Beckford see Wo.


ante 1882 Outside the town of Stow-on-the-Wold ‘in the first quarry on the right on the Moreton Road’ was an AS burial with a spearhead called, the blade 12" long.
circa 1926 2 contracted burials of women were found ‘in pits on the W side of the Fosse Way, 3 n. M of Stow-on-the-Wold’. The associated objects were a bronze pin found near the shoulder of one skeleton, and an iron knife by the hand of the other. The pin is 2 1/4" long and its upper end is split into 2 spirals turned inwards; the type is more frequent in East Anglia.


1940-41 10 inhumation burials and 4 cremations were found on the edge of a group of round barrows and at the E end of a long barrow. The graves were rather less rectangular in shape; one had some large stones along the side and another marking the grave on the surface. The bodies, which were of all ages and both sexes, lay in various positions from extended to crouched. 2 graves of children and a disturbed one of an old woman were unburnt; another woman had an iron knife, the third a bronze brooch, a bone and a knife, and the fourth a knife and a number of beads—some in a heap at the neck—by the head. 3 men had spearheads; and the fourth 2 disc brooches and a Roman coin.

The inhumation burials were made inurns varying greatly in size and shape, one well carinated and plain, the others ornamented with necklines, pendant triangles and stamps.

One contained fragments of a square-headed brooch.


1847 A labourer levelling an extensive circular mound, 6' high, in a field called 'Chavenage Sleigh' near Ackenham Street and between Avening and Chavenage, found a skeleton 18" deep, apparently buried without care. Beneath it were quantities of large flagstones placed horizontally and under them, in the centre of the barrow, were ashes and burnt stones covering a large area. Arranged in a circle round about were 7 graves, formed of rough flagstones placed against each other to form a ridge, 3 or 4 to each side of the grave. One grave contained 2 skeletons side by side, the feet of one to the head of another; one skeleton had the right forearm raised up the side of the grave and resting against a spearhead. In some of the graves were found beads of different kinds, generally resembling AS beads, of clay, glass (variegated), amethyst and amber. Several contained iron spearheads 5' to 7' long, and there were 6 or 7 iron buckles, a knife, a shield-boss, 4 or 5 flat annular brooches, silvered or timmed, 2 silver 'ear-rings' (found in the same grave as a necklace of beads of silverwire beaten out flat in front (there are 3 of these altogether in the Ashmolean); a large bronze ring, a bronze pin on a piece of wire, 2 circular bronze brooches, and 2 saucer brooches, one thin, one massive.


1850 AS iron shield-bosses are illustrated among the Roman objects from Cirencester, and there was a Roman pavement in Oakley Park.

In 1909 the south part of a potsherd was found 'just above the central part of the body', an iron knife and the tang of a sword.

The BM has a disc brooch and a pair of tweezers. Dunning considers that there is a cemetery here.


circa 1830 About 40 skeletons were said to have been found in a field near the vicarage, and with them 'many pieces of old armour, coins and a sort of gold plate'.

1862 Stone pits were dug in the same field and 8 skeletons discovered. With them were 2 iron shield-bosses, some spearheads, a bronze ring 1½ diam., a bronze pin and a small ornamented strip of silver.

ante 1958 The Ashmolean Museum has a strip of stamped bronze from Ebrington.


1844-45 Dunning stone quarying in Tanner's field (variously called Waterdale) on the outskirts of Fairford, a quantity of human and some horse bones were found, and with them several spearheads, a dagger, an iron sword with bronze bound scabbard, 2 shield-bosses, beads of glass and amber, a saucer brooch, a smaller brooch, toilet instruments on a ring, 'an article like a rivet' and Roman coins, mostly of the Lower Empire.

1850-51 Further quarying led to the discovery of c. 130 further burials, c. 50 of which Wylie saw excavated. One skeleton lay 3 deep on the stone brash; he gives no information about the form of the other graves, except that they all contained fragments of Roman pottery and large stones redressed by fire. One only had stones set on edge to form a cist, and c. 2 had a quantity of charcoal near the head. The skeletons usually lay with heads S, a few SW (or SE?), one furnished with a bird brooch. E. Most lay supine, but several were flexed and on the side. Among the grave goods were accessory vessels, beads of glass and amber and some large single beads or whorls which were found by the hands of the skeletons and made of amber, Kimeridge shale or crystal, usually faceted. There were also saucer and applied brooches (running spiral and zoomorphic), square-headed, disc, ring, and small-long brooches, an ivory ring, a bronze bowl with triangular lugs, a long sword and other weapons, knives, shears, tweezers, buckets, 'ear-rings', and horse bones and trappings.

In one place it was 'an accumulation' of rich soil, c. 3' deep, in which were interspersed fragments of pot, bones, animals' teeth, etc. which had mostly undergone the action of fire. The only human remains were the ashes of an infant among the fragments of a very coarse earthen urn. The urn is illustrated, and appears to be an ordinary plain AS pot. The other remains were more probably in a RB rubbish pit, since nearby the ground had been further disturbed.

Later, '3 small vessels of thin common red ware, filled with burnt bones' were found near a small female skeleton.

Foxcote Manor, Withington. Inhumation burials. GI 35 NW, SP 012180. T. Bristol & Gl As, LVII (1936), 157-70.

