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Reports on Roman Remains, Gloucestershire

by H. E. O'Neil
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REPORTS ON ROMAN REMAINS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by HELEN E. DONOVAN (Mrs B. H. St. J. O'Neil)

THE discovery of Romano-British burials at Hinchwick, Lower Slaughter and Compton Abdale occurred during 1937 and 1938. In the case of the burial at Hinchwick, Dr G. R. Malkin and I were consulted after the skeleton had been removed, but the site of the grave was still intact, with some undisturbed filling which contained the bones of the left hand and some iron nails remaining on the floor.

I am indebted to Mr R. Pilkington of Hinchwick House, Mr Bray, Manager of the George Young Gravel Pit, Stow on the Wold, and Miss P. Brook of Compton Abdale, respectively for their kind permission to excavate and investigate the burials.

The Hinchwick and Compton Abdale skeletons have been presented to the Royal College of Surgeons and I am indebted to the Assistant Conservator, Dr A. J. E. Cave, for his reports. The stones forming the grave, the skeleton from Lower Slaughter, and the bronze pin from Hinchwick have been presented to the Cheltenham Museum.

I am also indebted to Mr G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., for advice and the drawings of the graves and pottery, and to my husband, Mr B. H. St. J. O'Neil, F.S.A., for help and the identification of the coins in connexion with the site at Lower Slaughter.

I. HINCHWICK (PLATES I-II)

In September 1937 two gardeners working in Lodge Ground Quarry, 300 yards west of Hinchwick House,¹

¹ 16 inch O.S. Gloucestershire, XXI NE.

in the parish of Condicote, found a skeleton buried in a rough grave 3 feet below the surface of the ground. The grave was filled with dark earth and loose stones, and had been dug into the solid rock to a depth of 18 inches. The skeleton lay on the flat surface of a slab of rock (Chipping Norton limestone) which is here bedded horizontally. (PLATE I).

The grave was 4 feet long, and along the intact (west) side an edging of stones about 10 inches high was set in an upright position, the other side of the grave having been destroyed before the discovery became known.

An iron hinge was found near the surface and considered to be of no importance and therefore thrown away, but later a similar hinge was found with the bones of the skeleton. There were numerous iron nails, some with fragments of wood adhering, along the inner side of the stone edging. It is clear from the gardeners' statements that the skeleton lay in a crouched position and not extended, as is indeed shown by the small size of the grave. In clearing the soil which remained on the floor of the grave, the bones of the left arm and hand were found near the feet, thus confirming this position. The head was to the northeast, the feet to southwest, and the burial faced southeast.

A bronze pin was found on a ledge of rock on the quarry face, immediately below the position of the grave, where it had evidently fallen from the filling of the grave as this was being thrown to the bottom of the quarry.

Three sherds of coarse Roman pottery were found in the debris from the grave ; these cannot be dated closely, but are probably not earlier than the second century or later than the third.

The burial is remarkable in several respects. The crouched position carries on a native tradition that is well illustrated locally by several Iron Age burials at Salmonsbury, Bourton on the Water. This example of native customs is evident also in the manner of burial.

Instead of the more formal stone coffin or cist of large slabs, the grave was merely surrounded by a line of small upright stones, and it is clear that no cover-stone was present. The body was enclosed in a wooden box or chest made of planks about 1 inch thick, held together by iron nails and provided with a lid on iron hinges.² About 15 nails remain, 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long with flat round heads of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch diameter; the hinges consist of two long staples with the ends bent back. (PLATE II).

The bronze pin (FIG. 1) is 3.9 inches long. It has a large moulded head with a deep groove dividing it into unequal parts. There are bands of incised sloping lines

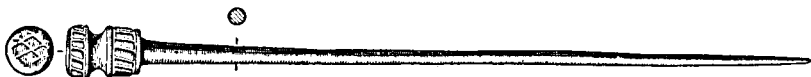


Fig. 1. Bronze pin †

round the head, and lattice pattern on the flat top. A dated analogy for this pin has not been found; there is, however, a similar pin with a more elaborate head, from Miles Lane, London, in the London Museum.³

From Dr Cave's report on the bones it will be seen that the skeleton is that of a young man of vigorous build, aged 19 and about 5 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. The skull is dolichocephalic. The evidence shows affinities with the short statured dolichocephalic inhabitants of Neolithic period and is interesting as showing the persistence of the type in Romano-British times. It is interesting to record that the site of the burial lies near a Roman road, Condicote Lane.⁴ This road passes east of it and within

² In a more recent find of Romano-British burials at Bourton on the Water iron nails were found with skeletons.

³ R. E. M. Wheeler, *London in Roman Times*, p. 103, pl. xli, 2 (London Museum Catalogue no. 3).

⁴ Condicote lane, also known as Ryknield street, see Dr G. B. Grundy, 'The ancient highways and tracks of Worcestershire and the middle Severn', *Archaeological Journal*, xci, 90.

200 yards and although traces of the exact position at this point, where it has to cross a valley, cannot be seen, its line of direction has been proved recently by the discovery of missing portions on Bourton Hill downs by Dr G. R. Malkin. A further discovery of other missing portions was made at Lower Slaughter and again at the point where Condicote lane meets the Fosse Way at Slaughter bridge.⁵ As no evidence of a habitation site was forthcoming it appears that the burial was a casual one.

REPORT ON THE ROMANO-BRITISH SKELETON AT HINCHWICK

by A. J. E. CAVE, M.D.

(*Royal College of Surgeons of England*)

Parts present. The mutilated skull (lacking much of the basal and facial parts), the mandible (also imperfect), both innominate bones, the left clavicle, the middle third of the right clavicle, the right humerus (with broken distal extremity), a part of the head plus the lower half of the shaft of the left humerus, the right radius (minus its head), the lower halves of the left radius and ulna (each bone lacking its distal epiphysis), the two femora, the two (damaged) tibiae and portions of both fibulae. The axial skeleton, like the hand and foot, is not represented.

