

# The Celtic Field-Systems on the Berkshire Downs.

By P. P. RHODES

[The Society and the author are greatly indebted to the Council for British Archaeology for the substantial grant which they have made towards the cost of publishing this paper.—ED.]

## INTRODUCTION

AS long ago as 1923 Mr. O. G. S. Crawford produced accurate plans of large groups of 'Celtic Fields'—the term was his own invention—which he had discovered in the Salisbury Plain area by means of air-photographs. The photographs had been taken by the Royal Air Force for their own purposes, but their importance for archaeology was recognized and brilliantly demonstrated in a now famous pioneer paper.<sup>1</sup> Crawford ended by expressing his hope that in the course of time a large collection of photographs might be built up by the Royal Air Force and made available for archaeological research.

All this has now come to pass. Since the war the whole of the United Kingdom has been photographed by the R.A.F. at a scale of approximately 1 : 10,000 and this huge collection of photo-prints is available for study by archaeologists. The photographs are 'verticals' and consequently it is possible to transfer archaeological detail from them to the 6-inch maps of the Ordnance Survey with a minimum of difficulty. Photo-prints can be examined at the Air Library at Medmenham, Bucks., and purchased on application to the Air Ministry. Any visitor to the Medmenham collection must be impressed by the wealth of as yet unknown archaeological material which lies there, awaiting discovery and publication.

The Berkshire Downs, an area of obvious archaeological interest, seemed to offer a good field for research from the air, and the photo-print library was consulted. A brief examination of the air cover revealed plentiful evidence of the small fields of Crawford's 'Celtic' type upon the Berkshire Downs, and suggested that interesting results might be obtained from a survey of the Celtic field-systems of this region. It is the object of the present paper to study these in detail.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> O. G. S. Crawford, *Air Survey and Archaeology* (1924), Ordnance Survey Professional Paper no. 7.

<sup>2</sup> I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the researches of many pioneers, particularly to Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, Dr. E. C. Curwen and the late Dr. Eliot Curwen, whose papers are fundamental to studies in this field. I have had the benefit of many discussions with Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson regarding his work on the Celtic field-systems of Dorset, and to him I owe the suggestion that prompted the present survey. I wish also to thank Miss A. Mills for generously giving me full details of her excavation at Streatley Warren in advance of publication.

## P. P. RHODES

### CELTIC FIELDS AND AIR SURVEY

It must be emphasized that the Celtic field-systems discussed in this survey are those which are actually visible upon the particular R.A.F. air-photographs examined.<sup>3</sup> Ground checks which have been made in the newly discovered 'field' areas have in every instance confirmed the information which had been gained in the first place from the photographs. It may still be possible to find new systems by further field-work or even by the study of alternative air cover taken at different times of year and under more favourable lighting conditions. (See Postscript, p. 22.)

The boundaries of Celtic fields are visible on air-photographs either as 'shadow' marks or 'soil' marks. In the latter case a complete network of fields can often be recognized from the air, although completely levelled by later cultivation and almost invisible upon the ground. On the other hand, the boundary banks or 'lynchets' of Celtic fields which have not suffered the levelling caused by ploughing in later ages may stand to any height, often to 12 feet or more. Such lynchets are clearly revealed by the shadows which they cast, particularly on photographs taken in early morning or late evening sunlight. Consequently, in the interpretation of photographs of 'shadow' systems of fields it needs to be remembered that lynchets which lie north-south will always be more evident than those which lie east-west.

A note must here be given of the method used to discover and plot the field-systems. In the first place the fields have been traced from the photographs, lynchets by lynchets, on a highly transparent plastic material called 'Ethulon'. In interpretation the use of a stereoscope has been found of assistance, a good deal of detail which was not apparent on first examination being added after further study. The completed field-systems, as finally built up in detail on the 'Ethulon' tracings, have then been transferred lynchets by lynchets to the 6-inch Ordnance Survey maps.<sup>4</sup> Finally, maps have been prepared (FIGS. 1-4) to show the Celtic field 'groups' in relation to (1) modern and Romano-British topography, (2) physical geography, (3) surface geology, and (4) modern land utilisation.

### THE CHALK AREAS OF BERKSHIRE

This survey deals only with the Celtic field-systems upon the Berkshire Downs, a total 'Chalk' outcrop (Upper, Middle, and Lower) of some 121 square miles, but air-photographs have also been examined covering the two lesser chalk areas of the county, the Henley-Maidenhead area and the Inkpen

<sup>3</sup> Details of the air-photographs used are given in Appendices I and II.

<sup>4</sup> A complete set of 6-inch maps, with every field-group shown in detail, has been sent to the Archaeology Branch, Ordnance Survey.

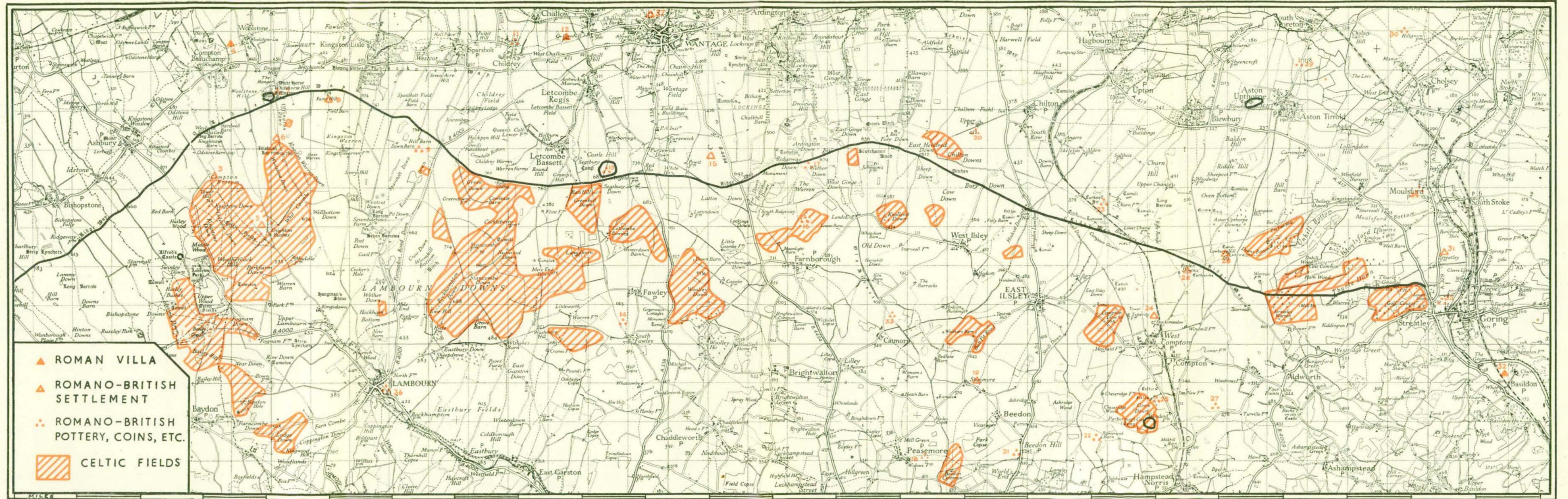


FIG. 1

THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS: CELTIC FIELDS AND ROMANO-BRITISH TOPOGRAPHY

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

Beacon-Oat Hill area. The former is an outcrop of Upper Chalk amounting to about 16 square miles. The region includes several large centres of population and the land tends to be used for residential and recreational purposes. No traces of Celtic fields have been found on air-photographs covering this area. The latter is a small outcrop of Upper Chalk in the extreme south-west of the county amounting to about 3 square miles. Celtic fields can be seen in the neighbourhood of Walbury Camp, but physiographically the region forms part of the North Hampshire Downs and the field-systems are not dealt with here. They are best left to be studied in their proper context with the field-systems of Hampshire.

The Celtic system of agriculture is associated with light, well-drained soils, and is found typically in the Chalk districts of Britain. Although a large number of photographs covering non-Chalk areas of Berkshire have been inspected, no sign of Celtic agriculture on these soils has been recorded. If the Celtic system was ever, in fact, practised upon these soils, no trace of it has survived the intensive cultivation of more recent times.

### THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS (FIG. 1)

The main ridge of the Berkshire Downs runs from east to west, from the Thames at Streatley to the Wiltshire boundary, with a north escarpment descending steeply to the Vale of White Horse. Keeping to the highest ground the prehistoric Ridgeway commands a great expanse of the Vale. The Berkshire Downs are an eastward extension of the Marlborough Downs which are, in their turn, a northward extension of the central chalk plateau of Wessex. The Berkshire chalk is thus connected by the Ridgeway with Avebury and Salisbury Plain, and by this route we may expect the spread of cultures of Wessex origin during the prehistoric period.<sup>5</sup> At its eastern end the Ridgeway appears to be heading for Streatley<sup>6</sup> where the chalk hills overhang the Thames on both sides and provide the shortest crossing to the Chilterns and East Anglia.<sup>7</sup>

Lying close to the Ridgeway the Early Iron Age hill-forts of Uffington Castle and Letcombe Castle dominate the Vale, while others, Alfred's Castle and Perborough Castle, are less spectacularly sited on the gentler slopes to the south. At Rams Hill, one mile east from Uffington Castle and close to the Ridgeway, the remains of a further hill-fort belonging to this period have been

<sup>5</sup> In this connection the distribution of barrows along the Ridgeway, which has been pointed out by Mr. L. V. Grinsell, is noteworthy. Grinsell, *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, XLIII (1939), 20.

<sup>6</sup> The parallel tracks of the Ridgeway can be plainly seen descending the hill south of Ham Wood on 106G/UK/1406-4002.

<sup>7</sup> See S. Piggott in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, IV (1938), 54.