1935-36 Excavations were made by Miss Donovan and G. C. Dunning in a meadow near Foxcote Brook, 600' OD. on the Inferior Oolite, 50' above the spring line, on a site with extensive eastward views. 3 pits, dug into the solid rock, were excavated; in the first were 2 skeletons, laid in a crouch position in the filling of loose stones, one was on a small shelf of rock near the bottom, the other higher up and lying against a large slab of rock, accompanied by a bone comb. Another skeleton with a bone comb was found in the second pit. The third was an IA rubbish pit.

The bone combs were mostly double-edged, with side plates ornamented by incised lines and fastened by iron rivets, and are probably VI or VII. A fragment of thin bronze strip, probably a strap-end, with punched dot, and inscribed ring and ornament was found in Pit I above the burials. It is also probably AS in date.

Hampnett see Burn Ground Gl.

Hidcote Bartrim. GI 8 NW. SP 175428. Museum: Stratford, New Place.
ante 1958 In the Stratford Museum there is an iron javelin head, c. 5' long, and with a split socket, a bronze needle with a flattened head (which must have been clumsy for sewing) and the sheath in which it was found.

1856 26 skeletons were discovered 6' deep, lying EW in a field c. 200 yards N of the railway station, overlooking the source of the Thames. Among the associated objects were shield-bosses, spearheads, a long hairpin of bronze, 'the bronze mounting of a hairpin', 3 gilt-bronze saucer brooches, the bases of 2 applied brooches, a disc brooch with ring and dot ornament, part of a bronze spoon, a bronze 'ear-ring', a flat bone bead and a small brass coin of Carausius.

The field to the S was trenched, but no more remains found.

Circa 1837 Many skeletons were discovered, with objects similar to those found in the other AS cemetery at Kemble, during stone digging on the right of the road leading to Kemblehamd.

1961 An AS bronze cauldron, average diam. at rim 8', internal depth 4', with triangular lugs, was found during construction work at the USAAF Fairford Base. It was said to be covering the face of a skeleton; and a fragment of cloth adheres to its side.

1844 Some workmen digging for gravel found a skeleton in the bank at the side of the high road to Bath. It was lying doubled up, c. 3' deep. On the skull, and fitting it tightly, were bronze bands, surmounted by a knob and probably the frame of a helmet. A length of chain was attached. A black tinge was traceable all round the earth in which the body lay.

Later, when more excavations took place nearby, towards the Birdlip road, part of a horse's bit with a ring 3½' diam., a spearhead and a curved implement, all of iron, were discovered. There were also fragments of urns, some of which appeared to have small handles (pierced lugs). The ware was a deep glossy black and some pieces were judged to be of fine quality.

NB. Albert Way says 'several urns were disinterred...of the black pottery showing the peculiar scored and impressed ornament which characterizes the fictile ware of the Saxon Age' but gives no source for his statement.

ante 1847 Another human skeleton of ordinary stature' was found buried in clay. The earth around the skull was full of iron studs, as though it had been protected by a cap covered with them.
3 coins of Constantine and red pottery were found in the immediate vicinity.

1787 In enclosing the parish of Oddington a small barrow, formed of layers of large flat stones thinly interspersed with earth, was levelled. About ground level, and very shallow in the mound, were found many human bones 'lying in regular order of interment'—but whether there were 6 or 10 skeletons is doubtful. Some of the bones were smaller than the rest and were thought to be a woman's. A quantity of ashes (no doubt the primary interment) was found at the bottom 'with several remains of personal ornament and habiliments of war'. Illustrated are an iron disc 3' diam., a shield-boss with silvered rivet heads, 2 bronze pins, 2 spearheads, stone glass and amber beads, a disc brooch with incised circles and a saucer brooch with zoomorphic ornament.

Ready Token. Poulton. Inhumation burials. GI 52 NW. SP 103045. E. T. Leeds, note (28 iii 1931) in OS records. Museums: Gloucester City (shield-boss); British Museum (Natural History) Oxford Collection; New Mexico University (skeletal material).

ante 1931 Skeletal of doubtful age were found here; and an AS shield-boss was discovered by E. T. Leeds.

The Oxford collection contained an adult male skeleton, the bones of which were mingled in the grave with those of adult female. They were sent to the University of New Mexico.

Salmonsbury, Bourton-on-the-Water. Inhumation cemetery. GI 29 SW. SP 177204. O. G. S. Crawford, note in OS records.
1850 7 skeletons were found just outside the camp at Salmonsbury c. 50 yards N of the SE angle.

‘Other discoveries prove the existence of a cemetery including (1931) a skeleton seen by Dunning and myself and Miss Donovan.’ (Crawford).

Stow-on-the-Wold see Broadwell GI.


1874 The remains of 3 bodies were discovered close beneath the surface of the long barrow, Pole's Wood South. One was of a woman c. 30 years old, buried with 2 bronze buckles, an iron knife and perhaps a stone spindle-whorl found nearby but 4' deep. 'The other bodies were those of an old man and an infant, both of which Dr Rolleston thinks had been disturbed and replaced when the body of the woman was interred.'
HAMPSHIRE WITH THE ISLE OF WIGHT


1948: "Human bones were found during the making of a cricket pitch on a hill-side at Tichborne Down House, Alresford. With them was a Saxon bone comb, and it appears that a burial of this period was made in the filling of an IA pit."