Sex. The anatomical characters of the pelvis are unequivocally those of a male subject, whilst the vigorous build and the pronounced secondary markings of the long bones conform to the male pattern.

Age at death. From the teeth, the extent of suture closure, and the degree of epiphyseal union, age can be determined with fair accuracy, on the understood assumption that the human ossificatory process has remained unaltered during the passage of centuries, as seems to be indeed actually the case. The coronal, sagittal and lambdoid sutures remain quite open: all four 3rd molars are *in situ*, but their crowns manifest a minimum of wear. The following epiphyses are as yet ununited:—the sternal clavicular, the distal radial, the distal ulnar, the humeral capitular, the symphyseal pubic, and the iliac cristal. The femoral capitular

⁵ See 'Notes on the Fosse Way and Condicote Lane', by H. E. Donovan, pp. 129-31.

epiphysis and that for the tuber ischii are beginning their coalescence. From consideration of these data, the age at death of this youth may be placed at 19 years.

Stature. This Roman-British young man, though not yet fully adult, had acquired his full stature, which was about 5 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches: he was 'small made' and well below the average modern Briton in height.

The skull. The cranium, which presents male characteristics is dolichocephalic and evenly ovoid in norma verticalis. The brow region is full and fairly vertical, and though supra orbital eminences are wanting (owing to immaturity) the glabellar region is already distinctly pronounced; there is every anatomical suggestion that the (now missing) nasal skeleton was well developed, high pitched and prominent. The temporal lines are extremely faintly marked, but the (right) mastoid and styloid processes are robustly built: the glenoid (=mandibular) fossae are deep. The occipital region of the cranium protrudes as a distinct 'boss,' recalling possibly the occipital configuration of British Neolithic crania. The muscular and ligamentous markings on the planum occipitale are fairly emphatic.

The facial skeleton is long, though its present damaged condition precludes osteometric assessment of its proportions. The orbits were apparently of more or less rectangular outline; the molars were flattened laterally; the canine and incisor fossae are pronounced; the nose not more than moderately wide, with a sharp rim to its anterior nasal aperture and a well-formed anterior nasal spine. The palate is of good breadth and height, and its alveolar boundary is healthy and well-formed: the posterior palatine foramina are large—an insignificant point.

A full complement of maxillary teeth was retained at the time of death, but the incisors have since been lost. All these upper teeth are of good size and form; there is little crown-attrition visible, chiefly in the 1st molars, but the teeth themselves, like their containing alveoli are perfectly healthy. The canines tend to project a trifle below the general crown level. The mandible, strongly yet lightly built, shows a well-modelled chin region: the left ascending ramus is alone complete, and this is relatively high and narrow, with a coronoid process projecting well above the level of the condyle. Markings for the masticatory muscles are well-developed though not excessively so and the impressions for the submaxillary and sublingual salivary glands are pronounced. All the mandibular teeth were retained at death since when the incisors have been lost; the remaining teeth are all of good form,

well spaced and perfectly healthy and contained in equally healthy alveoli: slight canine protrusion is again present.

The frontal and maxillary air sinuses are extremely capacious and the mastoid processes appear to be of the pneumatic variety.

The long bones. (1) Clavicles. The incomplete right bone shows markings for an extremely powerful rhomboid ligament and a relatively enormous impression for the clavicular origin of the M. pectoralis major: on the left bone the muscular impressions, though less emphatic are nevertheless forcefully developed, and the general impression is gained of a vigorous and habitual employment of arm and shoulder in an active and right-handed individual.

(2) Humeri. The right bone (almost entire) is strongly and massively built. The shaft is particularly stout in its upper two-thirds, i.e. the parts receiving the attachments of the ventro- and dorso-appendicular muscles. Humeral articular surfaces are well formed and healthy: the musculo-spinal groove is well defined; the supinator (lateral epicondylar) ridges are emphatic.

(3) Radii and ulnae. The forearm bones are strong and powerful: their pronounced secondary markings suggest an active and vigorous musculature: their several articular surfaces are healthy and of good shape, suggesting a full amplitude of movement.

(4) Pelvis. The (incomplete) innominate bones show deep acetabula, and morphological evidence of habitual activity at both hip—and sacroiliac joints. Pelvic characters are frankly those of the male.

(5) The femora. The platymeric femora suggest great freedom of movement and activity at hip and knee-joints. The femoral head presents a deep fovea, and a slight extension of its articular surface on to the antero superior aspect of the adjacent neck. The neck itself is relatively long and considerably flattened antero-posteriorly: above and behind it is heavily perforated by numerous vascular foramina of unusually large size; its superior cervical tubercle is well marked indicating a vigorous development of the ilio-femoral ligament. Both greater and lesser trochanters are vigorously fashioned, the former revealing imprints for powerful and active gluteal muscles. The femoral shaft is bold anteriorly in its middle third: it is carinated and shows posteriorly a long, deep hypotrochanteric fossa. The lateral lip of this fossa forms a lateral border of the shaft, here fairly sharp and convex laterally. The lower articular end of the bone is wide owing mainly to the considerable size of the intercondylar notch;

impressions and markings for the muscles and ligaments about the knee joint are all very well marked.

(6) The tibiae are platycnemic, with widely expanded heads and so-called 'squatting facets' antero-inferiorly. The popliteal ridge is particularly outstanding and in parts of its extent is replaced by a distinct groove bounded by roughened lips. The interosseous border is unusually prominent and a well marked smooth impression appears on the head for the insertion of a powerful ilio-tibio band.

(7) The fibulae are incomplete. Both bones manifest an extraordinary degree of fluting and ridging, indicative of vigorous activity on the part of the attached leg muscles. Their articular surfaces, like all others present in this skeleton are extremely well formed and devoid of the least sign of injury or disease.