FIG. 2  
 THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS: CELTIC FIELDS AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY  
 Scale: 1 in. = 2 miles

*Based on the 1-in. O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright reserved*

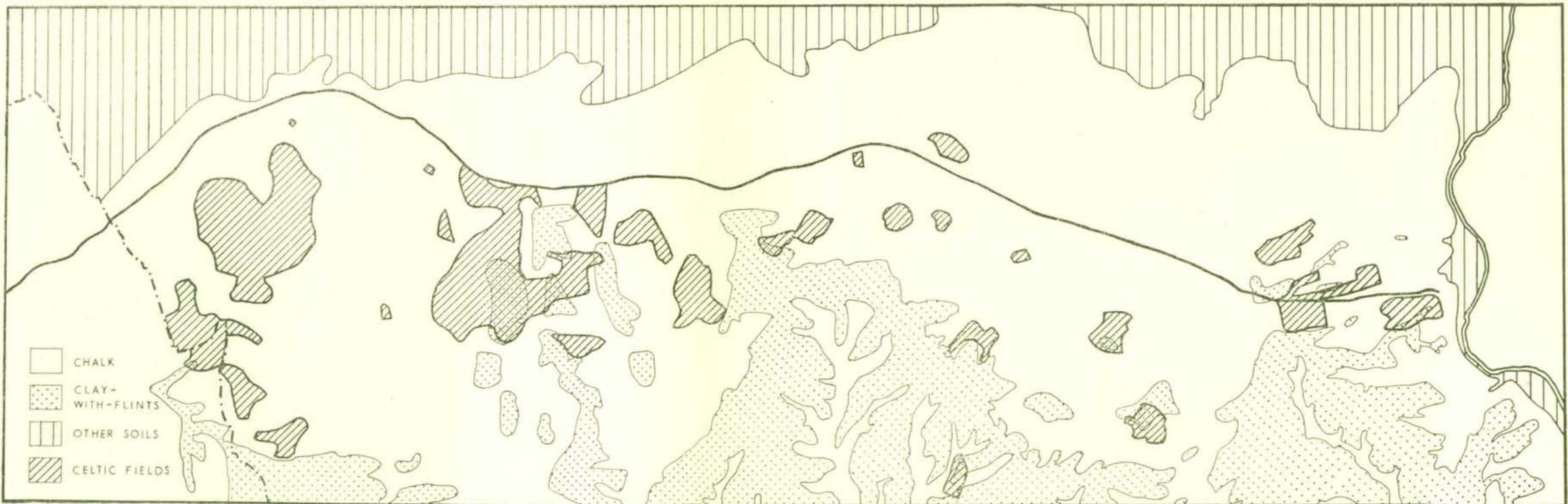


FIG. 3  
 THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS: CELTIC FIELDS AND SURFACE GEOLOGY  
 Scale: 1 in. = 2 miles

*Based upon Sheets 254 (Henley) and 267 (Hungerford and Newbury) of the Geological Survey and Museum  
 [To face page 5]*

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

An interesting exception is the group on East Hendred and Chilton Downs which lies near the foot of the escarpment to the north both of the Ridgeway and of Grim's Ditch. There is evidence to suggest that this group of fields belongs not to agricultural communities upon the Downs, but rather to a 'villa', as yet undiscovered, sited like those at Woolstone (4) and East Challow (12) upon the plain below.

No field group has been discovered to the south of the area covered by FIG. 1.

### CELTIC FIELDS AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

FIG. 2 shows the Celtic field-groups in relation to physical geography and the Ridgeway. Contours are shown at 100 foot vertical intervals.

The main ridge of the Downs divides into a number of undulating spurs which fall gradually southward towards the valley of the river Kennet. The physical characteristics of the region have been admirably summarized by Mr. N. H. Pizer in the following sentences:<sup>11</sup> 'The valleys, except for occasional bourne flows, are mainly dry and the high land of the country is characterized by its exposed waterless aspect. Only two streams in the Chalk area, the Pang and the Lambourn, are permanent. . . . It now needs a very wet season to lift the water table sufficiently to allow even the small temporary streams or bournes to flow in the lower parts of the valleys. . . . Drainage is rapid, and when combined with the natural porosity of the Chalk, may be a hindrance to arable farming.'

The Celtic fields are situated quite arbitrarily as regards the contours, being found both on the summits and sides of the north-south ridges and across the dry valleys between them. It can, however, be seen that they generally avoid the main ridge and occur mainly on southward-facing slopes, but even here there are exceptions. The occurrence of fields on extremely steep hillsides is noteworthy. The highest point at which they occur is 789 feet and the lowest 300 feet.

Detailed study of this map seems to suggest that the physical relief of the land had little influence on the Celtic farmer when laying out his fields.

### CELTIC FIELDS AND SURFACE GEOLOGY

The distribution of the field groups in relation to surface geology seems far more significant. FIG. 3 is based upon the one-inch maps of the Geological Survey, with a few small patches of the Reading Beds omitted for the sake of

<sup>11</sup> *The Soils of Berkshire* (1931), pp. 8 and 25.

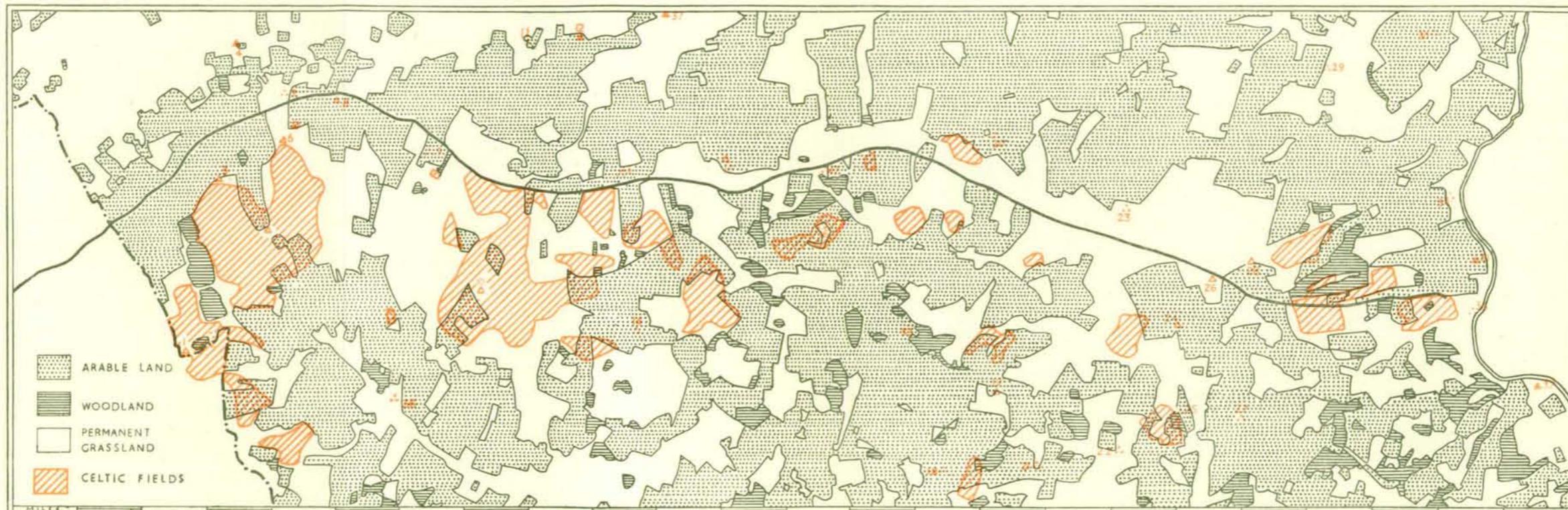


FIG. 4  
THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS: CELTIC FIELDS AND LAND UTILISATION

Based on the 1 in. Land Utilisation Survey of Britain, by kind permission

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

A very definite relationship can be observed between Celtic field-groups and modern land usage, the distribution of field-groups being coincident to a very marked degree with the areas of permanent grassland.

Since the 'fields' are only poorly represented on areas of modern arable we may infer that 'modern' cultivation has levelled and destroyed them. It seems safe to assume that our existing field-groups are those which have survived modern and medieval cultivation, and it follows that our existing pattern of field-groups gives but an incomplete picture of the agricultural systems at the time of their greatest development during the Romano-British period.

Ploughed-out field-systems appear on air-photographs as a network of white lines which can often be recognized to some extent on the ground by bands of broken chalk and flints. The present survey has been made from photographs taken mainly during the month of June. At this time of year bare fallows are few, and growing crops will conceal differences in the colour of the soil. Further areas of fields might therefore be discovered by an air-survey of the area in winter. Indeed, the best results of an air-survey of Celtic field-systems may be expected from photographs taken during the winter months, since at this time, when vegetation is scanty, differences in level are more easily seen and lynchets cast the best shadows. Soil-marks, as we have seen, will be more evident.

It seems probable that intensive cultivation will so mix the soils that, in the course of time, ancient field boundaries formerly visible as soil-marks will disappear. Modern methods of cultivation will speed up the rate of destruction of these partially destroyed lynchets. Mr. B. Hope-Taylor in a recent paper records that a group of fields which he discovered on Leatherhead Down, Surrey, in 1946, 'had already suffered grievous damage by the plough' and that by 1948 they were 'well-nigh obliterated'.<sup>15</sup>

An interesting record of the deliberate destruction *circa* 1814 of 'mere' banks, almost certainly the lynchets of Celtic fields, at Compton within the area of the present survey is given by W. Hewett.<sup>16</sup> He writes: 'When the old mere banks were levelled at the time of the enclosure of this manor about 30 years ago, an immense number of Roman Antiquities were discovered.' The word 'mere', usually denoting a 'green' road or pathway between arable fields, is still in use to-day and is almost certainly derived from Anglo-Saxon 'maere' meaning 'balk of a ploughland'. In place names 'mere' may often indicate a pond (A.S. 'mere' = pond), but in some cases it clearly has reference to a field balk or lynchet; e.g. at Mere End Down in the Parish of Letcombe

<sup>15</sup> B. Hope-Taylor, *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, L (1946-7), 60.

<sup>16</sup> W. Hewett, *History and Antiquities of the Hundred of Compton, Berks.* (1844), p. 69.

Basset, where a large group of Celtic fields (Group VII) is terminated. Hewett<sup>17</sup> differentiates between 'fine Roman pottery' and 'rude unbaked pottery, moulded by hand—of British formation'. The 'Roman antiquities' found during the levelling leave little doubt that his 'old mere banks' were the boundaries of Celtic fields in use during the Roman period (see pp. 12-15).

