

SETTLEMENT AND LANDSCAPE AT RAMSPITS, DEER LEAP, WESTBURY-SUB-MENDIP: A NEW SURVEY BY THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND

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SUMMARY

The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England has carried out a new field survey of two deserted medieval farmsteads at Ramspits in Westbury-sub-Mendip parish, together with a part of the surrounding landscape. The fieldwork has been supplemented by documentary research, using sources ranging in date from the 14th to the 19th centuries. The work has shown that the two farmsteads were deserted by the middle of the 15th century but that the associated landholdings survived into the late 18th century when new farm buildings were established within a sub-square enclosure. The farmsteads, of which there are several similar examples on Mendip, lie within a complex landscape of trackways and fields which survives as a narrow band between encroaching medieval strip lynchets on the Mendip slope and the parliamentary enclosure landscape on the plateau. It seems very likely that elements in this landscape have origins in the prehistoric or Romano-British period.

INTRODUCTION

During November 1989, following a request from Somerset County Council, the Exeter office of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England surveyed the earthwork remains at Ramspits, Deer Leap, on the east side of Westbury-sub-Mendip parish (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken as a contribution to the County Council's plans for managing the remains and providing information and facilities for visitors. The survey was conducted at a scale of 1:1000, over an area of c. 26.2 ha (64.7 a) centred at ST 515493, using an electronic theodolite with integral electronic distance measurement. Detail was added using conventional graphic methods. This account is based upon the survey archive held in the National Archaeological Record in Southampton (NAR no. ST 54 NW 41) and is published by courtesy of the Commissioners. The illustrations are Crown Copyright.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site occupies a moderate west-facing slope falling from 250 m to 140 m OD, just below the south scarp edge of Mendip (Fig. 2). The slope is interrupted by the

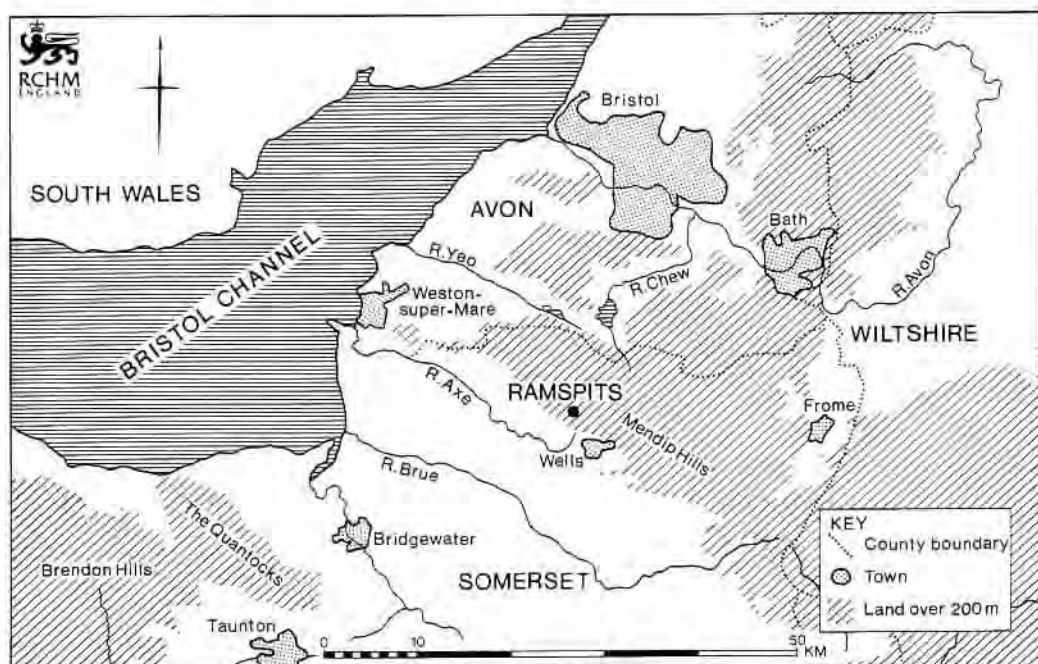


Fig. 1 Ramspits Location Map.

head of a valley, now dry, known as Lynchcombe, which separates earthworks of former settlement and field systems on the east from strip lynchets on the west. The combe is a natural routeway down to Westbury and becomes a formal track, Lynchcombe Lane, lower down the slope.

