D. MISCELLANEOUS

AF Angle-Frisian
AS Angle-Saxon
BA Bronze Age
BAA British Archaeological Association
BM British Museum
BMNH British Museum, Natural History
CR Central Registry (of the Ordnance Survey)
EPNS English Place-Name Society
IA Iron Age
IOW Isle of Wight
MOW Ministry of Works
NG National Grid
OS Ordnance Survey
RB Romano-British
RCS Royal College of Surgeons (anthropological collection, now in the BMNH)
I-XX First to Twentieth Centuries

BEDFORDSHIRE

ante 1849: 'In carrying on the excavations and cuttings of the Great Northern Railway... sepulchral relics have... been discovered on the opposite side of the Wilbury Hills [opposite to Wymondley].... among the bones, spearheads and other weapons have been found.' (W. Newton).

ante 1886: Near Astwick a number of human skeletons were found during coprolite digging; near them were 10 Samian vessels. A sword, a shield-boss, a number of spearheads and a knife were found with the skeletons. The site is on flat ground near a stream.

circa 1546: 'Betwixt Kinges Crouse ym the midle waye to Newenham and the castel [Bedford] were found many bones of men buried'.

1896: Workmen making a road through Russell Park near Newnham, ½ m. E. of Bedford and 50 yrs. from the river, found 3 skeletons placed in a line EW, heads to the W. Close to 2 of the skulls were 2 spearheads, and a sword was found 6 or 7 yrs. to the S. The skeletons lay 3' 6" deep in river alluvium. The ground around was sifted for further finds, but nothing found. Bedford Museum has shield-bosses, bone combs and swords of ordinary AS type.

Biscot Mill see Luton I Bd.

ante 1860: Worthington Smith speaks of an AS cemetery at Chalton, where a large number of skeletons were found with iron knives at the hips. Gold rings were also reported.

1891: A shield-boss, knives and 2 skeletons were found.

Chamberlain's Barns see Leighton Buzzard II Bd.


1876: A small plain pot found 'in a field near Henlow' was given to the BM.

1930: Another pot was found and given to the Bedford Museum.
The site is in flat country not far from a stream.


1915: A single cremation burial, with pot and beards, was found.

Dead Man's Slade see Leighton Buzzard I Bd.


ante 1882: C. R. Smith records and illustrates an AS pot then in the library of Clare Hall, said to have been found at Dunstable.

1926-29: The most prominent and most northerly of the Five Knolls Barrows, which crown the salient of a hill overlooking the Vale of Aylesbury, ½ m. W. of Dunstable, was excavated. The surface of the barrow, which was of early BA date, had been extensively used for burials during the sub-Roman or pagan AS period. There were c. 100 inhumations of young men and women in 10 groups disposed about the barrow and its surround. About ½ of the people buried had had their hands tied behind their backs. In some groups, several burials appeared to have taken place at the same time as each other, but since
they either overlay or had been disturbed by others, it is clear that the burials took place over a period of time. There was no orderly arrangement, and only a few objects—a pierced Roman coin, a bronze tube, an iron buckle, a Roman goblet and key—were found near or with the skeletons. There were also fragments of a black pot, decorated with rows of horse-shoe-shaped cord impressions, which may represent a disturbed AS cinerary urn.

**Dunstable, Marina Drive** (site Tottonhoe Bld).

**Dyers Hill Farm.** ? Bd 29 NE, TL 042180. Blundell (1925), p. 4. Ante 1925 Blundell said he had 'several fine specimens of Samian earthware' from Dyers Hill Farm. The site is near a stream, on a steepish slope just under the 400' contour.


1935 Two burials were found by workmen laying a pipeline beside the Great North Road at St Neots, close to the cross road to Duleoe. One skeleton had its legs beneath the present road. Another grave cut into the other and was presumably the latter. Both graves were very disturbed by the workmen; but when examined one was still furnished with a heavy Frankish-type scarabaxus, which had been in a scabbard fastened along the cutting edge with little bronze studs, 5 to the inch. Trenches cut around these graves, which are probably VII, failed to discover any more.

**Eggington.** Inhumation burials. Bd 28 SE, SP 960254. Ant J, XX (1940), 230. Circa 1932 During sand digging on the top of Gault Hill on the N side of Eggington a few objects 'which appear certainly to come from AS graves' were turned up: 'an iron spearhead and spearbutt, iron knives, etc., and a bronze tube which closely resembles the "hollow pin" from grave 27 of the cemetery at Luton'.

**Fancot, Toddington.** Inhumation burials. Bd 29 NW, TL 018729. Blundell (1925), p. 4. OS records: Museums: Luton; British Museum (Natural History); Oxford Collection.

1858 Urns were found near the Brickworks. 1869 Major Cooper reported 'to the right of the adult female skulls (one aged) from the "sandpit near the brick kiln"', Toddington Manor, to the Oxford Collection.

1925 Blundell said he possessed 'several fine specimens of Samian earthenware' from the Old Brickworks, Fancot.

Luton Museum has 2 pots from 'the Sandpit near the Brick Kiln'; one of grey ear is ornamented with a series of lightly scored grooves around the girth, the other is black, plain, and of squint form.

The site is near the top of a ridge, over 300' OD.


1828 A number of amber beads, now in the BM, were found with a skeleton in the bank forming the county boundary. With them was a small bronze horned brooch, almost identical with specimens from Somham and Kenninghall Nf.

Brown also reports a large florid square-headed brooch found at Farnish.


1952 'Gravel workings revealed ... 7 or 8 complete, and several partial skeletons, M and F, with associated pot-sherds, beads, metal fragments, one ?Saxon sword, small knives (very rusty), and part of a scarabaxus.

Also traces of rectangular and circular burial mounds at earth of heaths, bone pins, potsherds, beads, etc. All Pagan Saxon. Pottery of plain cinerary urn type. No traces of stamped ware or bulbous types. Further finds recorded in 1953 in report by M.O.W. per G. C. Dunning include several IA querns, Saxon beads and a contracted burial'.


1860 Some bones were found near a shapeless iron object (perhaps a knife or spearhead), and may represent an AS burial.

**Ickwell Bury.** See Sandy Bld.


1856 Wyatt recorded that while digging gravel workmen turned up several skeletons, and with one of them was a spearhead near the head, an iron shield, a spear, 2 knives, a bronze brooch set with garnets and a window urn 5" tall, fluted from shoulder to foot. Another skeleton was found with a number of thin pieces of metal about the size of a florin near the lower jaw, a number of small glass beads and fragments of twisted wire.

In the same gravel pits circular brooches, knives and spearheads had frequently been turned up, but a large number of bodies were found accompanied by very few articles and most of the urine are oval, of ordinary forms and without ornamentation.

1863-64 A gravel pit to the S of the road was worked and here the Roman remains were more plentiful and the AS grave-goods richer. The records of discoveries unfortunately are conflicting. The site was kept under observation by Fitch, who published a diary of the excavations in Coll Ant, IV, 201-21.