The Celtic fields must have covered more of the Downs than is shown by the present distribution, particularly in the eastern half of the area, where villages are to-day more numerous, and we may suspect that they once covered more of the chalk areas which now appear barren. Not all areas of chalk need be expected to have been under cultivation in 'Celtic' times, since certain areas would have been reserved as pasture for flocks and herds. A system of 'bivallate' ditches survives on West Ilsley Sheep Down and Cow Down, where Celtic fields are notably absent. These are of the type at Quarley Hill, Hants, discussed by Professor Hawkes and interpreted by him as 'ranch' boundaries of Late Bronze Age pastoral communities.<sup>18</sup>

#### THE DATING OF THE CELTIC FIELD SYSTEMS

It has long been accepted that the Celtic field-system of agriculture was established in the upland Chalk districts of South Britain as early as the Late Bronze Age. No evidence of cultivation by the plough in earlier periods has as yet been found in Britain, but we must not forget that scratches or furrows, held to have been made by ploughing in two directions with an 'ard' have been recognized both in Holland<sup>19</sup> and in Denmark<sup>20</sup> beneath grave-mounds which are dated to the Early Bronze Age.<sup>21</sup>

Two agricultural settlements or farmsteads of the Late Bronze Age yielding characteristic pottery have been excavated in Sussex at Plumpton Plain.<sup>22</sup> One of these early settlements is clearly connected by a field-road with the small fields which it serves of the so-called Celtic type. Again, at New Barn Down, near Worthing, a small banked enclosure containing five or more round huts has been interpreted after excavation as a farmstead of the Late Bronze Age, and shown to be an integral part of a surrounding system of fields and field-roads.<sup>23</sup> This upland economy of agriculture, involving the

<sup>17</sup> Hewett, *ibid.*, p. 72.

<sup>18</sup> C. F. C. Hawkes, *Proc. Hants Field Club*, xiv, pt. 2 (1939), fig. 1.

<sup>19</sup> By A. E. Van Giffen at Gasteren (1941) and Wervershoof, Noord Holland (1944). Hatt, *Oldtidsagre* (1949), p. 167.

<sup>20</sup> By Gudmund Hatt in Denmark, 'The Vesterlund find' (1941). Hatt, *ibid.*, p. 173.

<sup>21</sup> The grave-mound at Gasteren is dated by Van Giffen to the 'Late Stone Age', circa 1600 B.C. Hatt, *ibid.*, p. 167.

<sup>22</sup> G. A. Holleyman and E. C. Curwen, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 1 (1935).

<sup>23</sup> E. C. Curwen, *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, LXXV (1934).

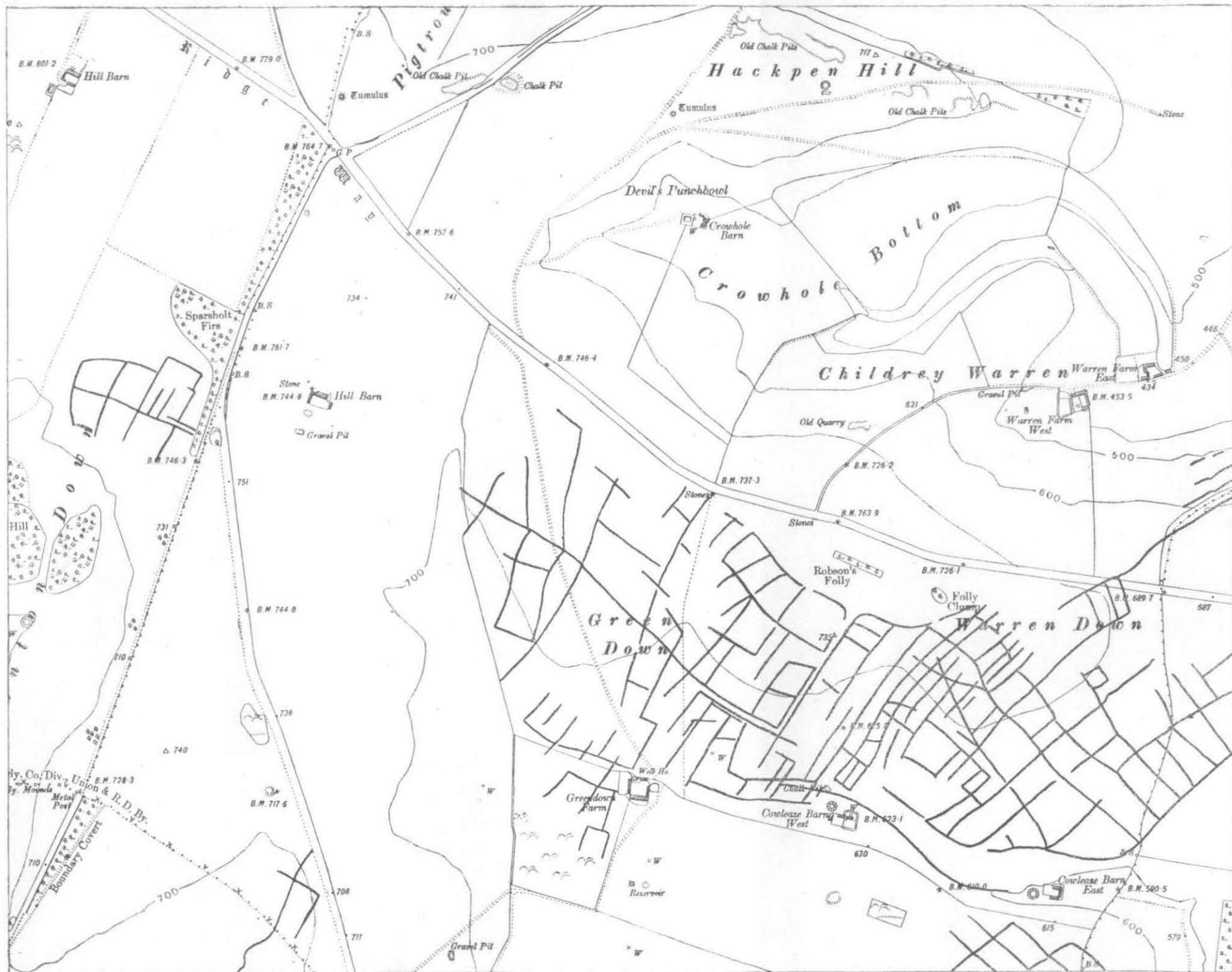


FIG. 5  
 CELTIC FIELDS AT GREEN DOWN AND WARREN DOWN, BERKS.

Scale : 6 in. = 1 mile

Based on the 6-in. O.S. map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright reserved

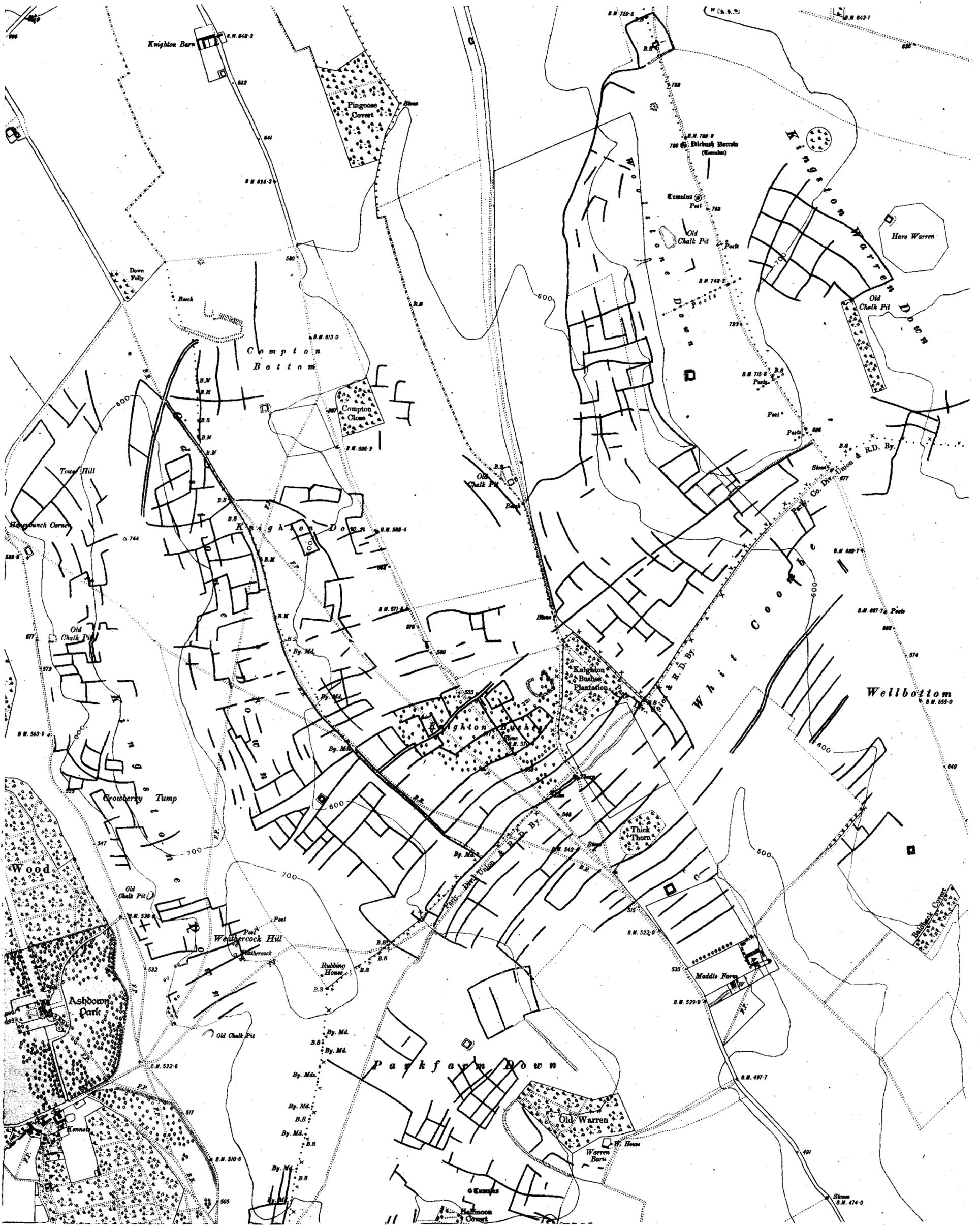


FIG. 6  
 THE CELTIC FIELDS OF GROUP II CENTRED UPON KNIGHTON BUSHES, BERKS.  
 (1,910 acres)