1959: "2 graves of an AS cemetery were excavated and 4 others are known to have existed. The contents of the 2 graves comprised 2 shield-bases, 2 shield grips, 2 swords, 4 spearheads, spear ferrules, a knife, a bronze strap-plate, a pair of tweezers, 2 green glass beads, a bronze brooch wooden bucket and a Roman jar."

1960 Miss V. I. Evison carried out excavations for the Ministry of Works. 14 inhumation and 29 cremation graves were discovered. Among the objects found were plain and decorated urns, knives, buckles, pins, coins and keys.


1815 T. Cooke of Newport opened a barrow composed of 'vegetable earth mixed with a few flints' at Arreton Down. The workmen found first on the E side of the skeleton of a man c. 6 ' tall lying 2' deep, head to the W, with an iron 9 years old, with a circular bronze buckle and a knife of different sizes, the head of a spear, a small bone comb, an iron buckle and 2 were from NW to SW. Several teeth of horses and boars' tusks were found around.

In a nearby barrow were part of an iron axe, a pair of tweezers, a spearhead and 3 urns of coarse pottery, containing calcined bones which fell to pieces. (These urns may have been either BA or AS; there is no means of telling.)


1815 3 skeletons were found 12" below the surface of Bevis's Grave Long Barrow; a broken spear was lying by their side.

Booscombe Chine. Isolated find. Ha Area SZ 175912. Arch, XVI (1812), 363, pl. III, fig. 4.

1807 G. Tappes exhibited a Captive bowl with openwork foot (handles missing) 'found near the surface of a piece of sandy barren ground on the sea shore c. 3 m. SW of Christchurch', i.e. at or near Booscombe Chine.

The bowl may have come from a grave destroyed by cliff erosion, or perhaps be connected with trade from Kent, e.g. from a wrecked ship. It is no longer extant.


1938 An AS urn with a cremation was found at Iford Bridge.


1854 Hillier excavated 11 small graves near a much larger BA barrow on Bowcombe Down. They contained inhumation and cremation burials of peculiar character. The 2 skeletons still remaining were laid in graves c. 2' deep, and both were headless. One was NE-SW and had a piece of limestone beneath the back, and a bronze tag and an enamelled hare-shaped ornament, both late Roman. Only a few fragments of pottery were associated with the other skeleton. 2 other barrows had probably covered inhumation burials, but because of the character of the soil little remained, only a few bones, pot fragments and beads. 4 cremated burials were in urns; 2 succeeded by compact masses of flint and brick earth. 2 by quantities of wood-ash which made Hillier suppose that the urns had been baked after they were filled with calcined bones. Another cremation, without an urn, was accompanied by a 'dagger' and a coin of Constantine. Beneath one barrow was only a small cist formed of 5 stones, covered by another 15" long and 9" wide. A pile of clay, which Hillier thought may have been brought from Shide, near Newport, was near one of the barrows.

2 urns are illustrated by Hillier, and are in Carisbrooke Castle. They are definitely AS; one narrow necked, probably late, ornamented with grooved lines (cf. that from Eynsnohry Congyee Hu in Cambridge Museum). The other is plain, globular and of poor ware.

1858 The SE side of a large barrow, 62' diameter, 5'6" high—not excavated before because it appeared disturbed—was levelled in preparing the IOW races. An iron sword with a wooden scabbard with bronze fittings, 2 iron spear-heads, a bronze buckle, an iron knife and a bronze clasp were recovered from graves containing 3 or more skeletons. Further excavations uncovered c. 12 more AS secondary inhumation burials in the mound. All these contained grave goods, including a bronze vessel, ornaments, knives, weapons, beads, etc. In most of the graves there were pot fragments and pieces of oxidised iron ('from coffins'. The graves seem to have been orientated with heads either to the NW or SW; one crouch burial was to the N.

It is probably impossible to establish now whether there was one site or 2 on Bowcombe Down.


1875 A knife, spearhead and shield-boss were found on Roake Farm with a well-preserved skeleton. The left ribs are stained green, probably from the bronze shield studs. The skeleton was evidently in a chalk-cut grave 2' deep on the slope of Broughton Hill, c. 100 yards from 2 large barrows. The grave was orientated NS, and there was a line of dark grey matter around the skeleton, which the excavator thought might be the decayed remains of clothing.


1959 An inhumation burial with an iron scaramasca was found in the gravel pits by the river, NE of Moth's Farm.


ante 1816 Dennett was told that human skeletons were frequently found during marridigging on Chessell Down (Cheshulhe, 1280; i.e. Old English cist 'coffin' + hill); they lay side by side. Some years before 1816 a skeleton had been found with an iron sword and a 'brass helmet on the head'. One or 2 'brass kettles' were also said to have been found; and a ribbed and fluted glass vase in the lower grounds at the foot of the hill. Dennett investigated and found a skeleton in a grave 18" wide, with a cone beaker of thin glass, a gilt bronze brooch and a spiral ring of white metal. He later opened c. 30 graves, laid EW and at a nearly uniform distance from each other. He found that iron swords, spearheads, knives (usually on the left hip), iron and bronze rings, bronze buckles, circular, bird and semi-circular-headed brooches, beads of glass, clay and amber, tweezers, ornaments of various kinds in bronze and bone and accessory urns (some with shoulder bosses, one with incised horizontal and diagonal lines). 1818 Skinner dug further graves on Chessell Down, and found with the skeletons 'circular clasps, brooches, beads, rings, iron knives, brass sword buckles, vessels of brown pottery and glass.'
Hampshire with the Isle of Wight


Compton see Oliver’s Battery Hu.