Racial type. The present specimen, both on morphological and osteometric evidence may unhesitatingly be labelled 'Ancient British'. The comparative osteometric table appended reveals the obvious structural affinity between the Hinchwick youth and the short statured dolichocephalic inhabitants of Britain as far back as the Neolithic period. Indeed, in cranial configuration, and in many details of its non-cranial osteology, this Hinchwick skeleton might easily pass for one of Neolithic date. Though living during the Roman occupation of Britain the young man whose remains are here considered retained almost unaltered in his physical constitution, the peculiarly distinctive racial characters of his ancient British forbears. Whatever his precise genealogy he reveals no definitely alien traits in his skeletal framework, and has seemingly bred true to the old British stock.

OSTEOMETRIC DATA

SKULL	mm
Max. length	194
Max. breadth	137
Min. frontal width	98.5
Prosthion-basion	94.4
Ht. basi-bregmatic	132
Ht. auricular	112
Orbital ht. (L)	36.2
Orbital width (L)	41.7
Palatal width	41.9
MANDIBLE	
Bi-gonial diam.	95.3
Min. width ramus	31.0
L. condyle length	18.9
Symphyseal ht.	33

FEMUR	R	L
Max. length	438	435
Articular length	434	431
Capitular diam.	47	48
Shaft, upper third ant.-post.	26	26
Shaft, upper third trans.	32	32
Shaft, mid. ant.-post.	29	29
Shaft, mid. trans.	25	25
TIBIA		
Artic. length	313	—
Shaft. nut. for., ant.-post.	39	36
Shaft. nut. for., trans.	26	25.5

INDEXES

Cephalic	=	70.6 (dolichocephalic)
Ceph. ht.	=	71.3
Breadth ht.	=	104.6
Ht. index	=	67.5 (tapeinocephalic)
Orbital index	=	87.1 (mesoseme)
Platymeric	=	83.9 (R) 81.3 (L)
Platycnemic	=	66.7 (R) 71.8 (L)

Stature estimated at 5 feet 4 inches.

COMPARATIVE OSTEOMETRIC DATA

	Hinchwick	Neolithic	R-British	Iron-Age	Anglo-Saxon
L.	194.0	193.7	186.4-192	187.4	190.6
B.	137.0	138.9	142.9-136	141.4	141.7
B ¹ .	98.5	98.7	98-105	98	97.3
H ¹ .	131.0	135	—	132.9	136
GL.	94.4	96.8	—	96.3	96
O ₁ R.	41.7 ?	42.3	44.8	—	42.2
O ₂ R.	36.2	32.6	34.1	33.6	33.6
100B/L.	70.6	71.1	78.7 70.8	74.8	74.7
100H ¹ /L	67.5	69.4		70.8	71.2
100 O ₂ R/O ₁ R.	87.1	78.4			77.5

II. LOWER SLAUGHTER (PLATE III)

In February 1938, a burial in a stone cist was discovered at the George Young Gravel Pit, Lower Slaughter.⁶ The pit, adjoining the Fosse Way, is in an area of alluvial

⁶ 6 inch O.S. Gloucestershire, xxix NW. (1½ miles N.E. of Bourton on the Water).

gravel between the river Dikler and the Slaughter brook in the northern portion of the Vale of Bourton. The site of the burial was 130 yards northwest of the Fosse Way, the latter having been laid down to make use of this dry situation while crossing a marshy area. In a following note it will be seen that this area was made

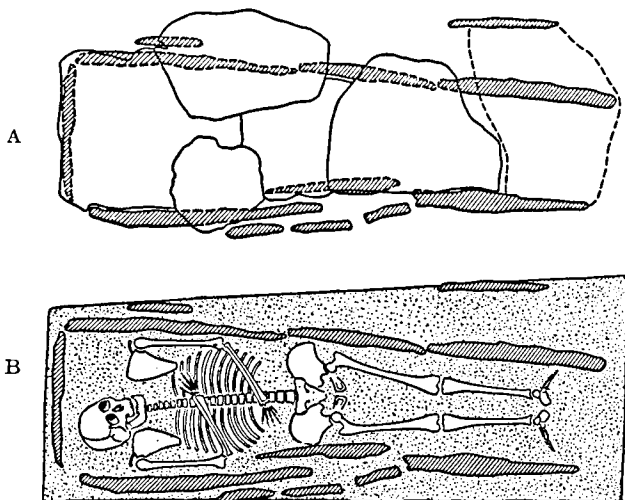


Fig. 2. Cist burial, Lower Slaughter

- (A) Cover stones in position
 (B) Skeleton reconstructed

great use of, as many Romano-British surface finds support the theory that a large roadside settlement was established here, and there are also earlier finds⁷ of Bronze Age date which point to previous habitation.

Before the nature of the find was understood, the foot stone and two of the side-stones of the cist and some of the bones of the lower extremities, were disturbed. On

⁷ The writer is at present engaged in following up a large circular ditch which appears to have Bronze Age affinities but forthcoming evidence is necessarily slow on account of the nature of the work at the gravel pit.

further examination a roughly built cist containing an extended adult skeleton was uncovered (PLATE III). The cist, orientated east to west, measured 6 feet 3 inches in length, 1 foot 9 inches in width at the head and 1 foot 5 inches at the foot, narrowing to a width of 12 inches on the floor of the grave. It was covered with four large overlapping stone slabs with two smaller ones placed above. The sides of the cist consisted of stone slabs set upright, three on each side with one at each end and additional stones outside as packing, three on the south side and two on the north (FIG. 2). There was no paving on the floor of the grave, the skeleton being laid directly on the natural gravel at a depth of 2 feet 3 inches from the surface, the cover stones being only 1 foot 4 inches from ground level.