Scale: 6 in. = 1 mile

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

use of an 'ard' or scratch plough and resulting in small fields of irregular shape and size, continued throughout the Early Iron Age and ensuing Romano-British period. On the Berkshire Downs, the use of a light plough or 'ard' is implied by the deliberate avoidance of the clay soils which we have noted (p. 6). Several references to the growing and storing of grain in Britain in the centuries prior to the Roman invasion and after are found in classical sources, from the fourth century B.C. to the mid-fourth century A.D. The historical evidence is confirmed archaeologically by the recognition of numerous grain-storage pits (formerly supposed to be 'pit-dwellings') on agricultural sites in Britain which range in date from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period. During the Romano-British period the old system of agriculture was continued upon the upland chalk, but with greater intensity. Professor Hawkes has recently given a clear picture of this economy, and of its outstanding problems, based upon a reconsideration of the evidence from the so-called 'villages' excavated by General Pitt-Rivers in Cranborne Chase.<sup>24</sup>

### THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF FIELDS

Small approximately rectangular fields have been held by Crawford, Curwen and others, to be typical of the Celtic system and to represent an agricultural economy current from the Late Bronze Age to the end of the Romano-British period. Long narrow 'strip' fields, whose length can be as much as seven times their breadth, have been carefully isolated by both writers and conjectured to be post-Roman, Medieval, or comparatively modern. A plan of fields at Jevington, Sussex (*S.A.C.*, LXIV (1923), 51), published by Eliot and E. C. Curwen as typical of the 'strip' type, contains, as the authors noted, several fields of the Celtic type.

Details as to the shape and size of fields belonging to the Roman 'villa' system are almost entirely lacking, but it is thought that the large Roman 'villa' estates, situated upon the heavier soils of the more fertile plains, were probably using heavy ploughs resulting in long strip-type fields, while Celtic peasants cultivated the Chalk Downs with a lighter equipment resulting in fields of the 'broad' Celtic type.<sup>25</sup> The long 'strip' fields, which occur side by side with fields of the broad type within our Celtic field groups, have then been explained as the result of a cultural influence from the richer and more fertile parts.<sup>26</sup>

On the Berkshire Downs it has not as yet been possible to isolate any fields or groups of fields as being of a distinctively pre-Roman type on a

<sup>24</sup> C. F. C. Hawkes, *Arch. Journ.*, civ (1948).

<sup>25</sup> E. C. Curwen, *Plough and Pasture*, p. 69.

<sup>26</sup> Gudmund Hatt, *Oldtidsagre* (1949), p. 174.



## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

consideration of their shape, size and general lay-out. The fields surrounding the Late Bronze Age farmsteads at Plumpton Plain and New Barn Down do not differ markedly in plan, so far as can be seen at present, from fields which are known to have been in use during the Roman period.

A well-preserved group of fields at Fognam Down has an unusually regular (? Romanized) lay-out (FIG. 7 and PLS. I and II). Here field-roads divide the area into more or less rectangular 'insulae', each containing twenty to thirty small rectangular fields. It may be noted that the fields are mainly of the broad type, but that two fields are apparently four times as long as they are broad.<sup>27</sup> The group has produced a few Romano-British potsherds. A well-defined lynchet bounds the whole group along its northern edge. The county boundary with Wiltshire bounds the group to the west and north in Botley Bottom and turning south at Lambourn Corner follows one of the inter-field roads. The county boundary proceeds southwards and no doubt preserves the course of an ancient field road, now lost in modern arable fields, which once connected the Fognam Down fields with other groups on Bailey Hill, Near Down and Farncombe Down. The lay-out suggests that the Fognam Down fields are all that remain of a group that originally extended farther south. No trace of a lynchet can be seen in the level arable fields to the south, either on the ground or on the R.A.F. photograph (PL. I). One of Major Allen's photographs (PL. II), however, shows two lynchets continuing beyond the cart track west of Fognam Farm.

On Wellbottom Down, a number of strip fields, whose length to breadth is in the ratio of 5 to 1, can be seen descending fairly steeply into the valley (FIG. 6). Their long sides, with pronounced lynchets about 3 feet high, run nearly at a right angle to the contours. A quantity of Roman sherds can be quickly collected from the ploughed-over crests of these lynchets. No trace of transverse lynchets can be seen within these long fields either on the ground or upon air-photographs, although these, had they ever existed, would have run almost parallel with the contours and have accumulated rapidly. Moreover, lynchets running parallel with the contours are a conspicuous feature of the fields to the north of Whit Coombe which are similarly situated on the hill-side. Although incompletely preserved, these fields were clearly of the broad type. The long fields on Wellbottom Down are lost in modern arable fields in the valley bottom, but appear again to the south of Knighton Bushes. Major Allen's photograph shows them near Thick Thorn (PL. III).

On Idstone Down, near Dean Bottom, are further examples of even narrower strips (FIG. 7).

<sup>27</sup> It must, however, be remembered that some apparently long fields may have been divided originally into smaller units by boundaries which cannot now be seen.

P. P. RHODES

The majority of field-groups upon the Berkshire Downs were in use during the Roman period (p. 13), but such groups cannot be distinguished by the shape and lay-out of their fields from groups, notably one at Knollend Down, E. Hendred (FIG. 8), which appear, on other grounds (p. 13), to have been under cultivation during the Late Bronze Age, but no later.

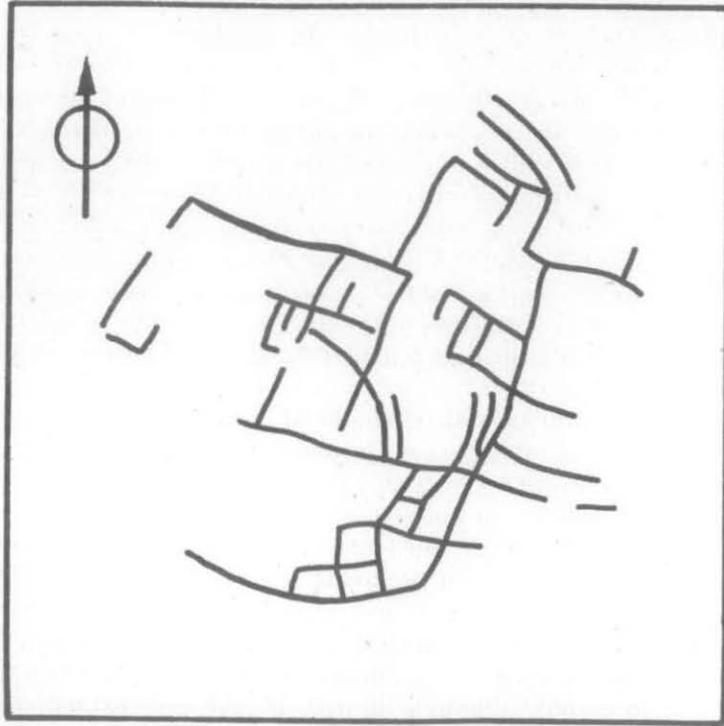


FIG. 8

FIELD GROUP XV AT KNOLLEND DOWN, BERKS. (95 acres)

Apparently under cultivation in the Late Bronze Age and abandoned before the Romano-British period

Scale : 6 in. = 1 mile

THE EVIDENCE OF POTTERY

In an endeavour to obtain evidence for dating, a substantial collection of pottery has been made from the surface of Celtic fields in the areas where they are now known to exist. It is worthy of note that the majority of sherds are found by working along the crests of the lynchets themselves, especially, of

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

course, where these have come under the plough. Sherds are always more abundant around the edges of Celtic fields than within them. The results of a survey of twenty-five Celtic field localities were (for details, see Appendix I) :

- 17 produced Romano-British sherds only,
- 2 produced both Romano-British and prehistoric<sup>28</sup> sherds,
- 2 produced prehistoric sherds only, and
- 4 produced no pottery whatsoever, although conditions for finding pottery were favourable.

Romano-British pottery, when found at all, is usually plentiful, and therefore fields that do not produce pottery may be suspected to be prehistoric fields which were no longer in use in Roman times. Fields that produce prehistoric pottery, but no Roman, may be regarded as prehistoric on rather more positive grounds. Such a field-system is that at Knollend Down (Group XV). Here we have a system of 95 acres, with lynchets of considerable height. Much of this group was recently under plough, but field-work here failed to produce a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. On the other hand, a collection of heavily gritted sherds found only on the stony crests of the field boundaries suggest that these fields were in use during the Late Bronze Age, but that they had been abandoned or turned over to pasture by, or before, the beginning of the Roman period.

The thin but widespread scatter of Romano-British potsherds which can be picked up from the surface and lynchets of Celtic fields is a phenomenon which the field-worker soon learns to accept as a matter of course in Celtic field areas. How does the pottery get there? There seems to be only one answer. That it has been conveyed to the fields casually amongst domestic rubbish used as manure. The great height of some of the lynchets, sometimes as much as 12 feet, indicates cultivation over a period of centuries, and this can only have been made possible by the discovery of the value of manure, the rotation of crops, and periods of fallow. Permanent fields and settlements can only be maintained where these principles have been understood and practised.

It can be seen that 76 per cent. of the field areas examined have produced pottery as evidence of their cultivation during the Roman period, but we have as yet no means of estimating how many of these fields were growing corn in the Iron Age. A section through two field lynchets at Streatley Warren, however, encourages the hope that excavation can answer the problem by the discovery of Iron Age lynchet formations beneath the accumulations of Romano-British ploughing.

<sup>28</sup> Mainly typical Late Bronze Age heavily gritted wares.

P. P. RHODES

THE EVIDENCE OF EXCAVATION

More positive evidence regarding the age of Celtic fields at Streatley Warren, Berks., has been provided by an excavation conducted by Miss A. Mills of Reading University during December 1948, and January 1949.<sup>29</sup> The Warren forms part of our Group XXIV and produces surface sherds of Romano-British pottery.

A trench was dug through the crests of two lynchets which ran transversely across a narrow dry valley. The crests of these lynchets, forming the upper and lower boundaries of a field, were 120 feet apart. All but 40 feet in the middle of the field was excavated down to undisturbed chalk.