Carboniferous limestone outcrops occur persistently in the form of long, thin exposures aligned north-west to south-east across the hillside. In some instances, notably towards the eastern side, linear scarps which superficially resemble artificial features are caused by rock just beneath the surface. Both the linear scarps and the limestone outcrops are occasionally utilised in the layout of the early fields. Two springs issue in the south-eastern part of the site. The land is now rough pasture, although there are areas of spreading hawthorn and bramble scrub.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For much of the medieval and post-medieval periods Ramspits lay in the manor of Westbury which formed part of a large block of land along the southern side of Mendip and which was incorporated into the estates of the bishopric of Bath and Wells by the early 13th century. This included former Crown land acquired as a result of the bishop's role in securing Richard I's release from imprisonment (Neale 1976, 83-4). Ramspits is also on the fringe of the former Royal Forest of Mendip, disafforested in 1338 (Neale 1976, 90). Deer Leap is a name related to the 'Lipyatt' names found on several roads leading to Mendip. All the names indicate the former existence of a low barrier or fence which could be leapt by deer. In the case of Deer Leap, it should be noted that the southern boundary of the Forest ran along the

northern edge of the fields at Ramspits. On a plan of Westbury New Inclosures, dated 1791, 'Deer Leap Gate' is shown at the point where the north-eastern corner of the site meets the Wookey Hole to Priddy road and from it 'Deer Leap Lane' runs west around the edges of the fields (SRO, DD/CC 11685). Day and Masters' map of 1782 shows this lane continuing along the plateau edge on the former Forest boundary for 1.3 km, where it joined a north-south road running from Rodney Stoke to Priddy, just south of Broadmead Quarry, ST 504503 (Harley and Dunning 1981). The name Deer Leap is currently applied to the Wookey Hole to Priddy road (OS 1:2500 1970) and locally to an undefined area on the eastern margin of the site, where the road reaches the Mendip plateau.

The name Ramspits survived into the early 19th century in two field names, both called 'Ramspit', recorded on a map of the Old Inclosures in the parish of Westbury. The surveyed area, excluding the lynchets, occupies much of the first field, and extends south over part of the second field. A prominent tree, 'Ramspit Ash', is depicted at the northern tip of the surveyed area on the same map (SRO, DD/CC 11687). 'Ramspitts Barrow', which is situated at ST 51964932, lies 100 m beyond the north-eastern corner of the surveyed area, and is shown on a parish boundary perambulation of 1723 (SRO, D/P/wby 4/1/1). Further documentation, extending back to the 14th century, shows that the name 'Ramspit' and its variants preserve the identity of two small medieval holdings. The earliest surviving reference records that Adam le Rammesputte contributed 12d to the Lay Subsidy of 1333-4, perhaps indicating occupation of the site at that time (PRO, E 179/169/6). Subsequent records reveal continuing activity: in 1463 Bishop Bekynton granted leases to Raynold Baker and Isobel his wife of two tofts and two fardels (farthinglands), both called 'Rammespytte' (Maxwell-Lyte and Dawes 1934, 406), the use of the word 'toft' here suggesting that the holding was no longer settled. One farthingland nominally amounted to ten acres on the Glastonbury estates (Adams 1976, 6). The inclusion in these grants of other land specifically recorded as lying within the open fields of Westbury shows that Ramspits, although linked to the manor of Westbury, lay outside the open fields. In 1490-1 Isobel Baker alone held the land, together with a close called 'Rammespytte', in return for plough services to the lord (PRO, SC6 Hen. VII 577-8), and she was still tenant in 1511 (SRO, DD/BR/su 27). William Bowreman is recorded as tenant in 1586, paying rent of 6s 2d (PRO, LR 2/257, ff. 224-6), and again in 1597-8 (PRO, SC6 Eliz. 2009).

A series of post-medieval leases shows the survival of the holding as a discrete unit, always referred to as 'a moiety of two tofts and two fardells of land called Ramspits' (SRO, DD/CC 24377, 24389, 24343, 24368). There were four pasture allotments in 1838 (SRO, D/D/Rt: Westbury tithe map, 1838).

