

The Anglo-Saxon Barrow Cemetery on Breach Down, Kent

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Summary:

Breach Down is the southernmost of a group of Kentish barrow cemeteries centred on Watling Street and the middle reaches of the valley of the Little Stour. These cemeteries, and others of their type, are the physical, tangible evidence for the changes that took place in England in the centuries following the coming of St Augustine and the acceptance of Christianity by the Anglo-Saxons. Their grave-goods reflect the economic and social developments as Kent gained political power, while the people struggled with the changes demanded by a new religion. The people burying their dead at Breach Down lacked the wealth and status of their neighbouring communities, making do with cheaper versions of the elaborate gold and garnet jewellery found in the richer cemeteries. Objects decorated with Christian crosses indicate their owners' religious beliefs, while the presence of amulets suggests a degree of unease in placing total reliance on Christianity.

The Breach Down cemetery first came into use in about 600, possibly continuing into the early 8th century. Graves, usually oriented west-east, were dug into the solid chalk and contained inhumations without coffins. A few of the graves were richly furnished, but the majority contained few grave-goods and about a quarter of the graves were unfurnished. The surviving finds from Breach Down are in the British Museum and include objects from the collections of Albert Conyngham (Lord Londesborough), Thomas Mantell, and the Rev. J. P. Bartlett, the three antiquaries known to have excavated barrows on the site. Illustrations exist of a small number of additional finds which have not been preserved. The catalogue is divided into sections for each of the three collections, with the addition of one later chance find from the site.

THE SITE and EXCAVATIONS

The site (N.G.R. TR 20676 48929) is located six miles southeast of Canterbury, about a mile west of Watling Street connecting Canterbury to Dover. The barrow cemetery is on the northern end of Breach Down at about the 250 foot contour. The land slopes away to the west to the valley of the Nailbourne which becomes the Little Stour further downstream. To the north are the villages of Derringstone and Barham. When the site was visited by Lord Conyngham (later known as Lord Londesborough) in 1841, 103 barrows were visible on this part of the Down. In 1930-40 the Ordnance Survey recorded about 45 barrows, including six large ones. At this time the barrows were on common land and were known locally as the 'Roman cemetery' or the 'holy place'. Today the number of surviving barrows has dropped to about 10 to 15. A number have been destroyed or partially destroyed by ploughing, while the remaining examples are beside and behind a row of houses. On a visit to the site in 1977, several of the barrows showed signs of recent disturbance by treasure hunters. Since the building of the houses, the area of the site has been renamed Derringstone Downs.

The earliest recorded excavation at Breach Down was carried out by Edward Jacob. He produced a watercolour of his finds from two barrows and presented it to the Society of Antiquaries in 1758. Further barrows were opened by Thomas Mantell in 1810. His 'Journal' in the British Museum contains no mention of the site, but watercolour drawings made by him of some of his finds there are in the Early Medieval Scrapbook of the Society of Antiquaries. Several small barrows were dug by Rev. J. P. Bartlett in 1842 or 43. Lord Albert Conyngham, later Lord Londesborough, excavated 66 barrows in September and October, 1841 and a further 8 in September, 1844, a week after the meeting of the First Congress of the British Archaeological Association at Breach Down, during which 8 barrows were excavated. The Londesborough Collection in the British Museum includes

more objects from Breach Down than can be accounted for by these excavations, suggesting that further unrecorded excavations also took place. Unfortunately, any written evidence for these excavations has probably been destroyed, for following the sale of the Londesborough estates in 1924, Lord Londesborough's maps and manuscripts were burned (Marsden, 1974, 96). The Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit recorded four probable barrows during building work on the site in 1975. Grave-goods were recovered from one of the features.

BURIALS and GRAVE-GOODS

The barrows excavated by Conyngham were of varying sizes. One of the largest, Barrow 22, was 132 feet in circumference and eight feet high. The graves were cut into the solid chalk to a depth of one to two and sometimes three to four feet. They were oriented west-east, with the exception of the burial under Barrow 82 which had its head to the south. A west-east orientation, with the head to the west, was common in Kent in the pagan period. Three of the barrows (4, 37 and 49) contained secondary burials without grave-goods at a depth of 14-18 inches below the apex. In Barrow 3 there were three skulls placed triangularly. One of the skeletons appeared to be in a sitting or bent position, while the bones of the other two were scattered, suggesting a possible intrusive burial. In almost all of the burials, large flints were placed at the sides, head and feet, which Conyngham suggested might have been used to secure a covering before the grave was backfilled. In Barrow 22 the grave was covered by a layer of large flints. The occurrence of flints in the Breach Down graves seems to have a different significance than at Winnall in Hampshire where flints were interpreted as the stoning of the corpse (Meaney and Hawkes 1970, 31). No coffins were recorded in the burials at Breach Down, although they were common in the 7th century Kentish cemeteries excavated by antiquary Bryan Faussett in the 18th century. A large number of the burials were unfurnished or poorly furnished, including those burials in the larger barrows.

INVENTORY

Barrows 1-66 were recorded in a letter from Albert Conyngham to John Akerman, published in 1844, *Archaeologia* XXX.

Opened by Conyngham on 2 and 4 September, 1841:

Barrow 1. Skeleton nearly decomposed.

1. Beads - one crystal bead (L49 or L50); 18 amethyst beads (L53); 27 assorted beads (including the 22 beads catalogued as L54), near the neck.
2. Gold disc pendant (L17), near the neck.
3. Two brass hasps (probably L30 and L31).
4. Two silver rings (L18 and one that 'crumbled at the touch'), found in another part of the grave near the hasps.
5. Remains of iron-bound wooden box, near the head.
6. Roman brass coin (L27), in chalk forming the barrow.

Barrow 2. Skeleton much decayed.

1. Buckle (L13).
2. Shield (L105 or L106).
3. 'Long' sword, on right side.
4. Spearhead.
5. Knife.
6. Three iron studs.

Barrow 3. A large barrow containing three skeletons with the three skulls placed triangularly. One skeleton appeared to have been interred in a sitting or bent attitude, while the bones of the other two were scattered irregularly.

1. Two glass cups (one broken, the other L48), protected by large flints placed above them.
2. Pot sherds, just below the surface of the barrow.

Barrow 4. Nearly the largest barrow.

Secondary burial of a child, aged 6 or 7, without grave-goods, 18 inches below the apex.

1. Knife, by the side.

Barrow 5.

1. Quoit-shaped bead with spiral trail (L51).
2. 'Fibula' or iron buckle (L5), under the head.

Barrow 6.

1. Knife, by the side,
2. Small green glass bead which 'crumbled at the touch' , under the head.

Barrow 7.

1. Knife, by the side.

Barrow 8.

1. Knife, by the side.

Barrows 9 - 13

No grave-goods. Three with only minute bone fragments preserved.

Opened 6 September, 1841:

Barrow 14

1. Pot (L47), at the head.
2. Sherds of larger pot at the feet, apparently broken during the backfilling of the grave.

Barrow 15.

1. Buckle (L10).
2. Shield boss, which 'crumbled at the touch'.
3. Spearhead, 'of the usual form'.
4. 'Large' sword, by the side.
5. Knife.

Barrow 16.

1. Pot (L107), at the feet.

Barrow 17.

1. Small buckle.
2. Knife.

Barrow 18.

1. Small buckle.
2. Knife.

Barrow 19.

1. Spearhead.

Barrow 20. Empty.

No grave-goods.

Barrow 21. Skeleton nearly decomposed.

No grave-goods.

Opened 11 September, 1841:

Barrow 22. One of the largest barrows, 132 ft. in circumference and 8 ft. in height. Layer of large flints covering grave 'forming a kind of vault'. The only skeletal remains were a few teeth.

1. Three iron cramps.

Barrow 23.

1. Knife.

Barrow 24. Grave widened to permit right arm to be fully extended.

No grave-goods.

Barrows 25-28.

No grave-goods.

Opened 15 September, 1842:

Barrow 29.

1. Small buckle, on left side.
2. Spearhead, on right side.
3. Knife, on left side.
4. Several iron pyrites, at the feet. (Akerman 1844, 55) describes this as two masses of iron pyrites.

Barrow 30.

1. A few iron fragments.

Barrow 31. Skeleton decomposed.

1. Buckle, on left side.
2. Spearhead with the wood remaining in the socket.
3. Knife, on left side.

Barrow 32. One of the larger barrows.

1. Armlet (L20), encircling left arm.

Barrow 33. Skeleton almost entirely decayed.

1. Sword two feet six inches long, placed on three large stones.
2. Four small buckles, lying about the middle of the sword blade.
3. Shield boss (L105 or 106).
4. Spearhead, by side of skull.
5. Two glass studs, at the centre of the body.
6. Pot (L46) containing calcined bones, at the head.

Barrow 34.

1. Three halves of large amethyst beads (L52).
2. Small buckle.
3. Iron fittings of a wooden box.

Barrow 35.

1. Two beads.
2. Knife.

Barrow 36.

1. Buckle.
2. Knife.
3. A few iron fragments.

Barrow 37. Large barrow. Secondary burial, without grave-goods, 16 in. below the apex.

1. Large iron cramps of a wooden box.
2. Key.

Opened 21 September, 1841:

Barrow 38. Skeleton decomposed.

1. Handle and iron fittings of a wooden box.

Barrow 39. Skeleton decomposed.

1. Knife.

Barrow 40. Skeleton decomposed. Row of calcined bones on the right side the whole length of the grave.

1. Knife, on left side.
2. Spearhead, on left side.

Barrow 41.

1. Spearhead.
2. Knife.

Barrow 42.

1. Small silver wire ornament (possibly L26), by the skull.
2. Pin (L21), by the skull.
3. Large iron hook.

Barrow 43.

1. Two buckles.
2. Long, straight spearhead.
3. 'Large knife' (possibly a seax?), near the arm.
4. Two iron rings (possibly L44 and L45).

Barrow 44.

1. Iron fastenings of a wooden box 'or coffin'.

Barrow 45. Empty.

No grave-goods.

Barrow 46.

No grave-goods.

Barrow 47.

1. Crystal bead (L49 or L50), under the head.

Opened 2 October, 1841:

Barrow 48.

1. Knife.
2. Spearhead, on left side.

Barrow 49.

No grave-goods.

Barrow 50.

1. Knife.
2. Part of the jaw of a horse.

Barrow 51.

1. Spearhead.
2. Knife.

Barrow 52. Secondary burial, without grave-goods, 14 in. below apex.

No grave-goods.

Barrow 53.

1. Some, at least 12, very small beads (L56).
2. Buckle (L14), on the pelvis.
3. Keystone garnet disc brooch (L16).
4. Armlet (L19).
5. A very small ring (possibly L108).
6. Fragments of a wooden box, between the feet.

Barrow 54.

No grave-goods.

Opened 14 October, 1841:

Barrow 55. Empty.

No grave-goods.

Barrow 56.

No grave-goods.

Barrow 57.

1. Two small buckles.
2. Spearhead.
3. Knife.

Barrow 58.

1. Beads (possibly some of the 22 in L55), close to the skull along with the other finds.
2. Three silver wire rings (L23-25), described as 'finger rings'.
3. Three small iron rivets.
4. A small portion of white hair (L59).

Barrow 59. Mass of very small bones of mice and other larger animals from neck downwards for at least two square feet on each side.

1. Buckle.

Barrows 60-66. 'Nothing unusual or remarkable.'

Opened 10 September, 1844 for the meeting of the Canterbury Congress (TBAA 1):

Barrow 67. Burial of a child, skeleton decomposed.