Wyatt also describes the finds made in these years in Coll Ant, VI, but there are considerable discrepancies between his associations and those of Fitch, whose account is probably the more accurate. However, Wyatt describes 3 graves which apparently Fitch does not—one of a man in a sitting posture, with body sloping upwards and knees slightly bent, seen first in the side of the gravel pit set in a fall of earth, with a knife, spearhead and urn. Another urn, 9" tall, plain and half-filled with small burnt bones, also showed in the side of the cliff, and was at the foot of another skeleton. After Fitch's diary ended, a crystal ball in bronze bands was found in a woman's grave with beads and 2 brooches.

There were many cinerary urns, and cremation precededs and continues in use alongside inhumation. There was also a deep pit, more than 7' long, where a body which had been burnt still lay in situ, surrounded by charred branches of trees.

The inhumation graves varied in size and depth (from 19" to 5' deep), and in orientation. In some graves slabs of limestone had been placed over the body, which also varied in position. Twice in men's graves, accompanied by ordinary weapons and brooches, were found iron implements in shape like knives but with no cutting edge—perhaps made especially for burial.

**Leagrave.** See Limbury, Wallud's Bank Bld, and Luton III, Sarum Road Bld.


Ante 1880 About ½ m. from the tumuli on Leighton Buzzard Heath there were found several hand-made urns of AS type, some plain, some with projecting bosses and zigzag patterns interspersed with dots and crescent-shaped or circular. Several contained human bones.

1880 Men digging sand to the S of the cremations found an AS gilt-bronze saucer brooch with a S-pointed star pattern, a small-brooch with a square head, and a perforated rock-crystal bead, ½ diam., flattened at the ends. These were all probably from inhumation burials. The local name for the place was 'Dead Man's Slade', and it is very close to the river.


1931 Some coloured AS paste beads were found when removing spoil in the large sandpit called Chamberlain's Barns, on land once called Brookhills, 700 yds. ESE of Deed Man's Slade.

1932 A small mixed cemetery of the mid VI, with at least 22 burials, was uncovered. Only 3 cremation burials were found: all
simple deposits of burnt bones in roughly circular holes in the ground, c. 2' diam., 3'-3' 6" deep, without urns. One was of a child, the other 2 had been disturbed.

The inhumed skeletons were altogether corroded away, usually even the teeth. There was no regularity about the orientation or spacing of the graves, and only one lay due EW—position of head not determinate. Most of the heads were to the W of S, but 2 were in the opposite direction. All the graves were simple rectangles, c. 6' 2" by 2' 8"; 2 women's graves were substantially smaller. One grave was apparently surrounded by a small circular ditch, outside diam. 16'. Nearly every grave contained small pieces of charcoal, thrown in with the filling, and small flint flakes evidently laid on the grave floor. Many had small potsherds, evidently AS, usually of thin light reddish ware.

Many of the graves were without goods, and the cemetery as a whole was poor. One grave contained beside a vitreous paste and blue glass, and the grave itself was covered with a headspade, a knife, a piece of iron wire and several scraps of pottery. Also found were 11 other knives, another spearhead, an iron hook, beads (including one large amber bead found at the waist), buckles of iron and one, ornamented, of bronze, bronze scraps, a small bronze pin, a wooden 7" bow or shaft, a wooden drinking cup with a bronze rim and 2 pottery accessory vessels.

Leeds describes as found, presumably in this cemetery, a 'f round' of silver rings attached by thread still remaining, with 2 of the 3 glass beads in the centre rings still suspended by the same thread in the middle of the rings. All the material found is now in Luton Museum, with the exception of an accessory vessel 3'-4' tall, with 3 pinchet-pushing projections just below the shoulder, all pierced. The only parallels to this urn then known were from Stapenhill St and Brixworth NH. It went to the BM.

Among the objects in Luton Museum are 2 fragmentary brooches almost identical in shape with the large brooch from Sarre K, dated by coins to the VII, and another quartz brooch with dot and triangle ornamentation. The grave goods have a Kentish appearance.


1905 Two women's graves were found on Leagrave Marsh, a few yards N of the Icknield Way and close to the British Camp of Wall's Bank. As at Leagrave, the graves were contracted and covered with small branches of trees. With one skeleton, head W, 2 disco brooches with iron pins, a gilt disc with a heart-shaped opening—from a bucket—and a pin with 2 spangles on the left clavicle. The second burial had a pair of disc brooches on the shoulders. Probably from a third burial was a bronze 'spice' and part of an ivory ring 4" across. The site is near the River Lea, and on top of a ridge.


1927 Capt. W. Boycott found some 'ancient graves' on the S side of Biscot Windmill. 1923 A new road called Montrose Avenue was made along the site of the Peddar's Way from Bedford Road to Biscot Windmill. Several burials of a few yards NE of the windmill. These included the skeletons of 4 adults lying c. 12" deep on the south side. An iron knife was found with it, and can therefore be dated to the late VI or VII. The site is in undulating country.


1953 When a watermain was being laid a woman's skeleton was discovered 2' 6" deep, head to the E. With it were a double-sided bone comb with iron rivets, an iron knife. The site is on the ridge on the opposite side of the river to Wall's Bank.


1934 A black ornamented cremation urn was found in the village, in very flat country.

Pegsdon Common, Shillington. Inhumation burials, primary in barrow. Bd 26 SE. TL. 133888. 7 Het Arch. IV. P.S.A. XXVIII (1888), 39-40. Museum: Hitchin (including some leg bones). 1879 A mound near some Roman cremation burials was opened by Ransom, and a human skeleton 'in a slightly sitting posture' was found, with a knife near the left hand. Ransom estimated the man to be about 6' 4" tall. Hitchin Museum: a shield-boss, spearhead, and parts of the bones of 3 human legs 'believed to be a warrior, exhumed by William Ransom on Pegsdon Common with iron weapons in his hands'. There is also a necklace of glass and paste beads which may have come from these burials.

See also Danes Field, Pirton Het.


1955 The skeleton of a tall man was found with a spearhead, broken before burial, and a shield-boss. The underside of the skull had been smashed before burial. The grave had been disturbed by a later burial with a comb, and 4 other skeletons without grave-goods were found near by.


1866 A broken bronze disc, 2' 2" diam., with bevelled edge and holes in the margin for attachment, was found in the vicarage garden. It has a central boss, and a design of a cross with fleurs-de-lis in the angles, surrounded by a band of chevrons. It is covered by sunk enamel in light blue relieved by white triangles in the chevron zone.


1847 Fox notes that a large AS urn, figured by Battley, had been found with remains of wooden coffins. circa 1850 Canery urns of AS type were found during excavations of the railway, near the railway bridge at Sandy. One urn is illustrated in P.S.A. and there were said to be others, of black ware with elaborate ornamentation. R. A. Smith reported another large one in the library at Bedford (?) that illustrated by Battley, and a smaller one in the BM. R. Brown illustrated an early urn then in the Cambridge Museum.

