

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY, 1931 — 65

BY L. V. GRINSELL

WITH A SECTION ON

RECENT, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

BY NEIL COSSONS

This paper is based on a lecture given by the author to members of the Branch and Affiliated Societies of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, at Wells, on Saturday 31st October 1964, on the development of archaeology in Somerset since the publication of the book by Mrs. D. P. Dobson (Hinton) in 1931.

The writer's task in this paper is to sketch the progress of Somerset archaeology period by period, since the publication in 1931 of *The Archaeology of Somerset*, by Mrs. D. P. Dobson (Hinton), which summarized in handy and readable form all previous work on Somerset archaeology down to the end of the Saxon period. This survey may be prefaced by the observation that the Prehistoric Society was not founded until 1935, and before that date the whole study of British prehistory was in its early stages. The Council for British Archaeology was not formed until 1946. The present generation may find it difficult to imagine the organization of British archaeology before these and other bodies had come into existence.

THE PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD (Map 1).

Of the Lower Palaeolithic period, it is enough to say that in 1931 the accepted sequence of cultures was Chellian and Acheulian; not until some years later was the first culture re-named by Breuil the Abbevillian, from the type-site at Abbeville on the Somme, because it had become evident that the implements from Chelles were actually Acheulian! In recent years, important papers have been published on the Lower Palaeolithic implements of the gravels of the Bristol Avon by A. D. Lacaille (1954)¹ and T. R. Fry (1956), and on those from the river gravels near Watchet by A. L. and D. J. Wedlake (1963). There are also numerous find-spots of palaeoliths apparently related to the rivers rising among the Blackdown Hills. The well-known gravels near Broom, in the valley of the Devonshire Axe, are just beyond the Somerset county boundary.

Within the last generation, much work has been done on the occupation of the Mendip caves during the Upper Palaeolithic period, mostly by the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, but some by others including Dr. C. B. M. McBurney and especially the late H. E. Balch. A complete bibliography of this and all previous work has been prepared by Prof. D. T. Donovan (1954, 1964). The local variant of the Late Upper Palaeolithic, formerly called the Creswellian from the site in Derbyshire, has recently been re-named the Cheddarian — and this not by anyone born in Somerset, but by Dr. A. Bohmers (1963) of Groningen in the Netherlands.

¹ See the Period Bibliographies at end.

THE MESOLITHIC PERIOD AND CULTURES (Map 2).

By 1931, the Mesolithic period had barely begun to be recognized, although Harold Peake included it in his *Archaeology of Berkshire*, published in the same series that year. Grahame Clark's book, *The Mesolithic Age in Britain*, was not published until 1932. Dr. Dobson Hinton's remark about 'pigmy flints' (p. 35) did in fact hint at what is now known: that between the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic there was a period which we now call the Mesolithic, represented in most of southern England mainly by a 'light' industry of microlithic flint implements, but often including a 'heavy' industry comprising tranchet axes, perforated pebbles or 'mace-heads', and other items. It is now known that the Mesolithic occupation of Somerset, in common with other areas, embodies three contrasting distributions: an *upland distribution* as on Mendip and on Exmoor; a *coastal distribution*, as at Blackstone Rocks, Clevedon, and near Watchet; and an *inland lowland distribution* as at Shapwick, Middlezoy and elsewhere in the Somerset Levels. In recent years there has been a tendency to advance from the finding of microlithic material on the surface to the careful excavation of areas of concentration, for which purpose the stripping of an area can often be rewarding. At Birdcombe near Wraxall this resulted in the finding of evidence of a Mesolithic hut (Sykes and Whittle, 1960).

It is here necessary to stress the importance of noting carefully the occurrence of implements of Mesolithic type in Neolithic contexts. Among the heavy industries, the tranchet axe may well have contributed to the development of the Neolithic axes of flint and other types of stone. Among the light industries, the use of Portland chert and other materials brought from a distance was studied very carefully by the late W. F. Rankine (1956), and shows that some of the Mesolithic peoples travelled considerable distances. This throws light on the rôle believed to have been played by their descendants, the so-called Secondary Neolithic people, in opening up and exploiting supplies of suitable igneous rocks in the Highland Zone, and trading their products with the 'primary' Neolithic peoples in Wessex and elsewhere.

THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD (Map 3).

The Neolithic Period did not really form a separate chapter in Dr. Dobson Hinton's book. It was rather vaguely included in her Chapter III, 'Beakers and Megaliths'. The writer finds this chapter the least satisfactory in the book — less satisfactory than the parallel chapters in the other books in the same series. The study of the Neolithic period as a whole had, however, still a long way to go;

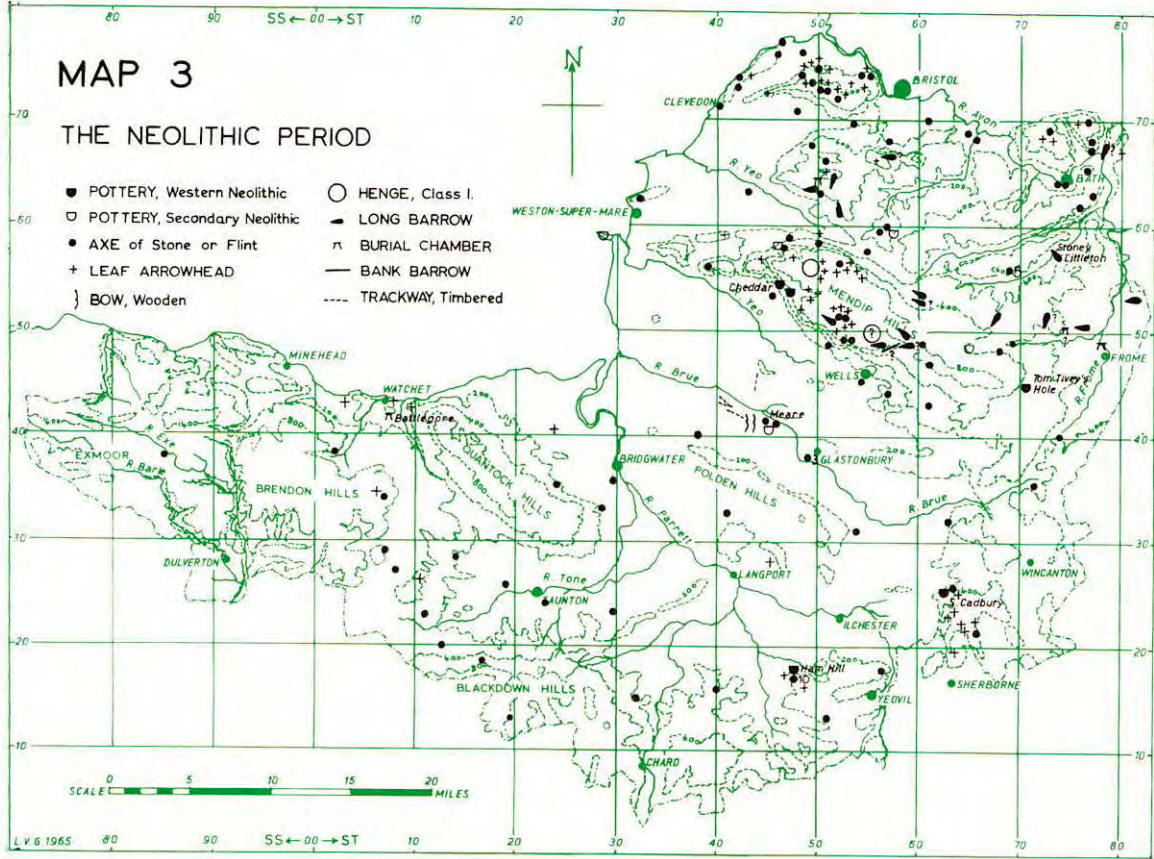
1. PALAEO-LITHIC PERIOD. The distribution of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic implements is based on information supplied by Mr. Derek Roe, with additions in the Taunton area by Mr. A. D. Hallam.

Piggott's classic paper on 'The Neolithic Pottery of the British Isles' was not published until 1932, and his book on the *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* not until 1954.