1. Beads of various colours.
2. Toys, 'the evident offerings of parental affection'.

Barrow 68. Skeleton about 5' in height.

1. Spearhead with part of a wooden handle adhering, by the side.
2. Knife, by the side.

Barrow 69. Skeleton about 5'2" in height, aged about 21 years.

1. A number of small star-shaped beads and one larger bead.
2. 'Round boss of a buckle', on left side, supposed to have been the ornamental part.
3. Knife 5" long, on left side.
4. Armlet 'to which some pendant ornament appeared to have been attached'.

Barrow 70. Skull showed marks of a serious fracture received in life.

1. Part of a shield boss 'of the usual Saxon form', by left side.
2. Spearhead, by left side.

Barrow 71. Not recorded.

Barrow 72. Fragmentary skeleton.

1. Circular piece of iron, probably a shield boss.
2. Fragments of a spearhead.

Barrow 73. Skeleton decomposed.

1. Iron fragment.

Barrow 74.

Not recorded.

Opened by Conyngham 16 September, 1844 (Crocker, 1844) :

Barrow 75.

1. Bronze buckle, by right hip.
2. Knife, by left hip.

Barrow 76. Burial of a child.

1. Small pot sherd, dark-coloured.

Barrow 77.

1. Bronze buckle, by right side of skull. Very similar to buckle in Barrow 75, but smaller.
2. Spearhead 10" long, by left side of skull.
3. Several iron fragments, near the head.

Barrow 78. Burial of a very tall man.

1. Buckle (L11) attached to leather belt which crumbled on exposure to the air, on right hip.

Barrow 79.

1. Fragment of spear or arrowhead, by right side.
2. Hinge from a wooden box made up of two longitudinal pieces of iron joined by a bronze ring, at the feet.

Barrow 80.

1. Spearhead.

Barrow 81. 'Confused state' of some grave-goods suggested grave had been opened previously. Burial of a young person.

1. Eight beads: 1 green, 3 red and 1 small yellow of 'vitrified clay' (probably opaque glass); 1 spiral of green glass; 1 amethyst; 1 small bone bead, at neck and chest.
2. Pin with flattened head, near beads.
3. Knife, on left side.
4. Pot sherds of 'unbaked or very slightly baked clay', some decorated, at the feet.
5. Iron fragments from a wooden box, at the feet.

Barrow 82. Burial of a very old man oriented south-north, head to the south.
No grave-goods.

Opened by Thomas Mantell in June, 1810. These were recorded in a set of watercolour drawings sent by Mantell to Nicholas Carlisle with an accompanying letter dated 16 March, 1811 which have been preserved in the 'Early Medieval Scrapbook' of the Society of Antiquaries. It is difficult to determine the nature of some of the iron objects, particularly because it is clear from the surviving finds that the scale of the drawings varies. Many were described as knives, daggers, swords, or fragments thereof. The unusually high concentration of knives and weapons in this group of burials suggests that a number of finds were misinterpreted.

Barrow 83.

1. Pot (M34), 'found at the foot of the Barrow'.
2. Two iron objects 'apparently [fragments of] a Knife and Dagger' (M18, M19), one on each side of the skeleton.

Barrow 84.

1. Spearhead (M13), on right shoulder.
2. 'Part of a small Dagger and a Knife' (M20, M21), one on each side of the skeleton.

Barrow 85.

1. Pot (M35), at the foot of the cist.
2. Two pieces of iron described as 'handles of Knives or Daggers' (M40, M41, possibly nails?).

Barrow 86.

The drawing is captioned 'Part of a Sword, a Knife, and 3 pieces of decayed iron'. One object seems to be a surviving sword fragment illustrated at about 2/3 its size. The knife illustration is 19 cm long without a tang; it seems unlikely that it would have been drawn larger than life-size, so it can probably be considered to be a seax.

1. Seax (M22).
2. Sword fragment (M7).
3. Iron chape? (M39).
4. Two iron fragments.

Barrow 87.

1. Buckle (M1).
2. 'Large knife', possibly a seax (M23).
3. Two iron fragments, possibly nails.

Barrow 88.

1. Shield boss (M9).
2. Two studs (M11).

Barrow 89.

1. Two small buckles (M3 and another identical buckle).
2. Spearhead (M14).

Barrow 90.

1. Knife (M24).
2. Two iron fragments.

Barrow 91.

1. Iron fragment described as a 'small Knife', possibly a knife blade (M25).
2. Rectangular bronze frame, possibly part of a buckle (M37).
3. Bronze fragment.
4. Iron fragment.

Barrow 92.

1. 'A Knife and part of a small Dagger' (M26, M27 two knives?).
2. Iron fragment.

Barrow 93.

1. Gold bracteate (M4), on chest.
2. Seven beads (M5).
3. Knife (M28).

Barrow 94.

1. Seax (M17).
2. Two iron fragments.

Barrow 95.

1. Fragment of buckle plate (M36).
2. Knife (M29).
3. Iron fragment, possibly a knife tang (M42).

Barrow 96.

1. Sword (M16).
2. Shield boss (M10).
3. Shield grip (M12).
4. Knife (M30).

Barrow 97.

1. Pot sherd.
2. Four fragments of iron and bronze.

Barrow 98.

1. Spearhead (M15).
2. Sword fragment (M8).
3. Fragment of bronze strip.
4. Fragment of bronze link (M38).
5. Three iron fragments.

Barrow 99.

1. Seven beads (M6).
2. Iron fragment, probably a knife (M31).

Barrow 100.

1. Buckle (M2).
2. Knife (M32).
3. Tang from a seax or sword (M33).
4. Three iron fragments.

Burials discovered in 1758. The finds were recorded by Edward Jacob who presented a watercolour drawing to the Society of Antiquaries which is preserved in their 'Early Medieval Scrapbook'. The burials were probably beneath barrows.

Barrow 101.

1. About 20 beads (J1), around the neck.

Barrow 102.

1. Spearhead (J2).
2. Knife (J3).
3. Iron ring (J4).

Excavations by Bartlett. Only one burial was published by Bartlett while two others were mentioned in other sources. Among the objects from his collection which cannot be assigned to a recorded burial are a large buckle, probably from a male burial, and two sets of beads from female burials, showing that at least three additional barrows were excavated.

Barrow 103. (Bartlett 1846). Burial in a cist at the usual depth of about 2.5 feet from the surface. No mound was raised over the grave, and a slight depression on the surface was the only indication of it. (This burial is still given a 'Barrow' number since the fragmentary nature of some of the finds suggests that it might have been opened previously which could have resulted in the destruction of the barrow.)

1. Cross pin (B1), on left side.
2. Five beads (B27), near the skull.
3. Several pieces of iron with 2 or 3 brass hoops or rivets (including B12?), near the pin 'from which I imagine it had been contained in some kind of a box'.
4. Two silver wire rings (B14, B15).
5. 'Some small indescribable pieces of metal' (probably including some at least of finds B6-B18).

Barrow 104. (Smith 1848, 7).

The following were lying on the right side of the skeleton:

1. Sceattas (B29).
2. Several small brass ornaments.
3. A large ring.

4. Decayed wood and a substance resembling leather. Akerman (1844, 56) describes this as the remains of 'what had doubtless been a purse'.

Barrow 105. (Akerman 1855, 5). Child burial.

1. Two small buckles (B2, B3). These were described as having come from a child burial, but no mention was made of whether or not other grave-goods were found with them.

Features discovered in 1975 (Wilson 1984). Six features were observed during pipe-laying operations on the housing estate built over part of the site. It was not possible to excavate them fully. No mention was made in the report of barrows, but they would probably have been levelled in the vicinity of the houses.

Barrow 106. (Feature 1). Skeleton lying with head to W, lower extremities removed by pipe trench. Axis approx. 100°, probably rectangular - length 50 cm (min.), width 1.28 m, depth 43 cm. Steep sides and flat base.

Barrow 107. (Feature 3). No skeleton. Position of grave-goods not mentioned. Axis approximately 102°, probably rectangular in plan - length 50 cm, width 90 cm, depth 50 cm. Steep sides and flat base.

1. Iron knife (W1)

2. Iron spearhead (W2).

3. Fragments of iron seax and bronze scabbard chape (W3, W4).

Barrow 108. (Feature 4). Skull at west end of grave destroyed by pipe trench. Axis approximately 94°. Probably rectangular in plan - length 50 cm, width 1.1m and depth 39 cm. Steep sides and flat base.

Barrow 109. (Feature 2). Probable grave. No finds. Axis about 95°. Probably rectangular in plan - length 52 cm, width 85 cm and depth 60 cm. Steep sides and flat base.

Features 1 to 4 were located on the west side of Derringstone Down Road in the rear gardens of the houses. Although this section of the trench was dug by hand, the 'limited watching brief' undertaken by archaeologists appears to have had limited success. The graves were all cut through and bones were recovered from the spoil in two cases. Although nothing was discovered in the vicinity of Feature 2, it seems reasonable to interpret it as a grave. Features 5 and 6 are more doubtful. They were located on the east side of the road some 65 m from Feature 1 and well away from surviving barrows. Both features were noted on only one side of the pipe trench which is here running at an angle of approximately 125°. (The section of the trench which cut through the other four features was running more or less at right angles to them.) The following details were recorded, although how these measurements were determined without removing the fill is not mentioned. The fill of both features was a grey-brown loam containing lumps of chalk and, in one, several small bone fragments. There is no mention of how this fill compared with that of the features that were definitely graves. On the whole, the evidence for regarding the two features as graves is inconclusive.

Feature 5. Axis approximately 60°. Probably rectangular in plan - length 50 cm, width 80 cm and depth 52 cm. Very steep sides and a flat base.

Feature 6. Axis approximately 80°. Probably rectangular in plan - length 45 cm, width 60 cm and depth 50 cm. Very steep sides and a flat base.

CATALOGUE

The catalogue is divided into three main sections comprising the collections of the three principle excavators: Albert Conyngham (Lord Londesborough), Rev. JP Bartlett and Sir Thomas Mantell (Series L, B & M). The objects described by Edward Jacob in 1758 are lettered J and those published by John Wilson (1984), W. The figure of a man is designated E1 after Sir John Evans who purchased it during the sale of the Lord Londesborough's antiquities and presented it to the British Museum in 1884. Apart from the objects recovered during excavations in 1975 (series W), all the surviving finds from Breach Down are in the British Museum. The register number of each is included below; the first part of each number refers to its date of acquisition, except in the case of a few objects which were added to the register at a later date and given the prefix OA (old acquisition). Additional finds which are known from contemporary illustrations but which have not survived are included in series L and M. It should be noted that Mantell was the only one of the 19th century excavators to record and illustrate all the grave-goods he found at Breach Down.

The descriptions of the surviving metal objects include details concerning the probable methods of manufacture. This information is based on the examination of the metalwork by Dr. Paul Craddock of the British Museum Research Laboratory. A selected number of the objects were analysed by non-dispersive x-ray fluorescence, and buckle L64 had previously been analysed by atomic absorption spectrometry. The results are given in the descriptions. The term copper-alloy is used in the catalogue for objects described by their excavators as brass or bronze.

Finds by Lord Londesborough:

This section of the catalogue contains the largest number and the greatest variation of types of objects from Breach Down. Unfortunately, there is a certain degree of doubt concerning the provenance of some of the finds included below. Conyngham failed to fully record his finds in his published report. When his collection was sold, some objects from excavations on other sites were included in lots of Breach Down finds. There are notes pencilled into the museum's acquisition register giving the likely provenance of some of the objects. The notes were made by Roach Smith who was familiar with Conyngham's collection.

