From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Sale's Lot Long Barrow, Withington, Gloucestershire, 1962-1965**

by H. E. O'Neil
1966, Vol. 85, 5-35

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Sale's Lot Long Barrow  
Withington, Gloucestershire  
1962-1965  

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The start of the removal by mechanical means of what appeared to be a stony encumbrance in the field adjoining Compton Grove, in October 1962, was halted by the find of two upright slabs of stone, which immediately drew attention to their artificially placed positions.

The owner, Mr H. J. Cooper, realizing the find to be of archaeological value sent for me, and on viewing the mound, I realized that a long barrow was sited here.

I am very much indebted to Mr H. J. Cooper of Compton Grove for his public spirited action in holding up the work of clearance, and for allowing me to report the find to the Chief Inspector of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments. As the site had not hitherto been recognized as a long barrow, it was of extreme importance that this, as a newly found one on the Cotswolds, should be treated with care and fully recorded. The outcome of negotiations resulted in permission to excavate the site, while the Inspectorate undertook to finance and arrange the work, asking me to supervise the excavations, which were later carried out in three seasons’ work during 1963, 1964 and 1965.

I wish to acknowledge with great gratitude the permission to excavate, as well as for the help and willing co-operation throughout the work extended to me by Mr and Mrs Cooper, accompanied with unending and generous hospitality.

I wish also to thank Mr A. J. Taylor, Chief Inspector, for the opportunity to carry out the excavation with the backing of Mr R. Robertson Mackay, and for the material help from the Bristol Branch of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Ministry of Public Building and Works. The work of excavation was carried out by staff from Messrs A. E. Hessel and Co. of Stow-on-the-Wold.¹ My thanks are also due to those who kindly helped in various ways, Professor W. F. Grimes and Professor R. J. C. Atkinson for encouragement and valuable advice while on visits to the site, Dr Isobel Smith and Mr H. J. Case for help with the pottery finds, Mr Linsdall Richardson and

¹ I am grateful to Mr H. Packer, Mr Andrew Davis, Mr F. Palmer and Mr Terry Davidson for their excellent work, help and interest during the excavation.
Mr G. W. Green on geological matters, Dr J. G. Wainwright for flints, Mr L. Bick for help from the Ancient Monument's Laboratory, Dr I. W. Cornwall on animal bones, Professor G. W. Dimbleby for pollen analysis and to many friends for assistance in digging.

The following report is divided into three Parts:—

Part I, General description.
Part II, Details of excavation.
Part III, Reports on pottery, flints, bones, objects and geology.

Part I—General Description (fig. 1)

The long barrow lies in a field called Sale's Lot, on southward facing ground at 632 O.D., sited on a slope of hillside reaching 765 O.D.

![Map of Sale's Lot and周边](image)

Fig. 1. Distribution map showing Long and Round Barrows in the vicinity of Sale's Lot. Long Barrow.

Based on 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Map. Crown Copyright reserved

at its summit. It is situated near the eastern boundary of Withington Parish, between the steep sided valleys of the River Coln and the

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Compton Abdale Brook, in a windswept position but commanding wide views of the valley bottoms.\(^1\)

In passing, it is of interest to remark that there are several cases of the long barrows on the Cotswolds situated on sloping hillsides. This is commented on by O. G. S. Crawford in *The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, p. 11. May it not be that the neolithic peoples dwelt in the valleys below, from whence the view of the burial tomb on the brow above, served as a reminder as well as a memorial for those gone before?\(^2\)

The barrow, a long low mound, orientated north-west to south-east appeared to measure before excavation about 117 feet in length, 60 feet wide and 3 feet high at its apex, its wider end being placed down the slope to the south-east. It was entirely overgrown by a thick mat of Cotswold scrubby grasses and had never been ploughed over, but the form of an entrance enclosed by horns could be traced on the surface of the mound, as well as a large hollow on the eastern side, which seemed to indicate ancient disturbance, since it was below the same level of grass coverage.

The siting of the barrow seems to have been carefully chosen. With its imposing out-works of the entrance placed on the steeper part of the slope, it must have presented an impressive monument when approached uphill. The fall of the ground was 10 feet, extending from the north-west but becoming pronounced and steeper towards the south-east.

About 44 feet of the barrow was removed by the bulldozer to ground level from its north-west end, thus disclosing at once the nature of its construction, a solid mass of small stone rubble without earth. Strictly speaking the barrow should be termed a *cairn* because of its exclusive construction in stone but, since the Cotswold tombs are so well known and called *long barrows*, the name *barrow* is being retained. Fortunately the work of removal skimmed over the two graves at the north-west end of the barrow, leaving also the foundations of the enclosing revetment walls of the body or mound of the barrow. As stated in the introductory note, the work of the bulldozer was stopped on reaching the two upright slabs of rock erected at about two thirds of the length of the barrow. Another 20 feet was also stripped off on

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\(^1\) National Grid, SP 049168. 6-in. O.S. Glos. XXXV.

\(^2\) Former owners, Major and Mrs Mayall told the writer in 1934, when visiting the Compton Grove Roman Villa, that there was a stony mound up on the hill above the Roman Villa called *Bel's Tump*. But this information was not followed up at the time. Curiously enough the site is not mentioned in the *Saxon Charter* of the boundaries of Withington.
its western side, which, however, was found not to have removed any important evidence.

Excavation showed that the usual outline form and building technique of Cotswold long barrows was used at Sale’s Lot, but the plan differed considerably from any other so far known on these hills (Plate I, Fig. 2). The monument was planned from the first as a single entity, as proved by the bonding of the walls at all the junctions. The plan consisted of a single small burial chamber, placed centrally about one third of the length of the barrow from the south-east, enclosed by a Rotunda, formed by two concentric walls which were interrupted on the south-east to make an entrance into the barrow. A narrow pathway then led to an elliptical shaped fore-court, from which an antechamber by a short passage led to the burial chamber. To guard the entrance a pair of horns were added to the opening in the Rotunda. About two-thirds of the barrow was composed of a mound to the monument, raised up as a mass of rubble-stone, apparently for show rather than for use, although two shallow stone-lined graves dug into the natural surface were found in the tail end of the barrow. The graves were entered from the east side and though these were blocked up, their construction was so incorporated into the original masonry of the surrounding revetment wall of the barrow that they are taken to be contemporary work and may therefore be the graves of some of the builders of the barrow. One grave contained the remains of a contracted skeleton while the other some human teeth and the lower half of a leaf-shaped flint arrowhead.

Dry stone masonry was used for all the walls but was of a rough loose type of build, though well-laid courses remained in certain lengths, the whole construction appeared to have been governed by the kind of stone available. The stone used was local, most of which came from the immediate site of the barrow, which had been erected on a bed of Upper Trigonia Grit, the lower part of the Upper Inferior Oolite. The Upper Trigonia Grit was of small rubble, lying on the natural rock and was easily available. A thin surface of red clayey loam remained as the original ground surface and into this a roughly set paving of stones was inserted as foundations for the barrow. No evidence for pits, trenches or for a surrounding ditch was forthcoming. Most noticeable were the stones used for the important parts of the barrow, which were of fantastic shapes, some fossiliferous and some bored with holes and fissures. These exist in the bored bed of Notgrove Freestone in the Middle Inferior Oolite. A shelly yellow stone from the Pea Grit series of the Lower Inferior Oolite was also used. These
PLATE I. General overhead view of Sale's Lot Long Barrow
PLATE II, a. Antechamber leading into Burial Chamber, shown with ranging rod

PLATE II, b. Masonry of Western outer and inner ring walls
PLATE III, a. Outer face of outer ring wall

PLATE III, b. Stone packing of barrow mound against outer face of outer ring wall
PLATE IV

a. Large rag-stone packing of barrow mound. One stone with man-made hole.
b. Large rag-stone packing of barrow mound.
c. Construction of barrow mound. On left, layers of stone rubble capped by inclined stones. On right, large stone packing
d. Sloping masonry on exterior of outer ring wall held in position by pitched and upright rag-stone blocks.
types of stone appear to have been especially chosen for their appearance. Some of the blocks were of considerable size, the largest measuring 4 feet 2 inches long and 1 foot 6 inches wide. The smaller sized and neatly coursed masonry was carried out in Stonesfield slate, a bed of the Great Oolite which occurs a short distance above the site of the barrow.