The Neolithic settlement of Somerset appears to have missed both Exmoor and the Quantock Hills, though it extends to the valley separating them. Habitation sites so far found within the county are mostly in the Mendip caves, because those are the easiest sites to find, and because of the popularity of cave excavation. At Cadbury Castle (South Cadbury) and Ham Hill, Neolithic pottery and other material have been found in sufficient quantity to indicate permanent settlement. During the last few years, important work has been done on the Somerset Levels by H. S. L. Dewar and Prof. H. Godwin (1963). They have found evidence of Neolithic settlement in the form of timber-built trackways, dated by pollen analysis to 2350 — 2100 B.C. (± 130 years); Secondary Neolithic pottery; and Neolithic bows from Ashcott and Meare, dated between 2700 and 2650 B.C. (± 120 years), which have been studied in great detail by Prof. Grahame Clark (1963). Advances have also been made in the petrological examination of stone implements (chiefly Neolithic) since the founding, in 1936, under the chairmanship of the late Alexander Keiller, of the Implement Petrology Survey of the South-West. The results of the examination of 1,200 specimens, summed up in the Committee's Fourth Report, provide a picture of 19 'grouped' rocks, each representing one or more working-sites, in various parts of the Highland Zone — mainly Cornwall, Wales, and the Lake District — where stone axes and other implements were produced, and from which they were traded by land and water routes to the lowland parts of England, especially Wessex. Many of those found in Somerset are of Cornish greenstone; a few are from the axe-factories of Great Langdale (Lake District) and Graig Lwyd (North Wales). The work continues, and further plottings should make it possible to map likely trade routes with increasing confidence.

The Somerset long barrows are all in the north-eastern part of the county, on and around Mendip, excepting the doubtful site at Battlegore near Williton. Thanks to the work of Dr. Glyn Daniel (1951), they are now seen to form part of what he has called the 'Severn-Cotswold' group, most of which occur on the Cotswolds. Little excavation has been undertaken on the Somerset examples since 1931, and in some ways this is no bad thing. A desirable task is for someone to work through the Skinner Manuscripts in the British Museum and publish Skinner's work on the long barrows, which includes unpublished digging at Fairy Toot, near Butcombe, and some fairly attractive drawings. Another need is to examine the bank-barrow (?) on Pen Hill above Wells.

2. MESOLITHIC PERIOD AND CULTURES. This map is based on the published work of the late W. F. Rankine, with additions by Mr. J. W. Gardner for the Bath area, and by Mr. A. L. Wedlake for the Watchet area.



THE BEAKER PERIOD AND THE BRONZE AGE (Map 4).

It was not until the year of publication of Dr. Dobson Hinton's book that Grahame Clark demonstrated, in an article in *Antiquity*, 'The dual character of the Beaker invasion'. He showed that the bell-beakers (or type B beakers) in England are associated with wristguards and barbed-and-tanged flint arrowheads, and sometimes with tanged *copper* daggers; while the type A beakers (now more usually called necked beakers) are associated with flint daggers, riveted *bronze* daggers and knife-daggers, perforated stone battle-axes, and sometimes pulley-rings and V-bored buttons of shale or jet, as well as barbed-and-tanged flint arrowheads.

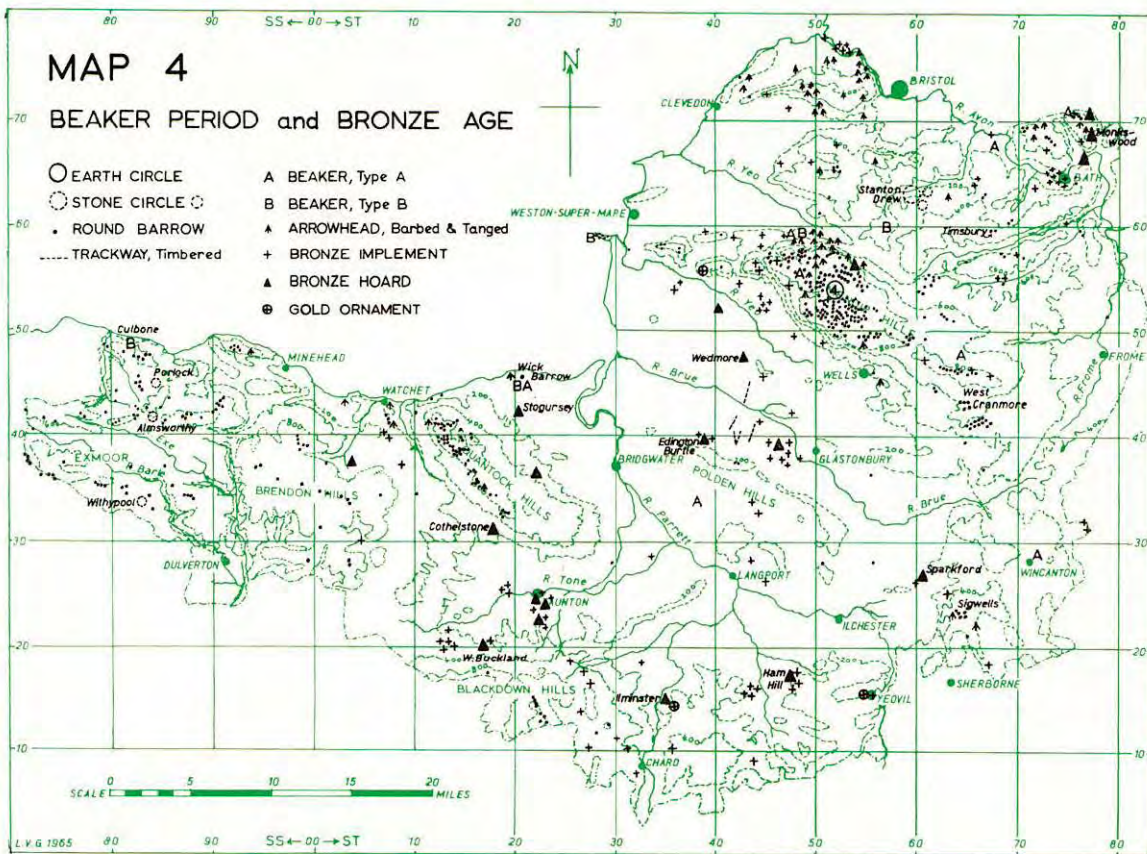
The bell-beaker people arrived first, in two waves. A wave making wide-curved (type B1) beakers came from either France or Spain and landed along the *south-west* coast; and a wave making narrow-curved (type B2) beakers came probably from the Netherlands and landed around the *south-east* coast, especially Sussex and Kent. The Somerset bell-beakers are naturally all of type B1, and have been found with burials at Culbone on Exmoor, at Wick Barrow north of the Quantocks, and at various sites on and around Mendip. On the evidence of burials with type B beakers found at the base of several of the standing stones of Avebury and the Kennet Avenue, it is possible that the stone circles of Stanton Drew, and also perhaps those on Exmoor (Almsworthy, Porlock, and Withypool), may have been built by the B1 beaker people.

The necked (or type A) beaker people arrived next — probably around 1750 B.C. Their beakers have been found in Somerset at Wick Barrow, in quantity at the 'henge' monument of Gorsey Bigbury, and to the extent of a few sherds at Bos Swallet near Burrington, Cockles Wood cave on East Mendip, and Charmy Down near Bath; an unusually fine beaker of this type was found with a burial at Corston near Bath; and another came from Windmill Hill, Wincanton.

It is uncertain where the Priddy circles fit into this scheme. The southern circle was excavated a few years ago by Christopher Taylor and Dr. E. K. Tratman (1957), but no dating evidence was found.

The Early and Middle Bronze Ages are represented in Somerset largely by a considerable number of round barrows, mostly on Exmoor, the Quantock Hills, the Mendip Hills, the hills around Bath, and a few on other hills including the Blackdowns on the southern fringe of the county. A comprehensive list of Somerset barrows is nearly complete, and it is hoped that it may be published

3. NEOLITHIC PERIOD. The stone axes are from the 4th Report of the S.W. Implement Petrology Committee, and the later records of that body. Leaf arrowheads and flint axes have been inserted from the records of the Somerset County Museum (Taunton), Bristol City Museum, and from information from J. W. Gardner (Bath area), A. L. Wedlake (Watchet area), C. E. Bean (Sherborne area), and L. C. Hayward (Yeovil area).

