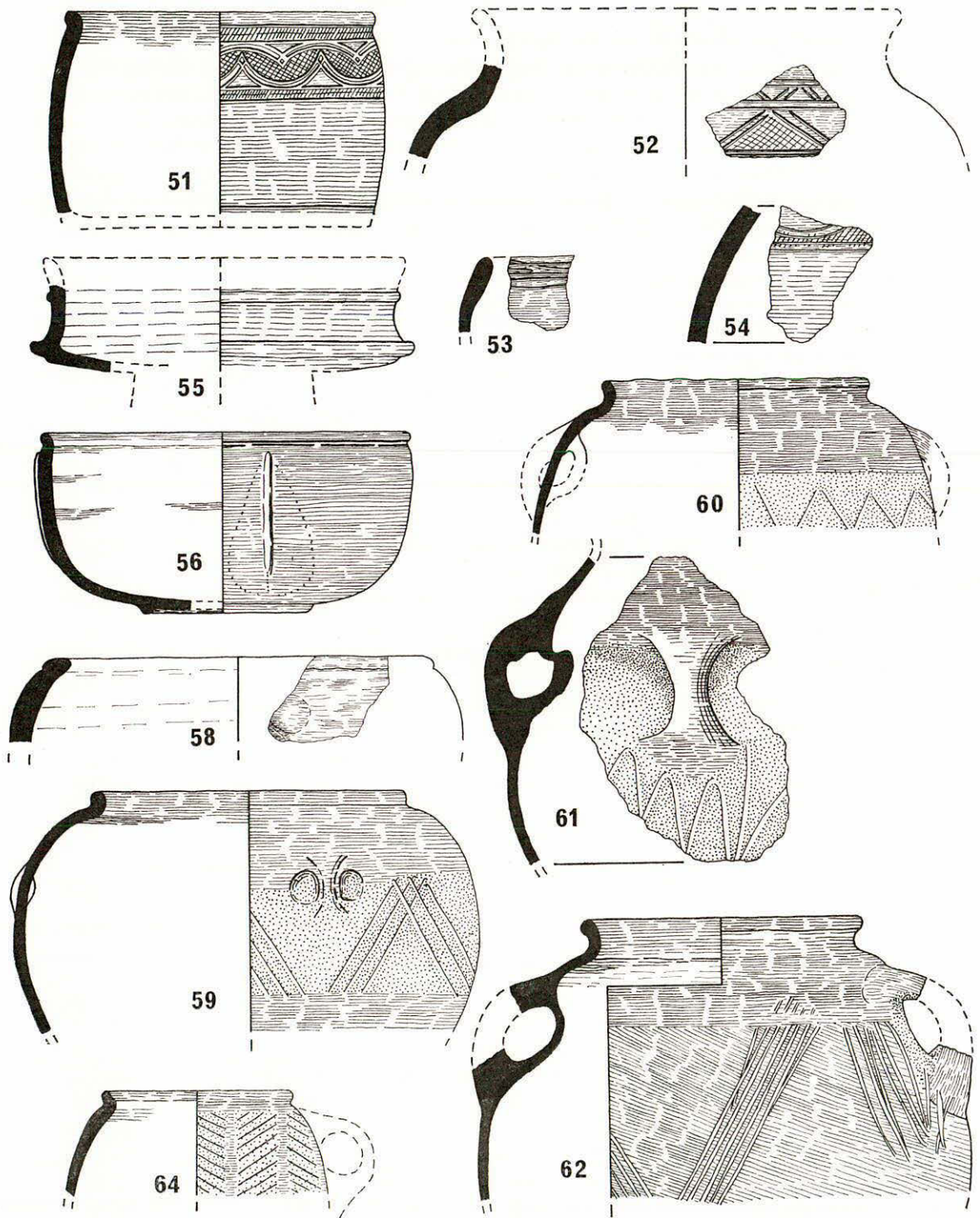


FIG. 6
Glastonbury and Durotrigian pottery from Westonzoyland. Unstratified.
All 1/3. See pages 31-33.

- P 53. As P 1, but with a few white limestone grits. Dark grey. Black, well burnished exterior. Peacock Group II. From K.
- P 54. Soft, fine, micaceous, no grit. Dark grey. Exterior well burnished. Decoration incised with a narrow point. Peacock Group II. From J.
- P 55. Sherd possibly from a tazza. As P 1. Black. Exterior well burnished. Compare example from Woodcuts (Pitt-Rivers, 1887, Plate XXXV, No. 5). Tazze, a Belgic form, are rare as far west as this in Britain.
- P 56. Durotrigian ribbed bowl. (Brailsford, 1958, Fig. 1, Type 1a). As P 5, but some white, angular grit. Dark grey core, red zones, interior grey, exterior black, well burnished and possibly treated with a black substance which has produced an extremely smooth surface. A similar effect was noted on bowls from Exeter (Fox, 1952, 80). Much used before breakage. From L.
- P 57. (Not illustrated). Parts of a bowl. As P 56, but with two rows of dots either side of its ribs. Sherds from 4 unribbed bowls (Brailsford's Type I) were also found.
- P 58. Rim sherd from a flat bead-rim jar. As P 1. Black. Exterior lightly burnished. The slight dimple may be the edge of a countersunk handle or of finger impressions as on P 59. From M.
- Wheeler (1943, 213) used the term "flat rimmed" to describe a range of Iron Age B and C jars with rims similar to this. The term is rather confusing as it is also used to describe a form dating to the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition in Britain. Perhaps the term "flat bead-rim" could be used for the later Iron Age jars. Wheeler describes the distribution of this rim form as being more or less restricted to Dorset. As well at P58, there is now one from Alstone, P24, Fig. 13, and another from Brent Knoll hill-fort, a surface find in the author's possession. These suggest that the type may be of widespread, if not frequent, occurrence in the Somerset Levels.
- P 59. Durotrigian bead-rim jar. (Brailsford's Type 4). As P 1. Dark grey with black surfaces. Burnished exterior. Unburnished band around girth with groups of lines incised with a broad, blunt point. Three pairs of finger impressions have pushed the clay up to form small lugs. Compare with D4a from Hod Hill (Richmond, 1968, Fig. 21).
- P 60. Jar with countersunk handle. As P 1. Dark grey. Upper part of exterior lightly burnished. Compare Brailsford's Type 6.
- P 61. Countersunk handle from large jar. As P 1. Black. Highly burnished band, coated as P 56. Unburnished band with burnished wavy line. Handle burnished.
- P 62. Jar with countersunk handle. As P 1. Dark grey with lighter zones towards surfaces. Exterior coated as P 56, upper part lightly burnished, lower part wiped. Groups of lines deeply incised on the wiped part. Found with P 68 and P 71 at N.
- P 63. (Not illustrated). Countersunk handle from large, wheel-made jar. As P 31. Jars with countersunk handles are known throughout the Roman period, e.g. in the second century from under the Roman clay in the Huntspill River (Dewar, 1949a), and in the fourth century at Brean Down (ApSimon, 1965, 252).
- P 64. Small mug. As P 1. Black. Exterior of rim burnished, rest of exterior wiped and decorated with broad, vertical burnished lines, the spaces between these infilled with lightly incised, oblique hatching. Probably hand-made. No trace of a handle