1900 Human bones, in some cases covered with big flints, were found on the top of the hill above Droxford Church during the construction of the railway. With them were associated AS spearheads and pieces of corroded iron including part of the boss and breast of an AS shield.

1901 Further burials were discovered, unfortunately close to the surface and embedded in the clay-with-flints capping the chalk, so that bones etc. were badly decayed. The area of the cemetery seemed confined to the top of the hill, and the railway cut through a 100 yards of it from N to S, apparently near the middle. There was no indication of tumuli, but big flints were put over some of the graves, which were numerous and close together. Some of the bodies lay EW, but others probably NS. With many burials there were no associated objects, with some only a knife or spearhead. Among the finds were 6 swords, several shield-bosses, 30-40 spearheads, many heads of glass, amber, ferracotta etc. (found only one or two at a time and never in such numbers as to form a necklace), chalcedonies, tweezers, spindles-whorls of Kimmeridge Shale and ‘many other things of feminine use’, some bronze-bound buckets, Roman coins (2 pierced for suspension) and 4 horse trappings. Pottery was not common, but Dale collected some broken fragments, a small perfect cup of black ware and part of a tumbler of brown glass. The brooches recovered were a button brooch, a saucer brooch with a running spiral, a small squaredehed and a Roman cross-bow brooch; there was also a semi-circular bronze-gilt pendant ornament.

After the main cutting was completed, a little private digging was done; the finds, including 2 saucer brooches, the foot of a radiate brooch and a bronze-mounted bucket, went to Winchester Museum.

Farreham I. Cremation burials. Ha Area SU 575065. PP Ha AS (1964). Museum: Portsmouth, Cumberland House (on loan from Price’s School, Farreham). ante 1900. Two VI cremation urns with stamped decoration were found near the N Turnpike Road.


The site is on the E side of the river, c. ½ m. from Farreham I.

1896 A spearhead found in this year is in Winchester Museum.

1926 Further finds were made after a fall in the old chalk pit; they included skeletons, a spearhead, and an ‘iron tyre’ (?a bucket hoop), and horse shoes.

1937 Williams Freeman noticed bones in a rabbit scrape.


Farley Chamberlayne. Infumation burial. Ha 40 SW. SU 403286. F. Lyall, (Winchester

ante 1845 'Numerous ancient remains have been found at Weston Farm, at that part of the parish of Micheledever where the railway traverses the valley, in which the village of Stoke Charity is situated, and at the same spot in which so many other objects of interest were discovered during the formation of the railway. It was there that the fibula and 3 glass beads were found... It was there also that the swords, spearheads, knives and bosses of shields sent for exhibition to the meeting at Salisbury were found. In the same spot were found many other pieces of armour and helmets, which I have been unable to trace; besides numerous skeletons, urns, beads and other objects.' (Gunner)

1853 Winchester Museum had 3 shield-bosses, 2 swords, 2 knives and 3 spearheads, now lost.

1854 G. J. Chester gave to the BM a pair of bronze tweezers, 2 beads, a silver wire ring and an iron spearhead, found 'near the Weston railway arch.'

Fragments of a clawbreaker now in Saffron Walden Museum are also believed to come from Micheledever.

Most of the finds appear to have been dispersed.

Newburn Down, IOW. Doubtful. Ha 94 SE. SZ 4385. TBAAB (Winchester, 1845) p. 159. circa 1838 'Mr Bull, a renter of lands, broke up the piece of ground between the rows of pits... and found buried there a great many broken swords, spears and other weapons. As many were found, it would nearly have filled the bed of a cart; and that, at the small depth penetrated by the ploughshare.'


ante 1848 An AS pot and bones were found in digging gravel. It is possible that this is the site of Boniface's monastery.


1913 During excavations to ascertain the date of Oliver's Battery an inhumation burial was found in the NE corner of the vaultum, the most prominent part of the earthworks when seen from the valley below, and with the appearance of a barrow. The grave was 6'4" long and dug into the vaultum, orientated almost due N, and not NE which would have given greater visibility. The skeleton was of a man 25-30 years old, 5'8" tall, laid supine, but with the feet upright and 1' apart. The arms rested around a bronze bowl which had been placed on the chest; a javelin head lay on the right thigh, with its point at the knee, and a scaramus was at the left hip. The bowl, which contained only chalk, is of thin bronze, 1 diam., 5' deep, with 3 enamelled escutcheons, one of which was loose at the time of burial, and a print. It is one of the finest bowls known.


1948 and 1956 During road-widening on the brow of Portsmouth Hill, some AS burials were discovered; workmen recovered skeletal remains representing at least 3 adult males and one female.

A. Corney and G. K. Cocker excavated 17 AS graves, a Middle BA cremation (Wessex culture) and an Early IA pot which was probably the remains of a burial. The AS burials were possibly secondary in the BA barrow, since the graves were roughly rectangular with rounded corners, and in general were no larger than was necessary to accommodate the body. They were 2'-2'6" deep into the chalk, which was overlaid by 10'-12" of topsoil. All were orientated to within a few degrees of EW, heads to the W. Some attempt at an EW alignment was noticeable with some of the graves, but no other sign of an ordered arrangement was seen, although 3 graves which were close together were apparently associated and contained children.