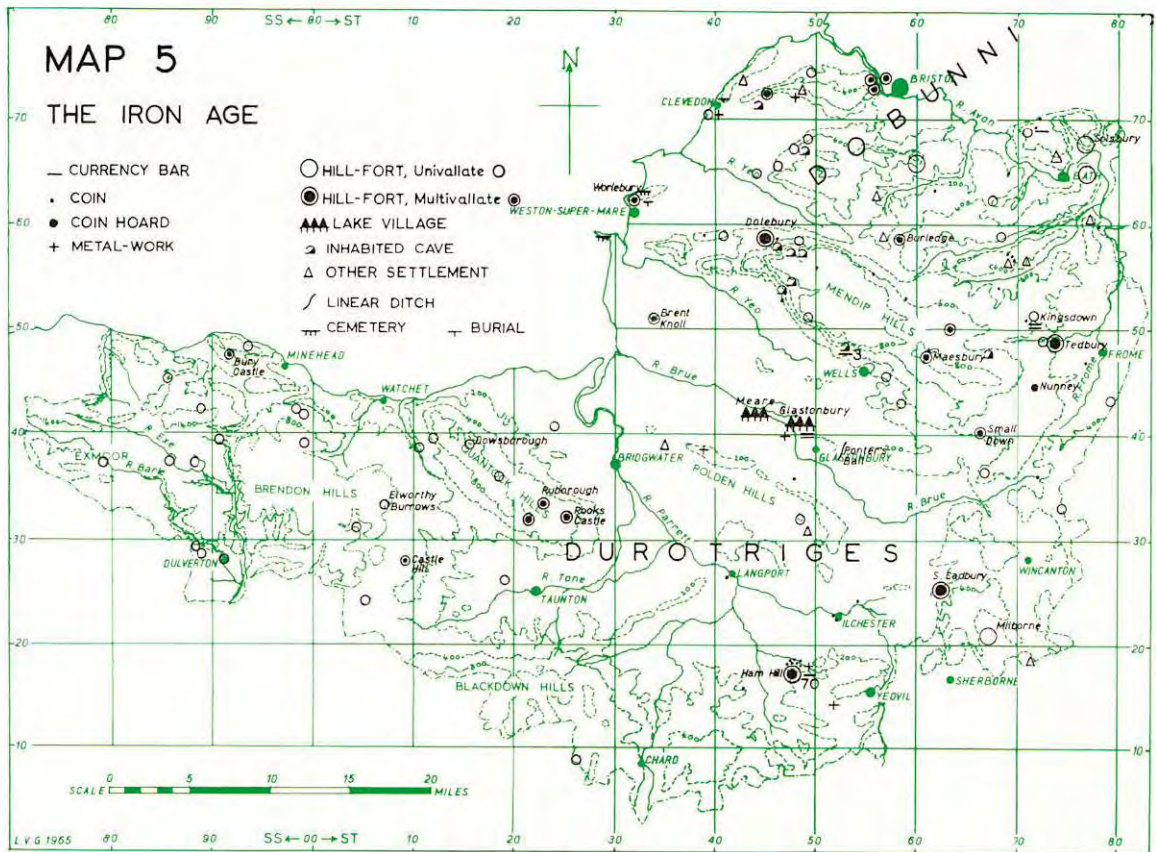


when a favourable opportunity occurs. As a whole, the known contents of the Somerset barrows, especially those on Mendip, suggest a diluted westward extension of the Wessex Culture as defined by Piggott (1938), and its two phases demonstrated by ApSimon (1954). The first phase of this culture — characterized by triangular six-riveted daggers, has apparently not yet been identified in Somerset. The second phase is well represented in various ways. Its characteristic grooved ogival bronze dagger has been found with cremations in barrows at West Cranmore, Timsbury (the Wall Mead barrow, formerly thought to have been in Camerton parish, but recently rediscovered by W. J. Wedlake in the adjoining parish of Timsbury), and Charlton Horethorne south-east of Sparkford (one of the Sigwells barrows). The few bell-barrows on the Mendips probably also belong to the second phase of the Wessex culture, as also do some barrows which have yielded cremations with segmented faience beads (as at Tynings Farm East, and one or two barrows near Priddy, opened by Skinner). Before leaving Early Bronze Age barrows, attention must be drawn to the discovery of foot-carvings and cup-markings on one of the upright slabs of the large stone cist at Pool Farm, West Harptree, formerly covered by a round barrow. The decorated slab was removed to Bristol City Museum in 1956 and replaced on the site by a replica in reinforced concrete (L. V. Grinsell, 1957). It has for long been assumed that many of the barrows which contain cremations without grave-goods are Middle and perhaps Late Bronze Age, and there is reason to believe that as the Bronze Age drew to its close, the custom of barrow burial declined with it, to be revived only occasionally during later periods.

But during the Bronze Age, people lived as well as died, and the everyday activities of these people in Somerset have now to be considered. Very few of their dwelling-sites have so far been found anywhere in England, excepting in areas such as Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor, where their footings were usually made of stone. It is a question whether traces of their dwellings in areas such as Exmoor and Mendip may be located by geophysical survey, and confirmed by excavation.

For the last thirty years and more, since the detailed mapping of archaeological distributions on a regional basis began, it has been evident that the distribution of Bronze Age barrows provides a pattern very different from the distribution of other Bronze Age material. Dr. Dobson Hinton noticed this when, on pp. 66-67 of her book, she drew attention to the contrast between the distribution of round barrows on Exmoor/Quantock and Mendip and the distribution of bronze implements — very largely in the Somerset Levels and

4. BEAKER PERIOD AND BRONZE AGE. Round barrows are from the author's unpublished lists. Barbed-and-tanged arrowheads are from the sources listed under (3) above.



in other lowland areas. The same applies to other areas which have been intensively mapped — for example Sussex and southern Wessex, where the distribution of hoards of Middle and Late Bronze Age implements along the coast is particularly striking, and in contrast to the largely upland distribution of round barrows.

Among the hoards of bronze implements of Middle/Late Bronze Age from Somerset, those containing *ornaments* have recently received attention from Dr. Margaret A. Smith (1959, a, b). They include the Taunton Workhouse hoard and another hoard from Taunton, hoards from Edington Burtle and Sparkford (all in the Somerset County Museum at Taunton), and the Monkwood hoard (in the Roman Baths Museum, the Pump Room, Bath). They consist largely of objects peculiar to Somerset, such as non-socketed sickles, very large quoit-shaped pins, and torcs, bracelets, and rings. In western Wessex they have occasionally been found associated with remains of the Deverel-Rimbury culture (previously considered Late Bronze Age, now regarded as Middle running into Late Bronze Age). Of the same period are the double-looped bronze palstaves found in Somerset at Cheddar, Curland south of Taunton, South Petherton and West Buckland, and in a few other localities in south-western England, but which are clearly either imports from the Iberian peninsula, or copies of the double-looped palstaves which are common in Spain and Portugal.

We now come to the Late Bronze Age proper. Apart from bronze implements mostly from the Somerset Levels, this period is poorly represented in the county. However, some of the timber trackways from the Polden Hills across the Somerset Levels, studied by Prof. H. Godwin (1960) and H. S. L. Dewar, have been dated between 900 and 450 B.C., by both pollen analysis and radio-carbon dating techniques. A group of boat-shaped bronze brooches of Italian origin, from Taunton, Bath, West Coker, and a few other sites in south-western England, have been referred by Dr. D. B. Harden to the 7th or 6th century B.C., but some have been found very near, if not on, Roman sites; and one wonders whether they may have been heirlooms or antiquities brought into England during the Roman period.

