



Fig. 2 Section across Middle Saxon ditch C and F 65, a Pre-Belgic Iron Age enclosure trench.

Burrow Hill. The coffin was constructed from a few overlapping planks; no traces of iron fastenings were found and the construction, such as it was, may have been fastened with trenails or lashings.

A single post-hole, F 13, to the North may represent the cemetery's limits on that side, although past gravel-digging has removed the evidence beyond it. The limit of the cemetery to the South seems clear (Fig. 1).

A remarkable feature was the virtual absence of residual material in the grave fills, suggesting that this part of the hill had not been inhabited previously. However, a single sherd of Ardleigh type hinted at the possibility that there had been a Bronze Age cemetery here but that it had been completely ploughed out in the intervening period.

Beyond the northern limits of the old gravel-pits a small bank defined the crest of the hill; below it plough furrows bit into natural. On the gradient a 2.5 m wide ditch had traces of a wooden revetment (Fig. 1, 'B') and was cut into by 'A', a V-shaped ditch. Neither ditch at this point followed the contours of the hill.

The southern crest is less clearly defined, but a cutting intersected three ditches here. Ditches C and D are V-shaped with no signs of the weathering of the sides which occurs in a matter of days in this soil. There is to date evidence of two post-holes in the bottom of C. Ditch E has a U-shaped profile with sloping sides. With the exception of A, all the ditches have produced pottery of Ipswich type. In the bottom of E was a strap-end of Maxey type, while the upper fill of ditch C contained Class 3 and 5a sherds. From context 83 (Fig. 2) came a Wigræd sceatta (coin 10) and a silver vandyke, SF 135. Ditch C cut through a pre-Belgic Iron Age enclosure trench with an entrance to the South-East, and another feature, F 82/118, for which no dating evidence has yet been obtained. Within the area apparently enclosed by these ditches there are numerous pits and post-holes. Most have no stratigraphic or other dating evidence, but F 53, apparently a foundation trench for small timber uprights, contained a coin of Beonna (*fl.* 758; coin 4) and antedated the large post-holes 46 and 55. Another, or possibly the same, pre-Belgic Iron Age enclosure

trench — it contained similar pottery — was picked up where ditch E intersected it. To the south was a small stake-wall round house, F 93, probably 4.2 m in diameter with its entrance to the South-East.

THE FINDS

Pottery The site has produced little; the sherd-count after 4 seasons is only 270. Most pieces are small, of undistinguished fabric, and have no identifiable form.⁶ The provisional categories based on visual examination are summarised below:

Beaker

Early/Middle Bronze Age Wall sherd from a rusticated urn of Ardleigh type.⁷

Iron Age A number of sherds may loosely be assigned to this period, but the only large sherds derive from the foundation of a curved enclosure (F 65, Fig. 1). The forms are rather shapeless jars; fabrics are either sand-tempered and unburnished, or grass-tempered and burnished with thumb-impressed shoulders. Scratched decoration occurs on unburnished sherds. A pot of this type was found in 1936 (Ward Perkins 1937, fig. 2). This pottery may be compared with Little Waltham, Period II and Mucking (Drury 1978, nos 37, 94 and 190).

Anglo-Saxon

1 Hand made. Grass-tempered sandy paste. Small cooking pots with undeveloped rims. Very poorly fired, sometimes oxidised. Outer surface wiped. This pottery was probably made on or near the site and may be categorised as 'Burrow Hill Basic'. 24 sherds.

2 East Anglian pottery of Ipswich type:

A Fine-grained sandy grey paste with knuckle-prints inside base and knife-trimming. Globular pitcher or jar with stamped decoration. 12 sherds.

B Fine-grained sandy body with occasional 1 mm flints. Very smooth matt finish. 3 sherds.

C Fine-grained sandy paste, buff grey. Parts of two lids or bowls, *cf* Cox Lane, Pit 6,4 (West 1963, fig. 44). 7 sherds.

D Fine-grained buff paste with grey surface. Roughly finished with horizontal tooling; 6 sherds including one with a Group I Type A everted rim.⁸