Ravensthorp remains were also found during the same excavations, in different places along the line, and it is not always possible from the descriptions given to decide what is real, what is imitation and what is AS. For example, Battley describes as Saxo a drinking cup with a dark ground, enamelled with a white flower. The 2 wooden
coffins, one of which contained a leaden vessel placed on the breast of the corpse, were probably Roman. Nor is it known if there was any evidence of AS inhumation burials near the cinerary urns.

A quantity of charred wheat, nearly 3 quarters, found in one part of the excavation, may be compared to that found at Marston Nh. The Bedford Museum has 2 large Buckelurnen, a small 'olla', 2 small plain pots, and possibly 3 other urns from Sandy. Two Saxon Buckelurnen with feet, of V, preserved at Ickwell Bury, are now in the BM, in the Ashmolean a cremation urn, found near the inn by the railway, which is probably also from this site.

There is a silver armlet in Cambridge Museum, doubtfully attributed to Sandy. If correct, this is the only object extant likely to have come from an inhumation grave.


1826-42 Insipn found and exhibited objects found in a walled cemetery and nearby fields and gardens on the W side of the town. These were mostly of the Roman period, but there were 2 saucer brooches which presumably came from an AS burial.

The site is in very flat country between two rivers.


Circa 1932 A skeleton with an AS iron spearhead 10" long was found in a chalk grave 18" deep at Sundon Cement Works. It was destroyed by the workmen before it could be examined.

Shillingford see Pegasus Common Bd.


1884-85 An iron strike-a-light, a bronze tweezers, an earpick, 2 wire rings, 12 glass beads and the back plate of an applied brooch were found on Sheepwalk Hill.

1881 A spiral finger-ring of bronze, found with a skeleton at Toddington and apparently AS, was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries.

1874 Major Cooper presented 2 skulls to the Oxford Collection. One, F, was found associated with a bronze brooch with ring and dot ornament and a bronze spiral finger-ring (I found 1861). He was also said to have ornaments, knives, spears, brooches, etc. from Sheepwalk Hill.

1886 Lines, a ratcatcher, found a skeleton.

1883 A male skeleton was found c. 100 yrs. N of the 1876 skeleton, face down, with spearhead, knife, shield-boss, shield-disc and other pieces of iron. A woman's skeleton was found with fingers apparently near those of the man, but lying almost at right angles, with the head SE. On the shoulders were 2 bronze square-headed brooches with crescentic feet, with the remains of iron pins. Also associated was a plain bronze finger ring and 2 small beads.

About 3' from the surface was a platform of concrete, which appeared to be made of lime and pebbles. The excavation was enlarged to 9' square, but the edge was not found. R. A. Smith thought it might be the floor of a Roman villa.

1885 5 yrs. N of the last group, disturbed bones were unearthed, and under them, 3 deep, a woman's skull brooch, head NW, with an iron knife, key or girdle-hanger, a bronze earpick and tweezers linked together, and a small bowl. 6 other skeletons were found; one, with head S, had a bronze applied brooch.

ante 1887 'Many years' before, some fine specimens of AS urns were found in a field called Wickern, adjoining Sheepwalk Hill.

1887 Major Cooper presented 2 adult male skulls and an adult female skull, presumably from this site, to the Oxford Collection.

Toddington II. Mixed cemetery. Bd 29 NW, SW. TL 008274. Arch, XXXVIII (1838), 104–106. 1819 In a field on the W of Toddington 'as some labourers were digging gravel ... they discovered 2 upwards of 200 yrs. or more, considerable quantities of human bones, pieces of iron armour, numbers of spearheads with sockets and rivets, etc. ... The principal piece found was part of an ancient helmet, of a singular form. ... It weighed 2 lbs. or more. ... A person who was daily on the spot when these antiquities were discovered, considers that there were some 1000 bodies buried there, from the large quantity of gravel which was thrown out with the gravel, in solid masses. ... [the anonymous author of The History of Dunstable, quoted in Arch] was likewise informed by several persons, that pieces of swords or daggers, with 2 or 3 edges, and others like spits were found; with numbers of buckles, rings and other brass pieces of a circular form. ... Also, at the same time an olla, or small urn, containing beads, ... was found in the same field. ... Some ancient coins were found but not many. ... Among other things was found a piece of copper, overlaid with a thin plate of fine gold; it is part embossed, other parts engraved or chased, and highly ornamented. ... The length is nearly 5' and the breadth 3' in the widest part. The beads generally were composed of stone, though some were of a composition of glass, of many colours: the smallest were blue, or dark brown, others appeared to be made of agate or a very hard white stone. ... A laborer employed in digging gravel in the above-mentioned fields ... stated that he one day found 4 of these circular sorts of plates ... of superior workmanship, and was informed, after he had parted with them, that they were most of them composed of gold. He described them as being of a very regular shape and size of saucers, of 5" or 6" diam., and marked with flowers or figured work all over, and when rubbed, they shone like bright yellow gold; ... all found in one place. He stated that the beads were of all sorts of colours and were found in masses in various parts of the field; the vessels, or whatever had contained them, had perished in the earth. The small beads, he said, were filled with little bones, and were very numerous in one part of the field; but it was impossible to preserve any of them, as they crumbled to dust with the slightest touch of the hand'.

Toddington see also Fan Court Bd.


The site lies along the Icknield Way, 1 m. W of the Watling Street crossing. It occupies a narrow plateau with built on a soft gravelly mound. The area of the cemetery, overlooked by the Dunstable, Five Knolls cemetery, and itself overlooks the site of a large Roman villa.

ante 1957 Burials were frequently found on the plateau. To the E, a number of skeletons were found in laying the forefront of the 'Rifle Volunteer' in 1906; a stermn, which had been fractured and healed, is in Luton Museum. Some shallow graves were discovered when a water trench was dug across the foot of West Street Downs; and in a field on the opposite side of the road many skeletons were said to have been found in a whiting works. In 1935 a crouched burial, supposed BA, was found at Lancot Hill.

To the W of the site, 2 skulls were found 'some years' before by children; and a small AS bead 'recently' in the same field.

1957 During the building of a new housing estate at Marina Drive, a skull and spearhead were found. The Manhood Archaeological Society excavated, and by September 1957 had found 35 graves, arranged in 4 rows varying from SE–NW to N–S. Most of the graves were shallow irregular depressions, 1' deep into the chalk, which was overlaid with c. 6" of top soil. 2 graves were 18" deep, with sharp, slightly undervet sides. In 2 of the rows the skeletons were lying in the opposite direction to those in the other 2.

Most of the skeletons were not laid out; one was on its face, 4 had the arm on the pelvis and the right across the body. 3 vice versa. Only one grave was filled with chalk, in the rest the bones had been taken that soil and turf should rest on the bodies. Nearly all the graves contained fragments of weathered pot, probably merely the litter of a cultivated field. In only one grave there was evidence of food offering — a rib of sheep deposited with a young child. Two skeletons were found with small slices hanging round their necks; these contained human teeth, and the excavators presumed that the wearers were the 'triplit dentists'.