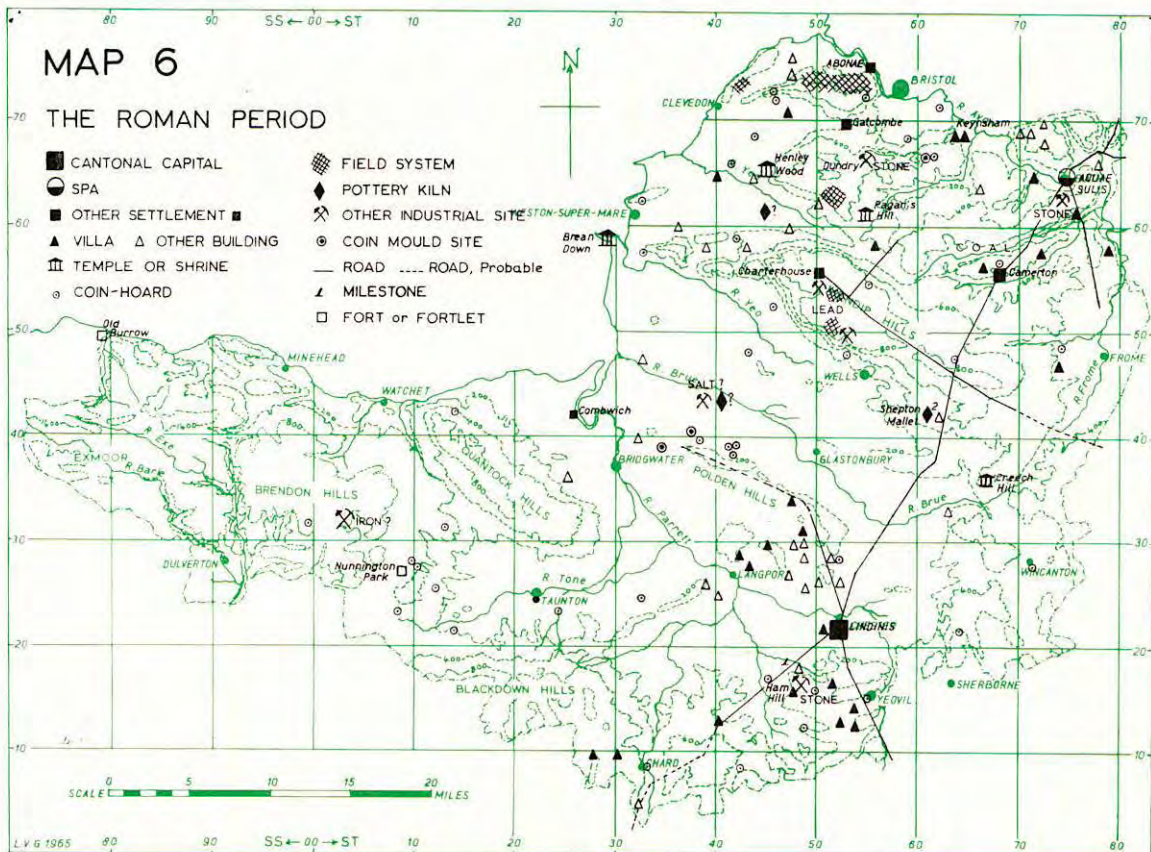
Before leaving the Bronze Age, brief reference must be made to the supposed bronze anvil, and palstave alleged to have been found with it, near Flax Bourton. The anvil was figured on the dust-jacket of Dr. Dobson Hinton's book, as well as on p. 94. Examination by Dr. R. M. Organ (1956) at the British Museum Research Laboratory in 1955/6 showed that both these objects have a dubious history and are probably modern.

5. IRON AGE. This map is based on the Ordnance Survey *Map of Southern Britain in the Iron Age* (1962). Additions include two hill-forts near Broomfield at S.E. end of the Quantock Hills; deletions include Castle Neroche, now considered entirely medieval. Other additions include the showing of coins and coin-hoards by separate symbols.

MAP 6

THE ROMAN PERIOD

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ■ CANTONAL CAPITAL | ▣ FIELD SYSTEM |
| ● SPA | ◆ POTTERY KILN |
| ■ OTHER SETTLEMENT | ⌘ OTHER INDUSTRIAL SITE |
| ▲ VILLA △ OTHER BUILDING | ⊙ COIN MOULD SITE |
| ⌘ TEMPLE OR SHRINE | — ROAD - - - ROAD, Probable |
| ⊙ COIN-HOARD | ⌚ MILESTONE |
| | □ FORT or FORTLET |



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THE IRON AGE (Map 5).

It is now necessary to summarize the progress made in the study of the Iron Age in Somerset since 1931. First of all, the tribal occupation of the county must be considered. This task is facilitated by the recent publication (1964) of the second edition of *The Coinage of Ancient Britain*, by R. P. Mack, based very largely on the work of Dr. Derek Allen. Mack's map of the coinage of the Dobunni shows clearly that they occupied the territory of the Cotswolds and the West Midlands, and extended as far south as the Mendips, especially their eastern portion from which came the Nunney hoard. They also may have had some right of passage through Durotrigian territory as far south as Hengistbury near Bournemouth. This is shown not only by the map of their coins, but also by the distribution of iron currency-bars, although these may (as recently suggested by Sir Cyril Fox) have been an early currency of both the Dobunni and the Durotriges. The map of the coinage of the Durotriges shows that they were centred on Dorset and its surroundings, but these surroundings included the whole or almost the whole of eastern Somerset south of Mendip. This is confirmed by a study of their pottery and other material, by H. S. L. Dewar (1955) and by John Brailsford (1958). The Mendips themselves appear to have been largely a "free-for-all", in much the same way as they are at present among most of the Affiliated Societies of the Somerset Archaeological Society. With regard to west Somerset, no ancient British coins have yet been recorded from that region, and no excavations have been undertaken under modern conditions at any of the hill-forts on the Somerset part of Exmoor, or on the Brendon Hills. It is therefore at present uncertain by what tribe they were held, but it was most likely either the Durotriges or the Dumnonii.

The Meare Lake Village had been the subject of several seasons of excavations by 1931, but only brief interim reports had been published. Of the definitive report, volume 1 appeared in 1948 and volume 2 in 1953; the third and final volume, almost completed by the late H. St. George Gray, is now being edited for the press by Mrs. M. A. Cotton.

The progress of our knowledge of the Somerset hill-forts has been continuous although not particularly spectacular since the publication of the article on 'Hill-forts' by Christopher Hawkes (1931).

Further work has been done at Cadbury Castle (South Cadbury) and Solsbury Hill near Bath. Fieldwork has also been done at the hill-forts of Maes Knoll, Maesbury, and Burrington — at the last two sites by intelligent observation followed in the latter instance by

6. THE ROMAN PERIOD. This map is based on the O.S. *Map of Roman Britain* (1956), with various additions and deletions. The sites at Gatcombe and Combwich have been added as settlements. Temple-sites have been added at Brean Down, Henley Wood, and Bruton, and iron-workings on the Brendon Hills. Coin-hoards are shown by a separate symbol.

selective excavation. Previously unmapped hill-forts which have been fairly recently published are Burledge (which was however known to Rev. John Skinner in the early 19th century) and Creech Hill camp north-west of Bruton. Two hill-forts have recently been found near Broomfield, south-east Quantocks, by Dr. H. W. Catling and Anthony Locke, following up indications on air-photographs. Before leaving hill-forts, attention should be drawn to the immense utility of geophysical survey in reducing the amount of fruitless digging to a minimum, by revealing beforehand which areas contain hut-sites or rubbish pits or other features worth excavating.

Somerset's examples of Celtic craftsmanship were studied and published by Sir Cyril Fox in his *Pattern and Purpose: a Survey of Early Celtic Art in Britain* (1958): and never has any author had a greater sympathy and flair for his subject. He considers that the shield boss and horse-brooch from the Polden Hills hoard and a brooch from Ham Hill are the work of the Dobunni.

THE ROMAN PERIOD (Map 6).

The Roman period in Somerset was thoroughly covered by Haverfield in volume I of the *Victoria County History of Somerset*, to the length of 166 pages. Dr. Dobson Hinton therefore contented herself with a brief resumé, stressing the discoveries made since that volume was published in 1906. It remains to draw attention to a few directions in which our knowledge of Roman Somerset has developed since 1931.