The burial chamber of an irregular oval shape measured some 4 feet across; it was enclosed on three sides by rough dry stone walling while the fourth side had the entrance and a single large orthostat forming the wall. It was paved with tightly packed knobbly stones, as was also the short length of passage, and both had been blocked up with the same sort of stone. On excavation the chamber was found to be empty except for some fallen stone debris, the only find being one scrap of Western Neolithic pottery. The antechamber, roughly rectangular and measuring 4 feet by 4 feet, was found filled with fallen debris of gravelly earth, while the forecourt was covered with a depth of about 12 inches of fallen small rubble-stone debris. On removing this debris the whole of the forecourt floor was found to be covered with a 2 to 3 inches depth of occupation ashy loam, burnt red and black, and in one part intense crimson, even to scorching the natural stone scarlet. This area of burning extended over the floor of the antechamber and spread down the pathway to the entrance by the horns at the doorway. The base of the walls adjacent to the burnt areas, and especially its eastern half, showed intense fire damage. From the whole of the burnt area many fragments of human bone were recovered, burnt and unburnt, with flint artifacts, flakes and scraps of Western Neolithic pottery. There was almost a total absence of skull fragments but many human teeth. On removal of the burnt occupation debris a hearth, seven post-holes, a shallow gully and a slot for a door sill were found. All these features were filled with the same burnt debris. Two of the post-holes at the entrance were for the uprights of a doorway with sill slot. Three post-holes were set up along the centre of the entrance pathway, apparently for posts to hold a ridged roof. A further post-hole was placed in the centre of that part of the forecourt which had been enlarged presumably for a dwelling, and where also a circular hearth lay. A shallow gully or beam slot with a right-angle return remained on the west side of the forecourt.

The evidence deduced from the lay-out of the post-holes, in which use had been made of the barrow walls, shows that some form of occupation had taken place, and was subsequent to the building of the barrow. The entrance with post-holes and door sill, as well as the
posts up the centre of the entrance pathway to take a ridged roof, clearly demonstrates use other than a burial place. The conflagration demonstrated by the burnt debris on the floors and the calcined base of the walls may be taken to be the work of a marauding tribe, who in raiding the living inhabitants in the barrow forecourt, broke open the burial chamber, scattering the bones before setting fire to the dwelling. The fact too, of finding practically no skull fragments, but numerous teeth suggests that the skulls were removed as trophies. However, of the remaining fragments of skull recovered from the antechamber, four pieces were found to have a hard black waxy feel and appearance of ebony. This fact has given a clue to the possible roofing material of the dwelling. This condition of bone is considered to be the result of very slow combustion and this may be due to a thatched roof, which would smoulder for days once it had fallen in and lay on the floor. From an examination of the remaining bone fragments, some burnt and some unburnt, it was possible to estimate that eighteen persons were represented, aged from infants to adults.

Many chips and flakes of flint were recovered from the floors of the antechamber, forecourt, dwelling and entrance pathway, mostly in a calcined condition, the only artifacts being two scrapers (FIG. 4, nos. 21, 22) and one leaf-shaped arrowhead (FIG. 4, no. 19). The latter was complete and of such superb workmanship as to suggest its use as a votive offering accompanying one of the burials. Small sherds of Western Neolithic pottery, three fragments of bone pins (FIG. 4, nos. 15, 17, 18), burnt hazel-nut shells, charcoal and one small round stone rubber (FIG. 4, no. 16) were also found. Rather conspicuous was the absence of animal bones.

A few sherds of Peterborough ware, found in secondary positions in the barrow, showed continuous use of the site but, as no other finds of datable consequence were found on the floors, it seemed certain that the conflagration destroying the dwelling took place in the neolithic period, from which disaster it does not seem to have been re-used. The barrow, however, did attract attention for burials, as one of the Beaker period was found, inserted into the rubble stone core of the barrow mound, some 20 feet north of the Rotunda. This consisted of an extended skeleton lying east to west with the broken remains of a bell beaker at its feet (FIG. 4, no. 12). The burial unfortunately could not be recovered whole due to the disturbance by the bulldozer, but the area of the grave was recognized by the admixture of earth in the rubble stone overlying the bones, showing that the burial was inserted from above. A tiny fragment of bronze sheeting adhering to one of the
bones came to light and is thought by Mr H. J. Case (p. 31) possibly to be part of an ear-ring.

The site of the barrow, thereafter, does not seem to have been used for burials. Beside two other Bronze Age sherds, one sherd of Early Iron Age A (fig. 4, no. 13) all found on the outer edges of the barrow, twelve sherds and two fragments of tiles (fig. 4, no. 23) of the Romano-British period were recovered as surface finds just below the grass level.

The barrow must have been in use for some generations since the remains show that at least eighteen persons were interred here, and yet the roughly constructed monument with its hybrid plan suggests degeneration in long barrow building technique, and would therefore suggest a late date in construction. At the same time the presence of such features as the Rotunda, known elsewhere only at Notgrove, Nympsfield and Ty Isaf, and the continued use of the main entrance, all early features, do point to an earlier dating, so that Sale’s Lot may tentatively be placed somewhere in mid-Neolithic times, c. 2500 B.C. The barrow in its pristine condition, however roughly constructed, must have been an imposing structure especially when viewed from the uphill approach.

Part II—Excavation (fig. 2)

The method of excavation used on the site, was by opening areas 10 feet wide, stretching east and west of a central baulk, the central baulk being laid down arbitrarily on the presumed long axis of the barrow as seen on the surface of the ground. After work had started it was found that this baulk did correspond closely with the original north-west–south-east axis. The central baulk was 3 feet wide while all the other baulks were 2 feet wide.

A great deal of the work of excavation was done by hand trawelling as the rubble-stone construction of the barrow lay immediately below the turf. The turf was of a shallow stiff rooty type, difficult to remove, and, since the barrow was entirely of rubble-stone without any earth admixture, only grass and wild flowers were able to obtain a foothold. This is of interest, as with the lapse of thousands of years since the erection of the barrow only turf had remained as a cover. Nothing deep rooting, such as trees or bushes, had taken hold and since none of this evidence was found during the excavation, the fact helps to demonstrate the open downlike character of the northern Cotswolds then as now.

The long barrow orientated north-west–south-east was at first estimated to be 117 feet long, from the tip of the eastern horn at the
south-east to its indefinite end to the north-west, but later this was corrected to a length of 120 feet, where the rubble-stone of the barrow mingled with the natural weathered surface rubble overlying the rock. The greatest width, which was across the forecourt between the outer edges of the Outer Rotunda or Ring wall which enclosed the burial chamber, was 33 feet. The average width of the barrow mound, that part which extended from the burial chamber to the end, was 26 feet narrowing to 23 feet towards the end. The greatest remaining height was 3 feet on the north face of the Outer Ring wall.

The barrow consisted of a single small burial chamber, entered from a narrow short passage opening off a small rectangular ante-chamber. The antechamber opened centrally onto a roughly elliptical forecourt from which an entrance pathway was made, through two concentric walls, to the exterior of the barrow. The two concentric walls enclosed the burial chamber, passage, antechamber and forecourt forming a Rotunda, these two walls to be called Outer and Inner Ring walls. Behind the Rotunda and stretching north-west to the end of the barrow lay the barrow mound, a concentrated heap of rubble-stone without earth. It was edged with a single dry-stone revetment wall throughout its length on both east and west sides. Almost at the end of the barrow two shallow stone-lined graves had been dug into the original ground level. All the features of the barrow described above had not survived in their entirety. Parts of the western horn were missing, due probably to the more pronounced hill slope here. A length of the western side of the barrow mound had become denuded so that only the foundations of the western revetment wall remained. The eastern half of the forecourt and adjacent parts of the Inner Ring wall had been removed, but this seems to have been a deliberate ancient disturbance, to be described below under the forecourt dwelling. A large part of the barrow mound, c. 44 feet as stated above, had been removed by the work of the bulldozer. The entrance through the Ring walls was guarded by the erection of horns on either side. These were solid structures of rubble-stone edged with dry-stone revetment walls.