The grave-goods found indicate a date about 1107 for the cemetery. The grave-goods were 13 or 14 knives, a large ribbed spearhead, and a seramask which was placed beside the head, and which had had a leather sheet with a bronze point and 3 eyeslet near the tang. One woman had a hanging bowl of earthenware decorated with a developed trumpet-pattern closely paralleled at Camerton.
So, a bone comb, the remains of a leather purse, a knife with a handle bound in coarse linen, a workbox and the remains of a chate-
laine. Another woman had worn 5 silver rings with beads as a festoon; and there were several other 
beads, of amethyst, paste and glass, and 2 of amber and 3 of cuttle-fish bone—2 pieces of 
which had also been used as pendants. Other pendants were small silver discs, a small silver 
locket, and 2 beaver teeth. Of the 2 bronze workboxes found, one was silvered and 
contained wool fibres, the other was decorated 
with punched dots and contained thread and a 
small roll of finely woven material. There were 
several purses, the leather surviving only as a 
brown stain, one with an embossed bronze mount. There were 3 iron belt-buckles; but 
only one brooch—a small-long with a lozenge-
shaped foot and ring and dot ornament—was 
found, together with a knife and a bone or 
antler ring. A thin cake of shoo-mud was by the 
feet of one skeleton, composed of puddled 
chalky soil, with the impression of woven 
material which suggested that the lady had worn 
linen slippers.

1958 Another grave was destroyed during 
building; it contained an adult skeleton and an 
iron knife. A second, 8’ long, 5’ 3” wide and 
2’ 7” deep, contained the skeleton of a male 
aged c. 20, laid supine, and buried with care. 
2 complete ovoid jars were found to the left of 
the head. One, fired red, was decorated with 
punched dots around the neck, the other was a 
plain vessel of poor ware. The bases of the 
jars were rounded, and they had been held 
upright by packed chalk. They were covered 
by a flat slab of chalk, and had probably held 
some liquid. Next the skull was a ?lantern 
head with a closed socket, and at the waist an iron 
knife still in its sheath. The grave fill was 
almost entirely loam, in spite of the fact that 
at this point the topsoil is only 6” deep, and a 
great deal of chalk must have been dug out of 
the grave. A third grave, 6’ long, contained a 
crowched burial, with knees drawn up to the 
chest.

Abingdon I. Mixed cemetery. Bek 10 NW. 
SU 490963. E. T. Leeds and D. B. Harden. 
The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Abingdon, Berk-
shire (1936). Bek AJ, XLII (1938), 20. Oxon, 
VII (1942), 102-103. Museums: Oxford, 
Ashmolean; Abingdon; British Museum (Nat-
ural History), Oxford Collection.

1860 2 disc brooches were found in digging 
for the foundations of a house. 

1934-35 A trench along Saxton Road 
passed through the middle of an AS cemetery. 
One of the labourers recovered part of a large 
cinerary urn and a shield-boss. The finds came 
to the notice of the Ashmolean Museum and 
excavations were organized. The whole site 
could not be dug; but the cemetery must have 
occupied a space 70 yds. NS, and more than 
50 EW. 5 graves were found isolated far to the 
W; they contained between them only one 
knife, so that they may have been late burials. 

On the eastern edge of the cemetery was a BA 
tumulus, in which there were a few secondary 
burials, but none beyond. Only 6 cremations 
were in the deep ditch on the W of the barrow 
and no inhumations—probably because it was 
pREFERRED to lay these on the gravel 
subsoil. 

In the centre of the cemetery was an area with 
cremation burials only, probably indicating 
that this was the earlier rite on the site; but 
some undisturbed cremations were found in 
earlier inhumation graves, so that the two 
rites must have been for a time contempor-
aneous.

There were 82 cremation burials; mostly 
c. 2’ deep but sometimes deeper. All but 3 were 
in plain or ornamented urns, one clearly used 
previously as a cooking pot. A few were 
angular and early; most had a rounded profile. 
The ornamentation was mostly incised neck-
lines, eyebrows, chevrons, etc., with a little 
stamping, and some shoulder-bosses. 48 of the 
icremation burials had no associated objects; 
18 had fused brooches, etc., which showed 
that the body had been burnt in ordinary 
clothes; and 16 contained miniature toilet 
implements, usually of iron—shears, tweezers, 
knives—and small combs with unusable teeth, 
all unburnt. One urn contained the remains of a 
fused equal-armed brooch, another a large 
square-head of late VI or even VII.

122 inhumed skeletons were discovered, most 
lying 3’-4’ deep on the gravel, some up to 6’ 
deep. 82 skeletons had their heads more or less 
to the W, 27 to the S, 4 SE, 3 E, 1 N. 7 skeletons 
were covered with a pile of large stones, c. 1’ 
above the skeleton. In some graves there was 
evidence of decayed wood, which had probably 
formed a bier on which the skeleton was laid. 

7 graves contained 2 burials each; in one a 
probably unborn infant lay on the pelvis of a 
girl 15-16 years old.

73 of the skeletons had associated objects, 
only knives. The cemetery was not a rich one. 
Among the objects found were 25 disc, 17 
saucer (7 with running spiral design), 7 zoo-
morphic), 4 button, 3 applied (including a 
pair of late VI or VII), 5 annular, 3 iron 
penannular, 7 small-long, a pair of small gilt 
square-headed brooches and the lower part of 
a Danish type tutulus brooch of late V. There 
were also several beads, most of amber but 
several of glass, many knives, iron buckles, 
shield-bosses, spears, 2 javelins, 2 swords and 
4 accessory vessels.

1935 An AS cinerary urn containing the 
bones of a very young infant was dug up in 
Saxton Road, and is recorded in Bek AJ; it is 
difficult to tell if this was during the official 
excavations or not.

circa 1937 Another burial was found in 
front of the row of houses which divides the 
pair of the cemetery lying S of the roadway. 
The skeleton lay supine, head W; there were 
no relics.

1942 Another grave was found, with 2 
cruci-form brooches and 20 beads, the group 
dating to the late V.

Abingdon II. Inhumation burial. Bek 10 NW. 
SU 501976. OS records. Museum: Oxford, 
Ashmolean.

ante 1585 ‘Single AS burial between Oxford 
Road and Radley Road. Inhumation’.

Abingdon III. Inhumation burials. Bek 10 NW. 
SU 488975. Abingdon Museum records.