3 graves had a flint or flints set into the foot; one had flints set into the side. Most of the bodies had been laid on their backs, with legs and arms straight but in 2 graves the knees had been tightly flexed, and in some the arms were bent. In 2 graves earlier burials had been disturbed; in one the bones of a woman were found scattered in the filling above a man's skeleton; in the other, 8' long and 2' wide, the bones of 2 men were pushed to the side to accommodate a third.

Only 3 graves contained goods; one had an iron knife 'near the left hand,' another an iron buckle, and in the third (7'6" long, 3' wide, 1 deep into the chalk) was a box, made of a circular piece of metal with a segment cut out, a grip and 2 iron rivets from a shield found over the top of the left tibia; and in the upper part of the grave, which had been disturbed, 2 small iron nails or pins. The cemetery is a late one, perhaps dating from the VII.

Portsmouth II. Inhumation cemetery, secondary in barrow. Ha 60 NW. SU 567608. W. Butler, Hundred of Bosmere (1817). PP Ha AS, XII (1933), 207; XIV (1938), 16, 206. (None consulted)

ante 1817 Twelve skeletons were found in and on both sides of a long barrow at the cross roads by the 'George'. Some were laid on the surface of the barrow; some were in graves. They may be AS secondaries.


1870 The wheel of a cart sank into a hollow place in a lane directly S of Wind Farm on the manor of Presraw. When it was extracted a grave was found, containing a human skeleton with a gold chain around its neck, from which hung a gold bracteate with an interface pattern and a little pendant consisting of a capsule of gold containing a domed garnet with a ribbed surface.


ante 1893 An AS spearhead with split socket was found in a barrow in Long Barrow Field on the S of Preston Candover, and no doubt came from a secondary AS barrow.

ante 1893 An iron scaramus was also found in the field, practically at the edge of the barrow.

Shalcombe Down, Brook, IOW. Mixed burials, secondary in barrows. Ha 94 SW.
1947 Road improvement at the corner disturbed human skeletons; 33 AS, 6 RB, 3 IA and 1 BA (in the mound) burials were excavated.

The AS graves were in a group SSW of the barrow, 2' 8" deep on an average (2') into the gravel. With one exception all the bodies were lying with heads to the SE and feet towards the barrow. Identification was not always possible, but 13 burials were male, 7 female, and 3 children, unsexed. 18 burials were supine, 3 with legs crossed; 3 had the legs flexed; and one, an old woman with head to the N, was fully crouched. The neck of another woman had a marked backward bend as if it had been broken. One man had a neat hole in the forehead, inflicted before death: his left lower leg had been broken, and was 1' shorter than the right. His burial had disturbed an earlier IA grave; 2 of the teeth were in his hand, and part of the skull over the body. None of the burials were secondary in the barrow, although all pointed to it, so that it may have had some sanctity. Very few of the graves were without any grave goods, but the cemetery was a poor one. One woman was buried with 2 knives, a steel, a bronze buckle with fragments of a chain and another buckle with a bead; otherwise ornaments were few; there were no brooches and no silver. 2 tags, like modern brooches, were on one skeleton half-way between knee and ankle; there were besides iron and bronze buckles, beads, bronze bracelets and rings of twisted wire (apparently not finger-rings); 20 iron tools, a spatula, three steel points, 2 shield-bosses, and 5 spears, one of which may have been broken before burial since the ferrule—the only one found—was on the opposite side of the body to the spearhead. There were 2 pottery accessory vessels, one of a type found elsewhere only in Sussex. It seems likely that this is a late cemetery, with South Saxon affinities.


1818 An AS burial (or burials) was found with a sword, 3 beads and spearhead near the roadside leading from Chessel in the direction of Newton.

1933 A skeleton, head to WSW, was said to have been found in a grave 18" deep, above a quarry.


1909 A hollow bone cylinder with ring and dot ornament was found with extended human skeleton at depth of 5', portions of other skeletons and horses' teeth at Shipton Bellinger—information from Dr J. P. Williams Freeman, who presented the cylinder to Winchester Museum.


A flat mound (called by Grinsell a platform barrow) stood just N of the cross-roads on the A3 at Snell's Corner, 14 m. N of Horndean on one of the spurs of Horndean Down.


1855 'Some years ago' before, in laying out part of an estate in St Mary's parish (Grove Street), a great number of human bones, 9 or 10 bronze keys and 'several metal pins with ornamented heads; of base metal the colour of gold' were found. It cannot be certain to what period these graves belong; they are probably late Saxon or early medieval; but in one was a palm cup of green glass, found lying over the face of a skeleton, and this at any rate must have been of the pagan or early Christian AS period.


1948 A scaramas can be found by M. Philimore during building excavations.


1921 A grave was found 1½ deep on the edge of Chalk Dell. The skeleton is said to have been lying on its back, head to the W. With it was an iron spearhead with a split socket.