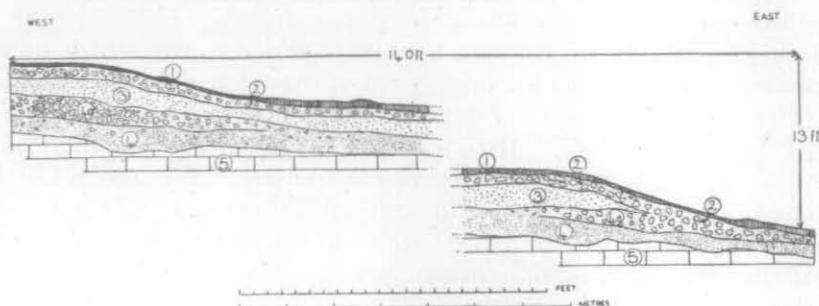


FIG. 9

CELTIC FIELDS AT STREATLEY WARREN, BERKS.

Upper and lower segments of a section

Reproduced by kind permission of the Berks. Archaeol. Soc.

Immediately beneath the modern turf was a layer of brown soil containing many large flints (Layer 2) (FIG. 9). Sherds of Romano-British pottery and a bronze brooch were recovered from this layer. Below this a stratum of soft white chalky soil, which analysis showed to be 70 per cent. Chalk, also contained Roman sherds (Layer 3).<sup>30</sup> These layers clearly represent the Roman plough soils. The underlying layer, a dark brown soil, contained fragments of pottery apparently attributable to Iron Age A, as well as charcoal and many burnt flints (Layer 4). It appears to represent the original soil and cultivated surface. A heap of flints (Layer 4A) occurred beneath the crest of the upper lynchet immediately below Layer 3 (Roman) and above Layer 4 (Iron Age).

<sup>29</sup> *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, LI (1948-9), forthcoming. The following notes are based upon information kindly supplied by Miss Mills.

<sup>30</sup> A high percentage of chalk in the soil is not detrimental to grain crops. At Chaddleworth, Berks., good cereal crops, especially barley, are grown to-day on a soil which is almost white and which is 69.6% chalk. (Pizer, *op. cit.*, 111, 134.)

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

A corresponding, but less well marked, concentration of stones occurred beneath the lower lynchet. It is possible that these heaps mark the original boundaries of fields under cultivation in the Iron Age.

The excavation at Streatley Warren seems to provide evidence that the land here has been under cultivation, probably without any break, from the Iron Age through to the Romano-British period. The excavation also suggests that the actual field boundaries, and consequently the size of the fields, has remained the same throughout this period. The Iron Age sherds were found buried under the later Roman accumulations at a depth of three to five feet below the present turf line, while Roman sherds were found in Layer 2 covered only by four to six inches of 'modern' humus. When such a lynchet formation comes under modern cultivation, Romano-British potsherds will be brought to the surface by the plough. Ploughing, however, will not disturb the Iron Age material which is deeply buried beneath the Roman plough soil. Where, then, we find, as at Knollend Down, prehistoric pottery upon the crests of the lynchets and no Roman material, we can suppose a pre-Roman origin and life for such fields.

### CELTIC FIELDS AND SETTLEMENTS (FIG. 1)

It has been shown that considerable areas of the Berkshire Downs, totalling 7,350 acres, were cultivated by Romano-British and 'Celtic' arable farmers, and it is evident that a large number of agricultural settlements are involved. As a first step to their recognition all known Romano-British sites within our area have been plotted on a one-inch map. Those which have produced evidence suggesting the probability of settlement are marked on FIG. 1 by an open triangle. It can be seen that Romano-British sites are very numerous. The widespread areas of Celtic fields amidst which they lie at once give a reasonable explanation for their presence. Many of them must surely be related to the agricultural communities of whose activities we now have proof.

Two authentic Roman 'villas' were discovered in the last century, one at Woolstone (4),<sup>31</sup> the other at Challow (12), five miles farther to the east. Both are situated near the foot of the escarpment at about 350 feet above O.D., and close to the Icknield Way. The Woolstone 'villa' contained two pavements, one a mosaic, both of which were carefully removed by the excavators and subsequently lost. The Challow 'villa' was a small rectangular building, about 82 by 36 feet, with five rooms and a corridor.

<sup>31</sup> The location of each numbered site can be seen by reference to FIG. 1, while details of the finds and the more important references to them will be found in Appendix III.

Upon the Downs proper we have no authentic 'villa', nor upon the evidence of Salisbury Plain and Cranborne Chase<sup>32</sup> need we expect to find one. Upon the Berkshire Downs we can hope to find settlements of the types excavated by General Pitt-Rivers at Woodcuts, Rotherley and Woodyates. The General's evidence from these sites has recently been re-examined by Professor Hawkes<sup>33</sup> with the result that the Romano-British 'village' becomes a rather nebulous affair, and begins to look much more like a single farmstead which, like its Iron Age prototype at Little Woodbury, has enjoyed a long period of occupation and development.

A 'villa' was reported in 1887 at Stancombe Down (10), when an area of about 60 square yards was cleared by workmen employed to dig for flints for building purposes. Foundations of walls about 3 feet wide constructed of flints 'grouted in strong mortar' were reported, also 'stone roofing slates, pieces of tessellated paving tiles, and fragments of pottery representing over twenty varieties of vessels'. Wood ashes were reported to have been found by the owner of the land covering the whole area within the walls, as well as many coins and some portions of 'stencilled wall plaster'. None of these finds constitute conclusive evidence for a 'villa'—a term, we must remember, used freely in the last century to describe any type of Roman building. The Stancombe building lies near the centre of our largest field-group, and in the absence of more positive evidence we may perhaps regard it as a farmstead, possibly of the type of Iwerne, Dorset, which became in its last phase (I quote Professor Hawkes)—'a kind, but a very humble kind, of "villa."<sup>34</sup>

Air-photographs have revealed four earthwork enclosures at the western end of the Downs, all of which show evidence of Romano-British date and appear to be associated with the field-systems (FIG. 1, nos. 1, 3, 5 and 6) :

#### BOTLEY COPSE (1) and FIG. 7

The first of these, lying west of Botley Copse, almost upon the county boundary of Berkshire and Wiltshire, was visited in 1859 by Mr. W. Cunnington, one of the famous family of Wiltshire antiquaries. His report on the site appeared in 1866 together with the plan reproduced here (FIG. 10A).<sup>35</sup>

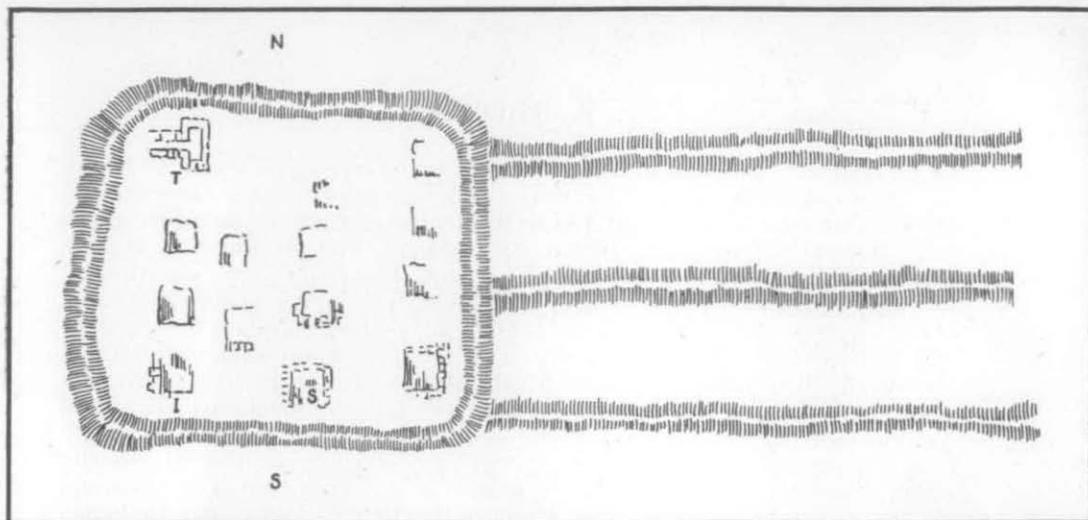
The site lies at about 550 feet above O.D. on a slight hillock to the north of a wide dry valley. The plan of the earthwork (FIG. 10B) is based upon a field-survey kindly carried out by the Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey in May 1949. A wide shallow ditch encloses an area of about 1½ acres, with a marked entrance in the middle of the south side. Lynchets of adjacent

<sup>32</sup> See R. G. Collingwood and J. N. L. Myres, *Roman Britain and the English Settlements*, map II, 210.