The stone used throughout for the construction of the barrow was of local origin, being obtained from the various beds of the Inferior oolite limestone. The rubble-stone, small, rough and of fist-like size, some of which was weathered, was used for the barrow mound and where packing behind the walls was needed. This was immediately at hand, coming from the weathered surface of the natural rock on which the barrow was situated. The neat small-sized dry-stone walling, which was incorporated into various parts, came from the Stonesfield slate.
bed of the Great Oolite. Particular attention, however, seems to have been paid to a rag-stone bed of the Inferior Oolite which was highly fossiliferous and in addition bored with holes, forming attractive and fantastic shapes. The rag-stone was used in both large and small sizes and was especially favoured for the walls of the burial chamber, passage and other central parts of the barrow. The stones, large and small, of the various beds of oolite were inter-mingled indiscriminately in the walls, suggesting use of the loads of stone as they arrived on the site. Apparently a larger amount of the big blocks of the rag-stone than were needed had been hauled to the site and this residue was piled up on and against the small rubble-stone core forming the eastern half of the barrow mound (Plate IV, a and b). This bed of rag-stone outcrops lower down the hill slope below the barrow, and so would have entailed a certain amount of hard labour. The rag-stone used seemed to have been weather worn, suggesting material already exposed and therefore not specifically quarried for the occasion. The sizes of the largest stones were from 4 feet and 2 feet long, by 20 inches wide, by 5 inches thick and others 3 feet, by 1 foot 6 inches, by 6 inches.

The Barrow Site

The barrow was built on foundations of a single layer of small rubble-stones, many with flat surfaces, laid horizontally in the shallow surface of the original ground level of reddish clayey loam. It was almost a paving in a crude form, though in some small areas the rubble-stone was set in pitched formation. This initial foundation was probably a means of stabilizing the clayey surface of the hill side, which even during the present excavation was found to be treacherous after rain. No previous disturbances to the ground below the barrow, such as trenches, pits or surrounding ditch were located. Samples of the original ground surface below the barrow were examined for pollen but none was found, presumably owing to the soil's richness in lime.

The Burial Chamber

The burial chamber, of an irregular oval shape, was 4 feet wide east to west and 4 feet north to south on its western side but narrowed to 2 feet on its eastern side. Dry-stone walling enclosed it on three sides: on the fourth side, the western, one large rag-stone orthostat, 2 feet long, 20 inches high, set in a stone slot formed the wall, leaving a narrow space 1 foot 9 inches wide for an entrance into the burial chamber (Plate II, a). The masonry of the walls was large but interspersed with smaller stones, while the eastern wall was of horizontally placed flat slabs. The walls were only faced internally, backed by
tightly packed rubble-stone. The floor of the chamber was made up of large pieces of knobbly rag-stone, inserted into the original ground surface, in slightly pitched formation while the lowest courses of the stone walls rested on it. On excavation the chamber was found to be empty of human remains, but filled with fallen stone debris. The only find was one small sherd of Western Neolithic pottery by the doorway into the chamber, stamped into the thin rubbly sandy layer covering the floor (FIG. 4, no. 8). In the rubble-stone packing of the south wall two fragments of bone pins or skewers were found (FIG. 4, nos. 17, 18) also, the jaw bones of a fox and a cat (p. 34). Both the latter were ancient remains and cannot be considered later intrusions. During the excavations fragments of human bones as well as scraps of Western Neolithic sherds turned up in the rubble-stone backing in various areas of the barrow, indicating residual matter swept up into the building of the barrow by people already occupying the neighbourhood.

The Passage

The narrow passage leading from the antechamber to the burial chamber was 4 feet long and on average 2 feet 3 inches wide. It was paved with the same type of knobbly stones as the floor of the burial chamber. Its west wall laid in a straight line was of large horizontally laid masonry, which extended 2 feet beyond the entrance of the burial chamber. It ran behind the orthostat, the space being filled with rubble-stone, which was also the general packing around the burial chamber. The east wall was not so well built, being on a slight curve. Blocking with two more upper courses of knobbly stones filled the passage up to the entrance of the burial chamber.

The Antechamber

The antechamber, walled only on three sides, was some 4 feet square, its north side widening to 4 feet 6 inches to accommodate the entrance to the passage. The west and east walls stood three courses high, while it opened onto the forecourt on the south side. The junction of its east wall with the forecourt had been disturbed. The floor was the original ground surface, on which a thick deposit of burnt occupation debris lay. Above this lay a sandy rubbly earth with other fallen stony debris. From in and under the burnt debris many fragments of burnt and unburnt human bones were recovered, also one large flint scraper (FIG. 4, no. 21), other calcined flint chips and the point of a bone pin or skewer (FIG. 4, no. 15), as well as fragments of Western Neolithic sherds.
The Forecourt

The forecourt was a roughly elliptical area, measuring 14 feet from west to east and 8 feet north to south. The antechamber opened off it midway on its north side. The lower courses of the west wall remained intact, running in a graceful curve, but the latter formation was missing on the opposite side, where the wall had been removed to make way for another purpose, this had taken place in neolithic times. The west wall stood three courses high, built of mostly small rubble, with a few large horizontally placed stones for stability. The wall returned at the entrance pathway to be incorporated with the Inner Ring wall. The floor of the courtyard was the original ground surface and was covered by the same layer of burnt debris as in the antechamber. The result of the burning debris on the floor was to calcine the lowest courses of the masonry of the adjoining walls. The burnt debris extended over the whole floor stretching into the entrance pathway and up to the doorway. A great quantity of fragments of human bones, including many teeth but few pieces of skull, were found scattered all over the floor and in the post-holes below the burning, to be described below. Sherds of Western Neolithic pottery and calcined flint flakes were also found. Fallen stone debris covered the forecourt. The large areas on either side of the forecourt and surrounding the burial chamber and antechamber, all within the Inner Ring wall, were packed tightly with small rubble-stone. The packing, however, on the west side of the passage, where this was undisturbed, consisted of larger rag-stones arranged in pitched formation, overlapping and inclined inwards towards the burial chamber. This appeared significant and suggested foundations for a bee-hive type of roof construction for the burial chamber.

The Rotunda, Outer Ring Wall and Inner Ring Wall

The burial chamber was enclosed by two concentric walls faced only outwards, and backed by thickly packed rubble-stone. They were on average 4 feet apart and formed fairly true circles. Both walls were interrupted, one within the other, on the south-east to allow an entranceway into the barrow. The Outer Ring wall enclosed an area with a diameter of 36 feet north to south but with a slight constriction, from west to east, measuring 32 feet. The wall face on its northern periphery was in excellent condition, 2 feet 10 inches high with fifteen courses; it was built with a batter of c. 10 inches, mostly of flat medium-sized Stonesfield slate with the inclusion of a few larger rag-stones (PLATE III, a). The good preservation of the wall here was
due to the protection given it by the rubble-stone core of the barrow mound which was piled up against the wall (Plate III, b), and this must have followed closely after the erection of the Ring wall as no weathering of the wall was apparent. The length of wall was continuous except for a break 8 feet east of the centre, where a re-alignment of the circle was corrected and shown by a vertical straight joint in the masonry. The junctions of the east and west revetment walls of the barrow mound with the Outer Ring wall showed bonding, to be described under the section dealing with the barrow mound.

The continuation of the Outer Ring wall, after its junction with the eastern revetment wall of the barrow mound, changed from level courses of masonry to heavy pitched slabs placed against a core of small rubble-stone. The pitched slabs inclined inwards and were stabilized by larger slabs placed outside them, some of which were set upright and others inclined outwards (Plate IV, d). This treatment was apparently needed as the hill slope here was pronounced, but it does demonstrate knowledge of constructional method at that time. The remaining face of the circle was traced to the entrance by its lowest course only, which consisted of some very large horizontally placed rag-stones.