Of Roman towns, Somerset contains very few. A great deal more is now known about Roman Ilchester, now identified as the LINDINIS of the Ravenna Cosmography and other sources. It was the second cantonal capital of the Durotriges (Dorchester being the first); and during the latter half of the Roman period its importance increased and it was surrounded by numerous villas based largely on a cattle-grazing economy, reflecting the change from agriculture to pasture which characterized the latter half of the Roman period in southern England. The results of the researches of J. Stevens Cox on Roman Ilchester are awaited with increasing eagerness. Our knowledge of Camerton on the Fosse Way is now very full on account of the exhaustive book by W. J. Wedlake, which draws attention in particular to the manufacture in that small town during the fourth century of pewter tableware, a commodity which was also produced at Lansdown north of Bath.

Of fortifications of this period, Somerset has even fewer to offer. A possible example, at Nunnington Park near Wiveliscombe, may belong to the beginning of the Roman occupation. Just west of the county boundary, near County Gate on Exmoor, is Old Burrow, a Claudian fortlet and perhaps also a signal station, which was concerned with keeping in check the Silures of south Wales. It appears



By courtesy of Country Life

NEWTON SURMAVILLE from the North-West

PLATE II



BRYMPTON D'EVERCY: South front, showing the wing built by Sir John Posthumous
on the right

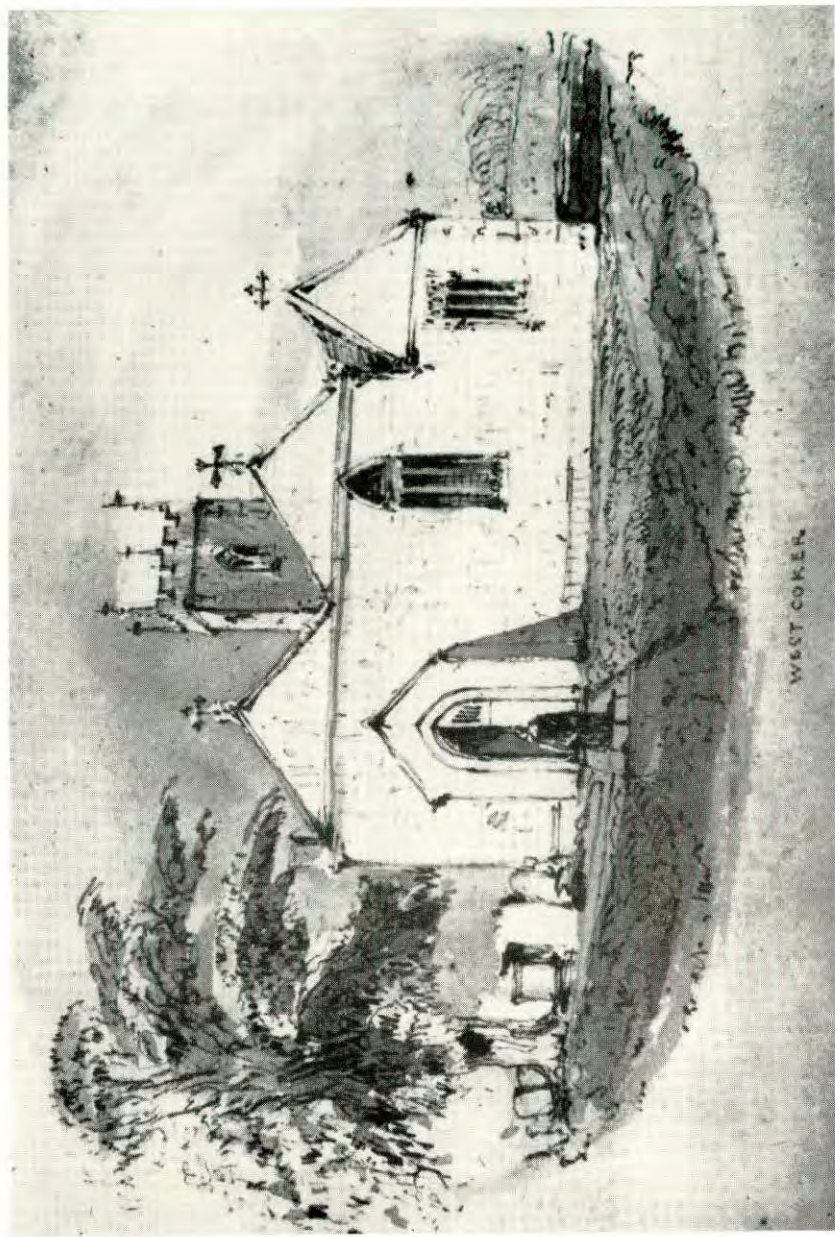
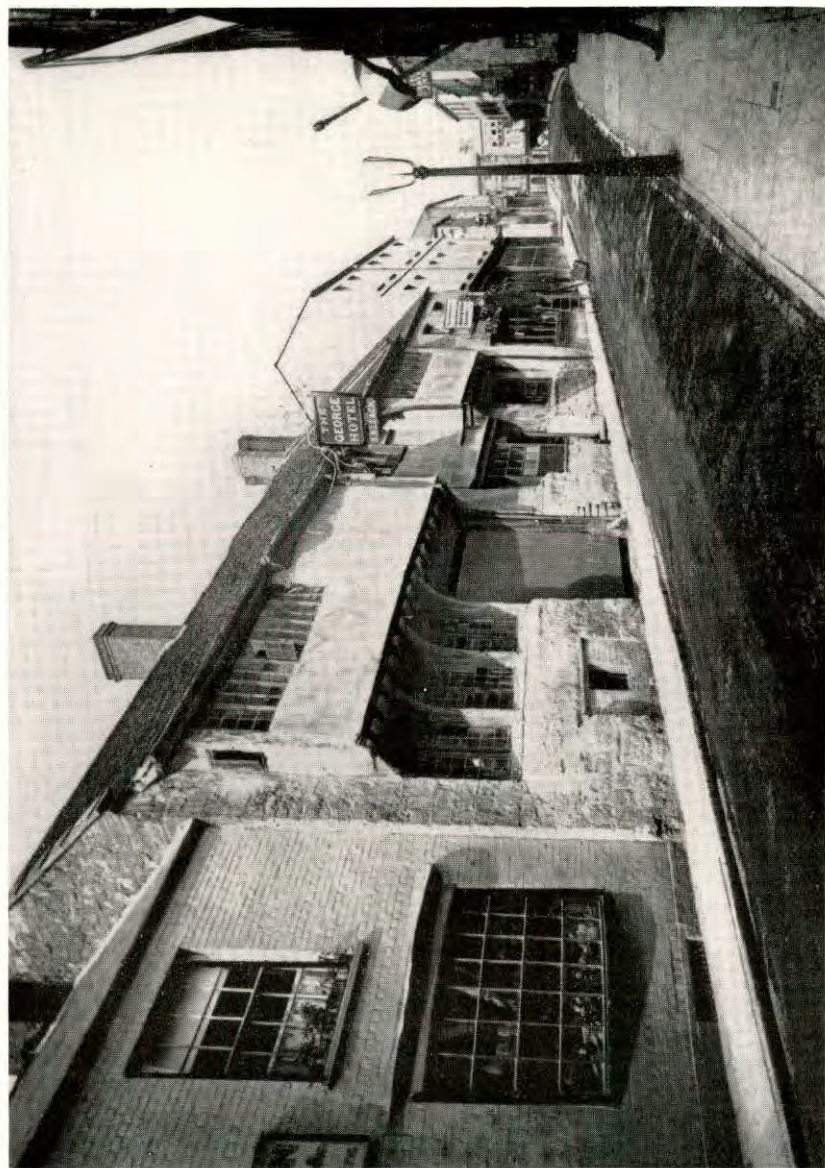


Photo: R. C. Sansome

WEST COKER CHURCH (c. 1847)

From a drawing in the Society's collection by C. W. Clenell (?)