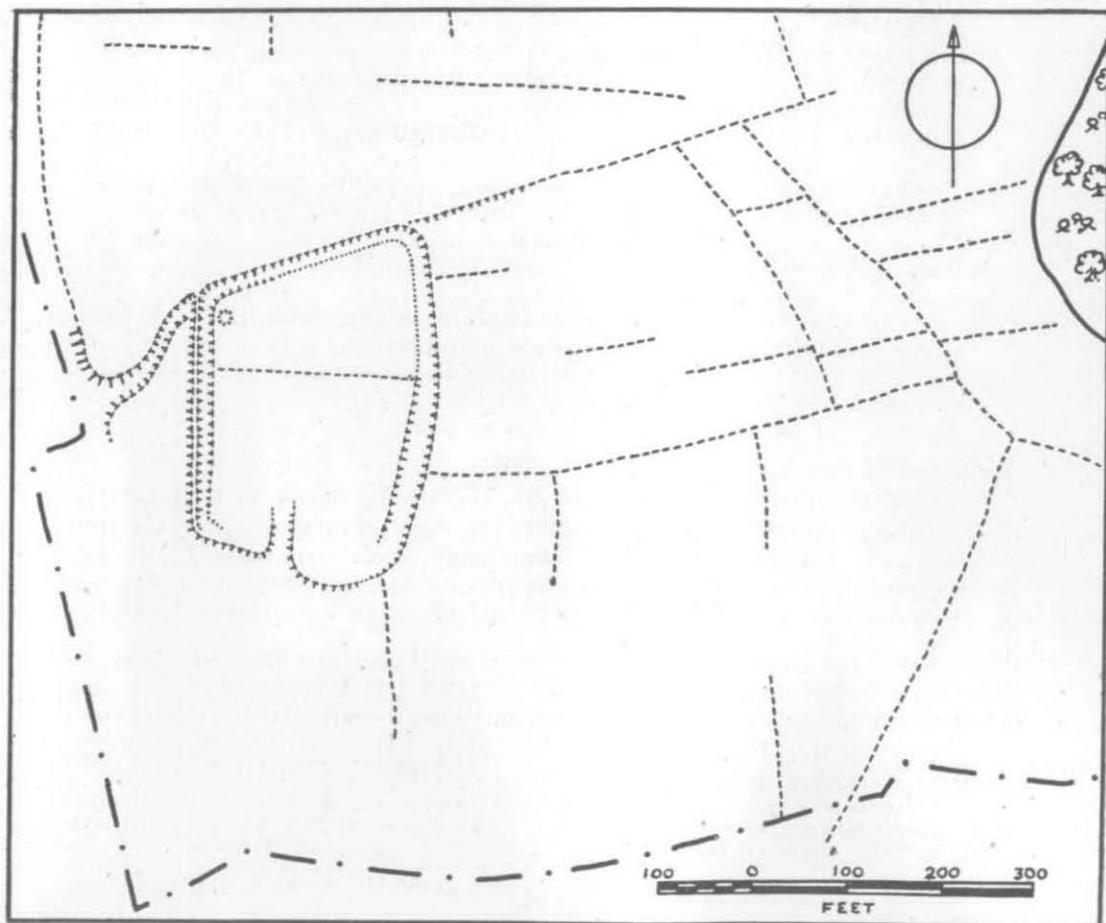
<sup>33</sup> C. F. C. Hawkes, 'Britons, Romans and Saxons round Salisbury and in Cranborne Chase', *Arch. Journ.*, CIV (1948).

<sup>34</sup> Hawkes, *ibid.*, 48-62.

<sup>35</sup> W. Cunnington, 'Examination of the Roman Station at Baydon', *Wilt. Arch. Mag.*, x (1866), 104-9.



A



B

FIG. 10

THE ROMANO-BRITISH SITE NEAR BOTLEY COPSE, ASHBURY, BERKS.

A. After W. Cunnington, 1859

B. As surveyed by the Ordnance Survey, Archaeology Branch, 1949. Celtic field boundaries are shown by broken lines. The county boundary with Wiltshire is to the west and south

P. P. RHODES

Celtic fields join the earthwork on its east side. These have been traced from the air-photographs, but not checked in detail on the ground. The enclosure has straight sides on the north and west, but the east side is composed of two fairly straight sections which join at a slight angle. At this point a low bank divides the enclosure into two unequal parts. The south part seems divided into many box-like depressions. The sides turn to form angular bends at three of the corners. A hollow track leads up to the north-west corner, but does not seem to enter the enclosure. Near this corner is a round, cup-shaped depression. The whole of the interior is littered with Romano-British pottery, much of it suggesting a third or fourth century date. The pottery, which includes a little Samian, is so dense on the ground that numerous rim sherds can be picked up in a very few minutes. Fragments of hypocaust flue-tile are present and also pieces of tile with a smooth surface in which are the impressions of ears of grain.

It is clear from Cunningham's report that the enclosure had contained buildings and that sarsen and flint had formed part of their construction. His 'hypocaust' is now seen to be a T-shaped corn-drying furnace of a normal Romano-British pattern.<sup>36</sup> The three parallel banks sketched by him on the east side of the enclosure (FIG. 10A), conjectured as 'cattle pens', are now seen to be lynchets of adjacent Celtic fields. The site can now be interpreted, without discounting any of the evidence, as an agricultural settlement or farmstead which, whenever it may have originated, was certainly flourishing as late as the fourth century A.D.

It is probable that the site is to be identified with 'Aescesburh', a place mentioned in charters reputed to date from A.D. 953, relating to Ashbury and Uffington. Its position in the extreme south-west corner of the parish, less than 100 feet from the county boundary, together with its 'Suth Geate' give it stronger claims than those advanced for a large (probably medieval) enclosure south of Ashdown House,<sup>37</sup> and more recently for Alfred's Castle.<sup>38</sup> The ruins of Romano-British buildings were, no doubt, a familiar sight upon the Anglo-Saxon landscape, and were perhaps still visible above ground at the time when our parish boundaries were becoming established.

KNIGHTON BUSHES (5) and FIG. 6

At Knighton Bushes near the centre of one of our largest field-groups (II), air-photographs have revealed a sub-rectangular enclosure of rather less than one acre. The banks forming it are partially visible upon the ground. The enclosure and surrounding area is littered with Romano-British potsherds, and finds recently made here include a number of Constantinian coins and a bronze brooch of the first century A.D.<sup>39</sup>

Field roads from Odstone Down in the north-west and Woolstone Down in the north-east meet a little to the south of the area, the latter possibly continuing over Parkfarm Down to join the Fognam Down system at Lambourn Corner. The position of Knighton Bushes at the hub of Group II, together with the

<sup>36</sup> R. G. Goodchild, *Antiq. Journ.*, xxxiii (1943), 48-53.

<sup>37</sup> *Berks., Bucks. and Oxon. Arch. Journ.*, xxvii (1922), 152.

<sup>38</sup> *Antiq. Journ.*, xx (1940), 465.

<sup>39</sup> The collection has been given to Newbury Museum by the finder, Mr. A. Edwards.

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

abundance and provenance of the finds, suggest that enclosure 5 formed only one part of a fairly large area of settlement.

### UFFINGTON DOWN (6) and FIG. 6

In the saddle between Uffington Down and Woolstone Down a small enclosure has been discovered on air-photographs (1561/3021-3) and located on the ground. The enclosure is rectangular, measuring internally 69 by 52 feet, and has rounded corners. It is surrounded by a shallow ditch about 4 feet wide. Traces of an inner and outer bank, each 3 feet wide, can be seen near the south-east corner. Sherds of Romano-British pottery have been found within the enclosure, but not outside it. The site lies close to the northern limit of field-areas on Woolstone and Kingston Warren Down, but is separated from them by a massive cross-ridge dyke. It is tempting to associate the enclosure, and possibly the dyke also, with the Celtic fields.

### ODSTONE DOWN (3) and FIGS. 6 and 11

At Compton Bottom, on an east facing slope of Odstone Down, air-photographs (1561/3019-21) have revealed a ditch system in the form of a roughly polygonal enclosure of about 2 acres. The plan (FIG. 11) is based upon a field survey kindly undertaken by the Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey. The site lies on a small island of rough grass completely surrounded by modern ploughed fields. Romano-British pottery is scattered about the area. To the east of the main enclosure the ploughed out remains of what seems to have been an additional enclosure can be seen on the air-photographs and to some extent on the ground. Sarsen stones removed and placed in heaps on the grass island to the east of the site are probably from this destroyed enclosure.

The enclosure lies at a northern extremity of the huge group of Celtic fields centred on Knighton Bushes, with which it appears to be connected by a field road. The road crosses Odstone Down in double-lynchet form, to become a deep hollow way as it approaches the site and finally to disappear into the general level of the ground short of the enclosure. Within the enclosure some lynchet-like banks form a number of small rectangular patches (dotted lines on FIG. 11). These, however, seem too small to be considered as remnants of Celtic fields. From the southern angle of the enclosure a line can be seen on the photographs running slightly east of north to divide off part of the enclosure. We may compare a similar division originating from an angle at the Botley Copse site. Near the point of junction with the ditch, a deep cup-shaped depression perhaps marks the site of a well or of a corn-drying oven. Ploughed out Celtic field lynchets approaching the site from the south are visible as soil-marks on the photographs and partially visible on the ground. Excavations carried out here in the spring of 1950 have yielded plentiful evidence of Romano-British occupation, the finds so far being consistent with material from the 'villages' excavated by General Pitt-Rivers in Cranborne Chase.

In addition to the four sites just described are six others which, on account of their location close to Celtic fields, the nature of the finds, or both, appear

P. P. RHODES

likely to represent habitations connected with Romano-British agriculture. Two of them have been partially, and one (28) totally, excavated in this century. They are at Rams Hill (8), although this may be pastoral; Stancombe Down (10), see p. 16; Stanmore (19); Compton (24); Lowbury

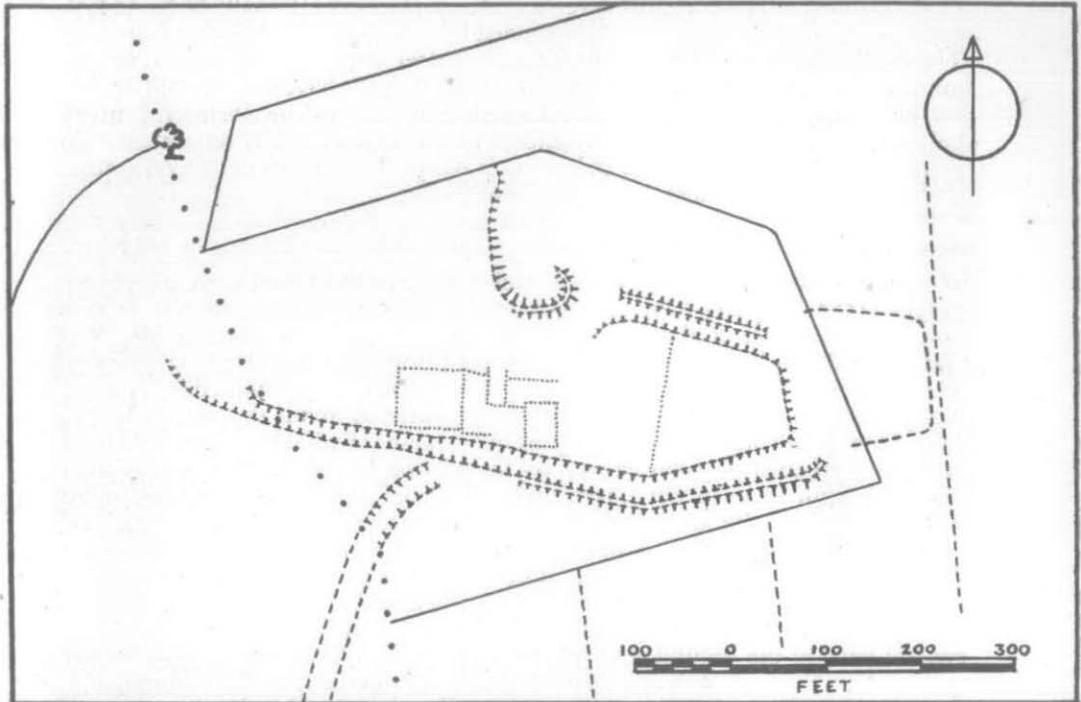


FIG. 11

THE ROMANO-BRITISH SITE AT ODSSTONE DOWN, BERKS.