The cover-stones were intact and the cist undisturbed, and on removing the stones it was found to be packed tight with dark earth covering the skeleton completely. Throughout this filling numerous fragments of potsherds

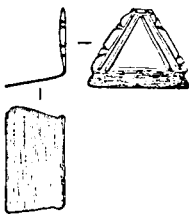


Fig. 3. Bronze tab from Cist

were found, mainly of 4th century date. These included three sherds of colour-coated ware (one piece with rouletting), three of orange red ware, four of coarse gritty white ware, red ware with white slip decoration, coarse cooking pot and native ware. Immediately below the cover stone and above the position of the knees of the skeleton, a small decorated bronze tab was found (FIG. 3) and a coin of Magnentius,⁸ A.D. 350-3, at a depth of one inch in the filling directly above the skull.

⁸ See coin list, no. 20, p. 127.

The skeleton was that of a woman about 40-50 years of age and 5 feet 2 inches in height. The bones were not in a good condition owing to the earth filling. The skull lay at the west end of the cist and had fallen slightly backwards, the facial bones were missing, a portion of the lower jaw with three teeth had fallen on to the neck and there were numerous loose teeth. The arms lay across the body, the right hand on the left breast and the left hand just above the right pelvis. The lower vertebrae were also missing but the leg bones were in a good state of preservation.

The coin in the grave with the skeleton recalls the pagan practice of providing the corpse with the necessary fee to Charon for crossing the river Styx. There is no positive evidence that the skeleton was that of a Christian, but the method of burial and the date fall within Christian times and it appears that the present evidence points to a time of transition between Pagan Roman and Christian customs, with superstition still lingering on, and a coin thrown in the grave, perhaps for 'luck', if for no other purpose.

OSTEOMETRIC DATA

SKULL	mm
Max. length	190 ?
Max. breadth	143
Cephalic index	75.3
FEMUR	
Max. length	406
Shaft, upper third, ant.-post	22
Shaft, upper third, trans.	34
Shaft, mid. ant. post.	28.5
Shaft, mid. trans.	21
Platymeric index	64.7
TIBIA	
Artic. length (L)	326
Shaft, nut. for., ant.-post.	33
Shaft, nut. for., trans.	23
Platymeric index	69.7

III. COMPTON ABDALE (FIG. 4)

In September 1938 a skeleton in a stone cist was uncovered while foundation trenches for an addition to the stables of 'Springhill', Compton Abdale, were dug. The excavation was carried out under difficulties because the work was done under contract, and there was no time to lose obtaining the evidence. On account of the inclemency of the weather no photographs were possible, but a careful plan of the cist and its remains was made (FIG. 4).

The site was 6 feet due east of the northeast angle of the farm buildings, lying behind and north of the ' Hill Barn ' farm⁹ on the o.s. map but now known as ' Springhill '.

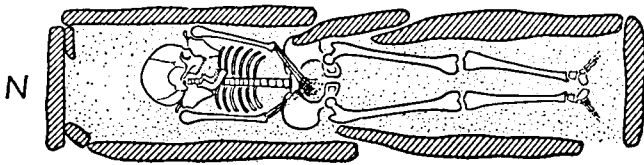


Fig. 4. Cist Burial reconstruction

The house is beside the Compton Abdale-Cheltenham road, 1150 yards northwest of Compton Abdale church.

The cist was built of large flat stones set upright, with a stone at the head and one at the foot, two on the west side and three on the east, the stones on the sides overlapping. Two large flat stones were used as a cover and there was stone paving on the floor of the grave. The depth from the ground surface to the top of the cover stones was 2 feet 2 inches and to the floor of the grave 3 feet 7 inches. The grave was dug in a stiff yellow loamy clay and was orientated north to south. The skeleton was undisturbed and no fallen material had entered the cist.

⁹ 6 inch O.S. Gloucestershire, XXXV NE.

No potsherds or coins were in the cist or in the surrounding filling, but the type of burial suggests 3rd-4th century date.

The skeleton is that of a woman about 40 years of age, 5 feet 2½ inches in height and showing signs of having suffered from rheumatism of the spine. The skull is mesaticephalic and orthocephalic.

The skull had fallen forward and was facing east, the lower jaw was lying on the chest, the top of the right humerus on the level of the base of the skull, the right hand behind the right pelvis, the left arm bones and hand across the front of the body and resting on the right pelvis. The pelvic bones appeared to have been forced into position at the narrowest point of the grave. The knees were close together. The skeleton occupied 4 feet 8 inches of the cist, which was 5 feet 11 inches long (internal measurement) and 1 foot 3 inches wide.

REPORT by A. J. E. CAVE, M.D.

Bones present for examination. The skull and mandible, the incomplete sternum, fragments of vertebrae and some 7 complete vertebrae, various rib fragments, both clavicles and (imperfect) scapulae, the humeri, radii, alnae, femora, tibiae, fibulae, and patellae, the much damaged pelvis, 4 metacarpals and 4 manual phalanges, both astragali, the right cuboid, 5 metatarsals and 1 big toe phalanx.

Sex, age, stature. The pelvis manifests unequivocally the sexual characters of the female and the skull is typically that of a woman. The age of the individual at the time of death may be placed between 30 and 50 years—about 40 years would be a reasonable estimation. The estimated stature is small—some 1591.7 mm., or about 5 feet 2½ inches.

Disease. There is marked 'rheumatic' change (osteoarthritis) of the occipito-atlantal, atlanto-axial, and upper cervical articulations; the right articular pillars of the 3rd and 4th cervical vertebrae are excessively deformed in consequence. The bodies of one lower cervical and one lower thoracic vertebrae are misshapen from osteophytic lipping of their cranial and caudal surfaces. Similar osteoarthritic change has affected bilaterally the lowermost costo-vertebral joints and the acromio-clavicular

articulations. The head of the right radius and the bicipital tubercle of that bone manifest a pathological rugosity, though the right elbow joint, like the majority of the diarthroses, remains normally healthy. There is no evidence of fracture, or of infective disease.