The western circumference of the Outer Ring wall did not have to counteract the hill slope to the same extent, and was therefore built of smaller masonry kept in position by some upright slabs. A length of 10 feet of wall at the entrance was in good condition, built of large masonry (Plate II, b). The Outer Ring wall throughout was backed by closely packed small rubble-stone, filling the space between the two Ring walls except for a length of 5 feet on its north-west periphery, where some of the large rag-stones were placed, leaning against but also supporting the face of the Inner Ring wall.

**Inner Ring Wall**

The Inner Ring wall enclosed an area with a diameter of 27 feet. It ran close behind the burial chamber where the same stone packing served for both walls. The masonry was of the same type as that used in the Outer Ring wall, expect that on the east side there had been much disruption caused by the change to a dwelling site of the eastern half of the forecourt, including parts of the Inner Ring wall. The line of the wall was also missing on its return to the entrance. Some of the stone packing of the Outer Ring wall was bonded into the lower courses of the face of the Inner Ring wall. A search was made in the large space, to the west of the burial chamber, an area corresponding to that to the
east of the forecourt which had been utilized for a dwelling, to check if some structure such as another burial chamber was present, but nothing was found.

Horns

A pair of horns extended from the Outer Ring wall on both sides of the entrance. That they were part of the original plan was shown by the bonding of their walls with the Outer Ring wall. The walls of neat thin Stonesfield slate masonry were well laid, standing 9 inches high with five courses. The lowest course of the eastern horn was bonded into the lowest course of the Outer Ring wall 18 feet from the tip of the horn and the same occurred, but at 14 feet, for the west horn. Unfortunately the lines of the return faces of the horns were missing, so it was not clear whether they were rounded or pointed, but a slight suggestion remained in the eastern horn that its return may have been a pointed one. A great deal of the western horn was missing, as was the wall face of the eastern horn at the entrance. The interior of the eastern horn was packed solid with rubble-stone, the packing being held in position by two slight rudimentary walls facing outwards, to counterbalance the thrust of the steepest part of the hill slope which occurred here.

Barrow Mound

A great feature of long barrows is in their long mounds, erected beyond the areas of crucial importance and which appear to have no practical use except for show. This, however, is not always the case as there are long barrows which have lateral burial chambers inserted into their sides of their mounds. The barrow mound concerned here, was 72 feet long, with an average width of 26 feet and may have been as much as 6 feet high originally at its apex. It was constructed of a tightly packed core of small rubble-stone, on a foundation of a roughly set paving on the original ground surface. This foundation in parts was also in pitched formation, patches of which were sometimes set in opposing directions. The method of building the core of the mound was done by layers of rubble-stone, which at times by their neat and symmetrical placing suggested careful and purposeful handling, alternated with a capping of large flat slabs; three such alternate layers were noticed and all inclined inwards towards the centre of the mound (PLATE IV, c, FIG. 3, section C–D).
The barrow mound was held in position by a single dry-stone revetment wall on both east and west sides along its full length. The walls, mostly of thin Stonesfield slate, were neatly built, standing from three to five courses high, with foundations set into the original ground surface. At intervals upright slabs had been placed against the wall face to strengthen it, and these again were wedged into the vertical position by rubble-stone packing buried in the ground in front (fig. 3, sections E–F, G–H). This packing in certain lengths was in pitched formation, which stretched as much as 2 feet from the wall faces. Over all lay weathered stone debris slipped from the mound itself. That the erection of the barrow mound was part of the original plan was seen by the bonding of the revetment walls with the Outer Ring wall. At the junction of the western revetment wall with the Outer Ring wall, the Stonesfield slate courses of the revetment wall face ran below the rag-stone masonry of the Outer Ring wall for a distance of 3 feet. On the eastern side, the face of the revetment wall ran up to and abutted in a neat straight joint the Outer Ring wall, but its rubble-stone packing behind the face was incorporated into the Ring wall.

In addition to the mass of rubble-stone used in the construction of the mound, a certain amount of the large rag-stone blocks were utilized; these appeared to be residual masonry after completing the main parts of the barrow. These were placed for a length of 21 feet from the Outer Ring wall along the west side of the barrow mound, leaning on each other and the inner ones against the rubble-stone core already in position on the eastern side of the mound (Plate IV, a and b). The rag-stone and the rubble-stone deposits met along the central line of the barrow's axis. The largest rag-stones measured 3 feet and 2 feet 9 inches by 1 foot 6 inches while a number of them were of the bored and holed bed of rag-stone. The holes are of natural origin but one stone in particular was holed in such a way as to suggest being man-made, being rectangular in shape (Plate IV, a). This may have been a circular hole in the first place but improved upon by man; it certainly would make the moving of the stone more practicable. Some rubble-stone packing lay between the rag-stones but voids also occurred which made suitable housing for lizards, living specimens of which were found during the excavation. The area occupied by the large blocks was terminated by two more, set upright as orthostats across the barrow. These appeared to be part of a demarcating line but a search for further stone holes across to the east side proved negative.

Most of the remaining 36 feet of the mound to its end had been disturbed or removed by the bulldozer except for patches of foundation
paving, both pitched and flat, the lowest courses of the east and west revetment walls and the remains of two graves. There was also a remarkable stone, triangular in shape, laid flat with smooth face, buried in the ground surface near the central line of the barrow's long axis, some 36 feet from the north-west end, which suggested a marking out point. A group of sherds of Western Neolithic ware (B.43) was recovered against the outer face of the western revetment wall, while odd fragments of human bone here and there amongst the loose foundation paving were the only finds. Due to modern encroachment by ploughing the exact termination of the east and west revetment walls could not be located but as far as the plan could indicate, it seemed possible that the walls of the barrow ended in a semi-circle. A section cut across the suspected end of the barrow showed that it had narrowed down to c. 13 feet (Fig. 3, section A–B). A slight marking out trench was present on the east side of the trench, but was filled with natural red clayey loam.

Graves at North End of Barrow Mound

Two graves were found close together at the end of the barrow mound; only their foundations remained, as the bulldozer had skimmed over the sites. Both had entrances facing east.

Grave 1. Dug into the original ground surface to a depth of 6 inches, was a long narrow area edged with a roughly built dry-stone wall, on average 9 inches wide and standing in places three courses high. It measured 8 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches wide. A disturbed crouched skeleton occupied the inner end of the grave, the skull broken into several fragments lay apart in the two end corners, while a bundle of the long bones lay close by, but in the centre of the grave and kept into position by a slight blocking of stones. The entrance was blocked for a length of 2 feet by small rubble-stone which formed a wall face on its inward side. The whole grave was covered with fallen stone amongst which was the remains of one large flat slab suggesting a cover stone. Since this cover stone was at no great height above the grave, the latter must have been one for a single occasion since it would not have had enough head room to allow entrance for later burials. The masonry of the walls was so incorporated into the revetment wall at the entrance as to show its contemporaneity of build. There was roughly set paving outside the entrance backed by a certain amount of pitching, while on either side were slight traces of additional walls suggesting vestigial horns or some indication of an entrance.
Grave 2. At a distance of about 5 feet to the north lay the second grave, 6 feet long and 4 feet wide, also with an entrance facing east. Its construction was similar to Grave 1 but was not in so good a condition, its entrance being particularly disturbed. It was filled with fallen stone and red clayey loam. Several large flat slabs lay up against its inner end which may represent some of the roofing. The only finds were a few human teeth and a flint arrowhead (FIG. 4, no. 20). The ground surface beyond the grave was heavily pitched with stone. There were slight indications that additional curving revetment walls had been constructed between the two graves with another one 4 feet north of Grave 2.

The two shallow graves at the tail end of the barrow mound and shown to be contemporary with the latter calls for some comment. A happy suggestion is that they may well have been the graves of some of the actual labourers on the building of the barrow, honoured by such attention for some special qualification.