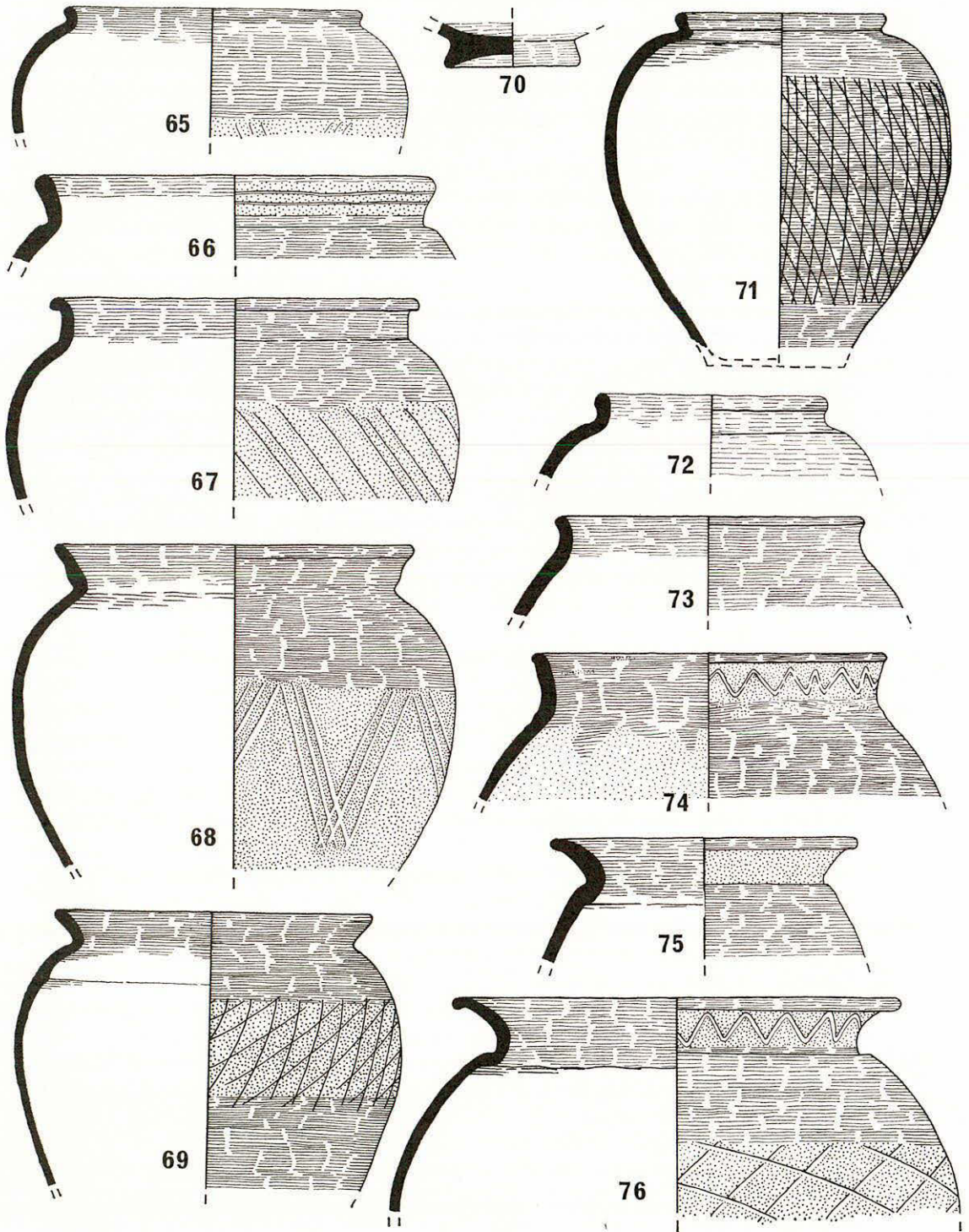


FIG. 7
Durotrigian and Romano-British pottery from Westonzoyland. Unstratified.
All 1/3. See page 35.

survives but it probably had one. There are three restored mugs of this type from Wookey Hole in Wells Museum (Balch, 1914, Plate XIV, 6 and Plate XV, 12). These restorations each seem to be made up from sherds of several different pots, but there is no reason to doubt the general form. Another example, from Ilchester, is in the County Museum.

- P 65. As P 1. Dark grey. Upper part of exterior lightly burnished. Similar to some from Hod Hill (Richmond, 1968, Fig. 22).
- P 66. Rim from jar of Durotrigian/early R.B. type. As P 1. Black. Exterior well burnished with two heavily burnished lines below the rim.
- P 67. Jar of Brailsford's Type 5. As P 5. Grey core, red zones, black surfaces. Exterior and interior of rim burnished. Unburnished band around girth with burnished lines. Sherds of two similar jars were recovered.
- P 68. Jar of Durotrigian/early R.B. type. As P 1. Black, with grey zones towards surfaces. Exterior black-coated on its upper part, and inside rim. These areas well burnished. Groups of lines lightly incised with a broad, blunt point on the unburnished band. Similar to a jar from Exeter (Fox, 1952, Fig. 16 No. 28, and p. 87) dated A.D. 50–75. Found with P 62 and P 71 at N.
- P 69. As P 68, but with cross-hatching.
- P 70. Small base with footring. As P 1, but more white grit. Black. Trimmed and used after breakage as broken edges very worn. Probably from a pear-shaped jar.
- P 71. Pear-shaped jar. As P 1. Black. Entire exterior black-coated, well burnished with lattice of fine incised lines. Compare No. 87, Fig. 72 from Maiden Castle (Wheeler, 1943). Wheeler says that this type of pot is typical of the Belgo-Roman period at Maiden Castle. Found with P 62 and P 68 at N.
- P 72. As P 1. Red with dark grey surfaces. Exterior burnished. Another, very similar, also found.
- P 73. As P 1. Red-brown, surfaces black. Exterior, and interior of rim well burnished. Sherds from two others found.
- P 74. As P 58. Dark grey. Red zone below inner surface. Light grey surfaces. Exterior burnished with vertical strokes first and finished with horizontal strokes. Unburnished rim decorated with a lightly burnished line. Compare No. 241, Fig. 75 from Maiden Castle (Wheeler, 1943) which was found in a mixed layer with early Roman wares and dated A.D. 50–75.
- P 75. Black-burnished jar. As P 31. Black. Burnished exterior and inside of rim, outside of rim unburnished. Possibly second century A.D.
- P 76. Black-burnished jar. As P 31. Black. Burnished exterior and inside of rim, outside of rim unburnished with lightly incised line. Unburnished band around girth with burnished cross-hatching. Probably second century A.D., compare Nos. 52–56 from Exeter (Fox, 1952, Fig. 18).
- P 77. Black-burnished platter. As P 31. Black. Lightly burnished interior, smoothed exterior with a lattice of lightly burnished lines.
- P 78. Black-burnished bowl. As P 31. Black. Burnished interior, smoothed exterior with a lattice of lightly burnished lines. A similar pot was found at Star Roman Villa (Barton, 1963, 75 and Fig. 13, 26) in a deposit dated 330–350 A.D. on coin evidence.

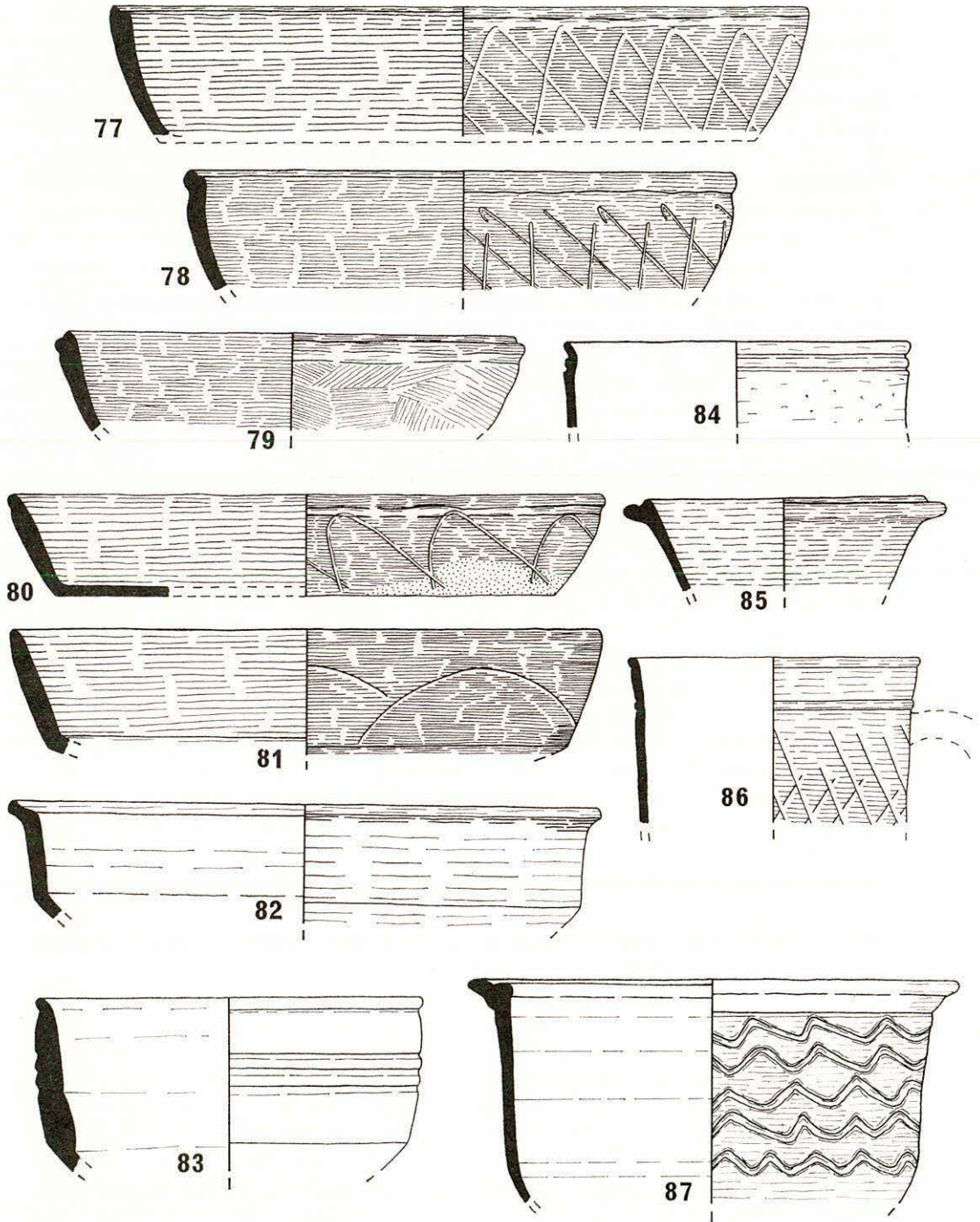


FIG. 8
 Romano-British pottery from Westonzoyland. Unstratified.
 All 1/3. See pages 35-37.