L1. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2, Pl. 4). This buckle demonstrates a method of construction used on a number of buckles of varying sizes from Breach Down. The plate is made from a strip of sheet metal with a slot cut out of the middle for the tongue. It is folded over the loop, forming a double rectangular plate which would have enclosed the leather or other material to which the buckle was attached, and secured by two small dome-headed rivets at the base. The loop, which was cast, is oval with a rounded cross-section. The tongue was probably hammered up from a piece of wire or possibly cast. It is bent around the back of the loop, passing through the slot in the plate.
Length 1.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.97

L2. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2). Same method of construction as L1. Edges of plate trimmed to accommodate loop. Loop a somewhat deformed oval with D-shaped cross-section, flat underneath. Tongue tapered at the end. Rivets and lower half of plate missing and corner damaged.
Length 1.9 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.100

L3. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2, Pl. 4). Same method of construction as L1. Upper section of plate cut to give a patterned edge, rounded behind the two rivets with a pointed projection in the centre and at each corner, one now broken.
Length 1.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.99

L4. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2). Same method of construction as L1. Round-sectioned loop. Upper part of plate of irregular outline owing to wear or damage. Part of lower plate and part of tongue missing.
Length 1.65 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.98

L5. Iron buckle (Fig. 3). Oval loop with straight bar on the back and iron tongue. Very corroded. In the Register, this object is identified as the 'fibula' illustrated by Conyngham (1844, pl. 1, fig. 19) along with other jewellery.
Width 3.65 cm.
Probably found in Barrow 5. Reg. No. 79.5-24.16

L6. Copper-alloy and iron buckle (Fig. 2). Folded rectangular copper-alloy plate held by three rivets. Very corroded iron loop and tongue.
Reg. No. 79.5-24.116

L7. Fragment of copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2). Plate and square-sectioned, oval loop cast in one. Relief decoration on remaining portion of plate. Tongue and part of loop are now missing, but according to a sketch in the Register they were present when the buckle was acquired by the Museum.
Breadth 1.3 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.102

L8. Copper-alloy clasp (Fig. 2). Triangular plate and oval loop cast in one piece, with a pair of incised lines separating the plate from the loop. Two solid, round-sectioned studs on the back of the plate, along the central axis, are part of the casting. The casting is of poor quality with a flaw on the edge of the plate. This object was probably paired with a similar piece with a hooked end, forming a clasp with hook-and-eye fastening. The shape imitates a triangular buckle with three dome-headed rivets.
Length 2.8 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.101

L9. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2). Square plate and oval loop cast in one piece, flat and of uniform thickness. Two rectangular tabs on the back of the plate, one of which is broken, were drilled after casting. The plate is decorated with three irregular trapezoidal cut-outs, formed as part of the casting. Tongue is made from a piece of copper-alloy wire passing through a hole in the plate.
Length 2.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.95

L10. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 3, Pl. 3). Plate and oval loop cast in one piece, differentiated by an increase in the thickness of the metal forming the loop. Tongue made from a piece of wire. The plate, now damaged, has a scalloped end and originally had two cast, diamond-shaped cut-outs. It is decorated with a punched motif of a dot surrounded by two concentric rings. There were originally four tabs on the back of the plate, two at each end, which were cast along with the plate and then drilled. Evison (1955, 33) compares this buckle to a jewelled buckle from Kingston Down, grave 244, which has collared dome-headed rivets and diamond-shaped garnets, forming a similar pattern to the punched and openwork decoration of L10.
Length 2.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.96
Found in Barrow 15.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, Fig. 14 (Illustrated upside-down)
Evison 1955, pl. ix b

L11. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 3, Pl. 3). Plate and loop cast in one piece, with the loop of thicker metal than the plate. The oval loop is decorated with four groups of chased transverse lines, with the outer groups converging on the inner lines on the front edge. The tongue was either made from a piece of wire or possibly cast; the attached end is rectangular in section with a ridge marking the change to a D-section. It tapers to the tip, which overhangs the front of the loop. The plate is roughly rectangular with the end shaped like half of a figure-of-eight and is decorated with two cast cruciform cut-outs and punched ring-and-dot decoration. One spare 'dot' without a 'ring' is shallower than the others and is probably a casting flaw. The round-sectioned studs on the back of the plate, two behind the loop and one at the centre of the end, were cast with the buckle.

Length 5.8 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.54

Found in Barrow 78.

L12. Copper-alloy buckle (Pl. 1). The buckle is constructed from three interlocking castings which were drilled and then joined by an iron pin. The buckle plate is triangular with a flat disc at the apex and smaller, semicircular projections on either side, drilled after casting, which would originally have held dome-headed rivets. The angle between the sides of the plate is greater behind the side rivets than in front. This has the effect of giving the outline a slightly curved appearance, accentuated by the curve of the two projections on the back of the loop which overlap the front edge of the plate. The tongue and shield are cast in one piece. A tab on the underside of the shield is held in a recess at the centre of the front edge of the plate. The tongue, which stands at an angle of about 30° to the shield, is in the form of a duck's head with punched dots for eyes, a carefully modelled bill and a collar on its neck. The oval loop is cast and decorated with a line of punched dots along the top of the loop with a single ring-and-dot at each end. The edge of the loop is decorated with ring-and-dot motifs and groups of transverse lines. The plate and shield are also decorated with punched ring-and-dots; this is worn on the top of the plate, but clear around the edge, behind the tongue-shield and on the side of the plate. The three pieces of the buckle are held together by an iron pin which is passed through the two extensions on the loop, the plate, and through the projection beneath the shield. Originally the tongue and shield and the loop would have swivelled on the pin, but the corrosion of the iron has fixed their positions. An analysis of the metal used for the castings showed it to be a leaded tin bronze containing a small amount of zinc.

Length 5.3 cm. Reg. no. 79.5-24.94

L13. Buckle (Fig. 3, Pl. 3). Cast in three pieces - tongue and shield, loop, and plate. All made from an alloy containing copper, zinc, lead and tin, and all tinned. The plate is an open rectangular frame, recessed underneath to take a central panel. It has three small round-headed rivets at one end and two rivets underneath the tongue shield. The plate is attached to the oval loop by two forward projections of the plate which are bent around the straight bar on the back of the loop. The shield is decorated with a design of four loops, probably a debased interlace design. In the background are traces of a white, glassy substance which analysis showed to be lead. There are two possible explanations for this lead on the shield. The first is that it represents a decayed lead solder. In support of this possibility it should be noted that a similar substance is found on the back of the plate around part of the central opening which is most probably the residue of the solder which held a decorated plate in the frame. The lead on the shield contains a very small fragment of gold, which might indicate that the solder was used to hold gilding in place. However, this would seem a very awkward method, and the use of a gilt background for a tinned

design seems most unlikely. Therefore, the second explanation for the lead on the shield is preferable, that is that it represents a decayed red enamel. The white substance on the frame would not present any particular problem in this case, since the decay of two different lead compounds might well result in residues of similar appearance. The gold fleck on the shield would then be a chance inclusion, perhaps from the missing central plate. The nature of this missing plate is of some interest. Smith (1923, 58) suggested that the frame originally held a large slab of garnet. He based this suggestion on the parallel provided by a gold and garnet buckle from Tostock in Suffolk (Akerman 1855, pl. 1, fig. 9). The form of the buckle is even more closely paralleled by the harness buckle from Sutton Hoo (Bruce-Mitford 1972, pl. 32) and a buckle from Gilton in Kent (Akerman 1855, pl. xxix, fig. 2), both of which are of gold and garnet with cloisonné on the central plate and on the shield. A buckle from St Peter's, Broadstairs grave 98 (Speake 1980, pl. 9a) is so similar to L13 that it might have been cast in the same set of moulds. This buckle contains a gilt repoussé plate decorated with Style II ornament, the design made up of four interlaced animals. Speake (op. cit., 59) suggests that the Breach Down example once held an identical plate. He compares these two buckles with a gold buckle of the same shape found in Rijnsburg, Holland with garnet cloisonné and filigree interlace on the shield and a central plate decorated with Style II. The Breach Down and St. Peter's buckles can be seen as cheaper versions of the same type, made of base metal with red enamel on the shield in imitation of the garnet on the richer examples and a gilt repoussé sheet replacing the filigree of the central panel.

Length 6.0 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.5

Found in Barrow 2.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 13

Aberg 1926, 216, no. 89

Speake 1980, pl. 9d

L14. Large triangular buckle (Pl. 1). The buckle was cast in three main pieces - tongue and shield, loop, and the frame of the plate. The compositions of the different parts of the buckle were determined by analysis. They are made from an alloy containing 90% or more of copper, zinc, and small amounts of lead and tin. The loop was tinned and would have had a silvery colour, now grey and worn away in places. The three large dome-headed rivets were also cast, complete with beaded collars imitating the filigree collars found on gold buckles. They are made of brass. The plate is attached to the loop by a rectangular extension on the front of the plate which is bent around the straight bar on the back of the loop. It has a slot in the centre for the tab on the back of the shield which is also bent around the back of the loop. The front edge of the plate is curved to fit in with the rounded base of the tongue shield. Soldered into the open triangular frame of the plate is a thin, mercury-gilded sheet of brass with repoussé Style II decoration of a pair of intertwined animals. The back plate, which is partly missing, is of copper alloy and is somewhat wider than the front plate. The leather of the belt would have been held in the gap between the two plates.

The decorative elements of the buckle can be shown to have been derived from the more elaborate triangular buckles embellished with gold filigree and garnet. The beaded collars encircling the rivet heads imitate collars of beaded gold wire. The forward angles of the plate frame are rounded to follow the contours of a pair of birds' heads with curved beaks indicated by a slight widening of the frame in front of the rivets. One side appears to have been damaged or poorly cast, but on the other an incised line marks the lower curve of the beak. Faint traces remain of an eye. Bird heads with garnet settings are found in this position on silver-gilt buckles from Sarre grave 68, King's Field Faversham and Wickhambreaux in Kent and Alton, Hampshire (Speake 1980, pl. 6). The design on the

repoussé plate is made up of a pair of interlaced animals. Their bodies are represented by a pair of parallel lines enclosing a line of dots, a formula derived from filigree compositions in which the bodies are formed with three wires, the central one with heavier beading, or with a pair of wires enclosing a line of annulets. The other elements of the design are represented by pairs of lines. The heads are placed behind the forward rivets. The bodies and jaws interlace symmetrically, with the bodies terminating at the apex. The hips and legs fill in the space at the broad end of the sheet, placed asymmetrically. The design is bordered by line of dots. Again, this follows the lead of the filigree buckles in which beaded filigree borders the Style II ornament. The composition is squeezed into such a small space that the entire surface of the sheet is filled with ornament. The buckle from Sarre grave 68, mentioned above, provides a close parallel in the layout of its filigree design. The heads are in the same position and the bodies and jaws intertwine in a similar way. The major difference is in the placing of the hips and legs. On this buckle they are located at the apex, while the other two angles of the panel are filled in by looped extensions of the angled lines behind the animals' eyes. Buckle L14 is unusual in having been found in a woman's grave. It shows signs of wear and could have been fairly old when buried.