1904 An AS intrusive burial was found 6 deep in the SW part of an ovoid cairn, during the digging of foundations for a row of cottages. The skeleton was that of an old man lying NE-SW. Found with it were the broken remains of 6 or more small pots, one c. 6" diam. The pot was described as rude enough to be earlier than RB; the amount of skill in making it varied. A few animal bones, teeth and sea shells were also found.


1939 An inhumation burial with AS spearhead and knife was found at Bradley's Farm S of the main road at Middle Wallop.


1870 An iron spearhead with a split socket was found at Nethe Wallop.

1931 The exact site of the disturbed and excavation undertaken in hope that there might be an AS cemetery, but nothing was found except some shallow flat bottomed pits containing 'medieval pottery'—so possibly the spearhead was also medieval.


1918 When a long barrow on Twyne Farm was ploughed, an AS sword, possibly from a secondary AS burial, was found.


1845 'A cup and patten found in a grave at St Giles's Hill' were exhibited.

1884 A skeleton was discovered 'with a dagger and a large knife' in the grounds of a house erected by a Mr Buckingham on St Giles's Hill (Hampshire Chronicle, 1-iii-1884).

1894 The Hampshire Chronicle (7-vr-1894) mentions a Saxon sword. Other objects with the date 1894 in Winchester Museum are 6 iron knives, a pair of iron tongs, shield rivets and a fragment of an iron ring.

1905 The Daily Graphic (11-iv-1905) carried a photograph of one skeleton in situ at High House, and mentions 2 spearheads, a 'dagger', an iron ferrule and a twisted silver ring. The spearheads, ferrule and ring are in Winchester Museum, as also are bronze fragments—shield attachments etc.—labelled 'found with skeleton, St Giles's Hill, 1905'.

1911 Mrs Hooley presented the Museum with a key and knife.

1944 A spearhead and probably also a knife from Palm Hill Garden were presented.

Also from the site in the Museum are a sword 'Found at the site of a skeleton' presented by Alderman Jacob ('That found 1894'), a bronze sword pommel, beads (1 amber, 2 glass, 1 yellow and blue glass), 2 shield-bosses and an iron buckle.


1852 A spearhead, found in the grounds of Uplands House, Romsey Road, opposite the priory, was presented by Mrs F. Hill to Winchester Museum.

1949 A skeleton was discovered c. 2' deep, partly beneath a building in the grounds of Uplands House. It was lying with head to the N. From fragments of the skull recovered
and seen by F. Cottrill it appears to have been male.


1884 The Hampshire Chronicle (19–i–1884) stated that the site was discovered during the excavation of the railway cutting 'in a field close to Easton Lane'. One shield-boss, with 'parts of a floriated metal ornament' was recovered from a grave containing 2 skeletons. Further graves had been found earlier, but no details are given.

The Hampshire Chronicle (16–viii–1884) speaks of later discoveries during railway workings. 'A valuable Saxon shield was dug up by one of the navvies and sold by him for the modest sum of 5/–.'

No sections of graves are to be seen at present in the railway cutting.


1955–56 During the levelling of land for a workshop on the Winnall Industrial Estate 6 or 7 skeletons were found laid in chalk-cut graves, heads to the W. In one grave was a knife, in another a small iron object. A child's grave, dug out by a workman in his lunch hour, contained a small circular pendant set with garnets, beads, a small tube of bronze, and a single-sided bone comb. A fourth grave contained a bronze pin, and fragments of glass and bronze.

1957–58 Miss A. L. Savill excavated the site for the Ministry of Works. 36 further graves were found, all cut c. 2' deep into the chalk, most with squared corners but some very roughly shaped. The skeletons had not been laid out, and were variously placed in the graves. There were only 2 double burials, on one a small child was laid on a kind of shelf at the side of an adult's feet, in the other were 2 children on whose heads were placed 4 or 5 very large flints. The neighbouring grave had many flints lying directly on top of the skeleton. One skeleton was completely headless. There appeared to be no order in the placings of graves, but there were some definite groupings, usually of 2 adults and 2 or 3 children, which may be of families. The skeletons were of all ages and both sexes. The cemetery was not rich; c. 50% of the graves had iron knives; and a few in the centre (near the area previously disturbed) something more. One grave contained 2 small bronze penannular brooches, 2 silver union pins and chain, and a knife. Another had a comb, a knife and a bone spindle-whorl; and a third 2 rings of twisted silver wire, a bronze tag, an iron key and other fragments in disorder, probably disturbed by later ploughing. In another grave was a cast gilt-bronze disc (possibly a brooch with the pin sawn off), 2 1/2 dia., with a central boss surrounded by silver and set with a garnet, 4 subsidiary bosses, a four-pointed star of garnets, and zoomorphic ornamentation (approaching style II) consisting of confronted stylized birds alternately with serpents in a figure-of-eight knot between the points of the star.

The cemetery is dated by the associated finds to the VII.


1911 A 'Jewish' brooch (said to resemble brooches from the IOW and Harnham Hill Wi) and a bracelet, both of bronze, were found in a rabbit scrape on a lynchet of the prehistoric fields of Woolbury Ring.

1932 An attempt to locate a burial at this spot failed.


1944 The military disclosed some graves of an AS cemetery at Worthy Park. The MS. list in Winchester Museum records that a sword, shield-boss, buckle and counterplate were found in one grave; 2 knives, a 'hunting knife' and a 'lanechead' in the second; a spearhead 'reported to be point downwards in the ground' in the third; and a late Roman beaker in the fourth, which was probably of a woman. The Museum has all these objects, as well as 2 additional shield-bosses, one with copper rivets, and fragments of bones from the first 2 graves.