- P 79. Bowl. As P 9. Black. Burnished interior, wiped exterior.
- P 80. Black-burnished platter. As P 78, but with lightly incised arcading.
- P 81. As P 80.
- P 82. Bowl. Hard, fine, with a few dark grits, micaceous. Grey.
- P 83. Bowl. Very fine, medium hard, very micaceous. Light grey core, buff zones, dark grey exterior. Wheel-made, surfaces not burnished. Probably R.B., perhaps first century A.D. Compare Catsgore No. 13 Fig. 7 and No. 25 Fig. 8 (Radford, 1951). A similar bowl in black-burnished fabric, with rouletting below the grooves, was found at Bush Marsh, Bawdrip (Admiral Blake Museum). These bowls are a feature of the first century R.B. pottery in the area. From a service trench in C.
- P 84. Soft, very gritty. Light grey with darker surfaces. Similar pots with bead-type rims occur on early R.B. sites in the area, e.g. at Combwich and Bush Marsh, Bawdrip. (Admiral Blake Museum).
- P 85. Small, flanged bowl. As P 31. Black. Surfaces lightly burnished. Sherds were found from several other larger bowls.
- P 86. Sherd from a mug. Handle missing. Buff-orange. Fine, micaceous, lightly burnished lattice around girth.
- P 87. Bowl. Hard, grey, with a few white grits, numerous small holes due to poor working of the clay. Wavy lines incised while the clay was still wet. May be a version of the grey ware bowls imitating samian forms which occur on early R.B. sites in the area, e.g. at Catsgore. (Radford, 1952, 73).
- P 88. Jar. Fine, hard, micaceous. Light grey with darker surfaces. Lightly incised lattice. Possibly second century A.D. From O. About six other similar jars also found.
- P 89. As P 88, but with lattice more deeply incised.
- P 90. Large jar. Hard, grey, much black grit.
- P 91. Rim of large jar. Hard, much fine grit. Dark grey. Compare to No. 8, Fig. 2 from Catsgore (Radford, 1951), which comes from a group dated to about 70 A.D.
- P 92. Large jar. As P 91, but red zone towards surfaces.
- P 93. Large jar. Soft, grey, many white quartz grits and some powdery red inclusions. Compare No. 62 from Exeter (Fox, 1952, Fig. 18), dated to late third century A.D.
- P 94. Rim of large storage jar. Very coarse and lumpy, large white grits. Stab marks around inside of rim. Probably fourth century A.D. Another similar also found.
- P 95. Rim of large storage jar. As P 94, but red with grey surfaces. Row of finger-nail impressions around outside of rim.
- This type appears to be late, occurring at the fourth century temple on Brean Down (ApSimon, 1965, Fig. 52, 36), and at the fourth century villa at Roughmoor Farm, Spaxton (publication forthcoming).
- P 96. As P 90. Exterior lightly smoothed.
- P 97. Hard, fine, small grits. Grey with darker surfaces. Traces of burnished decoration.
- P 98. As P 97.
- P 99. Small wheel-made bowl or jar. Fine, micaceous. Grey. Compare No. 18 Fig. 14 from Exeter dated 50-80 A.D. (Fox, 1952).
- P 100. (Not illustrated) Base of colour-coated bowl. Fine, soft, slightly micaceous, sparse fine grit. Pink-white, with traces of red-brown wash. Roughly chipped round, very worn and flaked. Probably fourth century A.D.

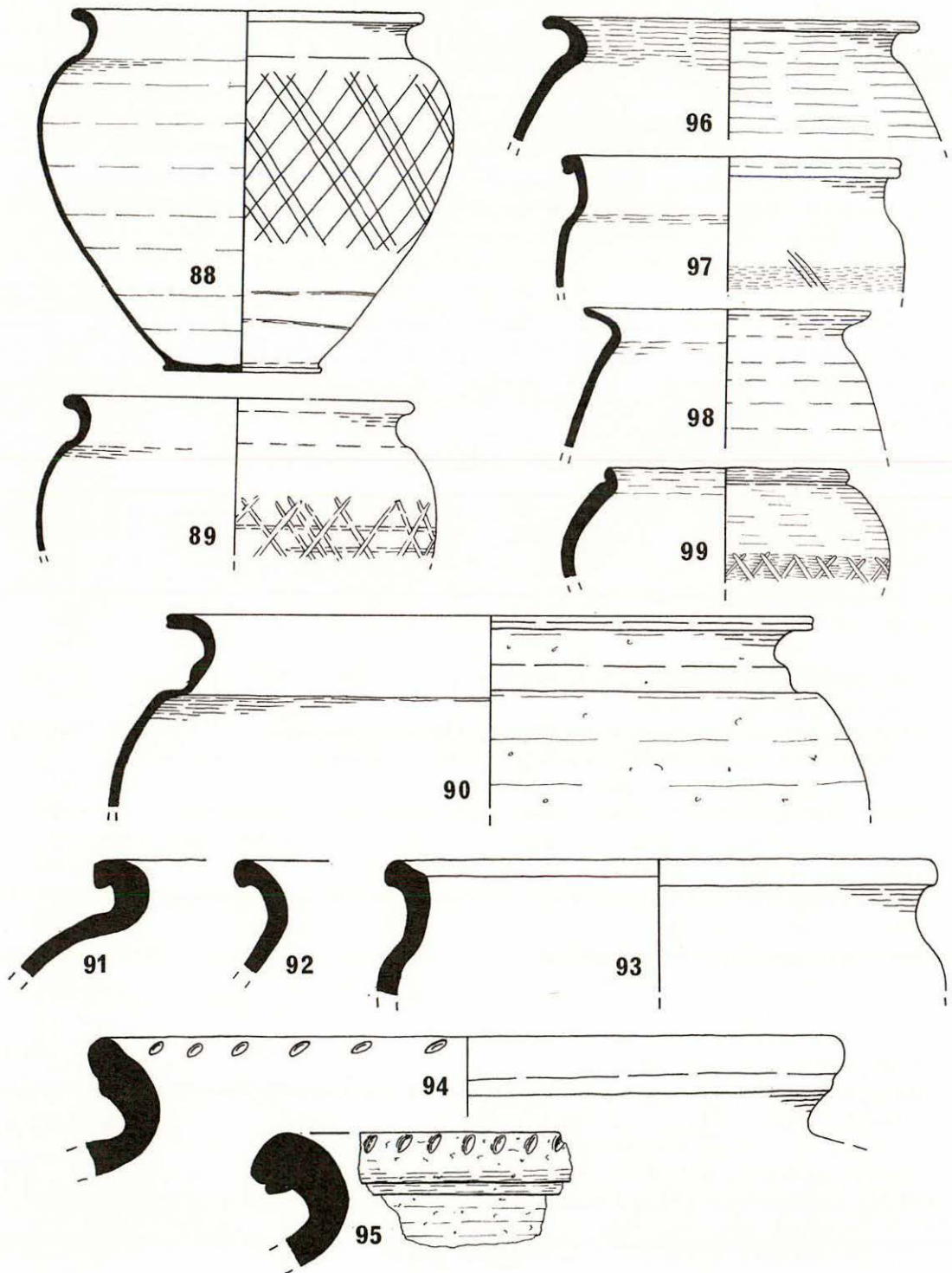


FIG. 9
 Romano-British pottery from Westonzoyland. Unstratified.
 All 1/3. See page 37.

- P 101. (Not illustrated). Body of a R.B. flagon. Maximum diameter $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. Fine, hard, with a few white grits. Grey, exterior buff with orange-brown wash. Broad band of rouletting flanked by two narrower ones around the girth. Base appears to have been carefully removed while the pot was still in use as the edges of the hole are worn smooth. The reason for this is unknown. A small flagon, found with a R.B. bowl, probably first century A.D., in a pit at Combe, Woolavington (Taylor, 1967, 67) has a neat round hole cut in its front.

SMALL FINDS (Fig. 10)

BRONZE

SF 1. Small strap end, secured by a single rivet. Probably Roman. Unstratified.

SF 2. (Not illustrated). Three bronze bracelets found on the left forearm of the skeleton at R. All undecorated, penannular with square-ended terminals, each $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. in diameter, and made from round wire, in two cases $\frac{3}{16}$ in. thick and in the other $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick.

IRON (Not illustrated)

The only iron objects found came from the grave, D (3).

- (a) 15 nails up to 3 in. long with square heads and shanks. Some were found point upwards around the skeleton and preserved the shape of the coffin.
- (b) "Bent nails". Five square-sectioned iron objects up to $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. in length, resembling the headless shanks of nails. All are bent to a right angle one-third of their length from their points. All found a little above the skeleton and may have been connected with the coffin lid.
- (c) Spike. Square-sectioned, resembling the shank of a nail. Straight. Length $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick, tapering to a point. Near the feet of the skeleton.
- (d) Two slightly dome-shaped oval studs with shanks about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. One found at A, Fig. 3, the other in the grave fill above the skeleton.
- (e) "Hook". Possibly a nail cemented by rust to another object. Found at B, Fig. 3.
- (f) Two groups of hobnails. One group of 8 cemented together in a diamond shape. For illustration see Pitt-Rivers, 1887, Plate XXXI. From the fill of the grave above the coffin.

(a), (b), (c) and (e) retain marks of wood grain in their rust.

SHALE

SF 3. Spindle-whorl. Lathe turned. Such spindle-whorls are common on Roman sites in the area, e.g. Catsgore (Radford, 1951, Fig. 5, E). Turned shale whorls do not appear to have been found on L.P.R.I.A. sites, although other objects of turned shale occur. From near D.