The Skull, mesaticephalic and orthocephalic. Its characters are typically female. Supraorbital eminences are minimal, the upper orbital margins thin and sharp, the brow vertically disposed and, with moderately developed frontal bosses. The cranial vault is broadly arched in coronal section, and its uniform contour is interrupted by slight but distinct flattening at the lambdoid region; thereafter the supra-inial portion of the occiput projects backwards as a distinctly rounded boss. The temporal ridges are exceedingly faint in outline and muscular markings (e.g. on the planum occipitale) are minimal. The coronal suture is obliterated at the midline and in each pterionic region; the sagittal, lambdoid and other sutures are closed but unobliterated. The mastoids are moderately developed; the glenoid fossae are deepish and the sphenoidal spin is pronounced. The occipital condyles are distorted posteriorly by considerable osteophytic outgrowth.

The facial skeleton is orthognathous and leptoprosopic. The smallish (microseme) orbits are horizontally ovoid, with well defined, sharp borders; the prominent bony nose is of moderate length, straight, and keeled mid-dorsally; the anterior nasal aperture is moderately wide (mesorhine), and the anterior nasal spine is well developed. The canine and incisor fossae are markedly pronounced, and the brachystaphyline palate is roomy and well arched.

Of the maxillary teeth, the left 3rd molar alone had been lost before death; the teeth remaining *in situ* (viz., the left 1st molar, the right canine, 1st premolar, 1st and 3rd molars) manifest excessive oblique (=labio-lingual) attrition of their occlusal surfaces, with complete denudation of the enamel in places.

The mandible presents a long horizontal and a relatively short and broad vertical ramus; the chin is sharply prominent, the mandibular angle rounded, and the sigmoid notch shallow. A full complement of mandibular teeth was present at the time of death, since when the right 1st premolar and central incisor and the left incisors and 1st premolar have been lost. The remaining teeth show considerable crown attrition, with denudation of the enamel in the case of the molars. The occlusal surfaces of the 1st and 2nd molars have an oblique (linguo-labial) disposition. The anterior mandibular teeth evidently sloped obliquely upwards

PLATE I



Site of burial, Lodge Ground Quarry, Hinchwick, Glos. (see p. 108)

The skeleton lay on the rock bed in centre

Ph. Dr G. R. Malkin

PLATE II



Iron nails with wood adhering and hinge, from box used for burial at Hinchwick, Glos. (see p. 109)

PLATE III



Stone Cist, Lower Slaughter (see pp. 114-17)

Ph. W. J. Butt

and forwards ; in the close position of the mouth, they came to rest behind their upper counterparts as in the vast majority of British skulls today, i.e. the so-called 'edge to edge' bite is conspicuously absent.

The axial skeleton. The vertebral column is but partially present, being represented by the atlas, axis, and 3 other cervical vertebrae, one incomplete thoracic vertebra and the neural arches alone of 9 others, fragments of the lumbar vertebrae, the (incomplete) first segment of the sacrum and a portion of the body of that bone.

As noted, pathological change (as osteoarthritis) is present in the cervical and lower thoracic regions, and in the latter situation the disease has affected the costo-vertebral joints also.

The numerous rib fragments present have all the gracility of build typical of the female skeleton ; pathological change affects the heads, necks and articular tubercles of the lowest members of the series on both sides. Otherwise these bones are normal and typical in all respects.

The sternum comprises manubrium and gladiolus : both elements are independent (hinting at an age of less than 50 years) and the sterno-costal articulations appear normal in every way.

Pectoral girdle. The clavicles are equal in length and show no dissimilarity in configuration or degree of secondary marking. The (imperfect) scapulae manifest relatively broad bodies, deeply concave ventrally, and a good development of secondary markings. Both acromio-clavicular joints show the pitting and eburnation characteristic of osteoarthritic change.

Pelvic girdle. Each innominate bone lacks its pubic element ; nevertheless the female nature of the pelvis is unmistakable. Each bone is relatively large and stoutly built, the ischial tuberosities being large and the sinuous iliac crests thick bordered.

The auricular surfaces (which participate in the sacro-iliac joints) are slightly pitted and distorted—evidence of incipient 'rheumatic' disease. The pre-auricular sulcus is pronounced on each bone, and the post-auricular area (for the reception of the strong posterior sacro-iliac ligaments) is excessively rough and mountainous.

The long bones. These call for little comment. Those of the arms are the typically gracile, feebly marked, bones of a woman, healthy and normal save for some asperity of the upper end of the right radius. The femora present rather massive great trochanters and well marked anterior intertrochanteric ridges ; a third trochanter is present on each bone. Each linea aspera, adductor tubercle and articular extremity is well marked ; both

knee and hip-joints are free from disease. The tibiae, fibulae and patellae require no special comment.

Bones of extremities. These bones (enumerated above) are of typically female build. They yield no evidence of injury or disease and require no further notice.

Summary of evidence. The skeleton of a middle-aged woman, about 5 feet 2½ inches in stature, whose teeth show considerable crown attrition, and who suffered from 'rheumatism' of her spine, sacro-iliac and acromio-clavicular joints. The specimen has been catalogued as No. 4.10.10, Human Osteology Series, Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. Appended is a table of osteometric data.