1962 Mrs S. Hawkes excavated the site for the MOW, and found c. 40 cremation burials in urns, some accompanied by miniature grave goods, dating from late V to VI; and c. 95 inhumation graves, dating from c. 500 to c. 600.

The cemetery is now worked out, apart from a few graves beneath trees. The cemetery was a poor one; there were many weapons but a marked absence of saucer brooches.
Hertfordshire


ante 1923. The Cambridge Museum (Ransom Collection) has 2 necklaces of blue glass beads, earthenware, amber and 'pearl' beads and a brooch said to be from a cemetery near Ashwell. Fox says that brooches were found on a site near the station.

Dane's Field, Pirton. Inhumation burials. Het 6 SE. TL 138311. T Het NHS, IV (1888), 40. circa 1841. In Dane's Field near Pegsdon Common was found 'a large number of human skeletons, and also those of horses, with several fragments of iron and bronze.' The site is near the Bt-Het border but appears to be altogether on the Het side in Pirton.

See also Pegsdon Common, Shillington Bd.

Five Hills Long Barrows see Thetford Heath Het.

Furneux Pelham. Inhumation burials. Het 14 SE. TL 440269. Transactions of the East Het Archaeological Society, X (1939), 323. 1939. A skeleton, extended roughly NS, was discovered with an iron knife in Hand Cross Field, on the gently rising E slope of the Ash valley, on a gravel pit site where RB remains had previously been found. The skeleton is that of a middle-aged man, c. 50 years old, with bad teeth and rickets in his backbone but strong and sturdy. 3 more iron knives and a spearhead were found in the same gravel pit.


1916. Workmen found an AS hanging-bowl in a gravel pit, at or near Hitchin. They pulled it to pieces, but 2 enamelled discs of tin, bronze, and a sword were saved and purchased by the Victoria and Albert Museum. The bowl contained beech nuts. The discs have red and yellow enamel and trumpet spiral ornament.

Ippollits, Pound Farm. Inhumation burial. Het 12 NW. TL 192274. G. E. Evans, letter (22-ix-1958), to A. L. Savill. Museum: Hitchin. 1952. An AS single burial was disturbed during the construction of a house (? Pound Farm), and dug out by the architect. It was probably not articulated or composed in any way, but the excavation itself was so haphazard that the report may be inaccurate. With it were a scapula, a belt buckle and tag, and a knife, of VII or VIII.

There are tales of other isolated burials found in the near vicinity within memory, but no real evidence.


1913. A woman's burial (the bones having disappeared) was discovered 6' under the surface between Breachwood Green and Darley Hill. There were a pair of bronze small-long brooches rather like cruciform brooches, another with a trefoil shaped head engraved with a swastika, the remains of an applied brooch with a border of stamped ring and dot pattern, a pair of girdle-hangers, a pair of bronze tewzers and a few curved fragments of metal perhaps from a drinking cup.

There was also an urn fragment, of coarse brown ware with 3 shoulder bosses separated by incised vertical lines. R. A. Smith thought that a cremation burial had been disturbed.

Pound Farm see Ippollits Het.


1178. In Roger of Wendover's Chronicle there is a tale that St Alban appeared to a man in a vision and took him to the mounds called the Hills of the Banners, so named because there used to be 'assemblies of the faithful around them when they made a yearly solemn procession to the church of St Albans.' St Alban told him that one of the mounds contained the bones of St Amphibalus. Next day he related his vision, and the monks excavated and discovered burials.

'The Holy Martyr Amphibalus was lying between 2 of his companions, whilst a third was found lying crosswise in a place by itself. They also found near the place 6 others of the martyrs, making, with St Amphibalus, 10 in all. Among other reliques of this champion of Christ were found 2 large knives, one in his skull and the other near his breast, confirming the account which was handed down from ancient times in the book of his martyrdom. For, according to that book, Amphibalus himself was first embowelled, then pierced with lances and knives and finally stoned to death, for which cause, also, none of his bones were found entire, though in all the corpses of his companions not a bone was broken.'

T. Wright considered these to be pagan AS burials since he believes the account of the excavation is too vivid to be fictitious; with a spearhead by the skull and a knife by the breast in normal AS fashion.

A very large spearhead from Redbourne was given by the Churchwardens to the St Albans Museum.

Royston Heath see Thetford Heath Het.


1885. 'In a field near Sandridge the remains have been found of a supposed AS burial ground. A large number of human bones have been found, together with iron implements, which are said by local antiquaries to be of Saxon origin. Unfortunately, the greater part of the remains, which were discovered by a ploughman, were buried after being shown to a gentleman, who pronounced them "only old bones."'


1845. An AS secondary burial was found by Nunn while excavating the Therfield Heath Long Barrow. Phillips re-excavated in 1935 and found a spearhead in a corner of the grave unexcavated by Nunn.

1858. A secondary interment was discovered on one of the Five Hills Long Barrows; Brown dated a buckle found with it to the Vth. It has a heavy bow with floral scroll and animal-head terminals.