STONE

Mrs. J. F. Hodgson of the Institute of Geological Sciences, South Kensington, has examined SF 4-5 and her comments are quoted.

SF 4. Fragment of slate with chamfered edges. After breakage it appears to have been re-used as two rough notches have been cut in the chamfered edges. From pit D (15). Only L.P.R.I.A. sherds were found in this pit. "This is unlike any of the slate from South West England that we have in our collections. It does, however, strongly

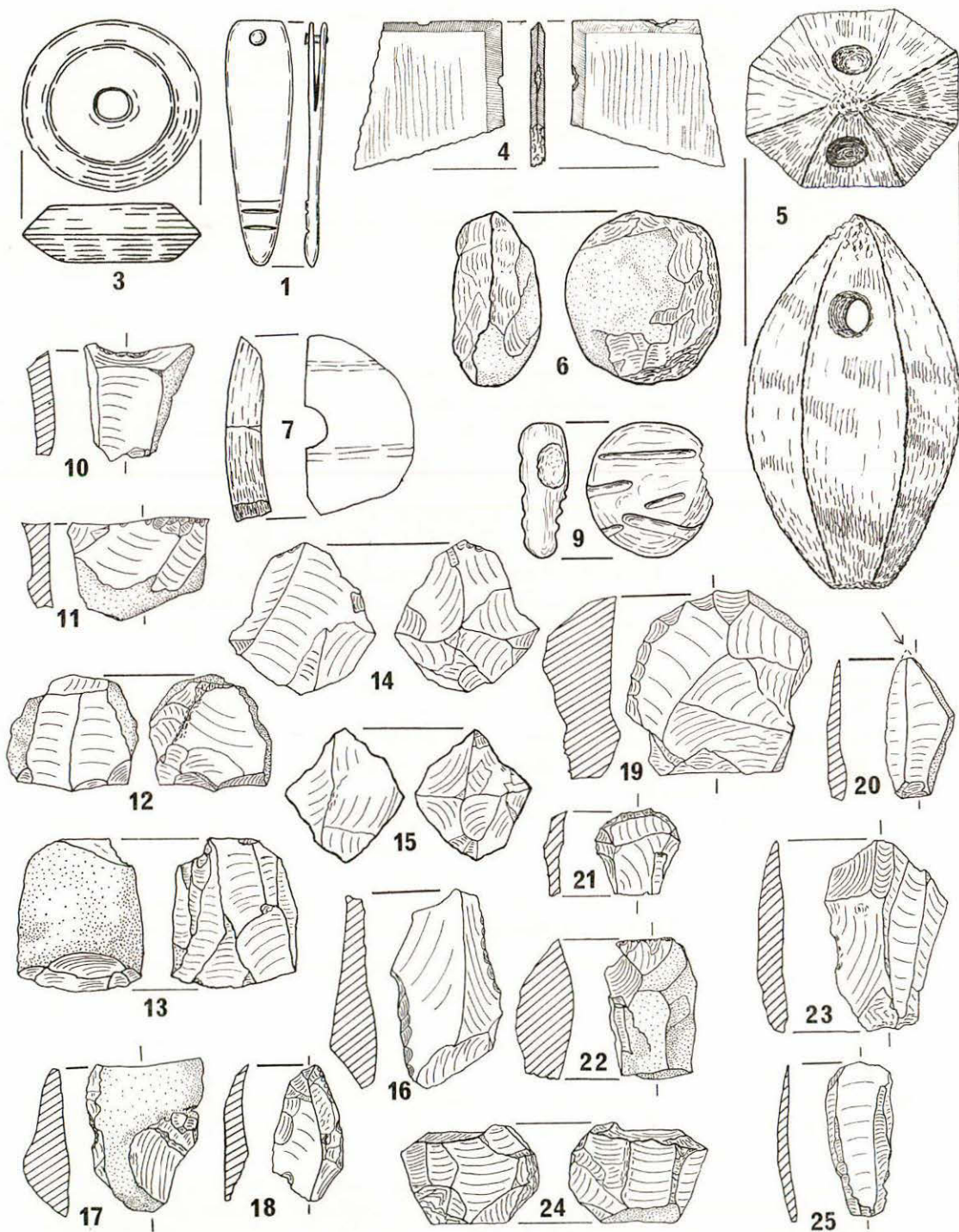


FIG. 10

Small Finds from Westonzoyland: Bronze No. 1, Shale No. 3, Stone Nos. 4-6, Pottery No. 7, Baked Clay No. 9, Flint Nos. 11-18. See pages 39-42.
 Flints from Alstone, Nos. 19-25. See page 50. No. 1, 1/1. Nos. 5 and 6, 1/3. Remainder 2/3.

resemble some of the slate we have from North Wales, especially one specimen from the Dinorwic Quarry, Caernarvonshire”.

- SF 5. Probably a loom weight, 2 lb. 10 oz. “This is of Ham Hill stone”. The regularity of its carving suggests that it was made by a skilled stone worker. It is therefore likely to be Roman as there is no evidence for the working of Ham stone in the L.P.R.I.A. Unstratified.
- SF 6. Hammer stone of chert, made from a rounded pebble from the Burtle Beds. A number of hammer stones were found at Meare (Gray and Cotton, 1966, 373-5). A (6).

Small rounded pebbles were found in several L.P.R.I.A. features. They could all be natural but some are likely to have been sling stones.

POTTERY

- SF 7. Part of a spindle-whorl made from an R.B. sherd. Grey, sandy ware. U, Fig. 1.
- SF 8. (Not illustrated). Spindle-whorl made from the base of a rough-cast beaker. Soft, orange with darker orange wash. $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter. Found with skeleton at R, Fig. 1.
- SF 9. Pottery counter. Crudely made and poorly fired. An example from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXXXIX). D (2).

BAKED CLAY (Not illustrated)

Clay hearth

D (16) produced a number of baked clay fragments, of which some formed part of a hearth. This was too fragmentary to be reconstructed, but measured more than 1 ft. in either direction, and was about 4 in. thick. It was very crudely made, contained many rounded black lumps, and only the upper surface was smoothed. This surface was decorated with parallel lines incised while the clay was still wet, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the edge. A similar hearth, with impressed circles, was found at Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1911, Plate VI, 2).

Loom-weights

The pit D (18) and layers in A and B produced fragments of loom-weights. These all appear to have been either triangular, roll-shaped or pyramidal, the three shapes found at Glastonbury. (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, 572). The pyramidal type appears to have been most common at Westonzoyland. Several fragments of triangular weights have more than one perforation. These probably come from triangular weights with three perforations, one through each corner, a common type on L.P.R.I.A. sites. This type of weight was surely not intended for use with an upright loom, for which a single perforation through each weight would be sufficient, and must have been used for some other purpose.

FLINT

All utilised pieces are illustrated. About twelve unutilised flakes were found. Most pieces have been worked from flint pebbles from the Burtle Beds. This flint is of poor quality, yellow to brown. Some pieces are of a good, clear, grey-black flint, which must come from the Wiltshire or Dorset chalk. It is difficult to date so small an assemblage. The cores, SF 12-13, might be described as microlithic, the notched flake, SF 17, is a mesolithic type and there is a crude, obliquely blunted blade, SF 18. Flints of mesolithic date, and with probable Maglemosian affinities, have been found further east on the same sand island at Middlezoy (Wainwright, 1960).

SF 10. Made from a pebble. C (1).

SF 11. This may be an Iron Age or Roman lathe tool (Calkin, 1955, Fig. 8). Imported flint. Topsoil in H.

SF 12. Core with two partial striking platforms. Imported flint. Topsoil in F.

SF 13. As SF 12, but pebble flint.

SF 14. Small pyramidal core made from a pebble. A (2).

SF 15. As SF 14. B (1).

SF 16. Flake with retouch on both edges. Heavily patinated. Imported flint. A (2).

SF 17. Flake with retouch on one edge in which a notch has been worked. Topsoil in H.

SF 18. Small flake with retouch; a crude obliquely blunted blade. Fire crackled. D (1).

ROMAN COINS

Identified by the Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum.

1. 3AE **VRBS ROMA** Wolf and twins ^{TRS} Trier 330–5 A.D. Worn. X, Fig. 1.
2. 3AE **CONSTANTINVS AVG SOLI INVICTO** ^{PTR} Trier 310–11 A.D. Slightly worn. Unstratified.
3. 2AE **MAGNENTIVS SALVS DDNN AVG ET CAES** Amiens 351–3 A.D. Worn. Y, Fig. 1.
4. 3AE **VALENTINIANVS SECVRITAS REI PVBLICAE** Mint uncertain 367–75 A.D. Worn, Z, Fig. 1.
5. AE Antoninianus **CARAVSIVS** Reverse uncertain 286–93 A.D. Badly corroded. Probably from burial R, Fig. 1.
6. 3AE Unofficial copy of **CONSTANS** Two Victories type c. 341–46 A.D. Worn. D. (3).

ANIMAL BONES

Identification and comments by M. C. Sheldrick, Mammal Section, British Museum (Natural History).

The usual domestic food animals are represented. Sheep or goat and ox are the most frequent remains with pig and horse next, although there is more pig present than horse by quantity. The horse bones are the size of a small pony, rather smaller than those of a skeleton of a New Forest Pony in the Museum collection.