1956 2 burials were found in the new cemetery. They were c. 6' apart and 4'-5' deep, in sand. The first skeleton was damaged by the grave-diggers, who did not realize what they had found, but said the body was in an odd position. The second was found lying on its side, with the arms crossed on the body, the right extended and the left hand up to the right shoulder. The legs were flexed at right angles to the body and were crossed below the knee. No associated objects were found with either. No other burials had so far been discovered, but these were on the edge of an open space.


circa 1862 During the trenching of the top of Arne Hill for a plantation, c. 80 skeletons were found in a circular area, c. 80 yds. diam. They were early crouching graves, 2'-2' 6' deep and just in the top of the chalk. Only a few iron implements, including a spearhead and several knives, were found with them.


ante 1893 A saucer brooch with zoomorphic design was illustrated by de Bye as from Remenham.

ante 1906 3 small pots and some iron axe-heads 'from the same locality' were in the BM.

1921 A burial was found in a garden in a skeleton with shield-boss, 3 spearheads, 3 saucer brooches (2 a pair, with cruciform ring scroll) and a disc brooch on which no ornamentation is now visible.


1887 2 AS iron spearheads and some, but not all, the iron wire. 4 iron beltbuckles were found, but only one of bronze. 3 iron wire rings, 2 of three-strand twist, were in the same grave with it and had probably been used as fastenings. Among other objects found were 2 sets of toilet articles, 2 iron pins, a key, a comb, glass and amber beads, 2 Roman coins, 7 knives, a spearhead, and a little pottery accessory vessel with 3 pierced lugs.

The cremation urn was of similar form to those from Abingdon, and was of unornamented, well-fired dark grey paste which contained much chalky buffing. It contained the cremated remains of one person, probably a child.


1936 Grinell reported that an air-photograph taken by Allen showed a small round barrow S of the track from East Hendred Down to Chilton. It was 5 yds. diam., 1' high, with a surrounding ditch 2' wide and 6' deep. It looked like an AS grave mound, and was perfect and probably unopened.

Cock Marsh. see Cookham, Cock Marsh Bek.


1841 A water pipe line was laid from Coleshill House northwards towards a spring near Middle Leaze Farm. Somewhere on this line were found a large square-headed brooch, 2 gilt-bronze saucer brooches with zoomorphic ornament and a bronze ring with 3 toilet implements—2 pins and a miniature spoon.

Preserved with them in 1933 were 2 fragments of lower human jaw bones, obviously young and apparently female. The objects are illustrated.


circa 1888 'Mr Alfred Heineke Cocks . . . opened 4 barrows on Cockmarsh. . . . These barrows are circular and form a group. 3 contain British burials by cremation . . . The fourth . . . contain a Saxon burial by inhumation, a platyccephalous man with his dog, and various articles. This appeared to be the original burial, not a secondary interment. The barrow has a ditch surrounding it.'


circa 1854 During the construction of the railway from Maidenhead to Wycombe, at 'Noah's Ark', on the hill c. ½ m. N of the station, Cookham, 6 skeletons were found in a bed of gravel c. 9' deep. Oakes exhibited an AS iron sword, 2 spearheads, a knife and 2 portions of shield-bosses, found near them; and said there were also other iron weapons, including an iron object probably a shield-boss of different form, and a 'two-handled vessel, supposed to be of bronze, stated to have resembled a sugar basin.' Brown illustrates a peculiar spear-headed dagger from this site, in Reading Museum.


1843 Hewett excavated the 4 Cross Barrows within the parish of East Ilsley, about a mile E of Ilsley, on a conspicuous eminence. One of them, composed of stiff reddish clay foreign to the locality, covered an oblong cist cut in the chalk, containing the skeleton of a tall man in a crouched position, head NE. On the left of the pelvis was an iron knife. Near the feet was 'an interment of small bones, as verrucae, teeth, skulls, beads &c. of hares, ducks, and rabbits—in all probability the remains of burrowing animals. Another similar barrow was furnished with a buckle, 2 spearheads, a queer tall shield-boss with ornamental knobs, found by the feet, and 'a quantity of unbaked pottery, pieces of metal, yellow ochre, charcoal etc.' In the third tumulus were 6 human skeletons, extended side by side near the summit of the mound. A small brass pin, some fragments of coarse pottery, several ochre beads &c., with the teeth of a horse, but no military weapons, were discovered. These skeletons averaged upwards of 6' in height, the legs were crossed, and the skulls (all of which had been fractured) pointing towards the SE. Grinell considers these barrows secondary.

The fourth barrow, which was by far the largest, contained no interment and appeared to be a cenotaph.


ante 1806 A bead and a bronze buckle were illustrated as from Cuckshamley Barrow.

N.B. The AS Chronicle, A.D. 1006, tells of a tradition concerning this barrow: 'Then they [the Danes] went along Aesces-dune [Ashdown] to Cwichelmes hyeowe [now Cuckshamley or Scotheamley] and there waited in boated ostentation, because...
it had often been said that if they reached Cwichelm, hlæwe they would never be able to get to the sea. Then they went homewards another way."

The barrow was originally IA, but was used at the end of the X as the place of the shire moot, and in the early period may even have been the central meeting-place of the West Saxon kingdom. It is therefore quite probable that it would have been used for AS secondary burials. It was probably named after Cwichelm, king of Wessex, who died in 636. See Two Saxon Chronicles Parallel ed. C. Plummer and J. Earle (2 vols. Oxford, 1892 and 1899), I, 22-27, 137; II, 184.


1890 ‘Walter Money, Esq. F.S.A., exhibited a small and very rudely made cup of baked clay, 2 ½ in. in diameter, and 1 ½ high, with a handle on one side, said to have been found near the head of a skeleton, while making the Lambourn Valley Railway. The labourer who found the cup asserts that it was close to the head, and that the skeleton lay N to S, between East Garston and Eastbury.’

Earley see Reading I Bek.

Faringdon. Inhumation burial. Bek 8 SW, SU 2895. Museum: Reading University History Circa 1920. A child’s skeleton, with a rough pot in association, was found.


1864-65Labourers quarrying stone at Frilford Heath, to the N of the River Ock, shill-sand, the fragments of a pair of bronze brooches, a bucket and some Roman objects. Akerman investigated, but was unable to note details of all the 38 graves found. He describes 3 which are certainly AS to judge from the associated objects. A woman had been buried with a pair of gilt-bronze saucer brooches and a bronze buckle, a man with a shield-boss on the lap. A third skeleton had a small AS urn by the left shoulder. Other burials, one of a woman with an oval brooch and another with a coin of Constantine on a stone laid on the forehead were more probably RB; 2 in lead coffins certainly were.

Many of the graves, however, were without grave-goods, and it is impossible to tell which period these belonged to.

1867-68 Nahon excavated 121 graves and described them in Arch, XII, 130. Of these were AS cremation burials, 2 in ‘patterened’ or ‘chequered’ urns, the rest plain. A few burnt bones were found without urns, but these were generally unassociated, and had probably been scattered by later disturbance. Only 2 urns contained anything other than human bones—one a few pieces of glass, the other the incisor of a hare or rabbit, burnt. These cremation burials were very shallow and sometimes overlaid unfurnished RB or Anglian graves.

Rollston also found what he considered to be 2 distinct classes of AS inhumation burials. The first with bodies laid supine and with grave-goods in unadorned, shallow graves. 4 of these overlaid presumed RB graves. In one of these graves Roman tiles were set along the side; in another the skeleton was face down.