Length 8.3 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.4

Found in Barrow 53.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 21

Wright 1845(1), pl. 3, fig. 11

Akerman 1847, pl. XVII, fig. 9

Aberg 1926, tab. V, no. 75

Speake 1980, pl. 6g, fig. 4c

L15. Copper-alloy linked pin set (Fig. 6 & Fig. 14, Pl. 4). Pair of cast copper-alloy pins with heads in the form of a loop (damaged on one pin) with double moulding below and a plain, round-sectioned, tapering shaft. Some variation in the mouldings show that the pins were not cast in the same mould. A copper-alloy wire ring fastened by a sliding knot joins the undamaged pin to a length of chain. The ten figure-of-eight links, each about 1.1 cm in length, are of hammered copper-alloy wire, forming a chain 9.4 cm long. An early illustration of the pin set (Wright 1845, 206, pl. 3) shows fifteen figure-of-eight links, two of which have been opened out into an S-shape at the end of the chain. Although this pin set appears in the literature along with the other Breach Down objects a short time after Conyngham's excavations on the site, no mention of it is made in the excavation report, which seems a curious omission.

Length of pins 5.75 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.93

Wright 1845(1), pl. 3, fig. 13

Akerman 1847, pl. xviii, fig. 12

Jessup 1950, pl. ix, & 1974, pl. 1, No. 6 & 8

L16. Silver keystone garnet disc brooch (Pl. 5). Cast and partly tooled. The outer rim is gilded and partly corrugated; it is very worn. Within this is a raised band decorated with a silver zigzag against a background of niello, bordered either side by silver. The niello would have been applied as hot silver sulphide (about 600° C), which was pressed into the silver. At this temperature the compound is unstable, with the result that the niello has partly gone back to silver, partially obscuring the design. This band of silver and black niello would have contrasted with the gilding of the rest of the surface of the brooch. The main decoration consists of a large central boss of paste, now missing, with a beaded silver wire collar, and around it four round settings of white paste and four triangular garnet settings, separated by raised, wedge-shaped panels of silver. The garnet settings are level with the tops of the cells, while the white paste settings are recessed. The cells are somewhat irregular in shape and layout, with the intervening wedges squeezed into the

available space. On the back of the brooch is a silver catch plate and a corroded lump of iron to which the end of the iron pin, now missing, was attached to form a spring hinge.

Diameter 3.9 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.3

Found in barrow 53.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 20

Wright 1845(1), pl. 3, fig. 3

Akerman 1847, pl. xvi, fig. 6

Baldwin Brown 1915, vol. IV, 725

Aberg 1926, 209, no. 15

Wilson 1966, pl. 37 (confused with pl. 36 from Faversham)

Alcock 1971, pl. 22b, (captioned as Faversham, with 22a mislabelled as Breach Down)

Avent 1975, 34, no. 135, pl. 44

This brooch differs from the other keystone garnet disc brooches in Avent in having single rectangular wedges between settings. Virtually all the other keystone garnet disc brooches have some sort of animal ornament based on Style I and Style II components - the rounded back of the head with eye dots and bars figure prominently, sometimes with stylised legs and feet or wings.

L17. Gold disc pendant (Pl. 5). The gold disc is of sheet metal with a beaded gold wire soldered to its surface to form the rim and to divide the surface into fields forming a curvilinear cross with expanded arms. The other filigree decoration is executed with a finer beaded gold wire. The arms of the cross are decorated with filigree loops with inward curling ends, and the spaces between the arms with S-scrolls with gold granules at their ends. The scrolls in the upper right field are backward Ss. It might have been the intention of the jeweller to make the ornamentation symmetrical, in which case the scrolls in the lower left field should have been reversed as well. Apart from this apparent mistake in the design, the filigree is carefully and neatly executed. In the centre of the cross is a sheet-gold cell with a cabochon garnet setting and a double collar, with fine beaded wire on top of heavier beaded wire. The suspension loop, made of channeled gold sheet, is looped around at the front and soldered within the wire border and soldered flat against the back. The gold is of a low purity and has a brassy appearance. The pendant is slightly misshapen and very worn, especially on the rim and with some wear on top of the filigree.

Diameter 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.22

Found in Barrow 1.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 9

Wright 1845 (1), 206, pl. 3, fig. 5

Akerman 1847, pl. XVII, fig. 13

Akerman 1855, pl. v, fig. 3

Smith 1908, 360, pl. 2 no. 9

Aberg 1926, fig. 240, 217 Tab. VI no. 2

Bruce-Mitford 1974, pl. 25 no. 9

L18. Silver ring, probably a finger ring, now missing. Described in the Register as a thin band, diameter 7/8 inch and identified as the ring illustrated in Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 18, found in Barrow 1. The text mentions two silver rings, presumably of the same type, one of which 'crumbled at the touch'.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.23

L19. Copper-alloy armlet (Fig. 9). Circular armlet of copper-alloy rod with tapering ends wound loosely around each other to form an expandable ring.

Diameter 8.0 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.6

Found in Barrow 53.
Conyngham 1844, pl. 1 (unnumbered)

L20. Fragment of copper-alloy wire armlet (Fig. 9). The Register records two fragments and identifies the object with the illustration in Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 7 which shows a more complete armlet with one end bent into a hook.

Diameter 6.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.7

Found in Barrow 32.

L21. Copper-alloy pin (Fig. 8). Round-sectioned shaft, slightly thicker towards the point. Flattened rectangular head with indented sides. Cast with head slightly hammered. This pin is illustrated by Wright and Akerman and in both texts wrongly described as a 'bone' pin.

Length 4.5 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.103

Found in Barrow 42.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, Fig. 15

Wright 1845 (1), 206, pl. 3, fig. 24

Akerman 1847, pl. XVIII

L22. Copper-alloy pin (Fig. 8). Cast, with disc head and shaft of slightly squared section. Decorated with two filed lines below the middle of the shaft, below which it thickens and then tapers to a point. As in the case of pin L 21, this pin is mistakenly described by Akerman and Wright as having been made of bone.

Length 5.2 cm. Reg.No. 79.5-24.104

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1 (unnumbered)

Wright 1845(1), pl. 3 No. 22

Akerman 1847, pl. XVIII

L23. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Slightly flattened section. Tapered ends loosely joined into a sliding knot to form an expandable ring.

Diameter 1.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.13

L24. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Tapered ends neatly twisted into coils around each other to form a closed ring. Diameter 2.1 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.12

L25. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). One terminal missing, the other a loop formed by winding the tapered end of the wire back on itself. Two groups of very worn transverse lines on ring.

Relatively thick, round-sectioned wire.

Diameter 2.0 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.11

L26. Copper-alloy ring (Fig. 4). Slightly flattened section, largely the result of wear. Close set transverse grooves, rather worn, around the entire ring, giving the appearance of beading.

Diameter 0.98 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.14

L27. Roman coin identified by Conyngham as Victorinus. Not illustrated.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.15

Found in the chalk forming Barrow 1.

L28. Copper-alloy hasp (Fig. 5). Shaft of half-round section decorated with transverse, filed lines and nicks around the edge of the hook and hole. Flattened terminals, one with a rivet hole, the other hook-shaped. Cast or hammered.
Length 1.85 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.112

L29. Copper-alloy hasp (Fig. 5). Shaft of half-round section with filed lines at middle and ends. Flattened disc terminals, each with a hole containing a flat-headed copper-alloy rivet. Hammered up from a copper-alloy billet.
Length 2.5 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.10

L30. Copper-alloy hasp (Fig. 5). Shaft of half-round section with filed lines at each end. Flattened disc terminals, one with a central hole holding a flat-headed copper-alloy rivet, the other with a slot holding a copper-alloy rivet flattened at each end. Shaped by hammering or cast. The metal is corroded and the decoration indistinct.
Length 2.1 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.110
Found in Barrow 1.
Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 17

L31. Copper-alloy hasp (Fig. 5). Similar to L30. Slot holds a flat-headed rivet. The rivet in the other terminal is bent into an L-shape. The metal is corroded and the lines indistinct.
Length 2.1 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.111
Found in Barrow 1.
Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 17.

L32. Rectangular copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 4). One corner damaged. Originally with punched rivet hole near each corner.
Length 1.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.108

L33. Rectangular copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 4). Hole in each corner with small dome-headed copper-alloy rivets. Six fine scratched or engraved lines across centre of plate.
Length 1.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.107

L34. Rectangular copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 4). Hole at one end with corroded iron rivet. Wood grain visible in copper-alloy and iron corrosion on one side, running lengthways.
Length 2.0 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.8

L35. Rectangular copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 4). Hole at one end with corroded iron rivet. Traces of wood in iron corrosion around hole on back of plate, running lengthways.
Length 2.3 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.9

L36. Thin copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 4). Rounded at narrow end, with two punched holes in the other, damaged end. Bent into a shallow curve,
Length 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.113

L37. Fragment of rim-binding strip (Fig. 4). Originally part of a loop with the ends joined by a copper-alloy rivet. Groove running the length of the strip along the centre. Traces of gilding.
Length of rivet 0.6 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.115

L38. Copper-alloy hinge (Fig. 4). One half damaged. The complete segment has curved sides and a rounded end, with a hole near each end holding a dome-headed rivet, one of which is straight and the other bent into a loop underneath. The straight rivet passes

through a hole in a fragment of wood which has a second hole 0.6 cm from the first, to the side of the hinge plate. The two sides of the hinge are joined by an iron pin.
Length of complete half 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.105

L39. Copper-alloy angle-plate (Fig. 4). Bent into a right angle with an iron rivet at each end. Traces of wood in iron corrosion on inside of plate around rivet.
Length of each arm 3.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.106

L40. Thin copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 4). Folded around piece of iron wire and held by two copper-alloy flat-headed rivets with a hole for a third rivet in one damaged corner.
Length 1.05 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.114

L41. Copper-alloy and iron object (Fig. 5). Triangular copper-alloy sheet attached to piece of iron rod with traces of wood in the corrosion. Fragment of iron at the other end of the rod approximately parallel to the copper-alloy sheet.
Length of copper-alloy sheet 2.5 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.109

L42. Iron fragment (Fig. 5). Hook-shaped piece of corroded iron with fragment of small iron ring in hook. Traces of wood in corrosion on one side of hook.
Length 2.8 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.117

L43. Iron fragment (Fig. 5). Fragment of iron plate and rivet.
Length 1.1 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.19

L44. Iron ring (Fig. 5). Apparent thinning along part of ring probably caused by removal of corrosion layer in cleaning. Described in the Register as a buckle.
Diameter 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.17
Found in Barrow 43.

L45. Iron ring (Fig. 5). Very corroded.
Diameter 3.3 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.18
Found in Barrow 43.

L46. Frankish wheel-made pot (Pl. 7). Made from a sandy clay, fired to a pale orange colour. Biconical with horizontal grooves and ridges on the upper part of the body and slightly everted rim. There are faint, concentric ridges on the base made when the potter used a length of twine to cut the pot from the wheel. The base is concave due to warping during firing. Evison includes this pot in Group 3e, biconical bowls.
Height 13.7 cm. Reg. No. OA.299
Found in Barrow 33.
Conyngham 1844, pl. 1
Akerman 1847, pl. XIV, fig. 32
Smith 1852, pl. LII, fig. 3
De Baye 1893, pl. xvi, fig. 5
Baldwin Brown 1915, 724, fig. 27
Salin 1949, 288, fig. 78
Evison 1979, fig. 16c

L47. Frankish wheel-made pot (Pl. 7). Dark grey, reduced fabric. Biconical with upright rim and a slight collar at the base of the neck. The body of the pot is fluted, grooves having been cut out of the leather-hard pot from the neck to the carination and from the carination

to the base. Traces of zigzag rouletting are present between the grooves. The pot was found in a cupboard in the museum in 1937 and given a number at that time.