The last major changes at Ramspits date from the phase of general improvement to Mendip agriculture which began in the later 18th century (Williams 1976). The commons in Westbury-sub-Mendip parish, including a narrow strip immediately north of Ramspits, were enclosed by an Act of 1788 (Williams 1976, 105). A survey of the estates of the bishopric of Bath and Wells in 1838 records the sites of three ancient dwelling-houses at Ramspits, two of which had common rights, and gives details of recent activity: 'the buildings at present standing are a modern erection and consist of a barn with one threshing floor with an oxhouse under the same roof, built of stone and thatch' (SRO, DD/CC 13100). These buildings, standing within a sub-square enclosure, are evidently those depicted on the Ordnance Survey draft map of 1811 (SRO, T/PH/bm 5, OSD 49), as well as on a map showing the 'Old Inclosures in the Parish of Westbury 1814' (SRO, DD/CC 11687) and on the Westbury tithe map of 1838 (SRO, D/D/Rt).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY

Everton (1971, 8A) produced a valuable outline survey of the wider landscape both around Ramspits and on land to the east above Ebbor Wood and Ebbor Gorge. This work pointed to the complexity of the surviving features and led to more detailed surveys of the two farmsteads at Ramspits (Everton 1976).

The only surface find recorded from the site is a Palaeolithic flint tool (NAR no. ST 54 NW 68).

SITE DESCRIPTION

The principle archaeological features comprise the sites of two deserted farmsteads (1 and 2), an isolated cottage-like building (e), a post-medieval sub-square enclosure with structures (f) and (g), a system of tracks and fields, and part of an extensive system of strip lynchets. The remains are complex, multi-period and difficult to interpret from surface evidence alone. The following account, however, describes the main features and, where possible, examines their inter-relationships. The letters in brackets in the text refer to the plans (Figs 2-4).

The Medieval Farmsteads

Farmstead 1 (Fig. 3) occupies an approximately rectangular area of c. 0.3 ha (0.74 a) and survives as a series of ruined stone walls situated on the gentle slope of a prominent natural terrace formed between rock outcrops. A track (k) enters a small yard at the western corner, adjacent to the remains of a rectangular building (a). The latter appears to be of cross-passage plan and is built across the contour. Remains of other structures, possibly buildings, lie to the south-east, and the farmstead may have consisted of buildings around a central space or yard. The south-western part of the enclosure is open but subdivided by low walls. Another building (b), retaining traces of coursed wall footings, lies in the southern corner.

Farmstead 2 (Fig. 4) lies 100 m to the south-east in a more sheltered location on a slight slope. At some time it was probably entered from the north along track (m) which was subsequently blocked. Two adjoining sub-rectangular enclosures, occupying an area of c. 0.11 ha (0.27 a), are defined by former stone walls reduced to stony banks or slopes. Two buildings are situated inside against the perimeter walls, (c) on the north partly in both enclosures and (d) on the south in the larger enclosure. Both buildings are terraced in and set along the contour, with walls surviving as low, stony banks or rubble lines. Stone wall footings are, however, visible in places.

There is some evidence for remodelling of farmstead 2, possibly indicating re-use of an earlier site. The north-eastern wall of the larger enclosure and building (c) are secondary features built against an earlier scarp from which they diverge at the north-western end. The perimeter wall continues north-west, blocking track (m). Also, the north-western wall of the smaller enclosure succeeds a parallel scarp situated 6 m to its west, the space between them formerly interpreted as another building (Everton 1976). The impression given is that the smaller enclosure overlies an earlier one whose north-western and north-eastern sides are still visible. Finally, a prominent rectangular hollow immediately south-west of (c) may be the site of an earlier building.

Post-Medieval Remains

The isolated cottage, building (e) (Fig. 4), stands alone close to a spring and is the best preserved on the site. It is rectangular with two rooms, the larger on the west.