The second class were in graves orientated ESE-WNW, parallel to the RB graves; closely set around each skeleton was a single row of large stones, sometimes reddened as if by fire. Charcoal was found in the graves around and even under the skeletons, and Rollston supposed this was produced by a fire lit in the grave before or after the corpse was deposited. The head was often raised on a pillow stone. Sherd, flints and a few bones and teeth of domestic animals were found in these graves, as in those of other types within the cemetery; they may have come from an RB settlement nearby. In one of the graves a mass of ‘scoriiform’ lava was at the foot of a female skeleton.

The AS objects found with these 2 classes of burials included weapons of usual types (but no sword), paucity, and large long brooches, buckles and accessory vessels ornamented by stamps, vertical bosses and incised lines. Only 2 of the people with associated AS objects were old; there were many children but few had grave goods.

1869-70 Further finds were made, and reported on in Arch, XLV, including c. 4 more AS inhumation burials. These were of an old woman surrounded by large stones, buried with tuckers, knife, ‘metallic button and small metallic ornament’; a young person with an accessory vessel; another old woman with 2 cruciform brooches, a shroud pin, an iron ring and a knife; and a youth with weapons. The last 2 overlay RB burials. These skeletons and associated objects were given to Cornell University.

1912 D. Buxton and E. T. Leedens found an AS grave in the northern corner of the quarry. Associated with it were 2 applied brooches with guilloche and zoomorphic design, a small string of beads, mostly glass, but the central one crystal, 2 small bronze Roman coins and an iron nail, all now in the Ashmolean Museum.

1920 The Oxford University Archaeological Society under Buxton excavated 40 RB and 5 AS graves, described in Ant J. The AS graves were to the SE of the others, and they were just beneath the surface, in the stony layer, and large flat stones had been placed over them. One had also alignments of stones set on edge at either side. In the fill of the graves were numerous animal bones, sherd, oyster shells, and sometimes Roman coins. All burials were orientated with the head slightly to the N of E. One burial of a child, and one of a man were unfurnished; one woman had a pair of small applied brooches, another a pair of gilt-bronze saucer brooches with star design, a long bronze pin, a small iron knife, miscellaneous beads, 2 small Roman coins and a squat pottery bowl. A larger pot, of plain globular form, was also found.

There was also a small empty cist of rough hewn stones, c. 20 long and 10 wide, the floor made of flat oolitic stones, the top disturbed by ploughing.

A sixth grave appeared at first to be normal; 6 flat stones and 2 Roman tiles lay on top; but 50 cm. deep lay the head of a pig, which appeared to have been severed from the body before burial. Pottery and an oyster shell were found below this level, but hardly any above; and other parts of the pig’s skeleton were found, mostly beneath the head. The burial was carried out with care, and Buxton thought it more likely to be a cenotaph than a substitution.

1939 Only RB graves were discovered.

Berkshire


1939 To the S of the Romano-Celtic temple in Noah’s Ark Field (c. 800’ SE of the RB and AS cemetery) an AS inhumation burial was discovered in the largest IA rubbish pit, where perhaps a depression in the ground showed that there was a greater depth of soil than elsewhere. The skeleton lay supine, 2 ½ deep, covered by a rough platform of stones 6 long, 1 ½ wide. Close beside the left thigh and partly covered by the forearm were the blades of a scramasax and knife, which date the burial to the VII or VIII.

In spite of trenching about, no other graves were found; and it is more likely that it is an isolated burial than that it is an outlier from the cemetery which was probably altogether earlier in date.


1955 During the construction of a bungalow near the village of Harwell a footed Buckeleam and a number of bones were discovered. Excavations were carried out on behalf of the Ashmolean Museum by Mr and Mrs K. Marshall.

Six inhumation burials were discovered; the urn had been by the right shoulder of a skeleton laid on the back in a curved position—head NW, feet ENE. 2 burials were laid one above the other, the lower supine, head to the W, with iron knife, bronze buckle, iron javelin head, and bronze applique brooches. The upper skeleton was crouched, head to the E, and with no associated objects. The other burials, all supine, heads more or less W, were of a child with no associated objects, an adult 6 high with a bronze disc brooch, a small iron knife, and a small bracelet of glass beads with traces of fasteri and, another adult with traces of wooden planks along both sides and underneath the head and shoulders, but none over the body.

It is possible that there were other burials, undiscovered, but Miss Kirk noted that the number was the average for a group situated away from a river. The finds from the cemetery date its use to the late V and into VI.

1927 A groom excavating trenches for a horse-leap in a field to the W of Osmington House (4 m. from the churchyard) found human bones. Subsequently, the skeleton of a male aged c. 20 years was found, laid supine in a grave cut 1' 6" deep in the chalk. There were no grave-goods. The skeleton was thought to be of a pagan Saxon.

1929 2 more graves (oriented EW) were discovered by workmen just outside the entrance to the churchyard. One contained no bones; the other those of a woman c. 25.

1949 A human skull was turned up on the cliffs between Station Road and the church. Later, a number of skeletons laid one on top of the other were dug out on the cliffs.

Morris and Conophon excavated a number of skeletons, some complete, all c. 2' deep, lying extended with heads to the W.

1954 More skeletons were found behind St Mary's School. The remains of at least 5 persons (1 definitely female, 2 male) were identified. Other remains were said to have been excavated in the allotments near the cliffs.

The cemetery would appear to be Christian Saxon, partly at least X. The burial found in 1927 may be pagan.

Upper Lambourn Downs, Seven Barrows


1879 Greenland opened 2 barrows on the Upper Lambourn Downs; 'the larger of which was a blanket; but in the smaller a Saxon buckle was found, of c. A.D. 700'. This is presumably the heavy bronze wire penannular brooch with a massive bronze pin presented to the BM by Greenland, as one of the Seven Barrows.

Lockinge see Arne Hill Bek.


1892 Workmen employed on a bank of a stream near Beterton found a skeleton 7' deep in a crouch position. With it were 2 circular brooches, 1' 6" diam., a plain bronze finger ring and a melon-shaped brass bead.

1899 ‘A few days ago, while some men were excavating near the railway station at Maidenhead, they came upon an ancient iron spearhead, c. 13" in length, socketed, but the socket was broken by the workmen. They brought it to me, and I now have it in my possession. It is doubtless AS’ (H. Arrowmith).
during the widening of the Great Western Railway. 3 amber beads and one of clay were preserved; a bronze brooch and pottery were also said to have been found.


1891 In removing ballast during the widening of the Great Western Railway, a mixed AS cemetery was discovered 'on a platform of a small elevation, 630' S of the Thames, and 480' above its level, at c. 3 of the distance between the railway bridge at the Kennet's mouth at Reading on the E, and the brick-kiln at Earley on the W, the space in which the remains were found, comprehended 68' from N to S, and 57' from E to W, in a line parallel with the railway.' There was no sign of tumuli, but the graves were spaced out, and could have been covered by small mounds, since destroyed.

