



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

THE SAXON CEMETERY AT BIFRONS.*

45. A young woman's grave. A glass bottle was placed at the left knee; the spade broke its neck and part is lost. At the right knee was an iron nail. (?) There were beads on the chest, up to the neck, where was a garnet (?) bird-brooch similar to that engraved from grave No. 41.

46. A dwarf's grave; skeleton only 5 feet long, but with hugely thick bones and big joints; grave shallow. There were beads at the waist.

47. An iron buckle at the waist.

48. Very shallow—perhaps no grave, for I found not even bones. It ran into No. 49, and perhaps may have been stopped in consequence.

49. Askew, $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, lying between No. 47 and No. 48; the latter it overlapped at head. Nothing was found in it.

50. Small grave of a young woman. Nothing.

51. Much remains of whitey-brown wood, near left leg, before we had dug down to the skeleton, and again lower along the left side of the skeleton. Black wood along the right side. The skeleton lay on its right side, with its knees bent. Between the knees was a spoon, silver and partly gilt (compare one engraved from grave No. 42), hung by a silver ring on which are also two little silver implements. Close by, but outside the left leg was a crystal ball set in silver bands, and hanging to a silver ring. At the waist were two hammer-headed brooches. At the right hip a knife. On the breast, and up to the neck were beads. At the neck were two brooches of bird pattern, somewhat like that engraved from grave No. 41. On the head was some gold wire, similar to that which is engraved from grave No. 21.

52. A small grave. Signs of wood (black) were seen on the right. We found a bronze strap-end, with leather.

53. Large grave; $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. Nothing.

54. Narrow small shallow grave, near the bottom of the line of graves. Nothing.

55. Small grave; a child's, lying east and west; the head was to the east. Nothing.

* Concluded from Vol. X, page 315.

56. Shallow grave, next below No. 54. Nothing.

57. Grave dug askew. Nothing, but a knife under the backbone.

58. Grave close above No. 57, and lying east and west; head to the east. Knife by the left thigh.

59. Next below No. 56. Nothing.

60. Grave dug askew, near No. 58. Knife and ring near the left thigh.

61. Deep large grave. Knife at left thigh. Iron buckle near waist. Beads at neck.

62. Deep large grave of a man. At the left side was a sword, with a bronze hilt. Across the chest was a knife, with a bone lying under it.

63. At the right foot was a small bucket, with bronze hoops and an iron handle. At the left foot a small urn of black earthenware. At the waist were bronze and iron rings, and iron diamond-shaped ornaments. A little higher was a large brooch. Beads were found up the chest to the neck, and among them one gold pendant.

64. A double grave, in which one body was lying above the other. With the first we found nothing. With the second, 3 feet 8 inches deep, we found a crystal ball, set in silver, which was thrown out by the spade from near the feet; but with much search we could find no spoon. Such a ball was engraved from grave No. 42. At the left thigh was an iron dagger, with a bronze chain, attached apparently to its hilt. About the waist were iron fragments and two hammer-headed brooches of bronze. All up the chest were beads; a large one among the lower ones, a gold pendant among the middle ones, and some rings among the top. At the neck was a round brooch. Some gold wire was on the head, as engraved from grave No. 21.

65. A spear ferule was at the left foot, and the spear head was at the right side of the head. Much brown wood down the right side apparently belonged to the spear. By the left hand was a knife. Near the middle was a small silver buckle.

66. Deep well-made grave. There was a knife at the left side, and a spear-head at the left shoulder.

67. A small grave containing only a knife.

68. A shallow grave. Near the middle was a knife. At the right shoulder was a long spear-head.

69. A knife was found in this grave. Over the skull was a spear-head, sloping upwards to the head of the grave.

70. Well made grave. Between the thighs were two knives and a lump of glass. At the waist was a bronze buckle, and on the right arm, a bronze armlet. There were beads at the neck. We found also much signs of white wood, as for a coffin, and a small lump of black wood at the head.