Immature animals of various ages are represented, a few of the bones have been burnt and a few have butchering cuts.

Wild animals are not represented, except by one duck bone.

A complete, though undetailed, list of the remains is included.

A and B (2).

Ox: horn core—v. small, skull frag., 2 teeth, lower jaw frag., 2 scapula frags., 2 phalanges (1 prox., 1 middle), radius frag., ulna frag., femur epiph. dist. end.

Horse: ulna frag., scapula frag.

Sheep or goat: 2 teeth, lower jaw frag., limb bone frags., scapula frag., 2 pelvis frags. (immature), thoracic vertebra (immature).

Pig: 3 skull frags., lower jaw frag., tooth (young), metapodial, lateral metapodial (immature and malformed).

A and B (4).

Horse: astragalus.

Sheep or goat: upper jaw frag., cheek tooth, rt. ramus lower jaw, femur (less epiphyses, immature), metatarsal frag., calcaneum (immature).

Pig: 2 skull frags., lower jaw frag. (immature), ulna frag.

A and B (5).

Ox: prox. phalange, seventh cervical vertebra, ulna frag., radius frag., skull frag.

Horse: radius and ulna frags. (prox. ends), lower jaw frag.

Sheep or goat: lower jaw frag., 2 metapodial frags. (one v. young), metatarsal frag. (prox. end).

Pig: lower incisor frag.

A and B (6).

Ox: 5 skull frags., femur frag. (prox. end).

Horse: 3 teeth, 3 lower jaw frags., radius frag., metatarsal frag.

Sheep or goat: 2 lower jaw frags., scapula frag. (young), tibia.

Pig: skull frag., lower jaw frag.

A and B (8).

Ox: skull frag., lower jaw frag., humerus frag., radius, 2 radius frags. (one has "chop" marks), 2 ulna frags., 2 metacarpal frags. (1 young), 2 femur frags., astragalus.

Horse: lower incisor, metatarsal (although adult this bone is very slender and small).

Sheep or goat: 3 lower jaw frags. (in one teeth v. worn), metacarpal, metatarsal (young), tibia frag., scapula.

Pig: atlas vertebra, humerus.

A and B (11).

Sheep or goat: tibia.

A and B (13).

Ox: 2 skull frags., 4 lower jaw frags., 5 cheek teeth (1 v. worn), metacarpal, pelvis frag.

Ox or horse: tibia (diaphysis, v. young).

Sheep or goat: tibia frag.

A and B (15).

Horse: metacarpal, 2 external splints, femur frag.

Sheep or goat: left ramus lower jaw.

Pig: 3 skull frags.

D (3).

Horse: metapodial (dist. end, small, size of New Forest Pony).

Sheep or goat: cheek tooth, tibia frag., metacarpal frag.

D (4).

Ox: radius frag. (prox. end).

Sheep or goat: tooth, prox. phalange, limb bone frags.

Pig: lateral metapodial (immature, ? malformed).

Duck (identified by G. Cowles, Bird Section): 1 incomplete coracoid, the size of a mallard.

D (5).

Sheep or goat: metatarsal (young).

D (15).

Ox: metatarsal frag.

Sheep or goat: 3 thoracic vertebrae frags.

D (16).

Ox: metatarsal frag.

D (18).

Ox: 2 lower jaw frags. with teeth, cheek teeth, skull frag., metacarpal (immature), pelvis frag., 2 tibia frags., femur frag.

Horse: metatarsal (dist. end), 4 tibia frags., 2 calcanei.

Sheep or goat: skull frag., 5 lower jaw frags., 1 radius, 1 humerus, 2 metacarpals, 2 metatarsals.

ALSTONE, WEST HUNTSPILL (Fig. 14)

At Alstone (ST 312467) decorated Glastonbury pottery was found on a building site during the winter of 1958/9. Members of the Burnham-on-Sea Archaeological Society dug trial trenches situated approximately as shown in Fig. 11. The discovery of this site was noted in *P.S.A.S.* **104**, 16. The finds are now in the Admiral Blake Museum, Bridgwater.

The site at Alstone is situated on an island of Burtle Bed sand but is covered by Roman marine transgression clay. The present extent of the island is about 1 mile N.E.–S.W. and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N.W.–S.E. (Soil Survey Sheet 279), but before the transgression it would have been greater. The island would also have been higher in relation to its surroundings and would have offered dry land for settlement and agriculture.

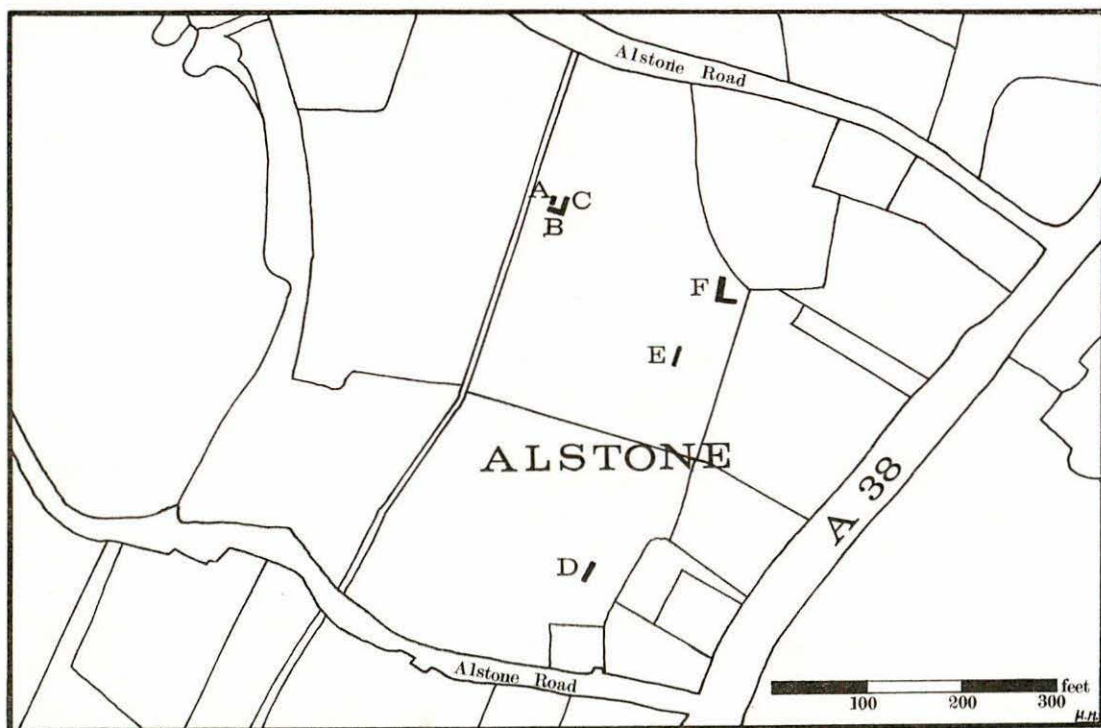


FIG. 11
Alstone excavation. Plan showing approximate position of Trenches.
All buildings omitted.

THE EXCAVATION

The stratigraphy over the whole site was found to be as follows: (1) topsoil, 1 ft. 6 in. thick; (2) brown sandy soil, 1 ft. 6 in. thick; (3) mixed clay and sand, about 6 in. thick, deposited by the Roman marine transgression; (4) brown sandy soil, about 6 in. thick; (4) was a buried soil, lying directly on the Burtle Bed sand and filling features cut into it unless otherwise stated. The divisions between (1)-(4) were not distinct.

TRENCH A (4 ft. × 8 ft.)

This revealed no features, but sherds of L.P.R.I.A. pottery were found in (4).

TRENCH B (16 ft. × 4 ft.)

An arc of an apparently circular gully (5), 1 ft. 6 in. wide and 1 ft. deep, had been dug into natural at the east end. This may have been the wall trench or drip gully of a hut. There were some sherds of Glastonbury pottery in the upper part of its dark sandy fill.

TRENCH C (16 ft. × 4 ft.)

At the junction of B and C a pit (6) 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter had been dug 5 ft. into the natural sand. Its profile was slightly bell-shaped and it was filled with grey clay. A small R.B. sherd, P 27, was found half way down, and below it two ox skulls. To the north of (6) was a rough hearth (7) associated with Glastonbury pottery, which overlay (4), here about 9 in. thick and containing Glastonbury sherds. North of this again was a gully (8), running N.W.-S.E., about 1 ft. 6 in. wide and cut 9 in. into the natural. Glastonbury pottery was found in its fill. (8) was cut by another gully (9) on a slightly different alignment, which produced a samian sherd of the first century A.D. (3) produced ten small abraded R.B. sherds, probably first century A.D.

TRENCH D (16 ft. × 4 ft.)

This was dug 400 ft. east of C because a large decorated Glastonbury sherd had been found here during building work. No L.P.R.I.A. features were discovered but some sherds were recovered from (4). Part of a pit (10), 1 ft. 6 in. deep and filled with brown sandy soil, produced only P 38 Fig. 13 which may possibly be Rinyo-Clacton (see page 50).

TRENCH E (16 ft. × 4 ft.)

A small gully (11) was cut into the natural sand. It ran E.-W. across the trench and produced Glastonbury pottery.