Ditch Surrounding the Site

A search was made for a surrounding ditch to the barrow. In addition to the section (FIG. 3, section C–D) across the full extent of the barrow mound the trench was carried for another 35 feet to the west, beyond the site, where an air photograph seemed to indicate some feature in the ground. The trench, however, showed a consistent level of the red clayey loam lying on natural weathered rubble-stone which formed the top of the Inferior Oolite. Solid rock was touched on at points. The stone paving forming the foundation for the barrow was found only to extend c. 5 feet from the western revetment wall. No evidence of a ditch was forthcoming. It was later learned that the shadow mark on the air photograph around the barrow was due to the double ploughing that had taken place to avoid any further removal of barrow evidence.

Timber Construction in Forecourt

The floors of the antechamber, the forecourt and the entrance pathway, formed on the original ground surface, were covered with heavily burnt debris. The debris, varying in depth, but on average 2 to 3 inches deep, consisted of a soft earthy mixture burnt red and black and, where clay was involved, burnt a dark crimson. The natural rubble-stone which lies close below the surface was in places burnt to a scarlet colour. Many fragments of human bone, charcoal, calcined
flints, carbonized hazel-nut shells and sherds of Western Neolithic pottery were scattered widely over these floors. The bases of the walls adjoining these floors were calcined as a result of the burning.

On removing the burnt debris by hand scraping, seven post-holes, a door sill slot, a hearth and a gully were found; these features proved timber work and with the presence of the hearth, postulated a dwelling.

Two of the post-holes, nos. 1 and 2, 5 feet apart, were placed at the entrance, 2 feet 9 inches outside the junction of the eastern horn with the Outer Ring wall. A barrier of small stones had been built between these post-holes and in the barrier a shallow channel, 4 feet long and 6 inches wide, remained, filled with burnt debris and with some of its stone-lining burnt red. The channel formed a slot for a timber sill for a door. A door stop was formed by an upright stone in the middle of the slot, thus indicating a door in two panels. A bunter pebble tool was found in the slot.

Post-hole 2 showed indications of additional struts on its inner side. Calcined flints and a sandstone rubber (Fig. 4, no. 16) were recovered from this post-hole, which was filled with tightly packed black ash and burnt debris. The ground around which abutted the inward facing wall of the eastern horn was intensively burnt.

The pathway between the door and the entrance to the ante-chamber was a distance of 19 feet and along this length three post-holes in a line were found. Post-hole 3 lay 7 feet from the door, post-hole 4 at 12 feet, and post-hole 5 at 19 feet. The distance of post-hole 4 was 5 feet from the other two. These three post-holes would have held timbers to support a ridged roof, the eves of which would have rested on the walls of the Outer and Inner Ring walls on either side of the entrance pathway and forecourt. In the western half of the forecourt lay a shallow gully, either a drain or a sleeper beam slot, perhaps to support some form of screen to the interior of the forecourt dwelling. The gully 6 feet 6 inches long, 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep ran below the edge of the forecourt wall for a distance of only 4 inches and ended in a point, suggesting that a pointed timber had been rammed in under the wall. It was filled with burnt debris as on the floor, which produced carbonized hazel-nut shells, fragments of calcined human bones and a calcined flint scraper (Fig. 4, no. 22). The south end of the gully returned eastward for a length of 2 feet, to end 18 inches from post-hole 4, while at the same distance beyond there was another post-hole, no. 6, beyond which again, lay a circular hearth 2 feet 6 inches in diameter. The eastern half of the forecourt with a large part of the Inner Ring wall core was removed, and now formed an area of about
12 feet by 10 feet, in the centre of which post-hole 7 was placed to support further roofing. To augment the evidence that a dwelling was in being here was the find of pottery, flints, charcoal and the hearth. The presence of the latter does away with the idea of additional burial space, at the same time the absence of animal food bones on the floor must be noted. The dwelling may then have been for a solitary caretaker rather than a family. There is no doubt, however, that the structure was subsequent to the erection of the barrow, as the walls of the latter were utilized. The incident of conflagration was later still. The roofing material may be considered to have been of thatch. This is borne out by the find of a few fragments of human skull in the antechamber, calcined to an intense black colouring like ebony; this on examination has been pronounced to be the result of very slow combustion, hence the correlation of a thatched roof falling to the floor, would be likely to smoulder for days and thus bringing about the effect noted above. Although the presence of a hearth within this dwelling must have meant fire danger at any time, it seems almost certain that the conflagration which had enveloped the whole structure right down to the doorway must have been a single deliberate act. The discovery of the empty burial chamber with the scatter of fragmentary human bones, burnt and unburnt all over the floors does point to a plundering raid. The absence of skulls suggests too, that they were taken as trophies, although many teeth were left behind. The latter were found mostly on the floor of the entrance pathway as it left the forecourt. Since no finds other than that of the neolithic period were recovered from the debris of the conflagration, it firmly places the raid then, and from which there appears to have been no recovery.

However, the conflagration may be placed late in the period, since a few sherds of Peterborough ware occurred. Some of the sherds were with the Western Neolithic sherds on the floor (B.37) while others were from the fallen stone debris lying in the entrance pathway (B.7 and 12). There were six separate finds of Peterborough ware compared with twenty-one of Western Neolithic, but the former were all in secondary positions.

Post-holes

The filling in all the post-holes was the same, a burnt black and red earthy clay, becoming stickier towards the bottom. Charcoal, flints calcined into slithers, Western Neolithic sherds, fragments of human bones, carbonized hazel-nut shells and in one hole a small rounded sandstone rubber were among the contents of the holes. The
similarity of the fillings shows that the conflagration that had taken place was all at one time, that is, on the occasion of the burning down of the dwelling in the forecourt.

Three of the holes produced Western neolithic sherds (post-holes nos. 5, 6, 7); six produced human bones (post-holes nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7); three produced calcined flints (post-holes nos. 1, 2, 7).

An interesting botanical corollary was the presence of the lengthy and tough roots of the Greater Knapweed (Centauria scabiosa) growing where deeper soil was to be found. This was noticed in the first post-hole excavated and thereafter was taken as a sign for locating others, which did prove of use, roots being found in post-holes nos. 1, 3 and 4, and in the door sill slot.

Post-holes

No. 1. Small slightly oval, 6 inches diameter 5 inches deep, filling of burnt earthy clay and black silt, packing of small stones on east and west, larger flat stones on north and south. Small fragments of calcined human bone, one large flint flake and two chips. Knapweed roots in filling.

No. 2. Oblong, 6 inches by 4 inches, 12 inches deep. Packing on three sides with very small rubble burnt red, larger packing on west side. Slot for strut on inner or left side of post, 15 inches long, stepped down in three levels and lined with stones. Seven calcined flint slithers and one sandstone rubber in filling.

No. 3. Round, 12 inches diameter at top, 3 inches at bottom, 10 inches deep, lined with stones. Fragments of human bones in all levels and at bottom of filling.

No. 4. Oval at top, 12 inches by 16 inches, at bottom 5 inches by 4½ inches. Hole very well made and appearing to have held a squared timber with pointed end, 18 inches deep, and lined with small rubble, in surface scoop over post-hole many human bone fragments and one sherd Western Neolithic pottery. A few inches north of hole the complete leaf-shaped arrowhead was recovered from burnt debris on floors.

No. 5. Large slightly oval, 15 inches by 12 inches at top, 10 inches deep, stone packing on east side, slot for strut on outer or right hand side of post. Slot packed with stones on both sides. Slot 10 inches long, 3 to 4 inches wide, slanting downwards to rest against east wall of antechamber in a point. Large oval spread of burning, 30 inches by 20 inches covered the hole. Many human bones in the filling and in the post-hole also Western Neolithic sherds.

No. 6. Rectangular, 6 inches by 4 inches at top becoming circular with 5 inches diameter at bottom. Damp clayey filling at bottom, packing of stones. Large oval area 2 feet 4 inches long of heavily burnt debris covering the hole. A lower jaw of child, charcoal, nut shells and one sherd of Western Neolithic pottery in fillings.