RAMSPITS Westbury-sub-Mendip

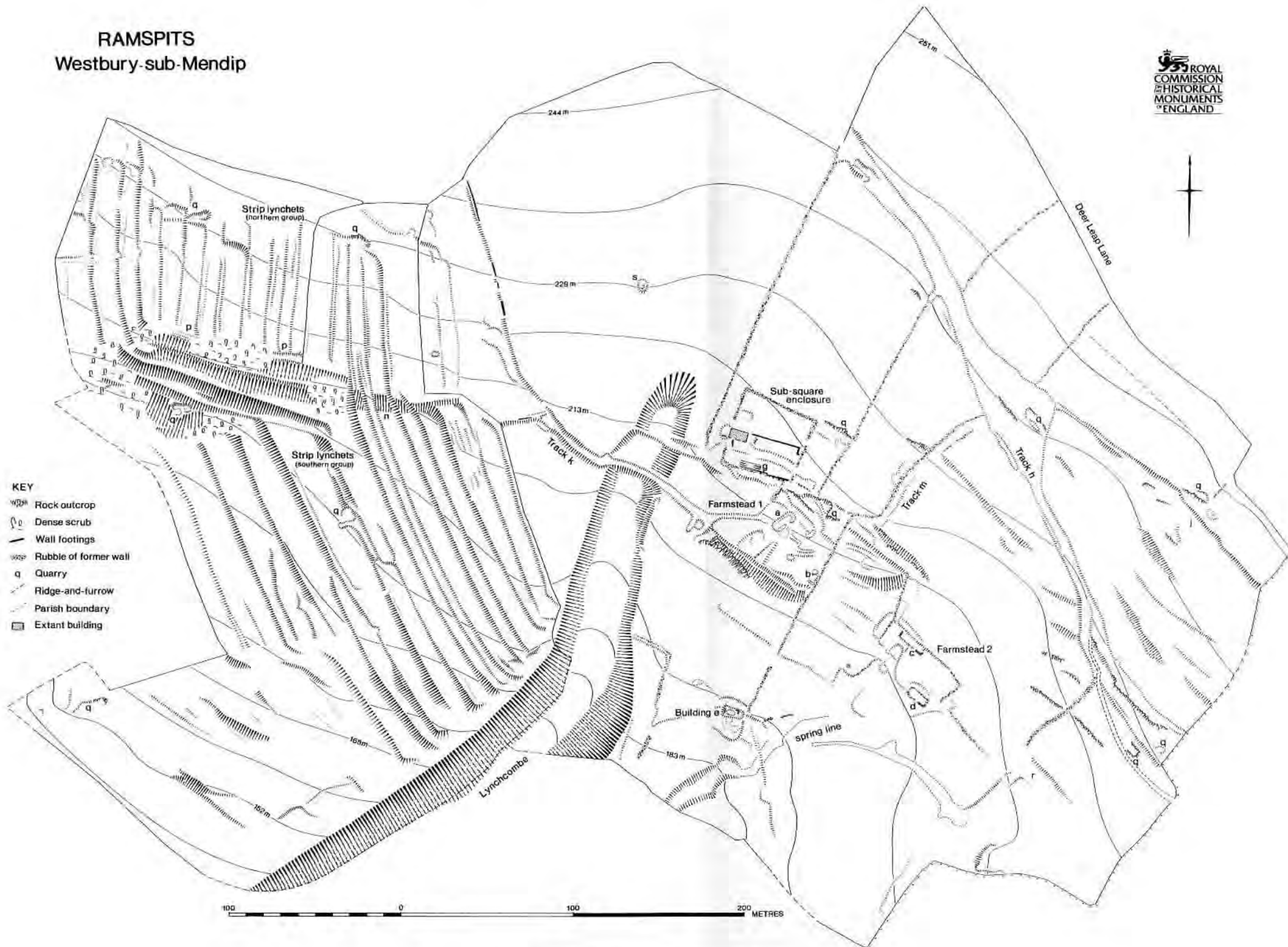


Fig. 2 The Archaeological Landscape at Ramspits.