The earthwork as surveyed by the Ordnance Survey, Archaeology Branch, 1949. Celtic field boundaries are shown by broken lines

Hill (28); and Roden Downs (26), where the large enclosure and flanged roofing tiles indicate a farm perhaps like that at Rockbourne Down, Hants. The Lowbury Hill site was clearly shown by the 1916 excavations to be a farm and not a military camp as had formerly been supposed. A purely pastoral character was ascribed to it, but there can now be little doubt that this Romano-British hill-farm controlled at least some of the Celtic fields which lie close below it in Dean's Bottom.

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

On the basis of surface collections of pottery from the fields it can be estimated that three-quarters of the Celtic field-systems on the Berkshire Downs were under cultivation in the Roman period. The area of arable land controlled by Romano-British farmers was thus at least 5,500 acres, yet to serve this large area we can instance only ten settlements. It is possible that the larger sites such as Botley Copse and Odstone Down may represent more than a single farmstead or family unit, but even so it is clear that many more settlements remain to be discovered.

For the Late Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age, settlements associated with Celtic fields are quite unknown, although several field-groups bear evidence of use in these periods. Traces of prehistoric occupation have, in fact, been found at three places on the Berkshire Downs, but it is unlikely that any of them is to be connected with 'Celtic' agriculture. A complete absence of recognizable traces of Celtic fields in the vicinity of these places is combined, at Rams Hill and at Sheep Down, West Ilsley, with positive evidence of pastoral activities.

### RAMS HILL<sup>40</sup>

Here, within the Iron Age hill-fort, an oval shaped enclosure formed by a ditch with flat bottom and almost vertical sides has been dated by pottery from its primary silting to the Middle Bronze Age, while secondary Late Bronze Age-Iron Age occupation is attested by a hearth and pottery found in the upper silting. The excavation report states that 'the absence of occupational debris in the silting implies that the enclosure was for some such use as cattle-herding'. The nearest Celtic fields are almost a mile away and taken all together the evidence suggests that occupation here was mainly pastoral in character.

### SHEEP DOWN, WEST ILSLEY

A system of wandering bi-vallate ditches in this area has been recorded by the Ordnance Survey (6-in. sheet 21 NW). Air-photographs, however, show that the ditches continue beyond their visible and surveyed parts to form in one case an irregularly-shaped enclosure of about 26 acres. The enclosure is roughly four-sided, but the ditches wander and have no portions which are even approximately straight. In the north-east corner of this large enclosure the photographs reveal a small sub-rectangular compound of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre (Nat. Grid 41/470847). No sign of banks or ditches can be seen on the ground, but at this point 'pot-boilers' and numerous sherds of coarse, heavily-gritted Late Bronze Age fabric have been found on the surface including the complete base of an 'urn' now in the Newbury Museum. The whole complex seems typical of the large-scale pastoral systems, well known in the neighbouring county of Wiltshire and indeed throughout Wessex, which are usually attributed to the Deverel-Rimbury people.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>40</sup> S. and C. M. Piggott, *Antiq. Journ.*, xx (1946), 465.

<sup>41</sup> But see C. M. Piggott, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, xvi (1950), 193.

## P. P. RHODES

The ditches lie within a stretch of downland about five miles long and one mile wide (between roads B.4494 and A.34) which, with the exception of a few acres to the west of Johnson's Farm, is completely devoid of Celtic fields. More than 50 per cent. of the area is under permanent grass and if the land had ever been cultivated in ancient times traces of field boundaries would have certainly survived. Since evidence of Celtic agriculture in this area is lacking we must suppose that this part of the Downs has been occupied continuously, from the Late Bronze Age to the end of Romano-British times, by peoples depending on a mainly pastoral economy. With this in mind it is interesting to note that no less than five individual Downs within this five mile stretch perpetuate the names of domestic animals, a concentration of 'stock' not to be found elsewhere on the Berkshire Downs.<sup>42</sup>

### KNIGHTON HILL<sup>43</sup>

The Early Iron Age site on Knighton Hill, with pits containing A2 potsherds, animal bones and a hearth, is again at some distance from the nearest known 'fields' and cannot claim association with them. Outside the hill-forts evidence of Iron Age occupation is, with this exception, entirely lacking in our area.

### CONCLUSION

The evidence from Streatley Warren suggests that some Romano-British systems may overlie fields originally laid out in the Late Bronze Age or in the Iron Age. An interesting problem awaits solution at Perborough Castle, where field-lynchets apparently belonging to a Romano-British system appear to pass *under* the defences of a 'camp' dated by pottery to the Iron Age (PL. 4). The paradox is explained if it is assumed that 'prehistoric' fields pre-dating the camp have continued in use after its construction to become buried eventually by the action of the plough in the Roman period. Excavation through field-lynchets may perhaps throw light on this and other problems connected with the early agrarian history of Britain.

### POSTSCRIPT

While this article has been in the press a further system of fields, totalling 55 acres, has been discovered by Mr. H. J. Case in the valley between Sparsholt Down and Eastmanton Down. The fields appear very clearly as 'soil' marks on an air-photograph at the scale of 1 : 20,000 (R.A.F./CPE/UK/2608) and have been located by Mr. Case on the ground. Their discovery emphasizes the value of alternative air-cover and shows that even photographs on so small a scale are worthy of examination (*cp.* p. 2). Faint traces of probable fields were noticed on the photographs used by the writer, but the marks were too ambiguous there to justify classification as fields. The new fields considerably extend our Group VI, a small group which had been instanced (p. 4 and FIG. 5) as the remnant of a larger system that had been destroyed by later cultivation. I am indebted to Mr. Case for supplying details of his discovery.

<sup>42</sup> They are: Yew (Ewe?) Down; Wether Down; Sheep Down, W. Ilsley; Cow Down; Sheep Down, E. Ilsley. All are close to the Ridgeway and Grim's Ditch.

<sup>43</sup> S. Piggott, *Man* (1928), 97-101, and *Antiq. Journ.*, VII (1927), 517.

THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

APPENDIX I

CELTIC FIELD GROUPS

Group	Localities	6-in. O.S.	Air-photographs		Pre-Roman	
			Sortie No. <sup>1</sup>	Print No.	Sherds P Romano-British Sherds X	Size of Group in Acres
I	Swinley Down ..	19 SW	1416/3293-5			760
	Idstone Down ..	19 SW	„ /4093-4		X	
	Fognam Down ..	19 SW	„ „		X	
	Bailey Hill ..	25 NW	1416/3092-3			
	Near Down ..	25 NW	„ /4093-4			
II	Tower Hill ..	19 NW	1561/3019-23			1,910
	Compton Bottom ..	19 NW	„ /4019-24		X	
	Knighton Down ..	19 NW	„ „		X	
	Odstone Down ..	19 NW/SW	„ „		X	
	Kingstone Down ..	19 SW	„ „			
	Weathercock Hill ..	19 SW	1416/3295-6			
	Parkfarm Down ..	19 SW	„ /3301-2			
	Knighton Bushes ..	19 SW	1561/3019-23		X	
	Kingston Warren Down ..	19 NW	„ /4019-24			
	Woolstone Down ..	19 NW	„ „			
Whit Coombe ..	19 NW/SW	„ „		X		
III	Farncombe Down ..	25 NW	1416/3092-3		X	150
	Lodge Down ..	25 NW	1408/3470		X	
IV	Uffington Down ..	19 NW	1561/3022-3			5
			„ 3139			
V	Wether Down ..	19 SE	1416/3297		Nil	15
			1408/3381			
VI	Eastmanton Down ..	19 NE	1561/3027		P	15
			„ 4027			
VII	Green Down ..	19 NE	1561/3029		X	1,945
	Warren Down (Childrey) ..	19 NE	1561/4029-31		X	

<sup>1</sup> Full sortie numbers are given in Appendix II.

P. P. RHODES

Group	Localities	6-in. O.S.	Air-photographs		Pre-Roman Sherds P Romano- British Sherds X	Size of Group in Acres
			Sortie No. <sup>1</sup>	Print No.		
	Nutwood Down ..	19 SE	1408/3382-8			
	Stacombe Down ..	19 SE	" "		X	
	Bockhampton Down	19 SE	" "			
	Ewe Hill ..	19 SE	" "			
	Lang Down ..	20 SW	" "			
	Mere End Down ..	20 SW	" "			
	Warren Down (E. Garston) ..	{ 20 SW 26 NW	" "			
VIII	Crow Down ..	19 SE	1561/4027		Nil	50
IX	Washmore Hill ..	20 SW	1408/4386-7			120
X	Rats Hill ..	20 NW	1561/4033			135
	Segsbury Down ..	20 NW	" "			
	Greenhill Down ..	20 NW/SW	" "			
XI	Letcombe Bowers ..	20 NW/SW	1561/4035			200
	Winterdown Bottom	20 SW	1408/3390			
XII	Woolley Down ..	20 SW	1408/3390-2			345
XIII	Lockinge Down ..	20 SE	1561/4039-41			155
	Farnborough Furze Down ..	20 SE	1408/3392-4		X	
XIV	East Ginge Down ..	20 NE	1561/3043			10
XV	Knollend Down ..	20 NE/SE	1561/4043-5 1408/3396-8		P	95
XVI	East Hendred Down	21 NW	1561/3045-7		P X	100
	Chilton Down ..	21 NW	" "		P X	
XVII	W. Ilsley Cow Down	21 NW/SW	1561/4045 1408/3398		Nil	45
XVIII	Beedon Common ..	27 NW/SW	1406/3015			75

<sup>1</sup> Full sortie numbers are given in Appendix II.