No. 7. Large round hole, 8 inches diameter at top, 3 inches at bottom, 12 inches deep, packed with small rubble all sides except for one large downward sloping stone at north end. Filling burnt crimson and black and damp. Fifteen slithers of calcined flint which joined to make one flint nodule. Small
scraps of calcined human bone and fifteen sherds of Western Neolithic pottery in the filling of the hole. The excessive damp mentioned in the filling of post-holes 6 and 7, was due to the outcrop of a bed of Fuller's Earth clay. This was also traced in the clay ground surface under parts of the burial chamber floor and its south-east length of wall.

The Beaker Burial

Inserted into the centre of the core of the barrow mound, 20 feet north of the Outer Ring wall, a skeleton accompanied with a beaker was recovered, but in a fragmentary condition. The extent of the grave could not be followed due to disturbance by the bulldozer, but an area some 4 feet 6 inches long lying east to west contained the bones mixed up with earth and fallen rubble. The bones lying in this somewhat constricted area were, however, in no apparent order, except that the skull fragments lay at the east end. The fact that the fractures of the skull fragments were old ones suggested that the burial could have been a ritual insertion, which might then account for the disarray of the bones. The remains of the broken beaker lay at the feet, close to the back of the large rag-stone packing of the western half of the barrow mound. The skeleton is of an adult male, probably forty years of age. The sherds belong to a bell-beaker, decorated with interrupted zonal impressions of notched stamps and can be dated to c. 1700 B.C. (FIG. 4, no. 12).

A tiny fragment of sheet copper or bronze adhered to one of the bone fragments and may be part of an ear-ring (p. 31).

Part III—The Finds

Pottery. (The figures in brackets identify the bag numbers containing the sherds.)

The dating of the long barrow can be firmly placed in the Neolithic period, not only by its type of construction but also by the pottery found in and below it. This is shown by twenty-one separate finds of Western Neolithic sherds and six of Peterborough ware, the latter, however, were in secondary positions but the whole representing at least some twelve vessels.

The Western Neolithic sherds were recovered on original ground surface, below the rubble-stone core of the barrow mound (B.41), and in the lowest level of the stone packing between the Outer and Inner Ring walls (B.6), and from original ground surface at base of the outer face of the eastern horn (Bs.29, 30). Sherds were also recovered from

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1 The finds have been placed on indefinite loan to the City Museum, Gloucester.
Fig. 4. Pottery, Flints, Objects (4)

Nos. 1-11, Western Neolithic rim sherds; No. 14, Pottery weight; No. 12, Bell beaker; No. 13, Iron Age A sherd; Nos. 15, 17, 18, points of bone pins; No. 16, sandstone rubher; Nos. 19, 20, flint arrowheads; Nos. 21, 22, flint scrapers; No. 23, inscribed Roman tile.
the burial chamber floor (B.8), forecourt floor (Bs.24, 37), the pathway to forecourt (Bs. 3, 34, 35, 45), amongst rubble-stone on the forecourt (Bs. 31, 33), and in post-holes 4 (B.28), 5, (B.48), 6 (B.50), 7 (B.42), one sherd from below the south-east wall of the burial chamber (B.49), and one embedded in the red clay of original ground surface outside north end of west revetment wall (B.43).

A curious lump of pottery, 2½ inches long, heavily encrusted with large shell grit and with impressions of finger marks and a slight groove for cord, was found embedded in the entrance pathway, which suggested use as a weight or plumb bob and also that pottery making was in the locality (FIG. 4, no. 14).

The Peterborough sherds, all in secondary positions, were recovered on the floor of the forecourt, with Western Neolithic sherds (B.37), in the earth filling over the forecourt (B.4), on entrance pathway (B.7), amongst blocking stones of passage (B.12), in stone debris outside the eastern horn (B.5), over rubble-stone packing on north side of burial chamber (B.9), and in rubble-stone of barrow mound (B.10).

The Western Neolithic sherds were in poor condition, the fragments very small and abraded in some cases. Only eleven fragments of rims were recovered, none of base, most of wall sherds and undecorated (FIG. 4, nos. 1–11). The paste, on average c. 5 millimetres thick, was soft, generally black in colour and profusely shell gritted, but occasional limestone and burnt flint grit was also added. There were a few other sherds of a harder sandy vesicular ware with sparse shell grit (Bs. 8, 31, 33, 34).

The Western Neolithic pottery found at Sale’s Lot shows some resemblances to the nearest comparable large assemblage, that found at Abingdon in the upper Thames Valley. It is too small to support conclusions, but such resemblances as appear are to pottery which was probably late in the sequence at Abingdon. These resemblances would be supported if the Peterborough ware at Sale’s Lot appeared to belong to the same cultural stage. Peterborough ware was probably late at Abingdon (Ant. J., xxxvi (1956), pp. 23–4).

The Peterborough sherds were small fragments of wall sherds undecorated. The paste was soft with a soapy texture, from 4 to 9 millimetres thick, with black interior and reddish-brown exterior and sparse shell grit.
Western Neolithic Pottery (illustrated) (FIG. 4)

1. (B.2). From original ground surface under barrow mound on central line c. 24 feet north of Outer Ring wall. Associated with human bones near the Beaker Burial. Three vessels were represented in the group of thirty-two sherds.
   
   Vessel, diameter c. 6½ inches, black paste with shell grit. Bevel on interior of rim.

2. From site as No. 1.
   
   Vessel, diameter c. 8 inches, upright rounded rim, black paste with shell grit.

3. From site as No. 1. Bowl, diameter c. 4 inches, small vessel, thin upright rim, grey exterior but black paste.
   
   This group of sherds consisted of undecorated wall sherds, with some structural breaks, representing at least three vessels, around 5 millimetres and 9 millimetres thick. Leached and pitted, encrusted with calcium carbonate. Blackish-brown exterior, brown interior and core. Profuse shell-grit—2 millimetres, occasional limestone—3 millimetres and burnt flint—4 millimetres. These sherds would be exceptional in the shell-gritted ware at the causewayed camp, Abingdon (Ant. J., xxxvi (1956), pp. 19–20) only for their inclusion of flint and limestone, otherwise quite in place. The shell-grits are more comminuted than some at Abingdon.

4. (B.6). From ground level at lowest course of stone packing between Outer and Inner Ring walls on south-west side.
   
   Vessel with small sized bead rim, slight groove under rim on exterior. Black paste with shell grit.

5. (B.8). From brown sandy filling on floor of Burial Chamber. Fragment of capping of rim, sandy vesicular texture, with very sparse shell, light grey paste, dark grey exterior well smoothed. Curvature suggests a more prominent rim than no. 11, below, this more typical of the Abingdon assemblages. The sherds with sandy texture differ from those of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and more resemble the No. 2 ware at Abingdon (loc. cit. 20–2).

6. (B.41). From original ground surface below barrow mound c. 7 feet north of Outer Ring wall, near Nos. 1, 2, 3. This group of sherds represented three vessels.
   
   Vessel, diameter 6 inches, upright rounded rim, black with profuse shell-grit.

7. (B.42). From filling of post-hole 7, fifteen sherds present.
   
   Vessel, diameter ?c. 5 inches, upright pointed rim, calcined red, with shell-grit.

8. From site as No. 7.
   
   Vessel, upright pointed rim, brown, shell-grit.

9. (B.43). From original red clay ground surface at outer face of West Revetment wall at c. 38 feet north of Outer Ring wall. A group of sixteen sherds.
   
   Vessel, diameter c. 5 inches, thin upright pointed rim, black with shell-grit.

Vessel, diameter c. 5 inches, upright rim, black with large shell-grit.


Vessel, diameter c. 5 inches. Slightly curving rounded rim. Sparse and comminuted shell-grit. This kind of unaccentuated rim was in a minority at Abingdon (loc. cit.); such unaccentuated rims were more common in No. 2 ware. Vessels with gently curving profiles, as apparently here, were less common at Abingdon than those with straight necks.

Beaker Ware

12. (B.1). Bell-beaker, twenty-two sherds including rim and base, diameter of rim 6 inches, height c. 8\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches. Leached and pitted; encrusted with calcium carbonate. Typical grog-gritted paste, brownish-red exterior, reddish-brown interior, blackish core. Pinched modelling between 2 and 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) centimetres below rim. Apparently interrupted zonal impressions of notched stamps.