1887. A peculiar cast bronze 'kettle' with a thin handle, short curved spout, hinged pyramidal lid and 3 legs was found with a glass bowl-shaped cup, some 'rings' of bronze which C. H. Read thought might have been the mounts of a bucket, and several human skulls, described as male, and other bones. The Rhine district furnishes the only parallels to this kettle, and the grave is certainly a late one.
HUNTINGDONSHIRE


1816 A red urn was found at Eynesbury Congeyre, a waste area worked as a gravel pit beside the Ouse. The pot was hand-made and is now in the Cambridge Museum. It is of smooth well-baked red ware, decorated with punctured dots and lines, and in shape it resembles the Kentish wheel-made accessory vessels (cf. also Bowercombe Down IOW Ha). Its measurements are 8" in height, 7" diam., and 2½" diam. at the mouth. R. A. Smith thought it Anglian, c. a.d. 500.

ante 1820 Other urns, of inferior workmanship to Roman urns nearby, were said to have been found on Eynesbury Congeyre; Gorham thought they were probably sepulchral, although there was no proof that they had contained bones.

The St Ives Museum has 'rings' from here.


circa 1868 Babington exhibited some iron and bronze AS ornaments which were found near Houghton with a skeleton lying face down and doubled up, c. 1½' deep. They were presented to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society by the finder, Mr Brown. The objects are not now identifiable and this is the only evidence of the site.


1961 3 schoolboys, later joined by C. F. Tebbutt, found at 196629, in a mudbank formed from topsoil removed in gravel-digging excavations and dumped, a plain AS pot filled with cremated bones among which were 2 applied brooches with zoomorphic ornament, fairly early of their type. Fragments of another nearly complete urn, ornamented with bosses, incised lines and stamps, were found beneath the first. Elsewhere in the mudbank were found sherds of another urn with similar decoration but only one cruciform stamp, and a single shed also with a cruciform stamp.

The original site must have been to the N of the find spot, and the burials must have been shallow, since the missing rims of the pots show old breaks as if damaged by ploughing. From the small number of urns represented, the cemetery must have been a very small one.

Later in the year a skeleton was found lying EW, supine and extended, with a small iron knife beneath the right upper arm, at 193628.


1886 2 small-long brooches, almost a pair, were found with iron objects and an urn 9½ high which contained imperfectly calcined human bones, during the construction of Avenue Road. The urn is illustrated in VCH and is of ordinary plain AS type; the brooches appear unaffected by cremation and are probably from an inhumation burial. They were dated by R. A. Smith to VI, but he considered the cremation might be earlier.


ante 1820 'A few years since' urns very like that from Eynesbury Congeyre were found in a field belonging to Gorham on the E of Huntingdon Street. They were hand-made, unbaked and unornamented. The mouth of each urn was covered by a tile; it was not noticed whether bones or ashes were enclosed. Skeletons were dug up in the immediate neighbourhood, so that it was more probably an inhumation than a cremation cemetery. Fox knew of no grave furniture of the period from St Neots or the neighbourhood.


1939–40 On the site of Boats, on the N side of St Neots' Market Square, 7 burials were found, of both sexes, all oriented EW. Numbers of medieval pits had been dug all over the site, but some which were obviously older than the burials contained nothing datable. A pit with coins of Edward III and Richard II had disturbed one of the burials. The site must have been just outside the wall of the Priory.

St Neots see also Eaton Socon Rd.


1736 'This urn with the Bones, Annulets, Broken Comb and Scissors contained in it was dug up in Hurst Field in the year 1736 and given to the College [St John's] by Thos. Hammond Esq. of Somersham Place.' The urn is an AS cinerary urn of reddish black ware, with a variety of bosses and a rope-like cord round the neck, of very early type and akin to the pots of Schleswig and Hanover.


ante 1828 Attis illustrated one square-headed and 5 cruciform brooches and the remains of 2 wrist clasps, found with human skeletons in a field on the N side of the road between Orton Longueville and Woodstone. These brooches are dated by R. A. Smith from early to late VI.

ante 1898 'Some years after 1828' a saucer brooch, 2 round brooches and 'other articles' were found on the same site.

Later, some urns and other articles were dug up. T. J. Walker recorded that he himself had excavated part of a skeleton here, but his account does not otherwise distinguish between the finds made on this and on the other site near Woodstone, Peterborough I Nh. A resumé of it will be found thereunder.

1911 G. Wyman Abbot trenched from the limit of the gravel digging for c. 5 yds., without reaching the edge of the cemetery except on the N and E. It was situated on the S face of the cornbrash ridge which here flanks the S side of the Nene valley. The ground was a reddish-brown topsoil mixed with gravel, varying in depth from 14" to 26". The burials were usually made where the topsoil was thinnest. A small excavation was made into the gravel to receive the bodies, but the heads and feet were slightly raised and rested on the surface of the gravel. Some of the graves were lined with cornbrash slabs. The burials were generally orientated with heads from N to W, but one had the head to the S, 9 of the 14 inhumation graves excavated were without grave goods, including 2 of the 3 children's graves, and from the rest only beads, buckles, knives, keys, an ivory ring and a Roman finger-ring were recovered, insufficient to date the cemetery precisely.

3 half-burial burials, consisting of trenches containing remains of burnt bones, sometimes in situ, without grave goods, were also found.

See also Peterborough I Nh.