OSTEOMETRIC DATA

SKULL	mm.
Length	186
Parietal breadth	143
Min. frontal breadth	98
Auricular height	111
Basion-bregma	136
Total facial height	116
Facial height	70.0
Prosthion-basion	96 ?
Bimaxillary width	95
Nasal height	50.8
Nasal breadth	25.0
Orbital height	34.0
Orbital width	42.2
Nasion-basion	104
Nasal bridge (min.)	8.0
Palatal length	49.0
Palatal breadth	42.0
Max. bizygomatic breadth	133

INDEXES

Cephalic	76.9 (mesaticcephalic)
Cephalic height	73.1 (orthocephalic)
Facial	73.6
Superior facial	72.2 (laptoprosopic)
Gnathic	92.3
Orbital	80.6 (microseme)
Nasal	49.2 (mesorhine)
Palatal	85.7 (brachystaphyline)

GEORGE YOUNG GRAVEL PIT (FIG. 5)

The George Young gravel pit, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Bourton on the Water¹⁰ is situated on part of an area of alluvial gravel occurring between the river Dikler and the Slaughter brook at the northern end of the Vale of Bourton.

The pit adjoins the Fosse Way, the latter taking advantage of the dry ground created by the deposits of gravel, of which another lies by Slaughter bridge¹¹ before the Roman road reaches the Windrush at Bourton bridge.¹²

For many years casual finds have been reported from the pit and the adjoining fields to the north, two of which are called Great and Little Chessills. Particulars of some of the finds from this site are now recorded.

Information has been obtained from those farming the fields called the Chessills, that what had appeared to have been fire-places had been ploughed up. Coins and potsherds were numerous, the latter can still be picked up in great numbers after ploughing and a quantity of coins have been recovered.

It appears therefore that a large roadside settlement must have existed here, covering a considerable period of time, as some recent finds of coins from the gravel pit alone date from A.D. 138 to the 4th century.

A list of these coins follows. It was hoped that the cist burial reported above would give the clue to the position of the cemetery of the settlement, but further work has proved that it was a solitary interment. Numerous rubbish pits, shallow v-shaped trenches and post-holes have been uncovered, as well as small areas of rough stone paving. Potsherds, oyster shells and animal bones were found in the filling of the pits and trenches. The post-holes did not appear in sufficient numbers to

¹⁰ 6 in. O.S. Glos. XXIX, NW.

¹¹ *Antiq. Journ.*, XII, 279.

¹² *B.G.A.S.*, LVII, 234.

enable a plan to be recognized but one set of trenches, still being uncovered, is appearing in the form of a rectangular enclosure. A shallow v-shaped trench producing Romano-British sherds is superimposed on a deep u-shaped circular trench which surrounds the rectangular enclosure, the trench being tentatively attributed to the Bronze

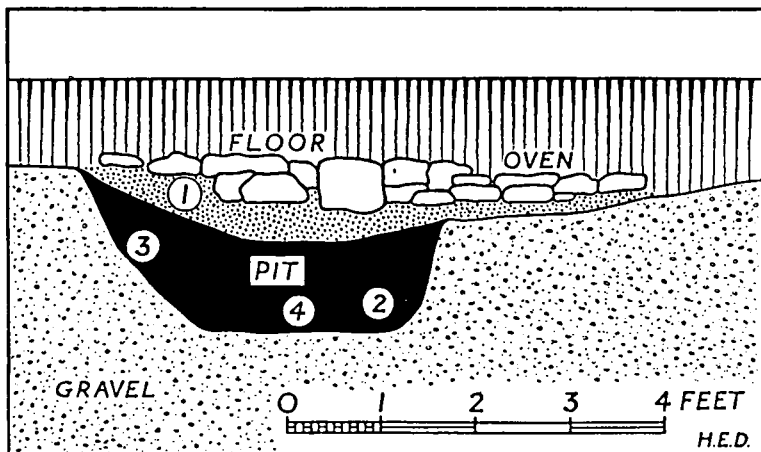


Fig. 5. Section of oven and gravel pit, Lower Slaughter
 1, 2 coins found (list nos. 4 and 9).
 3, 4 sherds (pottery nos. 5, 6)

Age¹³ but much ground has to be uncovered before reaching a definite conclusion.

One rubbish pit (12 yards from the burial) was of especial interest as a stone floor and an oven were placed over it (FIG. 5). The pit had been disturbed before the nature of the find was realized. It was oval in shape, measuring 9 feet by 6 feet and 2 feet 8 inches deep from present ground-level, and mostly filled with black earth which showed much burning. Two coins, nos. 4 and 9 in the following coin list (a doubtful Tetricus and an

¹³ *Antiq. Journ.*, XII, 279.

illegible Constantinopolis), were found in the filling as well as some large sherds. (FIG. 6, nos. 5 and 6). The stone floor, about 10 inches thick, was made up of rough stones of varying size and was 1 foot below present ground-level. The oven was inserted in the floor and the remaining fragment showed it was built of three layers of stone stepped back in semi-circular form. (PLATE V). A possible internal diameter was 16 inches and it appeared to be of the usual pear-shaped form. The stones were burnt to a grey black and molten lead was found on the floor of the oven.

Other sherds illustrated are from some of the shallow trenches and sherd no. 4 is from a small circular pit found near the cist burial.

COINS

by B. H. ST. J. O'NEIL, M.A., F.S.A.

Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-61)

- 1 Illegible *Sestertius*, *Rev.* female figure left.

Carausius (A.D. 287-93)

- 2 *Obv.* IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG Bust rad., dr., r.
Rev. PAX AVG Pax l. with upright (?) sceptre.
Mint. ML? M. & S. 101 or 121.

Allectus (A.D. 293-6)

- 3 *Obv.* IMP C ALLECTVS PF AVG. Bust rad., dr., r.
Rev. LAETITIA AVG. Joy l. with wreath and anchor.
Mint. $\frac{81P}{6}$. M. & S. 79.

Radiate Crown

- 4 ? Tetricus I. *Rev.* [PAX] AVG Pax l. with branch and upright sceptre.

Constantine I (A.D. 307-37)

- 5 *Obv.* Illegible but head of Constantine I, laur., dr., r.
Rev. [GLORIA EXERCITVS]. Two soldiers; one standard.
Mint. P \overline{A} RL. A.D. 335-7.
- 6 *Obv.* IMP CONSTAN|TINVS MAX AVG. Bust helmeted, ? laur., dr. r.
Rev. VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP. Two victories placing on altar shield inscribed VOT P R.
Mint. P \overline{T} R. C. 640.