71. This was an even and regular grave lying in even line between No. 70 and No. 72. Between the legs was a bronze strap-tongue, and at the waist a bronze buckle. Up the chest to the neck was a bronze chain and at each end of it a small round bronze brooch; hanging from the bottom of it was a long-shape bronze instrument, bodkin size. At the neck were a few beads.

72. Continuing in even line downwards; the skeleton was fully 6 feet 3. At the right side was a shield standing sideways, high up from the floor. At the left side was a sword, with ferule of a spear close to its point, and the spear-head close to its hilt, viz., at the left cheek. On the stomach was a knife.

73. Still in the same even line; good grave. At the left foot was a ferule, its spear-head being by the left cheek. At the right hand were a hunting-knife and a small knife together in one sheath, of which the point remains, with much leather and wood. There were also in this grave a bronze buckle and strap-tongue and ornaments of a belt. Near the left hand was a knife.

74. We found here a bronze buckle, two tags, and two strap-tongues, all bronze. Two keys, and a broad bronze implement were found, all on one ring. Up the right and the centre of the chest were beads and a piece of iron chain. At the neck was a round brooch.

75. We found here, at the feet, iron shears and a comb. Tweezers and the tip of a sheath (*query* of the shears?) and a ferule; all three of bronze. On the left hand was a silver

spiral ring and a few beads. We found also a bronze buckle and two tags, and an iron pin with ends of keys.

76. At the waist were a broken brooch (old break), and two iron rings, iron shears, broken, and a knife. At the neck were two beads and a piece of bronze doubled.

77. This grave was near the bottom of the line. On the right side of the body was a club (?) five and a half feet long. Its oval apex, measuring 7 inches by 4, lay near the right shoulder. At the left elbow and waist were two long brooches, a buckle, two long tags (?), and a bronze fragment. Under the waist was a knife.

78. A knife, and a small piece of curved iron were found in this grave, which was next but one to No. 77, and still lower down the line.

79. Near the waist of the body, in this grave, was a knife. On the right side was a spear-head, and a small iron buckle near some solid black matter of curious appearance. Much black wood down the left side, was of circular section $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter; it was probably a spear staff.

80. This grave was near the middle of the line, next below No. 79. Near the waist was a knife, a bronze buckle, and two bronze tags.

81. This was a child's grave, containing nothing save the remains of the bones, which were nearly gone.

82. In this grave, which was next above No. 81, both hands, of the person interred, were held up to the face, which was bent over the right shoulder. Nothing was found with the body.

83. Lying between No. 77 and No. 78; this was a huge round grave 8 feet 4 inches long, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, and deep in the centre. Apparently it had contained five skeletons. Near the middle was a jagged piece of bone.

84. Near the middle was a knife, and a long bit of iron on the right side. On the left, was a buckle, near the waist. At the neck and on the chest were a number of beads; and there were at the head what seemed to be some black seeds.

85. This grave, near the top of the line, was deep and well made. In it we found two bronze rings (probably round

brooches) with a mass of iron, in small pieces, near the waist. There were many beads, with two little rings, and a bronze pin near the neck.

86. Under the waist of the skeleton were a knife, a bronze buckle, three tags, and a piece of ivory, perhaps part of an ivory hoop.

87. At the waist was an iron buckle. There were on the left arm bits of iron, which may possibly have formed a ring.

88. This was a very deep grave. At the right shoulder was a broken spear-head. A knife and a bit of iron were also found.

89. Here we found the skull thrown back, and the right leg not lying straight. At the shoulders and upper part of the chest were two bronze pins, and two bronze brooches.

90. A piece of a knife and some bronze tags were all we found with the body here.

91. This grave was near the bottom. The skeleton was lying on its side, facing down the hill. On the left side, near the chest, were a dagger, some queer pieces of iron, eight little bronze studs, and what seemed to be fragments of leather. Close by, at the right of the chest, was a bronze buckle, accompanied by the two usual bronze tags, together with what seemed to be leather. Near the right side of the head was some black matter.