TRENCH F

This revealed no L.P.R.I.A. features but there were some sherds of Glastonbury pottery in (4). A rough floor of small stones lay directly on (4). On this floor were a few small R.B. sherds. It may have belonged to a first century A.D. building. While none of the R.B. sherds from the site are very distinctive there is nothing that suggests a later Roman date. There were some medieval features.

WEST HUNTSPILL VILLAGE (ST 309455)

A sherd of Durotrigian ribbed bowl, with dots either side of a rib, was found in a medieval ditch which had cut through an early Roman level. (Excavated by, and information from, Mrs. M. Langdon.) The pottery from this level included rims of wheel-made bead-rim bowls and some other first century A.D. R.B. sherds. The Durotrigian sherd presumably came originally from the Roman level. This site is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of Alstone and lies on the same Burtle Bed sand deposit.

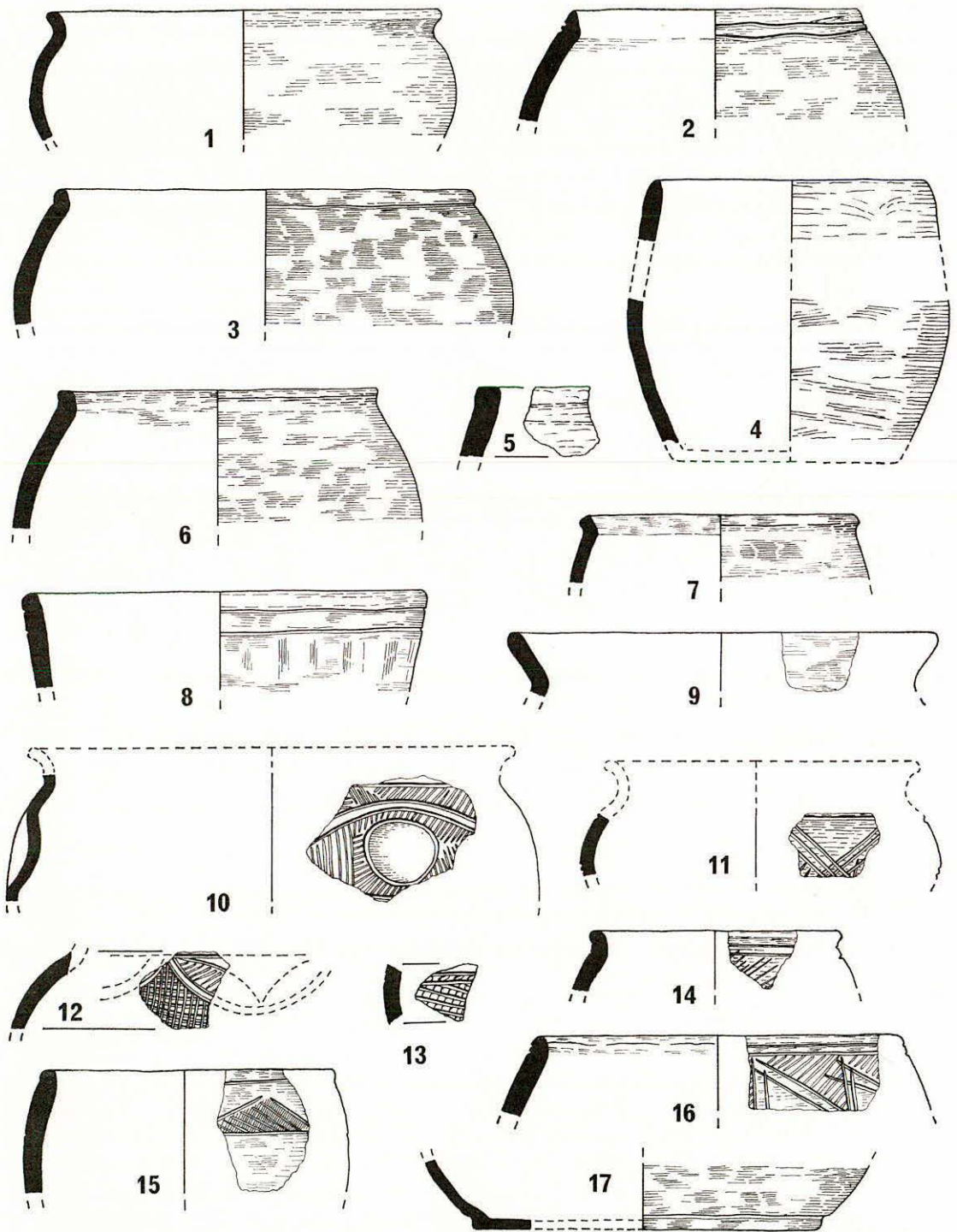


FIG. 12

L.P.R.I.A. pottery from Alstone. All 1/3. See pages 47-49.

DISCUSSION OF THE SITE

The excavation at Alstone has shown that there was a settlement here during the L.P.R.I.A. of people using Glastonbury pottery, and that this settlement extended over a considerable area. Some of the curved gullies found may have been the drip gullies of circular huts. It is not known how long the settlement lasted. No certain Durotrigian pottery was found. There were only a few sherds of R.B. wares and these were abraded. This may indicate that the site had become agricultural land before the marine transgression. The rough stone floor had little R.B. material associated with it and does not suggest prolonged domestic occupation. Possibly the settlement had moved by this time to the present area of West Huntspill village. Chance finds, including R.B. pottery from ST 311457, show that there was extensive occupation of the sand island in Roman times. The position of the site at Alstone, only a mile from the present coast and a quarter of a mile from the tidal estuary of the Brue, must have been precarious. Although the present course of the Brue is known to have been engineered during the Middle Ages, it is likely that this took advantage of the estuary of a local river for its outlet to the sea. We do not know how much the site would have been affected by high tides.

It is certain that a considerable part of the site at Alstone remains undamaged. The density of finds in A, B and C suggests that the settlement continues into the next field to the west, which is still used as pasture. In the field beyond this, now an orchard, a rectangular enclosure is visible on an air photograph. Whether this had any connection with the L.P.R.I.A. settlement is not known.

THE FINDS

GLASTONBURY POTTERY (Figs. 12 and 13)

About 100 sherds were found. All those with form or decoration have been illustrated. These include examples of all fabrics found on the site.

- P 1. Small bowl. Black, with many white grits. Interior lightly burnished, exterior well burnished. Peacock Group II. Upper part of B (5).
- P 2. Jar or bowl. Black, hard and sandy. Burnished exterior, with two heavily incised grooves below the rim. Upper part of B (5).
- P 3. As P 2. Burnished exterior, with incised groove below rim. B (4).
- P 4. Sherds of small coil-built jar. As P 2, but slightly micaceous. Interior oxidised red. Exterior lightly burnished. B (4), but one sherd from B (5).
- P 5. As P 2, but less well made. Lightly burnished exterior. C (8).
- P 6. Jar. As P 2. Interior oxidised red. Exterior well burnished. C (4).
- P 7. As P 2. Lightly burnished interior, well burnished exterior. A (4).
- P 8. Bowl. Black, sandy, with many water worn grits up to 3 mm. Exterior well burnished, with traces of vertical working. Two deeply incised grooves below rim. A (4).
- P 9. As P 2. Oxidised. Lightly burnished on both surfaces. C (4).
- P 10. Sherd from bowl. As P 8. Interior oxidised. Decorated with a dimple, surrounded by an incised line, set in a design infilled with hatching, blocks of which run in varying directions. Compare P 194 from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXXIX). C (4).
- P 11. Sherd from bowl. As P 2. Exterior burnished. C (4).
- P 12. Sherd from bowl, diameter 8 in. As P 8. Oxidised. Incised decoration. C (7).