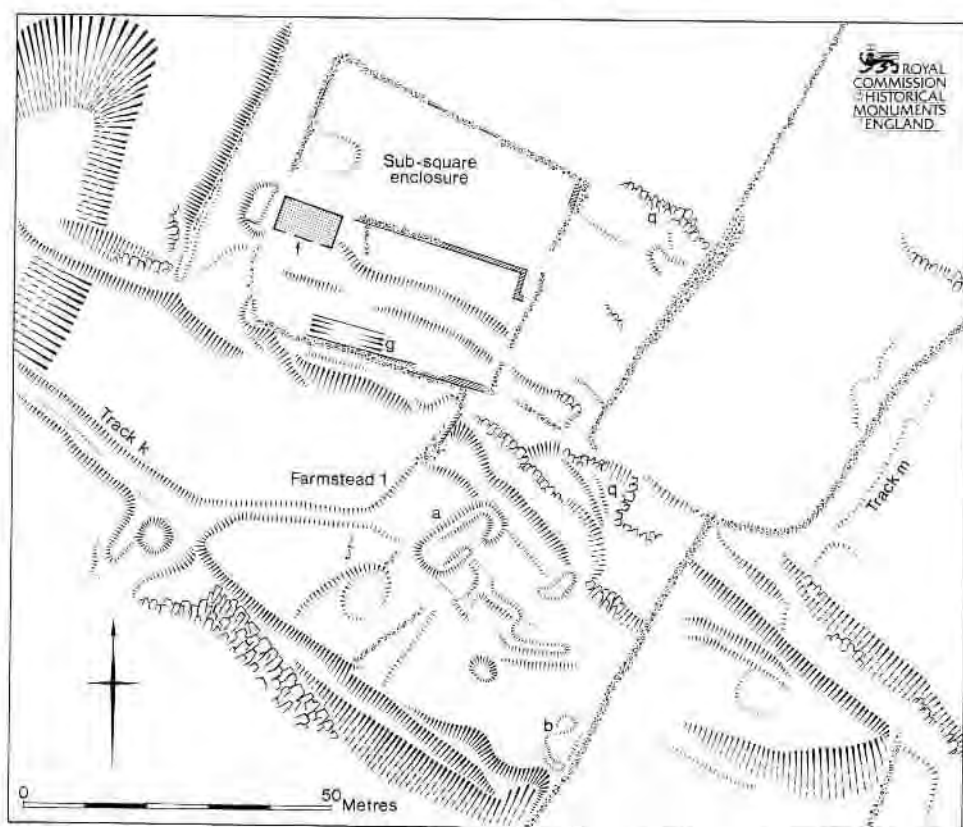


Fig. 3 Farmstead 1 and the Sub-square Enclosure.

Well-preserved sections of its coursed walling are visible at several points: the rest is hidden by earth and stone banks incorporating the collapsed remains. The western end is particularly massive and may cover the base of a chimney-stack. The building lies in the northern part of a small squarish enclosure, perhaps a small yard or garden, which is terraced into the slope.

This ruined building is probably the third ancient dwelling recorded in the 1838 survey, the one which had no common rights (SRO, DD/CC 13100). Its absence from the late 18th and early 19th century documents, which record other structures at Ramspits, indicates a date before the later 18th century. Its lack of common rights and its absence from earlier sources suggests that it postdates the late 16th century. It may have been a shepherd's cottage or perhaps connected with local lead mining (*see below*).

The latest features at Ramspits are contained within a sub-square enclosure of 0.16 ha (0.39 a) situated north of building (a) (Fig. 3). This enclosure is defined by a rubble bank, being the remains of a stone wall whose footings are now visible only in short stretches. Another stone wall of later date, still standing up to 1 m high, cuts off the south-western half of the enclosed area to create a subsidiary enclosure containing two structures with a terraced track running along its main axis. In the north-western corner of the subsidiary enclosure a rectangular building (f), still standing to roof level, is terraced sharply into the slope and, like the perimeter wall, constructed of mortared rubble. In its original form it was two-storeyed but



Fig. 4 Farmstead 2 and Building (e).

the first floor was later removed and the pitched roof replaced by a sloping, pantiled one. A mound of earth and stone, 1 m high, lies outside the north-western end and partly conceals a length of wall running parallel to it. This may be the truncated end of the original two-storey building or part of an even earlier one. Another earlier building, represented by a small rectangular terraced platform, is situated 10 m to the north of building (f). This platform is situated in the main enclosure and is clearly aligned with it. Renovation of building (f) was carried out shortly after completion of the survey.

Against the south wall of the subsidiary enclosure is a sunken rectangular feature (g) up to 1.7 m deep. Its vertical long sides are revetted with coursed rubble and its ends are stone-paved ramps providing access to a flat bottom. Its most likely use was either as a cart-washing pit or an unloading bay. A similar feature is preserved, adjacent to a ruined barn, in Rodney Stoke parish to the west at ST 48705115.

The sub-square enclosure and its internal structures are those recorded in the bishopric survey of 1838 (SRO, DD/CC 13100) and may be linked to agricultural improvement in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The map of 1811 (SRO, T/PH/bm 5, OSD 49) shows the sub-square enclosure and building (f), while those of 1814 (SRO, DD/CC 11687) and 1838 (SRO, D/D/Rt) also show the subsidiary enclosure. The whole probably functioned as a 'down barn' similar to those in comparable locations on downland elsewhere. Such barns were dual-purpose structures to house stock and to process and store feed and other crops grown locally on newly improved land.