This beaker appears to have been well matched in form and decoration by one from Sutton Courtenay, Berks., in the upper Thames Valley (Oxoniensia, xxi (1956), fig. 4 (Barks. 9)). Another beaker from the upper Thames Valley with a moulding is the well-known example from Radley (Inventaria Archaeologica, GB 2). Long-necked beakers from the upper Thames Valley (Oxoniensia, loc. cit., 16) and elsewhere also feature moulding under the rim.


Shoulder and neck sherd of moderately sharp profiled bowl, broken at shoulder along sides of pendant triangle of punctured impressions. Blackish brown well-smoothed sandy ware.

Roman (not illustrated)

Twelve much abraded sherds were recovered from just below the turf line over the barrow. These consisted of two minute chips of Samian ware, one of which was associated with the cap of a modern cartridge, both sherds in debris over the courtyard area; five sherds of light-red buff ware, one of which was the complete handle of a mug, but in two pieces; two of sandy dark grey ware and two of a thin ware with black slip.

Two fragments of tegulae were also found, one of which was inscribed with the stamp V L A (fig. 4, no. 23). This stamp is also known from a fragment of box-flue tile found at the Compton Grove Roman Villa, a site close at hand in the valley below the long barrow. The inscription on the latter was only of the first two letters V L, the
third being missing. It was recorded by Mrs E. M. Clifford in the *Journal of Roman Studies*, XLV (1955), p. 72, fig. 4, no. 21, and is housed in the Cheltenham Museum. The present find has been kindly commented on by Mr R. P. Wright, who says, ‘No satisfactory expansion of these three letters can be suggested from a comparison with the other civilian stamps found in Britain’. The inscription has been published in loc. cit. LIV (1964), p. 183, no. 28.

The present-day find of the Roman sherds only just below the turf and lying on the rubble-stone of the barrow mound suggests practically no change in the profile of the long barrow since then. It can therefore be suggested that the evident destruction of the main features of the barrow must have taken place even before the Romano-British period.

*Flints*

About 102 flints from fifty-two different find-spots were associated with the barrow, almost all were examples of waste material such as flakes, chips, etc., only two cores being present. One complete leaf-shaped arrowhead and the lower half of another, as well as three scrapers were the only artifacts. The flints were on the whole highly patinated while a great number were calcined. The preponderance of the flints within the working area of the barrow postulated as a dwelling, where eighty-three out of the 102 flints were recovered helps to confirm that some form of occupation had taken place here.

The field in which the long barrow lies was under recent plough, and scattered around the barrow at various distances, ranging up to a hundred yards, fifty-nine more flints were picked up, again mostly waste flakes. Of these fifty-nine single finds seven were scrapers. The complete arrowhead (fig. 4, no. 19) was recovered from the burnt debris on the floor at the entrance into the courtyard and near post-hole 4, and the incomplete arrowhead (fig. 4, no. 20) was embedded in the natural red clay floor of Grave 2, at the north end of the barrow. No flints were found in the burial chamber or the passage leading to it, but four came from the area of the antechamber; twenty-one from the forecourt, and twelve from the entrance pathway. The post-holes also yielded flints, one from No. 1; eight from No. 2; eighteen from No. 5; three from No. 6; fifteen from No. 7, seven of which made up into a nodule; and one scraper from the filling in the gully (fig. 4, no. 22). Two flints were recovered between the Ring walls, while outside them eight more; six were in surface rubble and one under the centre of the barrow mound and two from Grave 2.
The quantity of waste flakes in and around the barrow does suggest a chipping floor and occupation site not far off. Whether the dwelling within the courtyard of the barrow could account for this activity is doubtful, since some of the flints found were amongst the stone core of the barrow structure and would be residual material already lying around.

It was also noted that the flint may have been brought to the neighbourhood in its natural state, as some complete flint pebbles were found. One small pebble, highly calcined, was found in the rubble-stone packing of the west wall of the forecourt and another from post-hole 7, of large size which had been calcined, shedding into seven flakes.

**Flints (illustrated) (Fig. 4)**

19. (F.16). Arrowhead. From burnt debris on floor in the entrance to the courtyard and near post-hole 4. Nearly complete specimen, except for minute end of tip, this, however, appears to have been missing from the first as the patination is equal all over. Length 58 millimetres, width 22.75 millimetres, thickness 6.5 millimetres. Even pale grey patination, small oval area of cortex in centre of one side.

20. (F.50). Arrowhead. From Grave 2, embedded in the natural red clay of the floor of the grave. Lower half remaining. Length 25 millimetres, estimated total length 48 millimetres, width 17 millimetres, thickness 2 millimetres. Even white patination all over. The break of the arrowhead took place in antiquity as red clay was adhering to the broken part when found.

21. (F.1). Scraper. From red clay floor of forecourt at entrance into ante-chamber. Large complete scraper. Length 57 millimetres, width 44 millimetres, thickness 10 millimetres. A discoidal flint flake which retains part of the cortex on its upper surface. Heavily patinated pale grey and cream colour and calcined.


**Objects**

**Stone (Fig. 4, no. 16)**


2. (O.6). Bunter pebble (not illustrated). Oval pebble for use as a tool or rubber. From burnt filling in door sill of entrance to the barrow. One end of the pebble missing. Length 60 millimetres, estimated total length c. 85 millimetres, width 59 millimetres, thickness 22 millimetres, lower side flat and smooth, upper side slightly
domed and uneven, the pointed end and one side show ware. Highly calcined, as also the quartz grains seen in the fracture which are burnt pinky-red.

**Bronze**

(0.1) Minute fragment of bronze found adhering to one of the bone fragments of the Beaker Burial. Fragment of sheet copper or bronze, length 7 millimetres, thickness about 0.2 millimetre. Two ridges, height about 0.4 millimetre, width about 0.5 millimetre, formed by embossing; possibly two more parallel ridges at breaks.

Ornamental objects of embossed sheet are the well-known gold earrings from the grave at Radley (Inventaria Archaeologica GB, 2). Similar earrings have occurred with long-necked beakers, e.g. at Tallington, Lincs. (Welland Valley Research Committee Report, No. 7) and at Stakor Hill, Derbyshire (JDAS, lxxv (1955), fig. 3, 75); and were in the Migdale hoard, Sutherland (Inventaria Archaeologica GB, 26, nos. 60–1), associated there with a fragment of embossed sheet (loc. cit., no. 54) larger and more elaborate than that at Sale's Lot. The armlet from a grave with long-necked beaker at Knipton, Leicester is thicker and differs in that the decoration was incised (Inventaria Archaeologica, GB 20). But the Irish sub-rectangular gold plates (Armstrong, Catalogue of Irish Gold Ornaments (1920), nos. 391–4) and the well-known sun-discs (loc. cit., nos. 428, 429, 430, 434, 435, 438, 439) as in the grave with bell-beaker at Mere, Wilts. (Guide Catalogue... in devise Museum, no. 94) are appropriate comparisons.

These ornaments of sheet metal belong to the impact-phase (defined by Case, Palaeohistoria forthcoming; lecture to Prehistoric Society, March 1965), probably centred in the 18th century B.C., when a bronze technology of ultimately central European origin, typified by the thin-butted axehead, was imposed on the earlier established copper-arsenical industry typified by the Irish thick-butted axehead. Beaker people were at least partly responsible for bringing this about, and beakers from Radley, Sale's Lot and Sutton Courtenay show one of the types in use.

**Bone (illustrated) (fig. 4)**

15. (0.2). Pointed long-bone pin. From earthy filling under fallen stones on east side of antechamber. Circular slightly curving near end of bone pin. Tip of pin missing but probably ancient break. Bone either tip of antler or ox. Length remaining 40 millimetres, diameter at broken end 8 millimetres. Calcined (R. J. C. Atkinson, Dorchester, p. 115, fig. 31).

17. (0.8). Two fragments of bone pin. From natural red clay under rubble-stone packing of the south-east wall of Burial Chamber.