PLATE IV



THE GEORGE, YEovil
From an old photograph (c. 1885) in Yeovil Library and Museum



THE GEORGE, YEOVIL (North front)
From a photograph by Mr. E. A. Pearce taken shortly before the building was demolished

PLATE VI



Photo: L. Tavender

THE GEORGE, YEOVIL: Upper floor of South Wing (from the North-East)

PLATE VII

(a)



(b)

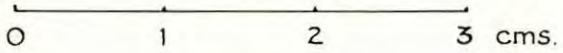


TAUNTON CASTLE: ST. GEORGE GRAY ROOM

Photos: J. D. L. Fleetwood

- (a) Junction of NW. and SW. walls, showing straight joint
(b) NE. wall, south-eastern return of doorway to Inner Bailey, showing ashlar facing (right) and brick patching (left)

PLATE VIII



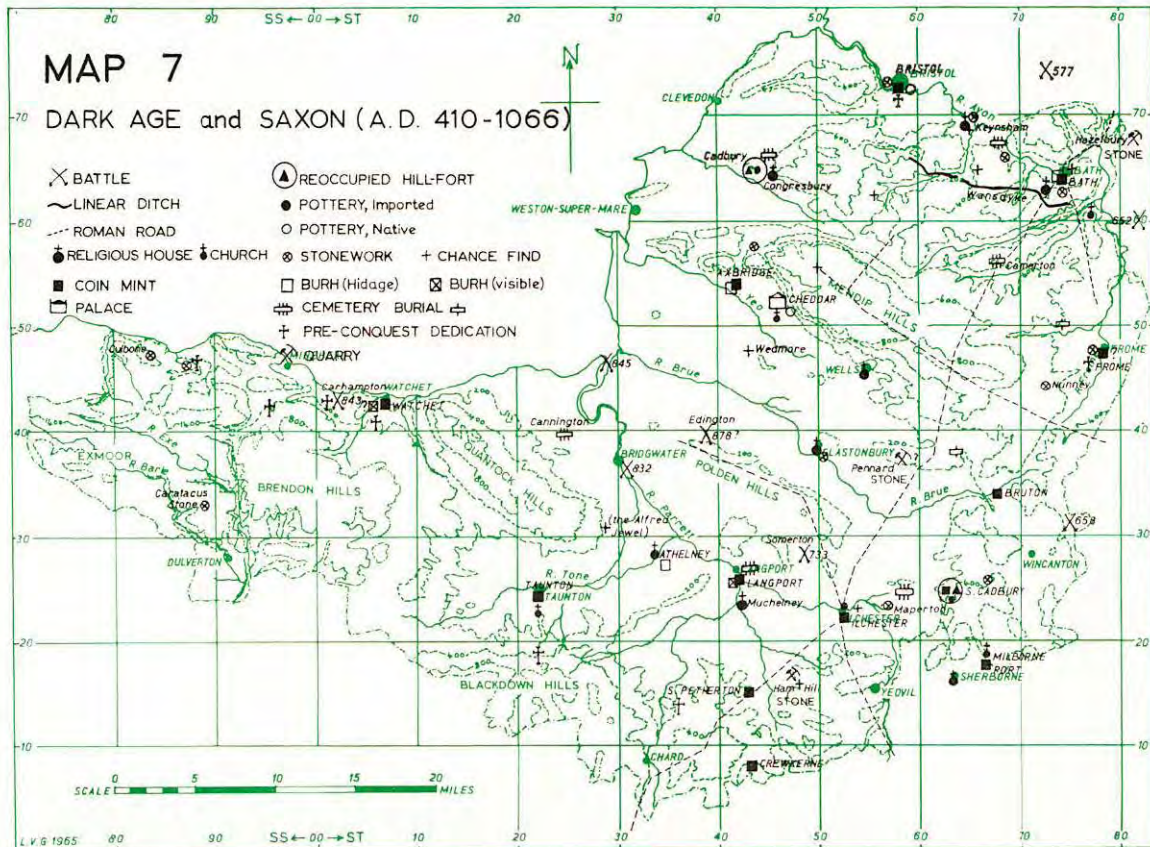
GOLD STATER FROM PENSFORD, SOMERSET

to have been succeeded in the time of Nero by the Martinhoe fortlet and possibly also signal station, some miles farther west. The sequence at these sites has recently been demonstrated by excavations carried out by Lady (Aileen) Fox (1964).

Our knowledge of the countryside in this period has since 1931 been increased in various ways. More Roman villas or farms have been discovered and excavated, not only near Ilchester and Yeovil, but also (for example) at Wraxall south of the Failand ridge. The study of field-systems, of the type formerly called 'Celtic fields', was in its early stages thirty years ago. It was not until the vertical air-photographic survey of England was done by the Royal Air Force between about 1945 and 1950, on a scale of 6 inches to the mile, that facilities became available for the comprehensive study of field systems on a regional or county basis. The method was developed and the standard set by P. P. Rhodes in his paper on the 'Celtic Field Systems on the Berkshire Downs' (*Oxoniensia*, 15, 1950, 1-28). Since then, the techniques of their study have been further developed by H. Collin Bowen whose book on *Ancient Fields* (1961) is the guide for all further work in this field.

The whole of our information on Roman and Romano-Celtic temples and shrines in Somerset has accumulated since the last War. The first to be discovered, excavated, and published was on Pagan's Hill near Chew Stoke; then the examples at Breaun Down and on Creech Hill near Bruton were discovered and excavated, and preliminary or summary reports on them have already appeared. More recently, that at Henley Wood, north of Cadbury Camp near Yatton, was excavated in 1964. There is little doubt that others await discovery. Just over the county boundary, W. J. Wedlake has been excavating a comparable site at Nettleton Shrub near Castle Combe in Wiltshire.

Roman industrial workings are in Somerset of special importance. First of all are the Mendip lead-mines, concerning which the chief recent find was of four pigs of lead of the reign of Vespasian, from Rookery Farm, Green Ore. Three of them bore the name VEB which may or may not be the Roman name for the Mendip mines, conjectured to be enshrined in the first syllable of the name Ubley. There are good reasons for believing that iron was worked at Syndercombe and elsewhere on the Brendon Hills in the Roman period. The north-east Somerset coal deposits were certainly worked in Roman times, as was shown in 1955 by Graham Webster who listed the evidence from Roman sites in Somerset, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire, including Bath; but it has so far been impossible to pinpoint a Roman coal-working site in the county. In the nature of things, the evidence has probably been destroyed by subsequent workings. More is known about the working of Ham Hill stone, Dundry stone, and the stone of the Bath region in the period, thanks to co-operation between geologists and archaeologists.



More information is badly needed on the Roman pottery kilns of our county. Only the two kilns at Shepton Mallet have so far been published, and those inadequately. The situation has recently been improved by the discovery of a probable kiln near Congresbury by members of the North Somerset Archaeological Research Group, and we look forward to its publication in due course. The briquetage sites in the Brue valley, north of the Polden Hills, are still of uncertain character, but have recently been claimed as Romano-British salt-pans — the first known from Somerset — thanks to the work of H. S. L. Dewar; and they are listed as such in the recent study by Jacques Nenquin (1961).

A minor and illicit industry was the production of earthenware moulds in which counterfeit Roman coins were cast. This industry was practised in the region of the Polden Hills and also at Whitchurch south of Bristol, where part of the site has recently been excavated by P. A. Rahtz, following a proton-magnetometer survey by Dr. M. J. Aitken. The report will soon be published, with a study of the coin-moulds and the coins by George C. Boon.

The present state of knowledge of the Roman roads of Britain was summed up by Ivan D. Margary in his two recent volumes; but there are still some outstanding problems, not only involving the precise course of some of the main roads, but also and more particularly the minor roads. We also need to know more about when each road was made, what it was mostly used for, what settlements were along it, when it fell into disuse, and what has been its subsequent history. Possible lines of investigation of the Roman roads of north-east Somerset have recently been suggested in a stimulating paper by Dr. E. K. Tratman. An attempt by Bernard Berry (1963) to find the missing parts of the Bath-Poole Roman road has not been entirely successful, but should stimulate further work on the course of that road.

THE DARK AGE AND SAXON PERIODS (Map 7).

(a) *The Pagan Period*

In recent years there have been two fundamental studies of Wansdyke. Sir Cyril and Lady Fox (1960) were the first to show that the Roman road, which connects West and East Wansdyke between Bath and Morgan's Hill (Wiltshire), was *not* followed by the course of Wansdyke: indeed there never was a Wansdyke between Bath and Morgan's Hill. The possibility that West and East Wansdyke might have been built at different periods and for different purposes was suggested by them, and West Wansdyke could well have been connected in some way with the Battle of Deorham (A.D. 577). More

7. DARK AGE AND SAXON PERIOD (410-1066). The burhs have been checked with Mr. Nicholas Brooks.

recently, J. N. L. Myres (1964) has stated a strong case for believing that West and East Wansdyke were constructed at one period and for one purpose, the gap between them being bridged partly by rivers and partly by woodland where no defensive earthwork would have been necessary.