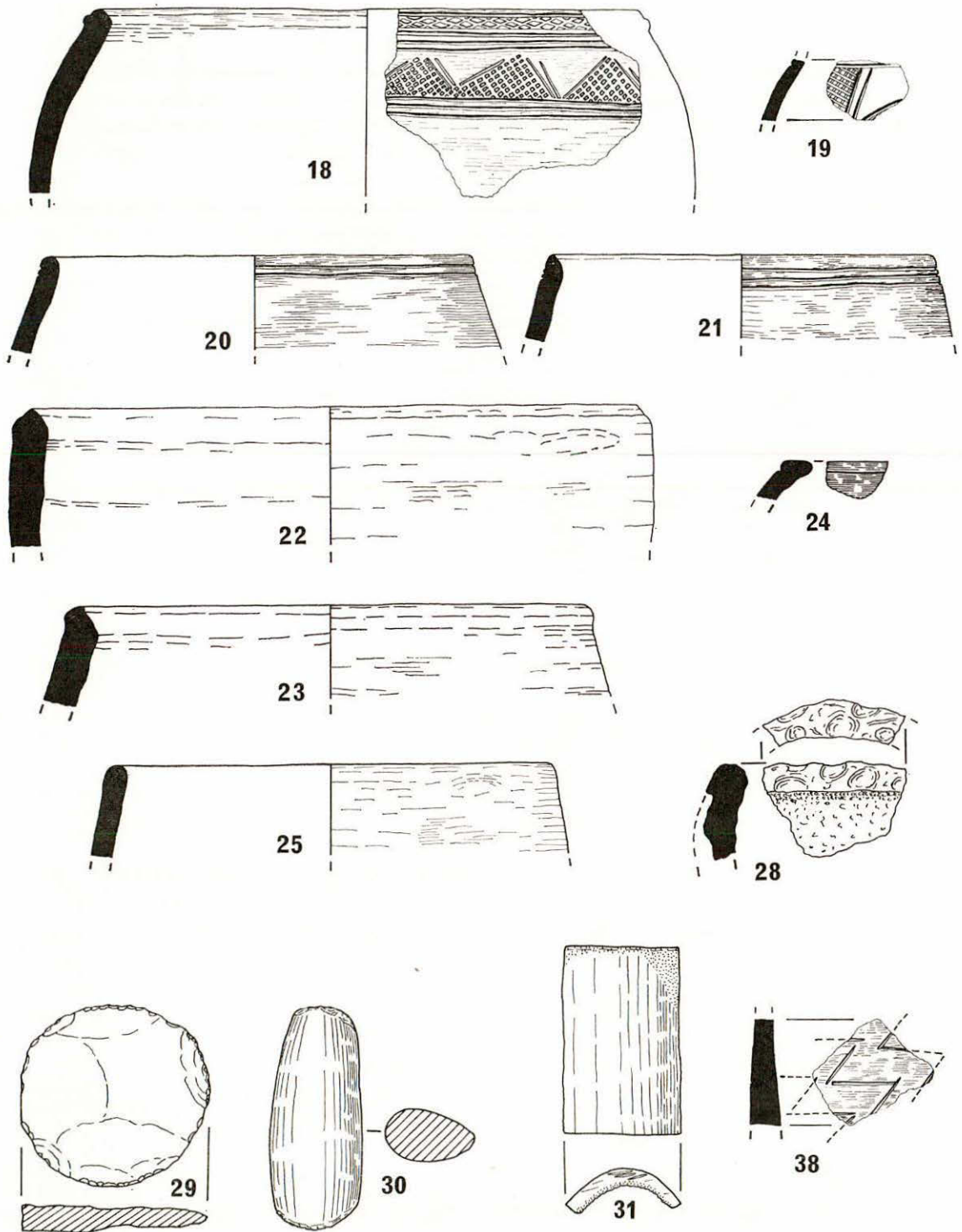


FIG 13

L.P.R.I.A. pottery from Alstone Nos. 18-25. All 1/3. See page 49.
 Small Finds from Alstone: Baked Clay No. 28, Stone Nos. 29 and 30. All 1/3.
 Bone No. 31, 2/3. See page 49. Neolithic pottery, No. 38, 1/3. See page 50.

- P 13. As P 2. Oxidised. Area of cross hatching defined by double incised line. C (4).
- P 14. Rim sherd of small jar. As P 8. Exterior well burnished. Two incised lines below rim, oblique hatching below. C (4).
- P 15. As P 2, but with less sand. Exterior well burnished. Incised triangle infilled with very fine cross-hatching. Compare P 173 from Meare (Bulleid and Gray, 1948, Plate XII). A (4).
- P 16. As P 2. Exterior well burnished. Incised decoration. A (4).
- P 17. Base angle sherd. As P 2. Exterior and underneath very well burnished, with broad incised groove just above angle. A (4).
- P 18. Jar. Black, with much coarse sand. Exterior well burnished where decorated, less well below this. Cordon, with incised decoration, on rim. Below, a band of triangles defined by incised grooves, alternate triangles infilled with cross-hatching. No exact parallel for this decoration on the rim from Glastonbury or Meare but see P 146 from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXXIV). Near D, builders' find.
- P 19. As P 2. Oxidised. Exterior well burnished. C (4).
- P 20. As P 1. Exterior well burnished. Peacock Group II. E (11).
- P 21. As P 8. Exterior lightly burnished. Three incised grooves below rim. A (4).
- P 22. Large jar. As P 18. Oxidised. Exterior lightly burnished. C (4) below (7).
- P 23. Large jar. As P 8. Grey throughout. Exterior lightly burnished. C (4) below (7).
- P 24. Rim sherd of small "flat bead-rim" bowl. (See Westonzoyland P 58). As P 1, but with fewer white grits. Exterior burnished. Peacock Group II. Brailsford's Durotrigian Type 12 (1958, Fig. 1), and the only possible Durotrigian sherd from Alstone. C, junction of (3) and (4).
- P 25. As P 2. Oxidised. Exterior lightly burnished. 3 (4).
- ROMAN POTTERY (Not illustrated)
- P 26. Samian; small sherd from footring of a cup, Dragdendorf 27. Hard, red, with a good gloss. Probably S. Gaulish. First century A.D. C (9).
- P 27. Small rim sherd, from small jar with upright rim. Probably first century A.D. C (6).
- SMALL FINDS (Fig. 13)
- SF 28. Fragment of small, crude baked clay bowl. Perhaps intended as a crucible of the triangular form typical at Meare and Glastonbury, though no traces of vitreous material remain on it. (Bulleid and Gray, 1953, Fig. 66, 256). C (4).
- SF 29. Carefully chipped thin disc of Lias limestone. Some similar from Meare (Gray and Cotton, 1966, 373). B (4).
- SF 30. Polishing stone. Oval beach pebble, ends battered but with traces of wear over battered surfaces. All other surfaces worn very smooth, one face with slight gloss. Probably a leather working tool. (Alcock, 1963, 161-2). B (4).
- SF 31. Part of a tube made from a long bone. Sawn at both ends and the inside hollowed out. One end is extremely worn. An example from Glastonbury (Bulleid and Gray, 1917, Plate LXIII, B355). C (8).
- SF 32. (Not illustrated). Fragment of bow of a bronze brooch. Extremely corroded. Possibly part of a Dolphin brooch. Very similar to one from Hod Hill (Richmond, 1968, Fig. 31, Hut 56, Brooch 2), late first, early second century A.D. C (3)

SF 33. (Not illustrated). Fragment of baked clay sling pellet. Common at Meare and Glastonbury. C (4).

SF 34. (Not illustrated). Baked clay counter similar to Westonzoyland SF 9, Fig. 10. C (4).

SF 35-37. (Not illustrated). Three limestone beach pebbles, possibly sling stones. C (4).

POSSIBLE NEOLITHIC SHERD (Fig. 13)

P 38. Body sherd with smooth exterior surface, decorated with incised zig-zags. Compact, soapy, grey ware with a few black grits. Oxidised. This fabric is different from any other found. Its decoration suggests comparison with Rinyo-Clacton wares: e.g. sherds from Creeting St. Mary, Suffolk (Piggott, 1954, Fig. 57, 5), Woodhenge (Cunnington, 1929, Plate 30, Nos. 33, 35), Furzy, Latch Farm, Dorset (Calkin, 1952, Plate 1a). In many cases the fabric of Rinyo-Clacton pottery appears to be superior to that of other late Neolithic types. This sherd, as far as the pattern of its decoration goes, might be from a collared urn but the fabric of these vessels is usually of rather poor quality. For a distribution of Rinyo-Clacton finds see map in Field, Matthews and Smith, 1964, 368. D (10).

FLINTS (Fig. 10)

All from (4). About 20 unutilised chips and flakes also found.

SF 39. Fig. 10, 19. Crude scraper, chert.

SF 40. Fig. 10, 20. Small burin on a cortical flake. Pebble flint.

SF 41. Fig. 10, 21. Small scraper. Fire crackled.

SF 42. Fig. 10, 22. Cortical flake with traces of wear on straight edge. Possibly a lathe flint (Calkin, 1955). Pebble flint.

SF 43. Fig. 10, 23. Flake with a slight notch in one side. Fire crackled.

SF 44. Fig. 10, 24. Core, single platform. One side battered. Fire crackled.

SF 45. Fig. 10, 25. Finely worked flake, imported flint.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There is no Early Pre-Roman Iron Age (Iron Age A) occupation in the actual Levels although there are finds from the surrounding hills, e.g. Brean Down (ApSimon, Donovan and Taylor, 1961) and Chelm's Combe (Balch, 1927). It is possible that increased dampness in the later years of the Bronze Age and in the Early Pre-Roman Iron Age made the Levels unsuitable for settlement (Godwin, 1960, 27). At Meare, the peat may have dried out again by the third century B.C. (Avery, 1968, 22). It is impossible to extend evidence from one area of the Levels to another with any certainty, but even a slight decrease in dampness would have made an area as flat as this more suitable for occupation.

The recent discoveries at Westonzoyland and Alstone have lessened the apparent isolation of Glastonbury and Meare. There can be little doubt that more sites will be found in the future in areas of the Levels which were above the flood level in the L.P.R.I.A. Some sites may have since been covered by the Roman clay. Westonzoyland, Alstone and the "Lake Villages" were all sited on low lying but dry land near areas of marsh or water. This similarity of siting suggests that the way of life of their inhabitants may have been similar, based on marshy, low lying ground and making use of the opportunities for water transport. There is no evidence that any of these settlements was heavily defended.

If light palisades and the surrounding marshes were insufficient, resort could have been made to hill-forts. At Cannington Park decorated Glastonbury pottery has been found on the surface (now at the County Museum), and further sherds have come from an extra-mural farm site (Rahtz, 1969). Surface finds from Brent Knoll include, besides much R.B. pottery, rims from plain burnished Glastonbury pots (Weston-super-Mare Museum) and a decorated sherd is recorded at the County Museum as being similar to P 138 from Glastonbury in Plate LXXVII of Bulleid and Gray, 1917. Brent Knoll dominates the west end of the Brue Valley, and this site, perhaps more than any other, is likely to reflect the activities of all hill-fort using people who have lived in its vicinity. Dundon Hill is only 5 miles from Glastonbury and 8 miles from Westonzoyland, but as yet nothing of L.P.R.I.A. date has been found there.