(a) one fragment, circular, near the pointed end of pin, length remaining 11 millimetres, diameter 6 millimetres. The fracture at wider end has evidence of small perforations. Calcined grey and white.

(b) one fragment, almost certainly part of above but higher up the shaft, diameter c. 7 millimetres, calcined and appearing very polished.
18. (0.9). Fragment of bone pin. From red earth filling on original ground surface below rubble-stone packing of south-east wall of Burial Chamber. Curving length of bone near pointed end. Length 30 millimetres, diameter 7 millimetres, highly calcined to white, no polish.

**Bone. Skeletal Remains**

The human bones were in a very friable and fragmentary state. The greatest amount of fragments belonging to one individual were those of the Beaker Burial. A large quantity of burnt and unburnt fragments were recovered from the burnt occupation debris on the floors of the forecourt, antechamber, entrance pathway, dwelling and post-holes. The calcined bones being predominant. It is estimated that at least the remains of twenty-one persons are represented and this includes the remains from Graves 1 and 2, and the Beaker burial. The remains as far as they could be identified belonged to eight adults, of which two were male and two female; one young person, five children, two of whom were infants.

**From the Forecourt**

Adult bones, in poor preservation, mandible and post-cranial fragments representing at least one individual. Juvenile post-cranial bones representing probably two, an infant and a ‘toddler’.

**From Forecourt and Inner End of Entrance Pathway**

Teeth representing probably six individuals (at least four), as follows; an infant, a juvenile, an adolescent, two young adults and an older one.

**From Antechamber**

Fragments of thick skull, calcined black and highly polished, from adult male skull. Fragments of another skull, thinner than above, probably female.

**From Entrance Pathway**

Fragment of skull, clavicle, ribs.

**From Post-hole 5**

Four groups of bones are commented on from the post-hole.

(a) Skull fragments. These are clearly adult, an individual of about 30, since the sutures are beginning to fuse on the inner table. One fragment, of the upper margin of a left orbit, shows no sign of a supraorbital ridge and therefore is likely to be of female sex. This conclusion is borne out by the relative thinness of all the bones.

(b) Lower jaw fragment. From the appearance of the alveoli, it seems that the adult incisors were up and in use. The permanent canine of the left side, however, had not been out and these features indicate an age between 10 and 11 years.
There was, also, a second phalanx of the hand (fourth finger) with a proximal epiphysis fused, but still showing the sutural line. This fusion takes place between eighteen and twenty years, and this is the probable age of the owner. There was, further, a fragment of rib.

(c) Human teeth. One tooth was a lower medial milk incisor, with a root incompletely closed, therefore only just cut and in use. An age of 6–12 months is therefore indicated. The three other teeth were a pair of lower medial incisors and a canine, all adult and all in about the same state of wear; possibly, therefore, all belonging to the same individual. The state of wear is fairly well advanced. One would suggest an individual over the age of 30, but such a guess is very hazardous because wear depends on diet and use which vary very much even between prehistoric populations. With an unusually rough and gritty diet the age might be ten years less than this.

(d) The most important fragment here was the ischium (posterior part of the os innominatum), small and still unfused with the neighbouring ilium and pubis. Since this fusion takes place about puberty, the feature suggests a child of 9–10 years of age. The bone is not big enough for one much older than this. There were fragments of two clavicles, of a size suitable to the owner of the ischium. One fragment of rib may, also, have belonged to these.

Grave 1

Bones of adult skeleton, some bones displaced but others appeared to be in the original crouched position of interment. The bones placed at inner end of grave where the skull had fallen apart, the lower jaw with teeth in good condition at north-west corner and upper jaw in south-west corner of grave.

Grave 2

Fragment of skull and six teeth, adult, were the only remains from this grave with fragment of leaf-shaped arrowhead.

From Other Areas of the Barrow

Single odd fragments of human bone were found in scattered positions of the barrow indicating residual material but these were few. One single bone was recovered from the centre of the barrow mound, a few from the red clay of the original ground surface associated with the triangular marking stone, and one tooth in the packing stones between the Ring walls.

Beaker

Bones of adult male. Areas preserved are mainly skull face and base, arms, upper part of trunk, kneecaps and feet and some small fragments of the long bones.

Animal Bones

Animal bones were few in number and conspicuously absent from the forecourt and dwelling areas. Four ox teeth were recovered from amongst the lowest level of the rubble-stone core of the barrow mound, and two more were associated with the triangular marking stone.
Wild Animals

Fox Cub. From entrance pathway near post-hole 4. Two fitting fragments of the distal part of an immature animal femur, a small carnivore, Canid (e.g. fox) or Felid (e.g. wild cat) is suggested. Owing to its immaturity and the absence of the distal epiphysis, one cannot be certain, but incline to the fox-cub determination.

Polecats (Mustela putorius). From entrance pathway. The lower jaw and two cheek teeth of a small mustelid carnivore, between stoat and marten in size. It matches that of a polecat very closely.

Cat. Jaw from damp clay filling amongst rubble-stone packing of base of south-east wall of burial chamber. Fragment of the left ramus of the jaw of a small feline. The teeth are missing.

It may be thought that the last three entries of bones of wild animals, the fox-cub, the polecat and the cat could be of a more modern occurrence than contemporary with the barrow but they were discoloured, friable and definitely ancient in texture and appearance. The jaw of the cat in particular, found in the foundations of the south-east wall of the burial chamber could not have been intrusive as the rubble-stone packing of the wall was closely laid without crevices, and which was found undisturbed.

Charcoals. Nuts

Charcoal was only seen in a very comminuted state, associated chiefly with the burnt occupation debris on the floors of the antechamber, forecourt, entrance pathway and in the post-holes and gully.

Hazel nuts (Corylus avellana). Several specimens of hazel nuts were found, carbonized in the most densely burnt areas on the floor of the dwelling and around post-hole 7, as well as in post-hole 6 and in the filling of the gully.

Geology

Sale's Lot Long Barrow is on Inferior Oolite only a short distance (some 400 yards) to the south of an approximately east–west fault that lets down a little, the geological formations on its north side to allow of the introduction at the top of the Fuller's Earth and succeeding Stonesfield (or Cotswold) slate beds (Great Oolite). From the junction of the Fuller's Earth and Great Oolite springs issue such as at present supply Compton Grove and in the past the nearby Roman Villa.

The barrow is situated toward the lower end of a gentle slope that changes into a steep descent into the valley that originates in the neighbourhood of Compton Abdale and runs down to Casey Compton in the Coln valley.

The Inferior Oolite may be divided into two parts: an upper, the bulk of which consists of ragstones (or 'grits'), and a lower, mainly of freestones.
The stones used in the construction of the barrow are almost all shelly ragstones, nearly all of which have a weathered appearance as though they had been collected from off the surface of the ground. No Clypeus-Grit stones have been detected. Stones from the lower part of the Inferior Oolite are few. One, on the soft side, was a finely oolitic limestone with streaks of pisoliths indicative of passage of Pea-Grit into finely oolitic limestone: others, also on the soft side, were of dark yellow or orange, finely oolitic limestone with smooth surfaces such as are to be found loose towards the bottom of the valley. This yellow or orange stone recalls the yellow Guiting Stone of the North Cotswolds into which the Pea-Grit Series as a whole (that is, including the Lower Limestone) passes.

A feature of these yellow boulders that at once catches the eye is the occurrence in them of tube-like perforations—some sufficiently large for the little finger to be put into them. On breaking a stone it was found, by the actual presence of the remains of roots in them, that these perforations had been caused by root-action: the holes were irregular, diminished in size, and petered out with cessation in extension of the roots. The roots would produce humic acid, water would work down from the surface, and the acid would dissolve the carbonate of lime of the limestone.

A few slabs of Stonesfield (or Cotswold) slates occurred: they would have been collected from north of the fault.

The rubble-stone used so much in the barrow mound and elsewhere for packing behind the walls came from the Upper Trigonia Grit, a bed of which lies immediately below the red earthy clay of the ground surface of the field in which the barrow is situated.

(Published with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works.)