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

Group	Localities	6-in. O.S.	Air-photographs		Pre-Roman Sherds P Romano- British Sherds X	Size of Group in Acres
			Sortie No. <sup>1</sup>	Print No.		
XIX	Windmill Down .. (Woolvers Barn) 27	21 SW 27 NW	1406/4042 " "			130
XX	Hodcott Down ..	21 SW	1561/4047-9 1408/3400-01		Nil	25
XXI	Compton Downs ..	21 SW/SE 27 NW/NE	1406/4047 " "			175
XXII	Compton Cow Down	27 NE	1406/3009-10 " 4009		X	160
XXIII	Dean's Bottom ..	21 SE 22 SW	1561/4057-9 1408/3407		X	220
XXIV	Streatley Warren .. Cow Common .. Thurle Down ..	21 SE 22 SW 22 SW	1406/4001-5 Not covered " "		X X	305
XXV	Lough Down ..	22 SW	19534/068			200

<sup>1</sup> Full sortie numbers are given in Appendix II.

### APPENDIX II

#### THE AIR-PHOTOGRAPHS

Sortie No.	Date	Time	Photo. Scale
106G/UK. 1406	11.4.46	1545	1 : 9,840
" " 1408	12.4.46	1545	1 : 10,800
" " 1416	14.4.46	1710	1 : 10,000
" " 1561	7.6.46	0925	1 : 9,472
CPE/UK. 1953	25.3.47	0830	1 : 9,960

P. P. RHODES

APPENDIX III

A KEY TO ROMANO-BRITISH SITES ON MAP I

No.	Locality	6-in. O.S. National Grid 41/	Description	References
1	Botley Copse, W. of	19 SW 277801	Angular enclosure; pottery, coins, brooches, corn drying oven, querns.	Ashmole, <i>Antiq. Berks.</i> (1723) ii, p. 198. Almost certainly refers to this site and not to Alfred's Castle. Cunnington, <i>Wilts. Arch. Mag.</i> , x (1866), 104-9. <i>Devizes Mus. Cat.</i> , II, 194. <i>Trans. Newbury D.F.C.</i> , IV, 204.
2	Botley Copse, E. of	19 SW 285806	Steelyard, coins (Domitian-Valentinian I). Also querns, pottery, spindle-whorls, rings and brooches from same locality.	
3	Compton Bottom, Odstone Down	19 NW 286844	Angular enclosure; pottery, coin (Victorinus), brooch, whetstone, needle, ox-goads.	Discovered by air-photography (see p. 19). Excavations 1950, report forthcoming.
4	Woolstone	13 SW 291878	'Villa' (two pavements—one a mosaic).	<i>V.C.H. Berks.</i> , I, 222. <i>B.A.J.</i> , 43 (1939), I, 139 (photograph of mosaic).
5	Knighton Bushes	19 SW 298831	(i) Enclosure; (ii) From same area, but perhaps not from enclosure; pottery, brooch and coins (Constantine I-Constans).	(i) Discovered by air-photography (see p. 18). (ii) Finds in Newbury Museum.
6	Uffington Down, S. of	19 NW 302852	Enclosure and pottery.	Discovered by air-photography (see p. 19).
7	Uffington Castle, E. of	19 NW 302864	Burial mound (46 inhumations, few cremations).	Peake, <i>Arch. of Berks.</i> , p. 119.
8	Rams Hill	19 NW 19 NE 314863	Quadrilateral enclosure-ditch containing pottery.	S. and C. M. Piggott, <i>Antiq. Journ.</i> , XX (1940), 465.
9	Sparsholt Down, nr. Hill Barn	19 NE	Pottery.	Peake, <i>ibid.</i> , p. 228 (Piggott coll., Reading University).
10	Stancombe Down	19 SE 349815 350816	Burials (12 skeletons), pottery and coins. Roman building; 3 ft. flint foundations, stone slates, wall-plaster, tesserae. Pottery, coins.	<i>Trans. Newbury D.F.C.</i> , I, 207. <i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i> , 2 ser., XI (1887), 410 (see p. 16).

THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

No.	Locality	6-in. O.S. National Grid 41/	Description	References
11	Childrey, garden of Manor House	13 SE	Coins.	Peake, <i>ibid.</i> , p. 106.
12	W. Challow (Cranhill)	14 SW 375878	'Villa'. Foundations of chalk, sarsen, flint and ool- ite. 5 rooms and corridor 82 by 36 ft. Pottery, coins (Trajan-Constantine).	<i>Arch. Journ.</i> , xxxiii (1876), 382-92; some pottery in Newbury Mus.
13	Letcombe Castle	20 NW 385845	Coins.	Peake, <i>ibid.</i> , p. 106.
14	Fawley, S. of	20 SW 389806	Burials (4 skeletons); pot- tery.	<i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i> , 2 ser., ix (1883), 356.
15	Charlton Down	20 NW or NE	'Furnace', flue tile, 2 coins (Elagabalus, Constantine II).	<i>Proc. Soc. Ant.</i> , 2 ser., ii (1863), 173.
16	Farnborough Furze	20 SE	Coins.	Peake, <i>ibid.</i> , p. 105.
17	Ardington Down, Grim's Ditch Covered Yard	20 NE 435849	Brooch.	Hallam, <i>Hist. of Lockinge</i> , 96. Now in possession of E. J. W. Hildyard.
18	Peasemore	26 NE 27 NW	Pottery.	<i>Trans. Newbury D.F.C.</i> , I, 208.
19	Stanmore Farm, Beedon Hill	27 NW	Wall, well, pottery. Pin of brooch.	<i>J.B.A.A.</i> , xvii (1861), 290.
20	Upper Farm, Chilton	21 NW 477854	Pottery.	† Found by writer.
21	Beedon Hill, brickyard	27 NW 488772	Pottery.	<i>Trans. Newbury D.F.C.</i> , II, 256.
22	Bantwick, (? nr. Banter- wick Barn)	27 NW or NE	Roman 'bricks', coins.	E. W. Gray, ed., <i>Hist. of Newbury and Environs</i> (1839), p. 222.
23	Curknell Pit (now filled in).	21 NE 509837	Pottery.	<i>V.C.H. Berks.</i> , I, 203, 284.
24	Compton, the Slad	21 SE 523807	Bricks, tiles, pottery, square floor of chalk, quern, tes- serae, coins.	Hewett, <i>Hist. Hundred of Compton</i> , pp. 68-72. <i>V.C.H. Berks.</i> , I, 205.
25	Compton Cow Down	27 NE 522786	Coins (500 in jar).	Hewett, <i>op. cit.</i> , 72. Ashmolean Mus. (Cat. 1836-68, p. 18).
26	Roden Downs	21 SE 531818	Ditched enclosure (15 acres) containing small first-early second century 'cremating place' and fourth-? fifth century burial enclosure (10 skeletons).	<i>J.R.S.</i> , xxxvi (1946), 144. <i>Trans. Newbury D.F.C.</i> , ix (1948), 10-62.

## THE CELTIC FIELD-SYSTEMS ON THE BERKSHIRE DOWNS

No.	Locality	6-in. O.S. National Grid 41/	Description	References
27	Compton, Woodrows Farm	27 NE 537783	Pottery kilns (early fourth century); coins (Trajan-Valens).	<i>B.A.J.</i> , xxxix (1935), 93. <i>Trans. Newbury D.F.C.</i> , vii (1937), 211.
28	Lowbury Hill	21 SE 540822	Rectangular enclosure (flint walled) of about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre. Tegulae, pottery, ox-goats, brooches, and 758 coins (Nero-Arcadius).	D. Atkinson, <i>The Romano-British site on Lowbury Hill in Berkshire</i> , 1916.
29	Aston Tirrold	16 SW 558872	V-section ditches with second-third century pottery, 3 coins (Tacitus-Constantius Chlorus), 2 skeletons.	<i>J.R.S.</i> , xvi (1926), 232. <i>Antiq. Journ.</i> , x (1930), 49.
30	Hill Green Farm, Cholsey	16 SW 583880	Pottery.	Found by writer. Cp. <i>V.C.H. Berks.</i> , i, 205.
31	Streatley Farm, N. of ('Fifield')	22 SW	Foundations, pottery, coins (Constantinian).	Colt Hoare, <i>Ancient Wilts.</i> , II, 53-4. J. Y. Akerman, <i>Archaeologia</i> , xxxviii, 328. C. Roach Smith, <i>Archaeologia</i> , xxviii, 447-8.
32	Basildon (Church Field)	28 NE 609790	'Villa' (two pavements, one a mosaic). Coin of Lucilla.	
33	Catmore, nr. 'Old Street'	20 SE 455807	Coins, paving, iron nails, and human remains.	O.S. 6-in. map. Probably the site recorded by Hewett, <i>op. cit.</i> , 36. Information from Reading Museum.
34	Moulsford, garden of Vicarage	22 NW	Coins.	
35	Streatley : (1) Sewage works (2) Streatley Ho. (3) S. of ford (4) From Thames	22 SW 595811 594806 594804 595805	Coins (Nero, Trajan). Coins (third-fourth centuries). Coins. Pottery.	Information from Reading Museum. Information from Reading Museum. <i>V.C.H. Berks.</i> , i, 214. <i>Ibid.</i> , i, 214.
36	Lambourn, town and precincts	25 NE	Brooch and coins (Vespasian-Magnentius).	<i>Trans. Newbury D.F.C.</i> , iv, 204.
37	Wantage (Belmont)	14 SW 396884	Pottery, flue-tiles, skeletons.	<i>Arch. News Letter</i> , Vol. 3, No. 3, 56.



THE FIELD-SYSTEM AT FOGNAM DOWN, BERKS. (See FIG. 7)  
Scale : 6 in. = 1 mile approx.



CELTIC FIELDS AT FOGNAM DOWN, BERKS. (Eastern end)  
Compare with PLATE I and FIG. 7

*Ph. : the late Major G. W. G. Allen*



'STRIP' FIELDS NEAR THICK THORN, BERKS.  
Looking north towards Knighton Bushes. Compare with FIG. 6

*Ph.: the late Major G. W. G. Allen*



CELTIC FIELDS AT PERBOROUGH CASTLE, BERKS.