- 7-9 *Obv.* CONSTANTINOPOLIS. Bust of C. helmeted l.
Rev. Victory l.
Mints. TRS̄, TR̄S̄ + I illegible. A.D. 330-7.
Theodora
- 10 *Obv.* [FL MAX THE]ODORAE AVG. Bust. laur., dr., r.
Rev. [PIETAS| RO]MANA. Pietas l. with babe in arms.
Mint. Illeg. C. 4.
Constantine II (A.D. 317-40)
- 11 *Obv.* CONSTANTI | NVS IVN N C. Bust rad. l. with imperial
 mantle, holding eagle-tipped sceptre.
Rev. BEATA TRAN | QVILLITAS. Altar inscribed VOT | IS XX.
Mint. PLON̄. A.D. 320-4.
House of Constantine I
- 12 *Obv.* Illeg. but young head laur., dr., r.
Rev. [GLORIA EXERCITVS]. Two soldiers; two standards.
Mint. ? TR̄. A.D. 330-5.
- 13 *Obv.* Illeg. but probably Constantine I.
Rev. As foregoing.
Mint. TR̄IIII.
- 14 *Obv.* Illeg. diademed head.
Rev. [GLORIA EXERCITVS]. Two soldiers, one standard.
Mint. Illeg. A.D. 335-42.
Magnentius (A.D. 350-3)
- 15 *Obv.* D N MAGNEN | TIVS P F AVG. Bust diad., dr., r.
Rev. [FELICITAS] REIPVBLICAE. Emp. l. with victory on
 globe and labarum.
Mint. ? SLG. C. 7.
- 16 *Obv.* D N MAGNEN | [TIVS P F AVG]. Bust bare, dr., r.
Rev. [SALVS DD NN] AVG ET CAES. Monogram of Christ be-
 tween alpha and omega.
Mint. Illeg. C. 29.
Magnentius or Decentius (A.D. 350-3)
- 17 *Obv.* . . . | TIVS P F AVG. Bust bare, dr., r. A behind
 head.
Rev. VICTORIAE [DD NN AVG ET CAES]. Two victories
 holding wreath; within it VOT V MVLX.
Mint. Illeg. A.D. 351-3.
Barbarous 4th century
- 18 *Obv.* Diademed head.
Rev. Barbarous *Fel Temp Reparatio* type.
Illegible
- 19 Possibly a radiate crown.

From the cist burial

Magnentius (see p. 116)

- 20 *Obv.* [D] N MAGNIN|TIVS P F [AVG]. Bust bare dr., r.;
A behind head.
Rev. [V]ICTO[RIA]E D NN AVG. Two victories facing, hold-
ing wreath, in which is VO MVL V.
Mint. $\frac{1}{TRF}$ A.D. 351-3. 3 Æ (small, 1.3 cm.). ? semi-barbarous.

POTTERY

by G. C. DUNNING, F.S.A.

From shallow trenches

1 Flanged bowl of soft red ware, red colour-coated, with traces of white slip on top of flange.

2 Small flanged bowl of grey ware with orange surface, red colour-coated.

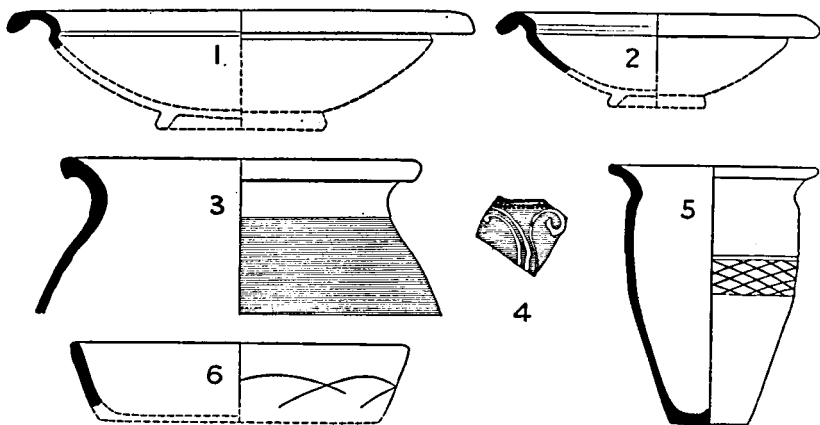


Fig. 6 (4)

3 Olla of coarse black ware with white grit, surface finely rilled. Cf. *Trans. B. & G.A.S.*, LVI, 113, figs. 5, 8, 9.

From small circular pit near cist burial

4 Sherd of fine pink ware with bluish-black metallic surface coating. Decorated with rouletted line and slip scrolls. Cf. *Wroxeter Report* II, 53, no. 69.

From pit below oven

5 Olla of sandy ware. Narrow matt zone with oblique lattice pattern. Cf. *Wroxeter Report* II, 83, no. 67.

6 Dish of sandy black ware with burnished scribble lines.

FOSSE WAY AND CONDICOTE LANE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The following observations have been noted during public works on Fosse Way and Condicote lane, and are recorded although the evidence is not of any outstanding importance.

The three sites are (1) Knee bridge, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of Moreton in Marsh ; (2) the junction of Condicote lane at Slaughter bridge, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northeast of Bourton on the Water with further information of portions of this Roman road, and (3) at Culkerton wood, Kemble, 5 miles southwest of Cirencester.

I am indebted to Mr P. Buckle, Divisional Surveyor for Gloucestershire County Council, Dr G. R. Malkin, and Mr C. E. Stevens for information and assistance.