Trackways and Fields (Fig. 2)

Most of the field and track boundaries are former walls reduced to stony banks or scarps, with occasional traces of actual stone footings. The overall pattern does not look at all like a medieval field system: the curving lines of two tracks, (k) and (m),

and the present field wall on the northern boundary of the site, contrast sharply with the otherwise rectilinear layout of the fields, which adopt a strong north-east to south-west orientation, but which also respect and are aligned on a major track (h). The sites occupied by the documented farmsteads may have been the location for earlier settlement, the existence of which may have influenced the layout of the fields. That this was so is suggested by the manner in which two field boundaries respect farmstead 1; one boundary ends against the centre of the farmstead's northern side; the other heads south-west from the farmstead's southern corner on a slightly different alignment from its eastern wall. The changes to farmstead 2 involving other boundaries have been referred to above. Overall, the relationships noted here suggest that the tracks and possibly the farmstead sites are older than most of the field layout.

Track (h) runs north-west to south-east across the north-eastern part of the surveyed area and is respected as a terminal by all other boundaries. The form of this trackway, together with the triangular piece of land of c. 0.15 ha (0.39 a) which it incorporates towards its centre, are common in prehistoric and Romano-British field systems. Similar examples are known from Dorset, at Ringmoor in Turnworth parish and Houghton South Down in Winterborne Houghton parish (RCHME 1970, 291-2 and 337-8). Track (h), together with a prominent field boundary (j), continues south-east beyond the surveyed area into further relict landscape (*see below*). Both track and field boundary (j) are clearly crossed by the line of the parish boundary between Westbury-sub-Mendip and Wells St Cuthbert and appear, therefore, to predate it. Moreover, air photographs clearly indicate that the point where the parish boundary and (j) meet is actually a corner of one of the early fields; there is a deviation in the field boundary here which the parish boundary has followed (NLAP 1980, 1982a and RAF 1946a, b). The parish boundary has probably remained static for several centuries: indeed it has been suggested that many Mendip parish boundaries date from the 10th century (Neale 1976, 79).

Two subsidiary tracks probably provided links to the main one (h). The first, (k), proceeds north-west from farmstead 1 as a sharply-defined terraced way across the head of Lynchcombe. Beyond Lynchcombe its course forked, with one branch running west towards the former fields represented by the strip lynchets. It ends abruptly and was probably truncated by their development. A second branch probably continued on a curving line uphill towards the Mendip plateau. Its course is marked as far as the edge of the area surveyed by a prominent lynchet topped by a ruined stone wall. Track (k) may have joined Deer Leap Lane and track (h) further north-west on the plateau edge beyond the survey area.

A second track, (m), runs south-west downslope from track (h) and probably divided, with one branch entering the north-eastern corner of farmstead 1; this branch was subsequently blocked by a field wall and quarrying. A second branch, which first turned south-east along a terrace between outcrops and then south-west into farmstead 2, also appears to have been blocked at some time.

The otherwise unbroken, sinuous line of the former Forest boundary (RAF 1946b), approaching Ramspits from the east, is interrupted on the north, where it takes two near right-angled turns to skirt three fields north-east of track (h). Two points can be made here: either the Forest boundary was taken around a pre-existing field block or the fields are related to, or later than, activity in the Forest. The former view seems more likely in the light of those early elements in the field system which have already been noted above.

In the north-eastern part of the survey area several field boundaries have been reduced by ploughing, possibly during post-medieval agricultural improvements.

Traces of ridge-and-furrow are visible on air photographs in the fields north-east of track (h) (RAF 1946a, b; NLAP 1982a).

The Strip Lynchets (Fig. 2)

The survey of the western part of the area under County Council ownership included a small section of an extensive system of strip lynchets which formerly lay within the open fields of Westbury-sub-Mendip and Wells St Cuthbert. The system overall extends to the west, south, and south-east down and along the Mendip slope, covering a large area of almost 0.5 sq km, the lynchets at Ramspits lying on the north-eastern extremity. The overall pattern revealed on air photographs is one of great complexity, probably the result both of the lynchets being fitted into difficult topography and of piecemeal development and expansion (RAF 1946a, b and NLAP 1979, 1982b). A steep natural east-west slope divides the area of lynchets into two groups, referred to here as southern and northern groups, and in part conditioned their layout.