Height 11.1 cm. Reg. No. 1937.12-17.3

Found in Barrow 14.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 3

Wright 1845 (1), 206, pl. 3, fig. 21

Akerman 1847, pl. xiv, fig. 32

Kennet 1978, fig. 29, no. 156

Evison 1979, fig. 15b, tab. 1 3C2, tab. 2 C92

L48. Bell beaker of green glass (Pl. 8). Light yellow-green translucent glass containing many small bubbles. The rim is rounded. The sides taper inwards, then flare out near the domed base. Striations on the surface were formed during blowing and etched out by weathering. Large areas of grey to black patination inside. An example of Harden's Type B, domed with a constriction in the body (Harden 1950, 141).

Height 13.1 cm. Reg. No. 19.5-24.2

Found in Barrow 3.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 4

Akerman 1847, pl. XIV, fig. 7

Wright 1845(1), 207, fig.5

L49 & L50. Two globular crystal beads (Fig. 7, Pl. 9).

Diameters 2.0 & 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.26 & 27

Found in Barrows 1 and 47.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig.16

Akerman 1855, pl. V

Smith 1908, pl. 2, no. 4

L51. Quoit-shaped bead (Fig. 7). Semi-translucent turquoise glass with encircling marvered spiral trail of opaque white glass.

Diameter 1.75 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.28

Found in Barrow 5.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig.8

L52. Half of a large drop-shaped amethyst bead (Fig. 7). The cut is at a slightly lower level along one edge.

Length 1.95 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.25

Two similar half-beads in the Londesborough collection were not recorded with the other finds from Breach Down and were later given Old Acquisition numbers. The two halves fit together, cut from an original bead of about 4 cm in length. The holes drilled from either end did not meet exactly. The bead was cut where the holes overlapped, so one of the half-beads has a second hole next to the hole through the bead. The bead was cut from two sides, with a broad cut near the sides and a narrower cut across the centre. The error in drilling the bead explains why it was cut in half - it couldn't be strung on a necklace without a hole running from end to end.

Reg. Nos. OA.4975 & 76

All three found in Barrow 34.

L53. Necklace of seventeen, originally eighteen, amethyst beads. (Fig. 16). Five are large drop-shaped beads 4.1 to 4.7 cm in length. The smaller beads, 2.3 to 1.3 cm long, vary somewhat in shape with some narrow and some more rounded drop-shaped beads. The

drill holes are visible from the side on several of the beads. A larger diameter drill was used from each end, with a smaller drill used to finish off in the centre. The holes do not all meet exactly. The beads have been restrung in a different order from that shown in Akerman's illustration, and one of the larger beads which was shown as cracked is now missing. The beads were found along with a crystal bead and 22 other beads, as well as a gold pendant. While this could represent two separate strings of beads, it is possible that all the beads and the pendant were strung together as a single necklace.

Found in Barrow 1. Reg. No. 79.5-24.24

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 10

Akerman 1855, pl. 5, fig. 1

Jessup 1950, pl. C

L54. Twenty-two beads (Fig. 10, Pl. 10). Barrel-shaped and biconical, including one variegated red and white opaque glass; translucent green and turquoise glass; opaque pale turquoise, brick red, and orange glass beads. As presently strung up, the beads are arranged symmetrically either side of the red and white bead, corresponding in colour, shape, and size and roughly graded from the largest to the smallest. An additional five beads were found with this group and it appears from the illustration in the excavation report that five of the smaller beads have been lost.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.30

1. Short barrel - pale turquoise-green semi-translucent glass.
2. Cylindrical - very pale turquoise opaque glass with rough pitted surface.
- 3 & 4. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
5. Short barrel - turquoise-green translucent glass.
- 6 & 7. Truncated bicone - green semi-translucent glass.
8. Truncated bicone - red-brown opaque glass.
- 9 & 10. Barrel - orange opaque glass.
11. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
12. Truncated bicone - white opaque glass marbled with red opaque glass.
13. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
- 14 & 15. Barrel - orange opaque glass.
16. Truncated bicone - red-brown opaque glass.
17. Short barrel - turquoise-green translucent glass.
18. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
19. Short barrel - turquoise translucent glass.
20. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
21. Cylindrical - brick red opaque glass with two black lines.
22. Irregular barrel - very pale turquoise opaque glass with rough pitted surface.

L55. Twenty-two beads (Fig. 10, Pl. 10).

Reg. No. 79.5-24.29

1. Short barrel - yellow opaque glass.
2. Globular - yellow opaque glass.
3. Double segmented bead - yellow opaque glass.
4. Globular with shallow flutes - blue-green translucent glass.
5. Spherical - very light blue-green opaque glass.
- 6 & 7. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
8. Cylindrical - very light blue-green opaque glass.
9. Cylindrical - brick red opaque glass.
10. Barrel - brick red opaque glass.
- 11-16. Lumps of amber with one or both ends cut off, giving them an irregular barrel shape.

- 17. Barrel - white opaque glass with red opaque spots.
- 18. Quoit - white opaque glass with green stains.
- 19. Short barrel - red opaque glass.
- 20. Oblong bead of a white, chalky substance.
- 21 & 22. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

L56. Twelve very small beads. Not illustrated. One globular of pinkish white opaque glass, three cylindrical of light green translucent glass, five cylindrical of turquoise translucent glass, and three segmented double cylinders of turquoise translucent glass.

Diameters 0.3 - 0.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.31

Probably found in Barrow 53.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1 unnumbered

L57. Six shattered fragments of blue glass bead(s). Not illustrated. Light blue translucent glass. Two or three fragments seem to include part of a cylindrical hole.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.20

L58. Cowrie shell. Not illustrated.

Length 7.6 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.137

L59. Now missing. Described in the Register as colourless human hair.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.21

Found in Barrow 58.

The Register describes the objects numbered 79.5-24.54 to 24.92 as 'Probably Breach Down'. Of these, one can be shown by its description in the excavation report to have definitely come from Breach Down (buckle L11, Croker 1845, 379), while another two objects (two counters, one made from a sherd of samian ware, the other of bone), were found at Bishopsbourne (24.87 and 24.88, Wright 1845 (2), 255). Although the remaining objects cannot be attributed with certainty to any site, there is a high probability that the majority of the objects described below were found at Breach Down.

L61. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2). Same method of construction as L1. Plate trimmed to accommodate loop and corners of plate cut off. Tip of tongue decorated with an incised line.

Length 1.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.58

L62. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 3). Cast oval loop, round in section. Tongue possibly cast or hammered up from a piece of wire.

Width 2.45 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.57

L 63. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 3). Cast oval loop, round in section with a straight bar on the back. Decoration of transverse grooves very worn in places. The tongue was probably cast. It has a stop ridge at the back and was bent around the bar at the back of the loop. It has a semi-circular indentation where it overlaps the loop.

Width 2.5 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.56

L64. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 3). Cast oval loop with C-shaped section and a straight bar on back of the loop where the tongue is attached. Tongue and shield and tab on the back of the shield cast in one, with tab bent around loop after casting. Shield with rounded end and punched ring-and-dot decoration. Analysis showed the metal to be brass or gunmetal

(81.5% copper, 5.3% tin, 8.0% zinc, 5.6% lead, 0.14% iron, 0.05% silver, 0.1% antimony, 0.05% nickel).

Width 3.0 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.55

Bruce-Mitford 1978, Tab. 30

L65. Penannular copper-alloy armlet (Fig. 9). Cast. Oval section with slightly flattened and expanded terminals, one damaged. Terminals decorated with lines, very worn, and punched ring-and-dot motifs. The edges of the armlet have been nicked with a file for about 1.5 cm from each terminal.

Diameter 6.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.66

L66. Copper-alloy pin (Fig. 8). Flat disc head with triple moulding below. Two filed lines near middle of shaft. Shaft tapers to a point. Hammered up from a piece of wire or possibly cast.

Length 3.5 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.71

Probably found in Barrow 81.

L67. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Terminals now missing, but a sketch in the Register appears to show them wound around each other. Made from wire tapering towards the ends and hammered flat for most of its length.

Diameter 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.75

L68. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Slightly oval in shape; tapered ends wound once around each other.

Diameter 1.8 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.79

L69. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). One terminal damaged. Tapered ends originally wound once around each other.

Diameter 1.6 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.80

L70. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Tapered ends originally wound around each other.

Diameter 2.3 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.76

L71. Silver wire ring (Fig. 6). One terminal missing, the other tapered end twisted back on itself to form a loop. Decorated with three groups of incised lines.

Diameter 2.0 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.82

L72. Two fragments of silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Terminals missing.

Diameter 1.8 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.78

L73. Two fragments of silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Terminals missing.

Diameter 1.8 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.77

L74. Two fragments of silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Terminals missing. Decorated with two groups of incised lines.

Diameter 1.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.81

L75. Two fragments of silver wire ring (Fig. 6). Terminals missing.

Diameter 2.0 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.83

L76. Copper-alloy fragments. Now missing.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.84

L77. Copper-alloy pendant cross (Fig. 8, Pl. 6). Probably cast. Flat, with upper arm slightly thicker and larger. Hole for suspension in upper arm containing fragment of iron.
Length 2.15 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.64

L78. Copper-alloy pendant cross (Fig. 8, Pl. 6). Cast equal-armed cross with central roundel. Lower arm slightly out of position. Suspension loop on upper arm containing iron fragment. Other arms flattened and thinner at the ends. Decorated either side with punched ring-and-dot decoration.
Length 2.3 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.52

L79. Copper-alloy pendant cross (Fig. 8, Pl. 6). Cast, lower arm missing. Side arms with slightly expanded ends, and upper arm with suspension loop containing a fragment of iron. Ring-and-dot decoration on arms partially obscured by iron corrosion. The metal is corroded, so it is difficult to tell whether or not there is any decoration at the centre.
Width 1.85 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.63

L80. Claw amulet (Fig. 8). Bird claw with mounting made of copper-alloy sheet and fragment of a wire suspension loop.
Length 2.9 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.92

L81. Copper-alloy hook (Fig. 6). Shown in the Register as S-shaped, but one arm now missing. Made from wire hammered to a point at the ends.
Length 2.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.68

L82. Copper-alloy hook (Fig. 6). Similar to L81.
Length 2.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.69

L83. Girdle hanger (Fig. 5). Cast drop-shaped ring with a hole for suspension at one end and five holes in the opposite side. Each hole contains a fragment of corroded iron. Decorated on both sides with punched ring-and-dot decoration.
Length 3.6 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.61

L84. Copper-alloy and iron girdle ornament (Fig. 5, Pl. 4). Consists of an upper suspension plate, three miniature ornaments and four links of chain.

Suspension plate. Cast. Fragment of an iron suspension loop in a hole at the top, and three holes at the scalloped end, each containing fragments of iron links. Punched ring-and-dot decoration on both sides. On one side two sizes of punch have been used. One dot has two rings around it; the rings are shallow and, on some, the ring punch has been rocked to make a slightly double effect. The other side of the plate is corroded, so the rings are indistinct.
Length 2.4 cm.

Paddle-shaped ornament. Cast. Suspension loop at end containing a fragment of iron. 'Handle' decorated with chased lines and 'paddle' covered with ring-and-dot decoration made with several sizes of ring punch. The decoration on one side is partially worn and covered by corrosion.
Length 4.55 cm.

Two 'key'-shaped ornaments. Both cast in the same mould. Rectangular section, somewhat thicker at the end with the suspension loop. Decoration on one key obscured by

iron corrosion, the other with chased lines on the shaft and ring-and-dot decoration. The metal is corroded and the decoration indistinct.
Length 3.3 cm.