I. PILES AT KNEE BRIDGE (FIG. 7)

During the widening in 1928 of the Knee brook bridge on the Fosse Way, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles north of Moreton in Marsh, four pairs of piles four feet apart were found eight feet below present water level, embedded in the silt of the river-bed and in the blue-lias clay. The piles had been squared and were blackened with age and immersion in water, and were presumed to be of oak although no examination was made to verify this. They were in good condition and varied in length and their pointed ends were still intact. Two of them presented to the Corinium Museum, Cirencester, measured respectively 7 feet in length (the pointed area 3 feet 6 inches), and 5 feet in length (the pointed area 2 feet 4 inches). Both were 12 inches square.

An old packhorse bridge existed here up to less than 100 years ago, this was removed and replaced by another bridge which in turn has been rebuilt in concrete with Cotswold stone facing and parapets.

Attention is drawn to the possibility of these piles being the remains of a Roman bridge as it will be seen from the

plan that this position does not correspond with the position of the 19th century or the packhorse bridge. No finds were made beyond those of some deer antlers in the silt, we therefore have no definite evidence for date

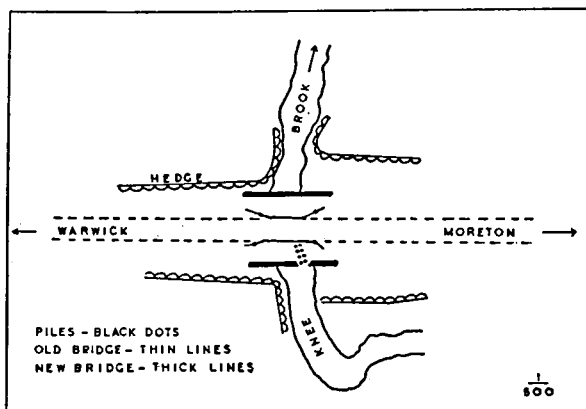


Fig. 7

except the position of the piles. Perhaps some archaeological expert may be able to date them after examination.

THE FOSSE WAY AT SLAUGHTER BRIDGE

A section of the Roman road locally known as Condicote lane was exposed for a few hours on 17 June 1938 during laying the water main from Stow on the Wold to Bourton on the Water.

It lay under the grass verge on the north side of the Fosse Way, 19 yards to 37 yards east of Slaughter brook at Slaughter bridge, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northeast of Bourton on the Water. A narrow trench 4 feet deep was being dug by a mechanical 'digger' but the Roman work proved too much for the modern machine and man-power was substituted. The section extended for 60 feet but this was not the width of the road as the trench had been excavated across it diagonally. The road surface lay at a depth of

2 feet below modern ground-level, and consisted of large flat slabs of stone laid horizontally on each other set in gravel to a depth of 8 inches. Below this was a layer, 7 inches thick, of a mixture of rubble stones in a brownish yellowish clay, and under that were a series of pitched stones of thin slabs about 10 inches high packed close together and set in the blue-lias clay. The bottom of the road was 4 feet from present ground-level and was standing in water. Some of the largest paving stones measured 20 by 14 by 3 inches, and 19 by 13 inches. The pitched stones were inclined to the west and the edges of the road appeared to tail off on either side as no curbing stones were found. In other sections of the Fosse Way exposed in the neighbourhood pitching¹⁴ appears to be the normal foundation. No paving stones have been found as in this instance but the nature of the ground at Slaughter bridge, which is low-lying and marshy, would demand a solid surface and foundation and not the rammed¹⁵ gravel surfaces that have so far been found.

CONDICOTE LANE

Condicote lane, using its local name, is the so-called Ryknield Street and is without a doubt a Roman road, as its route across the North Cotswolds is in a very direct line and it does not deviate for any natural obstacle. The actual site of portions of it have long been lost but by field work, and following up an imaginary straight line marked on maps, Dr G. R. Malkin and the writer have been able to establish its existence *in situ* at various points.

As Dr G. B. Grundy remarks in his 'Ancient highways and tracks of Worcestershire and the middle Severn'¹⁶

¹⁴ *Trans. B.G.A.S.* LIV, 285 and vol. LVII, 280.

¹⁵ See following note on the Fosse Way at Culkerton Wood. Rammed gravel road-surface was used on the Roman road leading into Bourton on the Water from the Fosse Way, a section of which was excavated by the writer but is not yet published.

¹⁶ *Arch. Journ.* xci, 90.

the road has been often described so this will not be attempted here, but considering its direct connexion with the Midlands it seems strange that it should have fallen out of use and even that parts of it should have been lost sight of on the Cotswolds. This may however be accounted for by it being used principally for military purposes, being a direct N-S road of communication between Watling Street and the Fosse Way, and that later peaceful times brought it into disuse.

Starting at its junction with the Fosse Way at Slaughter bridge, a low raised ridge can be seen crossing the adjacent field on the north. The writer long suspected the site but waited for confirmatory evidence, which was forthcoming in 1938. This raised ridge was first noticed one winter, by the numerous mole hills thrown up on either side leaving a straight green fairway down the centre. The line of the road disappears in the next field but can be seen again in a field northeast of Slaughter Manor. No trace can be found in the grounds of Copse Hill but the line is picked up again on the narrow old road to Condicote, parts of which are only a rough track. The road disappears as it passes Condicote village, is picked up by the Hinchwick road, but as the latter dips into the valley at Old Hinchwick the Roman road continues up the hillside. Mr Clark, of Batsford Camp cottages, when ploughing here a few years ago discovered some of its pitched stone foundation. A faint indication of the road can be seen in the field southeast of Hinchwick House and continues behind and above the garden. The next point is on Bourton Hill Downs, where it appears as a raised way past Bourton Hill farm. Dr G. R. Malkin excavated here. The road can still be seen in two fields north of this farm and it then disappears into the valley of Spring Hill and is considered to be the line followed by parish boundaries until reaching the Stow on the Wold-Broadway road.