Five Inhumation burials were discovered, all EW: one was an old woman in a crouched position, the rest simple. All the graves were furnished, and the objects found included disc and applied brooches, spearheads, knives, buckles, rings, a spindle, and small pots decorated with stamps and incised lines. 2 accessory vessels may have been placed in the ground by themselves, as were some at Wallingford Bek.

The other burials were by cremation, mostly in plain urns, one without any container, usually c. 2' deep. One was associated with part of a bone comb.


1831 In the ballast pit at Reading c. 100 skeleton of a man and a horse "quite perfect" were discovered; beneath the horse was a double-edged sword bent by its weight. The horse's head was of bronze inlaid with silver, ornamented with 'imperfectly executed figures from the early IX.


circa 1923 During the construction of a house in Southcote Lane an AS urn with vertical fluting on the shoulder, containing cremated remains, was discovered 18' deep. It was probably an isolated burial, for the gound was trenched fur a considerable distance around it but nothing else found.


1893 A burial with an iron spearhead, with split socket and pin, and a shield-boss placed directly over the head, was found on the Oxford Road, c. 1 m. W of the town.


The remains from this site in Reading Museum show that it is entirely of the post-Conquest medieval period.

Remenham see Aston Bek.

Sculthamp see Cuckshamleys Bek.

Seven Barrows see Upper Lambourn Downs Bek.


1889 During the construction of the Lambourn Valley railway near Manor Farm, on a high ridge of land on the left bank of the river Lambourn, there were discovered at least 46 skeletons. Pitted c. 2' 9" deep in a space c. 120 yds. long. They were of male and female adults and children. In one man's grave was a double-edged sword 2' 9" long, and (presumably in another) an iron spearhead and 2 knives. In a woman's grave was a bronze-gilt cruciform brooch, a small bronze buckle, amber beads and a pair of bronze tweezers. In another were 2 circular brooches on the breast, and in a third 2 spangle-whorls of clay and part of a bronze armlet.

W. Palmer collected objects which went to the BM; associated groups were 2 spearheads and a knife; a saucer brooch, a bone comb and a bronze plate; a pair of tinned circular brooches and the ring of an iron buckler; a string of 13 beads 12 (glass, 1 amber), a bronze ring with 7 swellings, and a small iron bar with a loop and a bronze ring. Among the unassociated objects were 4 glass vessels (2 conical beakers, a claw-beaker and a shallow bowl); 12 strings of beads, mostly glass, but some of amber and 'stone'; pierced Roman coins; one large bead of green glass; 2 bronze-gilt long brooches; many circular brooches including 7 saucer, at least 4 applied, 2 button, 1 penannular and 3 flat annular, 8 circular with engraved ornamentation, and a 'circular fibula raised boss in centre filled with a paste- engraved with a raven having its head turned back'; and another similar but without the raven; 3 bronze buckles and 2 iron; 3 bronze rings and a fragment; 2 bronze finger-rings; 5 bronze rivets with broad tinned heads; various tinned bronze plates; 2 pins and an earpick on a ring; a pin; 3 pairs of tweezers; 8 spearheads and some ferrules; 18 knives and 2 nails.

In another part of the cutting a 'cinerary' urn was found; there is no other evidence for cremation on the site, but perhaps some of the 3 ornamented and 3 plain urns which went to the BM were cinerary.

1893 The skeleton of a woman c. 45 years old, lying with head to the W, was found with beads. 'Several separate interments, probably RB, were met with between E Shefford and E Garston; and near the head of one of the skeletons, that of an adult male, a small and very rudely made cup of baked clay was found, 2' 3" diam. and 1' 11" high, with a handle on one side. In another instance, a pick of deer's horn, 2' long to the burr, and end rounded off with a sharp instrument, was lying near a skeleton. Only one more of this type was found at different points of this portion of the Lambourn Valley railway, but it is to be regretted that they fell into the hands of persons through whom they were lost to the antiquarian world.'

One pot, said to be as large as a man's head, was discovered in the side of the cutting.

1912 Excavations were undertaken by Newbury Museum on either side of the railway line: 21 graves were found on the NE, 6 on the SE, in the corners of a rectangular cemetery, c. 1/4 acre in extent. 19 of the skeletons lay with their heads to the W, the rest veered to the SW. There was nothing to show the NE-SW orientation was the earlier, since 2 of the EW graves contained very early goods. The bodies were supine, but not laid out, and most of them had the knees flexed. The heads were all resting on flints or a ledge of chalk. The only undis turbed unfurnished grave was that of a newborn baby. Only one more glass vessel was found, upright by the head of a male skeleton. When found it was covered on the inside with a purplish red stain, 'which might be that of wine'. 5 accessory pots were by the heads of women, 2 together in one grave. Large numbers of beads were found, usually round the neck but some near the pelvis; there were also 2 large spearheads, and one small one with a boy of 16, iron buckles, half a snaffle bit found near the waist of a woman c. 50—and half a pair of iron tweezers. Bronze articles found were a buckle, needle case, 2 toilet sets, 3 pins, 2 pieces of bronze with rivets, a small finger ring, and a number of brooches, always found in pairs over the clavicles. They included 2 pairs of disc brooches, 1 pair of flat, and 4 large zoonomorphic annular brooches, 3 square-headed annular brooches, one associated with a cruciform brooch, and a saucer brooch with a running spiral.

One grave was extraordinary in that it contained only animal bones; but no description is given of it, and it is impossible to tell if it was like that at Frilford.

The burials were of persons of both sexes and all ages, from a new-born infant to the elderly. 'Out of 6 women over 40 years of age, only one was of the invading type… among 9 skeletons of those who died under the age of 30, 6 [at least] are of an intermediate type.'


1847 A skeleton was found near the canal with an iron spearhead, probably AS, and was presented to the Oxford collection by H. Hippsley of Lambourne Place.


1929 Workmen digging drains at Craven Dean found a skeleton lying supine, feet SE,

Circa 1922 In the centre of Room 1 of House X in the AS village at Sutton Courtenay, Leids found the skeleton of an adult man laid on the gravel floor. It was supine, the left arm bent across the body, and the left leg bent under the right, head to the NW. By the left side was an iron knife, and by the left femur a double-toothed ivory comb. After the deposition the body was covered with what may be termed a blanket of clay, which closed to the NW wall of the room lay on the gravel surface. At a point corresponding to the middle of the body and a foot from the wall this "blanket" was 3" thick, thinned out to an inch or less some 3' from the W wall. As large lumps of this clay were found in the filling over the body itself, it is clear that this blanket must originally have covered the entire body in a continuous mass, but became disintegrated with the gradual collapse of the skeleton, only preserving its form where it lay on the firm floor.

The room appeared to have been used after the burial and the skeleton had "all the appearances of having belonged to a man of superior rank in life."