Brailsford left the area of the Somerset Levels blank on the map in his article on the Durotrigian Culture (Brailsford, 1958). Recent discoveries enable us to extend the known distribution of Durotrigian pottery as far north as the Mendips. (A probable sherd of a Durotrigian bowl from Dolebury Hill-fort is in Weston-super-Mare Museum). (Fig. 14). Only at Westonzoyland, at Westwood (pottery in the County Museum) and at Littleton (Seaby, 1951), where Glastonbury, Durotrigian and R.B. pottery have all been found, is there any evidence for continuity of occupation from the L.P.R.I.A. to the Roman period. Elsewhere Durotrigian pottery is found with R.B. wares on sites where Glastonbury material does not occur (Fig. 14). This presumably reflects some major change in population around or before the time of the Roman conquest. There may even have been an interval between the use of the two pottery styles. With the possible exception of Churchie Bushes (Dewar, Miles and Smith, 1956), a phase with only Durotrigian pottery does not occur. It may be that all Durotrigian material in the area of Fig. 14 post-dates 43 A.D. There is definite continuity between the use of Durotrigian and of R.B. pottery.

Although we now have two other sites to be set alongside Glastonbury and Meare, the excavations have been on a much smaller scale at the new sites. This means that the majority of the evidence still comes from sites which may in fact be untypical. It is unfortunate that the opportunity for large scale excavation was lost at Westonzoyland because the site did not come to the notice of the authors until most of the building work was completed. It is to be hoped that future field work will reveal more sites in the area. The greatest contribution to our knowledge of the period will be made by large scale excavation of an open settlement site in conjunction with selective trenching of one of the hill-forts in the area.

NOTES ON THE MAP (Fig. 14)

The coastline shown is the modern one. The L.P.R.I.A. coastline is not known, but it is certain that the division between land and sea was much less distinct than it is today, with large areas of salt marsh between the two. A line of sand-dunes follows the coast from Burnham-on-Sea to Brean. These overlie the Roman clay, and together with medieval and later sea walls, protect the land behind them. This protection did not exist in the L.P.R.I.A.

The following sites shown on the map are mentioned only briefly if at all in the text: BANWELL. ST 410590. Univallate hill-fort.

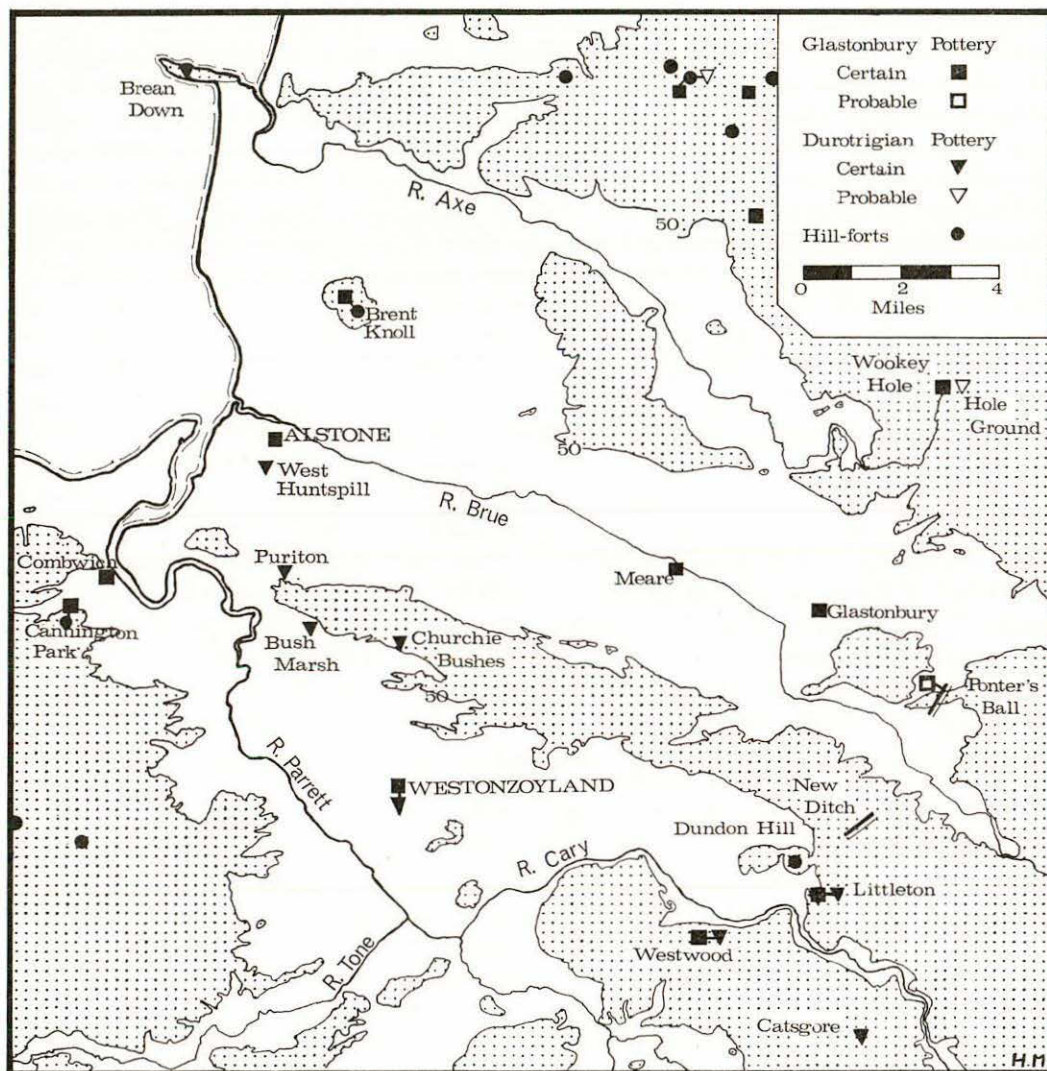


FIG. 14
Distribution of L.P.R.I.A. settlement in central Somerset.

BREAN DOWN. A Durotrigian ribbed bowl sherd from “the top of Brean Down” in the County Museum.

BURRINGTON. ST 478588. Univallate hill-fort.

CHEDDAR GORGE. Inhabited caves, Cooper’s Hole, Gough’s Cave, Sun Hole and Soldier’s Hole producing Glastonbury pottery (Fox, 1958, 60).

COMBWICH. ST 262418. Decorated Glastonbury jar in the County Museum.

DINGHURST. ST 444591. Small hill-fort. Mostly quarried away.

- DOLEBURY. ST 450590. Large univallate hill-fort producing Glastonbury pottery (Fox, 1958, 60), and a probable sherd from a Durotrigian bowl (Weston-super-Mare Museum).
- HOLE GROUND. ST 533479. Oval hut site associated with possible Durotrigian pottery (Ashworth and Crampton, 1964).
- PONTER'S BALL AND NEW DITCH. Linear earthworks, possibly L.P.R.I.A. (Bulleid and Gray, 1948, 14).
- PURITON. ST 315419. Durotrigian and R.B. sherds in the County Museum.
- READ'S CAVERN. ST 468584. Glastonbury pottery (Langford, 1922, 141).
- ROOKS CASTLE. ST 254327. Multivallate hill-fort (Grinsell, 1965, Map 5).
- ROWBERROW. ST 464568. Univallate hill-fort.
- RUBOROUGH. ST 229336. Multivallate hill-fort with wide spaced ramparts (Fox, 1958, 58).
- WOOKEY HOLE. ST 532481. Glastonbury pottery (Balch, 1914).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all who have helped to make this paper possible, including: C. J. Jameson, P. J. M. Padoe-Mathews, K. E. Stubbington, P. B. Swann and W. F. Woulfe for permission to excavate on their properties; everyone who loaned us material found on their land; S. Searle for his help and co-operation; B. White for allowing us to publish pottery which he had collected; Mrs. M. Langdon, Mr. R. R. J. A. Nesbitt and Dr. D. W. Wallace for much preliminary organisation and help on the excavation; Misses M. Franks, K. Richardson and P. and E. Spratley, and Messrs. D. Baker, M. Halsall, I. Miles, S. Tucker, R. Tuffin, R. Wheller, M. Wilkins and I. Young for help on the excavation; all members of the Burnham-on-Sea Archaeological Society, especially Mr. S. G. Nash and Mr. V. R. C. Smith, for work at Alstone; Mr. M. Avery for information on his work at Meare; Dr. D. Peacock for examining the Glastonbury pottery; Mr. A. Dunn, Curator of the Admiral Blake Museum, Bridgwater, Mr. P. A. Langmaid, Assistant Keeper at the Somerset County Museum, Mr. D. J. Tomalin, Museum Assistant at Weston-super-Mare Museum, and Dr. F. S. Wallis, Hon. Curator of Wells Museum, for access to and permission to publish material from the collections in their care; the specialists who have contributed reports; and Mr. P. A. Rahtz for commenting on the typescript.