Four figure-of-eight loops. Cast. Three with attached fragments of iron links, so the chain was probably made of alternating copper-alloy and iron links.
Length 1.35-1.5 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.65

L85. Iron object with copper-alloy suspension ring (Fig. 8). Corroded iron object with one end bent into a loop which holds a cast copper-alloy ring. The ring has a somewhat flattened section and is narrower at one point, probably the result of wear.
Length 5.9 cm. Ring diameter 1.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.85

L86. Copper-alloy handle (Fig. 4). Cast. Round in section with flattened ends, one damaged, each with a central hole. A fragment of copper-alloy ring is in the hole in the intact end. The metal is very rough and corroded.
Length 5.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.59

L87. Copper-alloy hinge (Fig. 4). Cast in two interlocking pieces and joined by an iron pin. Each side is shaped like a triangular buckle, with a large dome-headed rivet at the apex and two smaller rivets near the hinge joint. Decorated with a line of punched dots around the perimeter and a line of circles down the centre. Traces of wood grain in the corrosion on the underside.
Length 4.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.60

L88. Copper-alloy ring (Fig. 4). Cast, with a somewhat flattened, rounded section.
Diameter 1.5 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.70

L89. Copper-alloy fragment. Not illustrated. Described in the Register as a portion of a rivet. Two fragments of square-sectioned, hammered wire, each bent into a right angle and joined along one side, with the other sides at an angle of approximately 130°.
Length 3.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.72

L90. Copper-alloy fragment. Not illustrated. Curved piece of wire?
Length 0.8 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.73

L91. Copper-alloy fragment (Fig. 4). Fragment of wire bent into a U-shape with a fragment of a flat disc with a central hole in the bend.
Length 0.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.74

L92. Copper-alloy ring and corroded iron fragment (Fig. 9). Plain cast ring of circular section. Corroded iron is attached only to one side of the ring, so is possibly not originally connected. The iron appears to be a ring passing through a hole in another corroded lump of iron. There are traces of fabric impressions in the iron corrosion.
Diameter of ring 7.7 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.67

L93. Clay spindle whorl (Fig. 7). Damaged with a piece broken off. Decorated on one side with concentric grooves, probably turned on a lathe after firing. Made from a very fine clay, low fired to a red to tan colour.
Diameter 3.3 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.86

L94. Quoit-shaped bead (Fig. 7). Light blue translucent glass with white opaque spiral trail.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.90

L95. Glass bead (Fig. 7). Oblong, five-sided bead of bright blue translucent glass.

Reg. No. 795-24.91

L96. Sixty beads (Pl. 11, Fig. 11 & Fig. 12). Including beads of green, blue and turquoise semi-translucent glass; brick red and yellow opaque glass; one spiral of blue glass; one of green and one of blue transparent glass; one triple, one double, and one single fluted bead of blue glass; one quoit-shaped of blue glass with a white spiral trail; three amethyst beads; six made of a white, chalky material, and one disc of polished dark brown stone drilled with two holes from edge to edge.

Reg. No. 79.5-24.89

1 & 2. Flat, sub-rectangular and square-sectioned oblong - white, chalky substance.

3. Short barrel - semi-translucent glass with red opaque trail.

4. Drop-shaped, polished amethyst.

5. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

6-10. Barrel and short barrel - brick red opaque glass.

11. Drop-shaped, polished amethyst.

12. Flat, sub-rectangular piece of white, chalky material drilled edge to edge.

13. Similar to 12 but drilled to create a narrow, wide bead.

14. Oblate spheroid, chipped on edge - blue translucent glass.

15. Sub-cuboidal bead made from a white substance.

16. Barrel - brick red opaque glass.

17. Truncated bicone - green semi-translucent glass.

18. Fluted, truncated bicone - turquoise translucent glass.

19. Quoit-shaped - blue translucent glass with a patch of yellow and a white streak.

20. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

21. Short barrel - turquoise translucent glass with a streak of red glass partially intermixed with turquoise.

22. Barrel - very pale turquoise semi-translucent glass.

23. Quoit-shaped - turquoise translucent glass with a white spiral trail.

24. Quoit-shaped - brick red opaque glass.

25. Quoit-shaped - transparent glass varying in colour from blue to very pale blue.

26. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.

27. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

28. Ring-shaped - blue translucent glass.

29. Short barrel - very pale turquoise semi-translucent glass.

30. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

31. Barrel - very pale turquoise semi-translucent glass.

32. Short barrel - very pale turquoise semi-translucent glass.

33. Barrel - brick red opaque glass.

34. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

35. Fluted, double segmented bead (flutes do not all correspond) - turquoise translucent glass.

36. Short barrel - red-brown opaque glass.

37. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

38. Fluted triple barrel (flutes do not all correspond) - turquoise translucent glass.

39. Ring-shaped - yellow opaque glass.

40. Dark brown stone with small red streak on one side; one surface ground flat with parallel scratches, the other surface rounded and polished; two edges of the stone were trimmed to a flat surface with two holes drilled from edge to edge.

41. Short barrel - red opaque glass.

42. Short barrel - very pale turquoise opaque glass.
43. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
44. Quoit-shaped - yellow transparent glass.
- 45 & 46. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
47. Quoit-shaped - green semi-translucent glass.
- 48 & 49. Short barrel - red opaque glass.
50. Short barrel - very pale turquoise opaque glass.
51. Cylindrical spiral - turquoise translucent glass.
52. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
53. Short barrel - very pale blue semi-translucent glass.
54. Drop-shaped polished amethyst.
55. Irregular shape of a white chalky substance.
56. Short barrel - blue semi-translucent glass.
- 57 & 58. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
59. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
60. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.

The following are described in the Register as 'all mounted on one card'. No locality is given, but they are likely to be from Breach Down.

L97. Bone disc with central hole (Fig. 7).
Diameter 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.135

L98. Eighteen beads (Pl. 10, Fig. 12).
Reg. No. 79.5-24.133

- 1 & 2. Ring-shaped - blue translucent glass.
3. Irregular - blue translucent glass.
4. Irregular truncated spheroid - blue opaque glass.
5. Oblate spheroid - blue translucent glass.
6. Irregular ring - blue translucent glass.
7. Ring - blue opaque glass.
- 8 & 9. Quoit - light blue translucent glass.
10. Quoit - blue translucent glass.
11. Irregular barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
12. Large, irregular bead - light green clear glass with encircling striations.
13. Short barrel - grey-pink opaque glass, possibly weathered brick red bead.
14. Short barrel - grey-pink opaque glass with white translucent 'eye' pattern.
15. Irregular bone bead, stained green.
- 16-18. Irregular amber beads.

L99. Seven amber beads (Fig. 7 & Fig. 13).
Diameter 1.5-2.4 cm. Reg. No. 79.5-24.136

L100. Transparent green glass bead or spindle whorl (Fig. 13).
Reg. No. 79.5-24.134

The following objects were not recorded in the Register at the time of acquisition, but are probably part of the Londesborough Collection and are likely to be from Breach Down.

L101. Fragment of wire armlet. Not illustrated.

Piece of curved copper-alloy wire tapering at one end with a twist of wire around it near the tapered end.

Length 5.3 cm. Diameter approximately 8 cm. Reg. No. OA.4992

L102. Iron fragment. Not Illustrated. Part of iron plate and iron rivet.

Length 0.9 cm. Reg. No. OA.4992

L103. Rectangular bead of a whitish substance with roughly square section. Not illustrated.

Length 0.8 cm. Reg. No. OA.4990

Several of the finds made by Conyngham in 1841 and illustrated in his report are not in the British Museum collection. These objects are the following:

L104. Fragment of copper-alloy wire ring. Not illustrated. Ends wound around each other. Very misshapen.

Reg. No. OA.4992

L105. Iron shield boss (Fig. 1). Broad, low carination with a rounded profile and a domed top with a point at the apex. The illustration shows three rivets on the fairly wide flange. Found in Barrow 2 or 33.

Akerman 1842, pl. xv, fig. 24

Conyngham 1844, 49

Wright 1845(1), pl. 1, fig. 15

L106. Iron shield boss (Fig. 1). Conical with disc-headed knob on the top. Evison's tall straight cone type. It appears from the illustration that the narrow flange was not continuous around the entire circumference of the boss, although it is possible that the boss was damaged and the artist interpreted this as its original form.

Wright 1845(1), pl. 1, fig. 13

Akerman 1847, pl. xv, fig. 25

Evison 1963, 79, fig. 23q

L107. Globular urn with upright rim (Fig. 1). Probably handmade. Compared with pots L46 and L47 in Conyngham's illustration, the dimensions of this pot are: height 15 cm and maximum diameter 14 cm.

Found in Barrow 16.

Conyngham 1844, pl. 1, fig. 1

L108. Iron spearhead. Akerman's illustration is small (2 cm in length) and gives no indication of the actual size of the object. It shows a leaf-shaped blade, broadest in the lower half, taking up half the total length. There is a cleft in the socket which extends for over half the distance to the blade. Swanton (1974, 36) classifies this as type C1, comprising small leaf-shaped blades measuring 10 to 20 cm in length. However, the spearhead could easily be one of the larger types.

Akerman 1847, pl. xv, fig 12

Finds by Rev. J.P. Bartlett purchased from him by the British Museum in May 1855:

B1. Copper-alloy pin with cruciform head (Pl. 6). The pin consists of a flattened oblong surmounted by a cross and with a shaft below. The head is in the form of a curvilinear cross with hollow angles between the arms. Part of the upper arm is missing. Each arm is decorated with a single ring-and-dot and at the centre of the cross is a dot with a double

ring. The ends of the arms have been nicked with a file. The body of the pin is flat and is decorated on both sides with punched ring-and-dot motifs. The decoration on one side follows a pattern of a single motif along the central axis with two ring and dots below, spaced at varying intervals. On the other side, the motifs form a line down the centre with a single pair near the base. The lower corners of the oblong have been cut away to form semi-circular hollows, echoing the form of the cross. The pin shank takes up slightly over a third of the total length. It has a circular section and tapers to a rounded point. The pin was cast using heavily leaded bronze containing a little zinc.

Length 10.5 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.1

Found in Barrow 103.

Wright 1845(1), 206, pl. 3, fig. 7

Akerman 1847, pl. xviii, fig. 2

Smith 1908, 349, fig. 5 & 1923, fig. 65

Baldwin Brown 1915, pl. x, fig. 5, (described in the text as a hairpin, 117)

Jessup 1950, pl. lx (described as a hairpin, pg. 101) & 1974, pl. 1, fig. 6

The entry in the Register for the cross pin is followed by an incomplete entry reading 55.5-21.2 'Bronze...', then by four blank pages apparently intended to list the other objects purchased along with the pin. The recorded cost of the purchase listed in the cross pin entry, £4, is more than would have been paid for a single object. The unrecorded objects seem to include the finds sewn onto four identical cards, invitations to dinner at the Society of Antiquaries in 1851, all labelled in the same hand. Notes added by Roach Smith to two of the cards associate some of the objects with the cross pin, and several of the finds illustrated by Akerman are described as finds by Bartlett.

Card A:

B2. Corroded copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2). Wire tongue and cast loop with attached fragment of folded plate.

Width 1.05 cm. Reg. No. OA.4989

Akerman 1855, pl. xxviii, fig. 7

Found in Barrow 105, in a child's grave along with B3.

B3. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2). Cast oval loop with a short, straight bar at the back and wire tongue. Might originally have had a folded plate.

Width 1.45 cm. Reg. No. OA.4988

Akerman 1855, pl. xxviii, fig. 6

Found in a child's grave along with B2.