Cemeteries and burials in the pagan Saxon tradition in Somerset are very few, because of the lateness of the Saxon conquest in this area; such as there are have been summarized by Mrs. Audrey Meaney (1964). The rite in Somerset was always inhumation. The best known cemetery was at Camerton, and this may have started in the Roman period, it being placed beside the Fosse Way. In 1962/3, a cemetery of some 300 graves was excavated at Cannington near Bridgwater, apparently extending from the late Roman period until perhaps the early 8th century.

(b) *The Christian Period*

In his Presidential Address to this Society in 1962, Dr. C. A. Raleigh Radford showed that Christianity was introduced into Somerset by British missionaries (some from Wales) before the Saxon conquest, notably at Congresbury and Glastonbury. Our knowledge of pre-Conquest monastic sites has been extended by many seasons of excavation at Glastonbury, and by the various writings of David Knowles and others. The few Saxon churches in the county are nearly all (except Wilton near Taunton) covered in a masterly way by H. M. and Joan Taylor (1965) in their recent work. There is, perhaps, still room for a modern study of the various cross-shafts, and fragments thereof, built into several churches and one or two other buildings (including an arch at Keynsham).

The sites of some notable Saxon battles are still uncertain. A recent attempt by (Prof.) W. G. Hoskins (1960), to move the site of the battle of Peonnan (A.D. 658) from Penselwood on the Wiltshire border to a site in east Devon has not gained general acceptance. There is, perhaps, still some doubt whether the site of the battle of Ethandun (A.D. 878) was at Edington in Wiltshire (the usual attribution) or Edington by the Polden Hills (recommended by its proximity to the site of the concluding of the Treaty of Wedmore); it is doubtful whether such problems can be solved by field archaeology.

The *burhs* mentioned in the Burghal Hidage have recently been the subject of a study by Mr. Nicholas Brooks (1965), who points out the need for ground identification of those at Lyng and Axbridge, those at Langport and probably Watchet having recently been discovered.

The excavations at Cheddar by P. A. Rahtz (1964) for the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments have revealed the foundations of an impressive series of royal residences, extending from the 9th until the 13th century. The whole subject of Saxon and Norman house-types of all classes has recently been reviewed by Dr. C. A. Raleigh Radford (1964).

During the last thirty years, much important work has been done on the Saxon coin-mints of Somerset. This period has witnessed the publication of papers on the mint of Axbridge (F. Elmore Jones, 1962); the Bruton, Cadbury, Langport, Milborne Port, and (South) Petherton mints (R. H. M. Dolley, 1958, 1960 a and b, 1961); the Ilchester mint (J. Stevens Cox); and the Watchet mint (A. L. Wedlake). There is also a recent study of the Bristol mint (L. V. Grinsell, 1962). The mints of Bath, Crewkerne, and Taunton await their historians.

One of the most interesting facts that have emerged from the detailed study of the Saxon mints has been the re-use of a few of the Iron Age hill-forts as coin-mints in times of emergency. R. H. M. Dolley (1958), has shown that (South) Cadbury was an emergency mint for Bruton and perhaps Crewkerne and Ilchester. It has also been shown that Cissbury, in Sussex, was an emergency mint for Steyning. It is fitting here to draw attention to the re-use for more general purposes of the hill-forts of Cadbury (South Cadbury) and Cadbury (Congresbury) during the Dark Ages, as shown by the recent finding in both of them of Dark Age pottery including some imported wares from the Mediterranean.

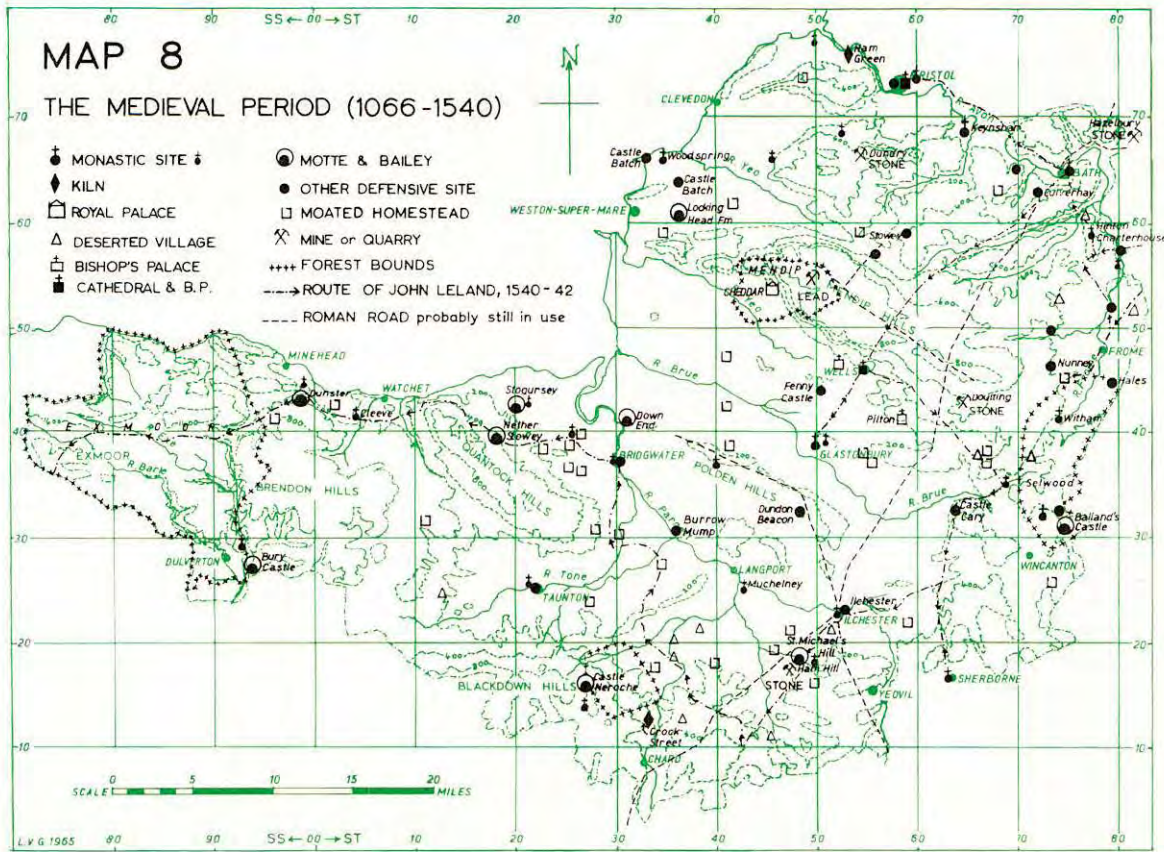
The Saxon stone-quarries of southern and midland England are the subject of an important recent paper by Prof. E. M. Jope (1965), who describes the use of Ham Hill stone, Bath freestone probably from the Box/Hazelwood quarries, and (less certainly) the possible existence of a stone quarry at Pennard east of Glastonbury. There is probably scope for further work in this field.

Much remains to be done on ground-checking the boundaries mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon land charters. The pioneer work of Dr. G. B. Grundy in this field, summarized in his *Saxon Charters of Somerset* (1935), has recently been followed by that of Dr. H. P. R. Finberg (1964).

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD, 1066-1540 (Map 8).

Dr. Dobson Hinton's book, in common with all the others in the "County Archaeologies" series, stopped at 1066, because before the 1939/45 War few people thought of an archaeology of the periods from 1066 onwards, excepting for ecclesiastical sites. Indeed the Society for Medieval Archaeology was not formed until 1956. But since the last War there has been a remarkable extension of the techniques of field archaeology (developed largely on prehistoric and Roman sites) to the periods subsequent to the Norman Conquest. The following brief notes indicate some of the lines on which progress has been or is being made.