Within the southern group of strip lynchets the risers are impressive, reaching heights between 0.5 m and 2.6 m, except on the south-west where the lynchets have been drastically reduced by land improvement. From their southern ends above the lip of Lynchcombe they run upslope, diagonally across the contours. Those on the west turn into the foot of the natural slope then run out, giving lengths of c. 220 m. Towards the centre, at least one swings west to run, remarkably, as one of two large lynchets on the very steep, natural slope. However, at (n) on the east where the slope is less precipitous, four treads continue after a slight change in direction as strip lynchets of the northern group, whereas three more, further east, do not. This indicates that some of the strips, originally in separate northern and southern groups, were joined together to form strips up to 290 m long – a clear example of re-laying in the fields. The width of each tread varies although there is occasional regularity, with a series of five on the west each c. 18 m wide; but even within this group the treads are subdivided or interleaved at their southern ends. The narrower widths are similar to treads on the east and south-east, being c. 9 m across on average. Some, however, are only 3 m across. Slight scarps visible on some treads are probably the remains of low plough ridges.

The risers of the northern group of strip lynchets are lower in relief, between 0.2 m and 0.7 m high, and the treads are defined mainly by west-facing slopes with very slight scarps on the east. The evidence suggests that these strip lynchets, being less well developed, are of later date than those in the southern group. They may also have gone out of use earlier. The risers on the west fade on the crest of the natural slope or are cut by a post-medieval field ditch (p), giving lengths between 75 m and 105 m; but on the east, several continue into the southern group (*see above*). To the north they end at different points depending on the steepness of the slope and underlying rock. In some cases the risers terminate in cusped ends where the plough was turned, but invariably there are slight scarps continuing beyond, indicating that these strips were once longer. Tread width is more regular, between 6 m and 12 m, with only one sign of subdivision and this on a strip continuing from the southern group. Low plough ridges occur on several treads.

Quarrying and Mining (Fig. 2)

The limestone outcrops have been used as a ready source of stone for buildings and field walls. Many of the quarries (q) are of a minor and opportunistic nature, often involving little more than cutting back into an exposed face and following a bedding plane or occasionally creating small pits. Some are cut into medieval or earlier features, for instance into strip lynchets or where ploughing at the strip ends has

exposed rock. One quarry, cut into the north-eastern corner of farmstead 1, possibly supplied stone for the later 18th and 19th century farm buildings in the sub-square enclosure. Others have no identifiable relationships and could date from any period.

Towards the south-eastern corner of the survey area air photographs show a deep linear trench (r) with spoil dumps on both sides. The trench, aligned north-west to south-east and c. 80 m long, had disturbed one of the early field boundaries (RAF 1946a, b). It has been infilled since 1946 and two short scarps partly defining its edges are all that survived in 1989. Some 40 m to the south-west an irregular mound, 1.2 m high, is a surviving spoil heap. There are similar workings 100 m to the south-east on the opposite side of the Wookey Hole to Priddy road. Taken together, they evidently represent medium-scale quarrying or lead mining, probably of post-medieval date.

Miscellaneous Features (Fig. 2)

A small, sub-circular, turf-covered mound (s), 8 m to 9 m across and up to 1.5 m high, occupies an isolated position on a moderate slope above the head of Lynchcombe (NAR no. ST 54 NW 42). A slight central depression contains a concentration of stone. It may be a large field-clearance cairn or a denuded lime-kiln.

DISCUSSION

The Medieval Farmsteads

Although there is no direct evidence for the origins of the medieval farmsteads at Ramspits and only a little for Mendip in general (*see below*), a recent summary of the Somerset evidence underlines the now widespread belief that small dispersed settlement types, such as farmsteads and hamlets, are generally earlier than nucleated villages (Aston 1989, 123–5). It has been suggested recently that some deserted farmsteads on Mendip may have developed from shielings (Ellis 1991, 8, 18).

At Ramspits, the medieval and post-medieval documentation for two small farmstead tenements, dependent on Westbury manor, equates well with the field evidence. The settlements had been abandoned by the middle of the 15th century but the landholdings remained discrete, probably largely for pasture, throughout the post-medieval period. The small cottage, building (e), may have been connected with this later land use.