B4. Copper-alloy buckle (Fig. 2, Pl. 4). Cast oval loop and wire tongue. Folded rectangular plate with filed nicks on the ends. Plate held by two copper-alloy rivets.

Length 3.1 cm. Reg. No. OA.4987

B5. Double-tongued copper-alloy buckle (Pl. 2). The folded plate was made from a nearly square sheet of metal. The end of the upper half of the plate has been cut with shears to an irregular pattern, rounded behind the three rivets with a point of metal in the spaces between. It is decorated on the side edges on top with incised lines. The end of the lower half has been nicked with a file to give it a serrated edge. The plate was originally held by three copper-alloy rivets, one of which is present and has a slightly rounded head. The long, narrow loop was probably cast. It is roughly circular in section and is decorated with three groups of five chased lines which extend about a third of the way around the loop. The buckle has two tongues, each made up from a piece of wire. Each is marked with a single incised line roughly in line with the folded edge of the plate.

Length of loop 5.8 cm. Reg. No. OA.4991

Card B - labelled by Roach Smith 'in cist with cross pin apparently' (Barrow 103).

B6. Silver pin (Fig. 14). Shaft of circular section. Head differentiated from shaft by a groove.

Length 2.2 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (k)

B7. Circular gold ornament (Fig. 14). Fragment of thin gold sheet with a central hole and a beaded gold wire rim, originally forming a collar for a central setting. Partially damaged.

Diameter 0.55 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (c)

B8. Oval piece of copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 14). Somewhat damaged. Oval hole in centre.

Length 1.0 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (g)

B9. Fragment of folded copper-alloy sheet (Fig. 14). Rectangular slot on folded edge. Probably part of a folded buckle plate.

Length 0.8 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (b)

B10. Copper-alloy lace tag (Fig.14). Circular section, tapering to a point. Other end split, with two halves joined by a rivet.

Length 2.8 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (i)

B11. Copper-alloy lace tag (Fig.14). Circular-sectioned shaft tapering slightly towards rounded point. Other end split and riveted as in B10. Very corroded.

Length 2.9 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (j)

B12. Copper-alloy loop (Fig. 14). Circular-sectioned loop with flattened extensions with serrated ends joined by two copper-alloy rivets. Decorated with incised lines over one rivet head. Small fragment of iron inside loop.

Length 1.55 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (m)

B13. Copper-alloy strip folded into a double rectangle. (Fig. 14). Decorated on top with lightly incised lines. Punched holes in all four comers of strip.

Folded length 1.5 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (e)

B14. Silver wire ring (Fig. 14). Tapering ends wound around each other.

Diameter 1.5 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (e)

B15. Silver wire ring (Fig. 14). Slightly misshapen. Tapering ends wound around each other.

Diameter 1.6 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (f)

B16. Two fragments of silver wire ring (Fig. 14).

Diameter 1.6 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (a)

Also one fragment from another ring, not illustrated.

B17. Copper-alloy ring (Fig. 14). Close-set lines around ring giving it a beaded appearance. Now broken.

Diameter 0.6 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (d)

B18. Fragment of glass ring. Not illustrated. Black opaque glass. Half-circular section.

Diameter 1.6 cm. Reg. No. 55.5-21.2 (h)

Card C - labelled 'From a tumulus on Breach Down, Kent'. The wording suggests this might constitute a grave group.

B19. Copper-alloy tweezers (Fig. 14). One arm slightly wider and flatter. Probably from Card C.

Length 2.9 cm. Reg. No. OA.4974

B20. Copper-alloy strip (Fig. 14). Broken at both ends and roughly bent into a ring with overlapping ends. Decorated with punched ring-and-dot motifs for slightly over half its length. Metal quite corroded.

Ring diameter 2.5 cm. Reg. No. OA.4971

B21. Copper-alloy strip (Fig. 14). Roughly bent into a spiral and partially embedded in a lump of corroded iron which appears to be a nail with a flat head that has been bent back on itself so that the point lies below the head.

Strip 0.5 cm in width, 0.1 cm thick. Reg. No. OA.4972

B22. Iron knife with long tang, sloping back and straight cutting edge (Fig. 14). Point broken.

Length 8.2 cm, originally about 8.8 cm. Reg. No. OA.4979

B23. Copper-alloy and iron links (Fig. 14). Two cast figure-of-eight copper-alloy links with attached ring-shaped iron links. Very corroded.

Reg. Nos. OA.4977-78

Card D - labelled 'Breach Down, Kent':

B24. Quoit-shaped amber bead (Fig. 7). Strung on copper-alloy wire loop.

Diameter 2.5 cm. Reg. No. OA.4986

Akerman 1855, pl. xxxvi, fig. 2

B25. Eighteen beads (Pl. 9, Fig. 15). Beads of green, red, and yellow opaque glass; one of translucent orange and one of translucent light green glass; one quoit-shaped of blue glass with a white spiral trail; one long box-shaped bead with two holes, of translucent turquoise glass.

Reg. No. OA.4985

1. Oblong bead, sub-rectangular in section, with two holes running lengthwise - turquoise transparent glass.

2. Quoit-shaped - turquoise blue slightly translucent glass with a white spiral trail.

3. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.

4 & 5. Short barrel - slightly turquoise-green semi-translucent glass.

6. Barrel - pinkish opaque glass with weathered surface.

7. Quoit - yellow-brown translucent glass.

8. Biconical - turquoise translucent glass.

9. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.

10. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

11. Cylindrical - light blue translucent glass with rough pitted surface.

12. Short barrel - green semi-translucent glass.

13. Short barrel - slightly turquoise-green semi-translucent glass.

14. Short barrel - yellow opaque glass.

15. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
16. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
17. Barrel - orange opaque glass.
18. Quoit - slightly blue-green clear glass.

B26. Twelve beads (Pl. 9, Fig. 15).

Reg. No. OA.4984

1. Round with lentoid section - bright red and translucent, possibly a polished garnet.
2. Truncated spheroid - white opaque glass with clear purple stripes.
- 3 & 4. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.
5. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
6. Truncated bicone - green semi-translucent glass.
7. Barrel - green semi-translucent glass.
8. Long, narrow cylinder - green semi-translucent glass.
9. Long spiral bead - slightly bluish clear glass.
10. Ring-shaped - yellow translucent glass.
11. Barrel - yellow opaque glass.
12. Irregular amber bead.

B27. Five beads (Pl. 9, Fig. 15). Two drop-shaped of amethyst; three of opaque glass, two red and one black.

Found in Barrow 103. Reg. No. OA.4983

- 1 & 2. Drop-shaped beads of polished amethyst.
3. Truncated bicone - brick red opaque glass.
4. Ring-shaped - black opaque glass.
5. Short barrel - brick red opaque glass.

B28. Lump of amber. Now missing, Hole at one end for suspension, Description by Akerman (1855, 42) says it was on a suspension ring.

Length 5.4 cm.

Akerman 1855, pl. xxxvi, fig. 3

B29. Sceattas (Fig. 19). Now dispersed. Akerman (1844, 56) mentions a purse with four sceattas found in a tumulus by Bartlett and another similar coin found in the village of Barham, near Breach Down. These are probably the five coins 'from Breach Downs' illustrated by Smith (1848, pl. vi). From Akerman's description, it is clear that numbers 14 and 15 in the illustration were two of the coins found by Bartlett. These are both of Rigold's (1962, 47) type A while the other three are type B.

Reg. No. OA.4981

Finds by Thomas Mantell:

M1. Double-tongued buckle (Pl. 2). Folded, round-ended plate of heavily tinned sheet copper-alloy. Scratches, running obliquely in three directions, are visible on the uncorroded areas on the upper part of the plate. The plate has been trimmed on the fold to accommodate the loop and the two tongues. Five small, irregularly spaced holes matched in the lower part of the plate, except where it is damaged, are apparently rivet holes. Circular marks present in iron and copper-alloy corrosion around several of the holes suggest that the rivets had small heads. Cast elongated oval loop of leaded brass with a small amount of tin. The two tongues were probably cast.

Length 4.7 cm. Reg. No. 53.4-12.91

Found in Barrow 87.

Akerman 1855, pl. xxviii, fig. 5

M2. Copper-alloy buckle (Pl. 2). Although it is visually very plain, the buckle is elaborate in its construction. The triangular plate, oval loop and the three dome-headed rivets were all cast. The plate takes the basic form of a triangular buckle, with rounded protuberances for the forward pair of rivets and a disc at the apex for the larger rear rivet. The plate and the rivet heads are somewhat oval. The plate is narrow with an increase in the angle between the sides in front of the forward rivets. The front edge of the plate is quite irregular. The tongue was made from a piece of wire bent around the loop. The back plate is made of sheet metal and is the same shape as the plate, but slightly larger. Between the two plates is a folded sheet of metal holding the loop. The part of the sheet that is soldered to the front plate is now damaged, but apparently was shaped to follow the outline of the plate and extended beyond the two forward rivets. The part which is folded around the straight bar on the back of the loop is rectangular with a slot cut out for the tongue. The back plate seems to have been soldered to the folded sheet and to the front plate, which means that it would have been visible at the edge of the plate when the buckle was in use.

Length 5.9 cm. Reg. No. 53.4-12.92

Found in Barrow 100.

Akerman 1855, pl. xxviii, fig. 2

Aberg 1926, 213, table 2 no. 38

M3. Copper-alloy buckle. Cast oval loop and wire tongue. Folded rectangular plate held by two rivets. Complete when illustrated by Akerman, but now damaged with the fragments glued to the card.

Length 1.8 cm. Reg. No. 53.4-12.93

Found in Barrow 89.

Akerman 1855, pl. xxviii, fig. 3

M4. Gold bracteate (Pl. 5). The repoussé gold disc was made by pressing a sheet of gold over the obverse of a Roman coin of the emperor Maximinus I (235 - 238 AD), showing a bust and the surrounding legend IMP MAXIMINUS PIUS AUG. Beaded gold rim soldered to the edge, worn smooth in places. Suspension loop of corrugated gold sheet soldered to the front and back. Analysis by x-ray fluorescence showed the composition to be as follows: gold 52.8%, silver 43.8% and copper 3.3%.

Diameter 2.0 cm. Reg. No. 53.4-12.94

Found in Barrow 93.

M5. Seven beads (Pl. 11, Fig. 13). Two biconical beads of opaque yellow glass; one quoit-shaped of translucent yellow/brown glass; two irregularly shaped white beads, possibly made of shell; and two barrel-shaped of brick red, opaque glass with small black flecks.

Reg. No. 53.4-12.95 to 101

Found in Barrow 93 with gold bracteate M4.

M6. Four beads (Pl. 11, Fig. 13). One biconical bead of brick red opaque glass; two cylindrical beads of opaque red glass with encircling white trail; and one drop-shaped amethyst bead.

Reg. No. 53.4-12.102 to 105

Found in Barrow 99.

An additional three beads are shown in the watercolour illustration as cylindrical beads of varying shades of brown.

M7. Sword fragment. Not illustrated. Blade broken.

Length 21.2 cm. (tang 9 cm.). Reg. No. 53.4-12.89
Found in Barrow 86.

M8. Sword blade fragment. Not illustrated.
Length 21.7 cm. Reg. No. 53.4-12.90
Probably found in Barrow 98.

The following descriptions are based on watercolour drawings in the 'Early Medieval Scrapbook' of the Society of Antiquaries presented by Thomas Mantell in May, 1811 of objects found at Breach Down the previous year. The sizes of the objects are indicated by the measurements of the illustrations. Some of the larger objects were drawn less than life-size, so the length of the illustration is a guide that could, at least, show relative sizes. The small objects are more likely to be drawn life-size.