Ante 1931 'An iron spearhead was found a few years ago' while digging foundations at Colthrop Mill.


Uffington see Stockholms Farm Bek, and White Horse Hill Bek.


Museums: Oxford, Ashmolean; Reading; Wallingford; British Museum (Natural History), Oxford Collection.

S of the ramparts enclosing the old town of Wallingford and running parallel with them is St John's Road; and S of it, 200 yds. W of the main road to Pangbourne and Reading, is 'The Pavillion' where most of the finds were made. 1894-1910 3 skeletons were discovered near St John's Road, all probably belonging to the AS cemetery.

1910 When the Council School, to the W of 'The Pavilion' was built, 10 or 11 skeletons were discovered. (N.B. circa 1937 a drain was cut parallel to the fence of 'The Pavilion' but no more were found.)

When Mr Snow, the then owner of the Pavilion, dug gravel at the S end of his ground, he found pottery, probably AS. 1924 circa 1938 24 graves were discovered at intervals. 21 of these are described and illustrated in Bek. XI, 93-101. There were 6 cremation burials, all but one in urns; one was accompanied by a miniature comb and a set of model iron toilet implements on a ring. The inhumation burials were in shallow graves, heads to the S or W; no male skeleton was discovered, and none of girl children. Grave-goods are recorded from 6 graves, including one fairly rich deposit; other objects may have been lost. Grave-goods after 1836 are in the Ashmolean Museum, and include annular, disc, maltese cross-shaped and small-long brooches, beads of glass, amber and crystal, iron knives, and a stout bronze pin with ornamented head.

Around one of the cremation burials 4 small urns, all shattered, were discovered. They did not contain burnt bones, and the reason for their deposition is a mystery.

1931 'In Reading Museum are a bronze brooch and iron axe-head believed to have been discovered in the town.'


1858 M. Atkins excavated 2 burial mounds, one RB, one AS, on White Horse Hill. The AS mound was of very slight elevation, and of irregular figure-eight form, surrounded by a ditch. In it were 6 carelessly buried skeletons and a confused heap of bones. 3 of the skeletons were decapitated; beneath the knees of one was the skull of a young person, and on the shoulder was a circular RB bronze brooch, inlaid with blue and red enamel. The 2 other headdress skeletons were of males, one had part of the lower jaw but no skull; associated with it were a knife, and the boss, handle and silvered-headed studs from a shield, all of AS type. In the centre of the mound was a perfect male skeleton, with a child on the left; and further N, the E a youth with knees flexed. To the right and left of the latter were detached skulls, both of middle-aged males, perhaps belonging to the headdress skeletons or the hoop of bones; the chin of one had been left before burial. The skulls of these skeletons differed from those in the RB mound, and conformed to the AS type.

In the RB mound were c. 46 burials, including a few cremations, some had been buried with Charon's pendants; 2 women had bone combs, one an elegant red pot. About 3 skeletons were headless, and one had the skull beneath the knees.

The similarity of the 2 cemeteries is surprising; in spite of the few women and children it seems most probable that these represent burials after a battle.

(N.B. Wi AM records 8 skeletons as being mentioned in Atkin's notes, not 6.)


1848 Labourers digging foundations for a cottage in Freeacre Field, on the right side of the road from Wittenham to Wallingford c. 100 yds. S of the village cross, found a skeleton 3 deep, head S. To the left of the head was an urn, decorated with lines and stamps, close by was a spearhead, and lower down a sword 2' 11" long. On the right was a knife, and on the breast a shield-boss with silvered studs.

1859-67 Akerman excavated and found 188 inhumation graves, mostly c. 3 deep, resting on the bed of gravel. The heads were usually...
to the SW; but towards the N of the field they veered to the W, and some were due E. Children were more often laid NS. The bodies were apparently usually laid supine, with the hands and feet sometimes crossed, but a few were on the side, slightly flexed. In one or two graves there were large stones at the head, and in some others (usually unfurnished) charcoal. All but 49 of the graves were furnished (7 with only a knife); of the 49 about half were children's graves, and it was noticeable that these were usually more poorly furnished than adults’. Finds from the inhumation graves included weapons of the usual type, saucer, applied, disc and small-long brooches, an RB oval brooch, quantities of beads including many of amber (270 in one grave), and a pair of scales. Buckets, bronze bowls and pottery accessory vessels were found usually in men’s graves by the head; but 2 small pots were with women. The most remarkable find was the ‘Long Wittenham Stoup’—a wooden cup with bronze plates and embossed Christian monogram and scriptural subjects. This was found in the grave of a boy (only 3’6’’ tall), head W, who had also a bronze bowl with triangular lugs resting on a slab of wood, and a spearhead, point down by the feet.

46 cremation burials in urns were also found, presumably interpersed among the graves. Many of the urns were partly missing—Akerman assumed that they had been disturbed by subsequent inhumations, since they were too deep to be touched by the plough. Only 10 contained anything other than burnt bones; usually these were only unrecognizable bronze and iron fragments, but 2 had small bronze pins, one a small iron knife with a blunt edge obviously made for funeralary purposes, one an iron girdle and a pair of miniature bronze tweezers as well as bronze fragments, and another the remains of an ivory comb which Akerman said had been burnt. The urns were often plain, sometimes decorated with necklines with stamps and long vertical bosses. The objects show that the cemetery was in use for a very long time.

1862 Akerman investigated, digging trenches NS. He discovered 10 graves in all, nearly all of women laid in various directions. One with head to the NW, one S and 2 W were without grave-goods; 2 with heads to the W, one direction unstated had knives. One young woman, head W, had 3 blue glass beads, 2 silver ‘ear-rings’ and the pins of a silver ‘union pin’ set; another, head S, had a small knife and a ‘union pin’ set on the breast; and an old woman, head S, had a knife and on the breast a ‘plated buckle’. The cemetery is of the VII.


1844 ‘At the western end of a passage in a Roman villa at Woolstone . . . close under White Horse Hill, was found a perfect skeleton, presumably of a man, an iron knife being the only object accompanying the burial; while at the E end of the same passage 2 other bodies were found, also within a foot or so of the surface.’ Another account mentions 2 ‘Saxon daggers’ found with a man more than 6’ tall, a woman and a boy and other burials; and yet another AS knife found with 2 women.


1960 ‘An AS spearhead of pagan type was found in association with a skeleton.’


1869-78 During gravel digging to the N of Wytham human remains were found in graves from 1’ to 11’ deep, cut into the gravel or even into the clay beneath it. The graves varied in size, one was only 3’ long, another 7’ 7” long, 4’ 10” wide, another 10’ long, 5’ 6” wide. The skeletons nearly all lay in a contracted position on the left or right, hands up to the face, and, with the exception of one triple interment, were alone in the grave. One burial was of a child aged 6. Rolleston described the skulls as ‘large, very like my glosobe RB type’.

In the graves along with the bodies were found ‘the bones of a pig, the split tusk of a boar, another split tusk with a hole worked through it in company with a worked flint.'