Farmstead sites of similar size, type and location are known elsewhere on Mendip: those at Ramspits lie at the west end of complex relict landscape above Ebbor Wood and Ebbor Gorge, in which another five deserted sites have been identified: these include the documented settlements of Lower Hope and Hope which have produced 12th and 13th century potsherds (NAR nos ST 54 NW 38 and 39; Everton 1971, 8A). Ellis (1991, Fig. 9) has illustrated nine other such sites, notably two in Rodney Stoke parish at New Road (NAR no. ST 45 SE 46) and Stoke Wood (SMR no. 24284; Broomhead 1990, 224–6). All consist of one or two small rectilinear enclosures, usually situated on a moderate slope, with two to four buildings and associated fields.

The elevated position of such farmsteads, on the edges of strip parishes at some distance from the major settlements at the foot of the Mendip slope, is clearly significant. It is possible that they were developed to manage specific resources. The Mendip plateau was not extensively cultivated in the medieval period.

containing very few documented or visible sites, and the area seems to have been reserved for hunting, mining, and common pasture (Ellis 1991, 8, 18). The involvement of the bishopric of Bath and Wells in the wool trade is well known (Neale 1976, 94–5), and it is possible that the main business performed from these farmsteads was tending sheep flocks on the plateau. Further documentary research to explore function and tenure, supported by detailed field surveys, would be needed to develop such an interpretation. Specialised sheep farms are known in similar upland locations. At Wroughton Copse, Fyfield, Wiltshire, a small settlement of similar type to those on Mendip was held of the Prior of St Swithun's, Winchester, and is documented in the 13th and early 14th centuries (Bowen and Fowler 1962, 113–14).

The Settlements in the Landscape

It has been noted how the strip lynchets recorded in the survey appear to be encroaching on an earlier landscape at Ramspits. Cultivation probably expanded upslope, perhaps at a time of land hunger, and subsequently contracted (Taylor 1966, 280; Aston 1988, 87). Everton's sketch transcription of the area (Everton 1971, 8A) and air photographs (RAF 1946a, b) reveal the distinctive character of the landscape both to east and west along the plateau edge. It forms a distinct zone, a narrow band sandwiched between the open-field arable on the slopes and the parliamentary enclosure patterns on the plateau. Along its axis runs the prominent trackway (h), now intermittent but formerly a link between several small settlements. The irregular pattern of fields includes an open area in which there are two enclosures or fields, one trapezoidal the other curvilinear, at ST 519491. This is a landscape with complex origins, the documented medieval settlements probably representing a single phase of development within an earlier framework of tracks and fields of prehistoric or Romano-British origin. Neale (1976, 97) has noted the Saxon origin of the word Ebbor, and Ellis (1991, 11) suggests that the presence of settlements above the Gorge might indicate an established land use in the Anglo-Saxon period, which was not extinguished later by royal or monastic estates.

It is at present a matter for speculation whether any of the Mendip deserted farmsteads are themselves of Anglo-Saxon or even earlier origin. In the case of Ramspits, at least, that is a possibility which cannot be dismissed, especially in view of the earlier enclosure which may have existed under farmstead 2 and the relationship of farmstead 1 to the surrounding field boundaries (*see above*). The only good example in the area of a Romano-British rural settlement, now sadly ploughed, lies on the north Mendip slope at Row-of-Ashes Farm, Butcombe. Covering 1.42 ha (3.5 a), it consists of two groups of nine and three irregular enclosures respectively, separated by a trackway. One rectangular building, measuring 14 m by 8 m, produced late 3rd and early 4th century finds (Fowler 1968; 1970).

At Pickwick Farm, Avon (ST 591661), a small settlement not unlike Ramspits comprises several buildings and small enclosures arranged around a trackway, with a field system to the south-east. The partial excavation in 1958 of two rectangular structures produced evidence for two phases of occupation, one late Iron Age and Romano-British and the other 12th century to c. 1860 (Barton 1969, 99–102). A subsequent survey of the complex suggested that elements in the field remains may date from the pre-medieval phase (Williams 1981, 55–6).

Fieldwork in the Dundry area, Avon, has revealed a complex relict landscape including several deserted farm sites, pre-medieval field systems and a possible Romano-British enclosure (Williams 1984, 59–61 and 1985, 58–60). Other pre-medieval fields allegedly occur near New Road, Rodney Stoke, ST 489516, and Stoke Woods, ST 496508 (NAR nos ST 45 SE 46 and 65).

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