M9. Shield boss. Conical with sides curving in slightly near the rim, which is very narrow. The apex is mounted by a rounded knob or disc. Evison suggests that it might be an example of a tall straight cone type.
Found in Barrow 88.
Evison 1963, 79, fig. 23a

M10. Shield boss. Conical with a narrow rim and surmounted by a corroded knob or disc. Three rivets secured the boss to the shield. An example of Evison's tall straight cone type.
Found in Barrow 96.
Evison 1963, 79, fig. 23e

M11. Two disc-headed studs from shield boss M9.
Illustration diameters 3.2 & 3.4 cm.
Found in Barrow 88.
Evison 1963, 79, fig. 23b

M12. Iron shield grip. A straight bar with expanded, rounded terminals. Found with boss M10.
Illustration length 11.7 cm.
Found in Barrow 96.
Evison 1963, 79, fig. 23f

M13. Iron spearhead. Blade nearly half the total length, probably leaf-shaped. Short cleft socket. With its rather slender appearance and relatively short blade, it most closely resembles Swanton's group D1.
Illustration length 19.5 cm.
Found in Barrow 84.

M14. Iron spearhead. Leaf-shaped blade about 2/5 of total length. Long, narrow cleft socket. Swanton's group D2.
Illustration length 27.5 cm, blade 11.5 cm.
Found in Barrow 89.

M15. Iron spearhead. Leaf-shaped blade, broadest in the lower part, nearly half the total length. The socket is narrowly cleft for most or all of its length, and there was probably a short length of shank between socket and blade. This seems to fall into Swanton's group C2.

Illustration length 28.6 cm.
Found in Barrow 98.

M16. Sword with grip and pommel. The pommel, described as 'brass', has a gently curved profile with a slight dome at the centre. It appears to be decorated either with grooves or inlaid wires; the irregular arrangement of these stripes in the illustration suggests that this decoration was indistinct or obscured by corrosion. The lower plate of the upper guard, also described as 'brass', is shown butted against the tang with a single rivet at one end. A line drawn below the pommel might represent a separate plate or could simply show the underside of the pommel. The lower guard was wider, with the upper plate of brass and a lower plate of iron. The upper plate also retained a single rivet, while two dots might mark the position of two additional rivet heads. Striations shown on the surface of the iron between the plates could represent traces of the organic material from which the grip had been made. The sword blade has parallel sides which converge near the slightly rounded point.

Illustration length 88 cm, blade width 5 cm.
Found in Barrow 96.
Evison 1963, 79, fig. 23c

M17. Iron seax. Tang broken. One side of the blade appears to be angled, while the other side curves towards the tip.

Illustration length 31.6 cm, tang length 5.3 cm.
Found in Barrow 94.

M18 & M19. Fragments of iron knives. Described by Mantell as pieces of a knife and dagger. One piece is slightly curved with a wide triangular point at one end; the other fragment is of a very irregular outline.

Illustration lengths 10.2 cm & 9.5 cm.
Found in Barrow 83.

M20. Iron knife. The outline is quite irregular, but a tang can be recognised. The sides taper to a point.

Illustration length 9.0 cm.
Found in Barrow 84.

M21. Iron knife. Short tang. The sides are more or less parallel and the end rounded. Probably very corroded.

Illustration length 9.5 cm.
Found in Barrow 84.

M22. Iron knife. Tang missing. Sides taper to a point.

Illustration length 19 cm.
Found in Barrow 86.

M23. Iron knife or seax. Long, irregular tang and very corroded blade.

Illustration length 16.2 cm.
Found in Barrow 87.

M24. Iron knife. Narrow tang. Blade broken.

Illustration length 10.4 cm.
Found in Barrow 90.

M25. Iron knife? Mantell describes this as a knife, but there is no sign of either tang or point.

Illustration length 8.8 cm.

Found in Barrow 91.

M26. Iron knife. Long tang. Narrow blade very corroded.

Illustration length 14.3 cm.

Found in Barrow 92.

M27. Iron knife. Tang broken. One side of the blade is straight, the other curves towards the point.

Illustration length 12.9 cm.

Found in Barrow 92.

M28. Iron knife. Tang complete. Blade broken.

Illustration length 10.2 cm.

Found in Barrow 93.

M29. Iron knife. Short tang. Blade slightly curved, tapering to a point.

Illustration length 12.9 cm.

Found in Barrow 95.

M30. Iron knife. Tang missing. Narrow, corroded blade with long, tapering point.

Illustration length 16.9 cm.

Found in Barrow 96.

Evison 1963, 79, fig. 23d

M31. Iron knife? Tang broken. Blade very corroded.

Illustration length 10.4 cm.

Found in Barrow 99.

M32. Iron knife. Tang with pointed end. Striations represent wood grain in corrosion. Blade straight on one side with the other side curving towards the point.

Illustration length 15.2 cm.

Found in Barrow 100.

M33. Tang of seax or sword. Striations, as on tang of M32, ending apparently in a small part of the blade.

Illustration length 7.9 cm.

Found in Barrow 100.

M34. Globular pot with short upright rim. Handmade.

Illustration diameter 14.4 cm.

Found in Barrow 83.

M35. Tall, ovoid or biconical pot with narrow everted rim. There is apparently a cordon of triangular section, shown only in profile in the illustration, around the middle of the pot. The upper half of the body is decorated with bands of, presumably, incised ornament. There is a narrow band below the rim; a group of three bands lower down the pot; a broad band filled with dots with two plain bands below. The pot is illustrated in a grey-green colour with yellowish bands and a brown rim. The variation in colouring was probably intended to emphasise the decoration rather than to record the actual colour of the pot.

Illustration height 8.8 cm.
Found in Barrow 85.

M36. Fragment of folded, copper-alloy buckle plate. Part of one rivet hole remaining.
Illustration length 3.8 cm.
Found in Barrow 95.

M37. Rectangular copper-alloy frame, possibly from a buckle.
Illustration length 4.0 cm.
Found in Barrow 91.

M38. Fragment of S-shaped, copper-alloy chain link?
Illustration length 2.7 cm.
Found in Barrow 98.

M39. Iron chape? V-shaped with one arm shorter than the other. Described as 'a piece of decayed iron'.
Illustration length 3.5 cm.
Found in Barrow 86.

M40 & M41. Two iron fragments. Described as tangs from knives, but more likely to have been nails.
Illustration length 5.2 cm.
Found in Barrow 85.

M42. Iron fragment. 'Part of the haft of a spearhead or dagger.'
Illustration length 5.0 cm.
Found in Barrow 95.

The following object was presented to the British Museum by Sir John Evans, having been purchased by him in May, 1879 at a sale of items belonging to Lord Londesborough. It had been exhibited to the British Archaeological Association in December, 1848 and was said to have been 'picked up near the Saxon tumuli on the Breach Downs, Kent' (JBAA, 1848, 346).

E1. Cast copper-alloy figure of a man (Pl. 8). The figure was cast and has a slightly rough, pitted surface which partially obscures the details on the head and the hands. The oval face has a short, straight mouth and a squared-off nose. The eye sockets are large, round and deep, probably drilled after casting, and not quite in line with one another. They are now empty but once held 'eyes... formed of red stone or paste' (op. cit., 346). Evison (1965, 215) assumed this to be garnet, but red enamel or glass would be a better match with the early description. The hair is parted down the middle and lies straight against the head. There appears to be a ponytail on the back, hanging below the shoulders. The head is separate from the body. The upper part of the body is thin and elongated. The narrow arms, bent at the elbows, only extend about halfway to the waist. The shorter, right arm ends in a stubby hand with faintly defined fingers, while the left seems to merge into the body. There is a slight constriction at the waist marked by the band of a garment, perhaps a pair of breeches. The legs are held apart, each tapering and ending with no indication of the feet. The space between the legs is filled in and backed by a rectangle of metal. Although it appears that the end of the object was flattened and folded back on itself, it was actually cast in this position with the extra metal on the back serving to support the legs. The back of the figure is moulded with rounded buttocks and a groove marking the spine.

The Breach Down man has been subject to misrepresentation. Evison suggested that the figure might have been wearing 'a hood or helmet with a lappet or neck guard hanging down the back'. This suggestion ignores the fact that the hair is clearly represented, but is based on the original illustration which she said shows the man 'wearing a kind of close fitting hood'. This illustration is quite charming, but is idealised to the point of being fanciful. Since its acquisition by the British Museum, it had been assumed that the head was attached to a pin with the body forming a sheath. Evison states that 'As the figure was made in two parts, a cast head and tubular body, it is obvious that the torso must have been intended as a sheath'. She mentioned that the object was going to be examined, but proceeded to publish the 'pin' before the results were available. The British Museum's Research Laboratory's investigation showed that the body was not hollow and that the head was not attached to a pin, but secured to the body by a metal dowel. Samples taken from the dowel and the body showed no qualitatively detectable difference in composition, both alloys of copper with some tin and silver and no zinc or lead. A small, elongated cavity in the region of the neck has the appearance of a gas bubble. It seems likely that a casting flaw resulted in the head being broken off from the body and repaired in antiquity.

Length 5.5 cm. Reg. No. 84.4-8.1

JBAI III, 1848, 346

Evison 1965, 215 fig. 2

Meaney 1981, fig. vi

The following objects were found in Barrows 101 and 102 in 1758 by Edward Jacob. He presented a watercolour drawing of his finds to the Society of Antiquaries which is preserved in their 'Early Medieval Scrapbook'.

J1. Approximately 20 beads, described as being of various colours and sizes, four of which were illustrated (Fig.17):

Spherical white bead with blue trail design - illustration diameter 0.8 cm.

Short barrel-shaped bead, red with a yellow trail - illustration diameter 0.7 cm.

Globular white bead with encircling red and blue trails - illustration diameter 1.8 cm.

Globular red bead with white trail design - illustration diameter 1.8 cm.

Found in Barrow 101.

J2. Iron spearhead. Leaf-shaped blade taking up slightly over 2/3 of the total length. There is no depiction of a cleft in the socket, although it is possible that the illustrator chose to show the side without a cleft. There is possibly some sort of moulding or perhaps a corroded binding ring around the socket, shown in profile in the illustration. Swanton's type C3.

Illustration length 49.6 cm.

Found in Barrow 102.

J3. Iron knife. Sides of blade taper to a point.

Illustration length 18.0 cm.

Found in Barrow 102.

J4. Iron ring described as being 'the diameter of a modern crown piece'.

Found in Barrow 102.

The following objects were recovered from Breach Down by the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit. They were described and illustrated by Wilson (1984, 129-30). All are from Barrow 105.

W1. Iron knife. Sloping back and straight cutting edge, partially obscured by the corroded remains of a leather covered iron sheath. Traces of wood on tang.
Length 12.5 cm.

W2. Iron spearhead. Narrow leaf-shaped blade with lentoid section, taking up half the total length. It is described as having a broken shaft, perhaps referring to a cleft in the socket. Swanson's type C2.
Length 24.4 cm.

W3. Fragment of iron seax. Tang, broken at the tip, with traces on the surface of wood or bone. Short surviving section of blade with flat back 1 cm. thick.
Length 12.9 cm, original length at least 37 cm.

W4. Copper-alloy scabbard chape containing broken tip of seax W3. V-shaped with one arm longer than the other and with a rivet hole at the end of each arm for attachment to the scabbard. Decorated with ring-and-dot motifs on the front and near the point on the back and with four incised lines on the edge of the longer arm. Made from sheet metal.
Length 4.2 cm.