Many of the monastic sites lend themselves to archaeological investigation, and the subject has recently been briefly treated by C. D. Harley (1965, with bibliography). The main effort has been concentrated on Glastonbury by Dr. C. A. Ralegh Radford and his



predecessors, at Glastonbury Tor by P. A. Rahtz (1964 b), and at Hinton Charterhouse by the late P. C. Fletcher. Emergency investigations have also been in progress at the site of Keynsham Abbey during construction of a bypass road. Useful work has been done on Medieval tiles from Cleeve Abbey (J. B. Ward Perkins, 1942) and Taunton Priory (A. D. Hallam, 1951). Work remaining to be done on the study of church architectural detail, fittings, and furniture, has been briefly reviewed by H. G. M. Leighton and L. V. Grinsell (1965, with bibliography).

The study of Medieval fortified sites (mottes with and without baileys) is in Somerset largely untouched excepting for recent work at Castle Neroche (Brian Davison, 1962/3), and a little early work at Castle Cary (R. R. C. Gregory, 1890). The first need is for an up-to-date classified list of sites, improving on the preliminary check-list given in *V.C.H.* 2 in 1911. The work of D. F. Renn (1959) leads the way.

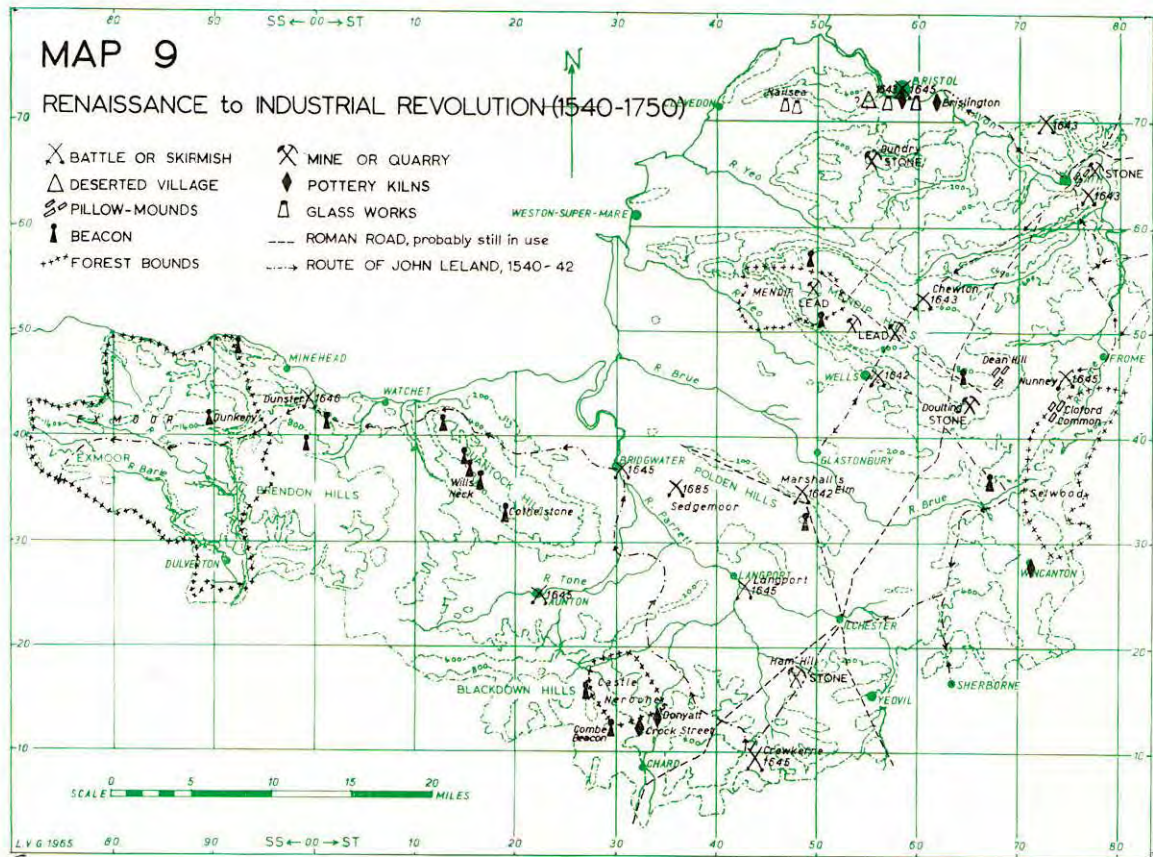
Mention was made in the last section of the excavations by P. A. Rahtz at the Saxon and Norman royal residences at Cheddar. Here it is necessary to draw attention to the admirable way in which the foundations of the main Saxon and Norman buildings have been indicated in the grounds of the Secondary Modern School for all who are interested to see. The Cheddar excavations may not exhaust the medieval royal houses of Somerset. At one of the Cadburys (probably Somerset but possibly Devon), there was a royal house in the reign of King John (H. M. Colvin, 1963).

Of moated homesteads and other moated sites, Somerset (along with the other south-western counties) possesses few compared with the rest of England (B. K. Roberts, 1965, Map), but there is a preliminary list in *V.C.H.* 2 (1911), and an estimate of 37 has been given by F. V. Emery (1962), apparently taken from *V.C.H.* Little work has been done on them excepting at Blackford (Wedmore) by I. M. Rendell (1963).

There is much scope for the study of domestic architecture from the Norman Conquest onwards. Perhaps the earliest example is Saltford Manor House (c. A.D. 1150) described by Miss M. E. Wood (1936). Important buildings of later periods have been described by Miss M. E. Wood (1950) and W. A. Pantin (1957, 1964), but much remains to be done in the sphere of minor domestic architecture; this work is being stimulated by the Vernacular Architecture Group.

Of Deserted Medieval Villages, not very many have so far been found in Somerset (M. W. Beresford, 1954), but the subject is in need of a survey such as is being undertaken in several other counties. Barrow Mead (near Englishcombe, Bath), excavated by P. A. Rahtz (1961), contained the foundations of Medieval buildings.

8. MEDIEVAL PERIOD (1066-1540). For reasons of space, churches and domestic architecture (excepting defended and moated sites) have had to be omitted. Most towns and villages have also had to be excluded. The Map is, in fact, intended only to show the major sites of "field archaeology" interest.



The location, excavation, and publication of Medieval pottery kilns is an urgent need. A start has been made by the excavation of one of a probable group of 13th century kilns at Ham Green, Bristol, near the Somerset border, by S. P. Kilsby and J. E. Hancock, and its publication by K. J. Barton (1964). The importance of locating further kilns, by various methods including following up field names and pottery scatters, and using proton-magnetometers, is self-evident.

Valuable progress has been made, during the post-war years, on the study of Medieval stone-quarrying and the use of the different types of stone within the period. A comprehensive general survey of the subject was written by L. F. Salzman (1952), and a brief statement concerning the Somerset quarries has recently been published (L. V. Grinsell, 1965). The most interesting information has resulted from detailed studies of the use of blue lias in Somerset ecclesiastical architecture between 1175 and 1300, and the use of Purbeck marble between 1300 and 1330 (D. T. Donovan and R. D. Reid, 1963).

RENAISSANCE TO INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, 1540-1750/1800 (Map 9).

The application of archaeological methods to the study of the post-reformation periods is mainly quite recent.

The beacon system on Exmoor, the Brendon Hills, the Quantock Hills, the Blackdown Hills, and Mendip, has certainly left archaeological traces. It is often difficult to ascertain, without excavation, whether a beacon mound was originally constructed as such or was converted from a prehistoric barrow. Something comparable to the fine survey of "Fire Beacons in Devon", by the late Percy Russell (*T.D.A.* 87, 1955, 250-302), should be done for Somerset. Of course the beacons were not intended only to give warning of the Spanish Armada, but they are included on this Map because of their importance in connection with that event (E. Green, 1888).

The Civil War has left few traces in Somerset in the form of earthworks. These are very conspicuous on Brandon Hill, Bristol, but may also be identifiable on Lansdown above Bath, and perhaps at one or two other places where skirmishes occurred, such as Langport and Bridgwater (C. E. H. Chadwyck Healey, 1902).

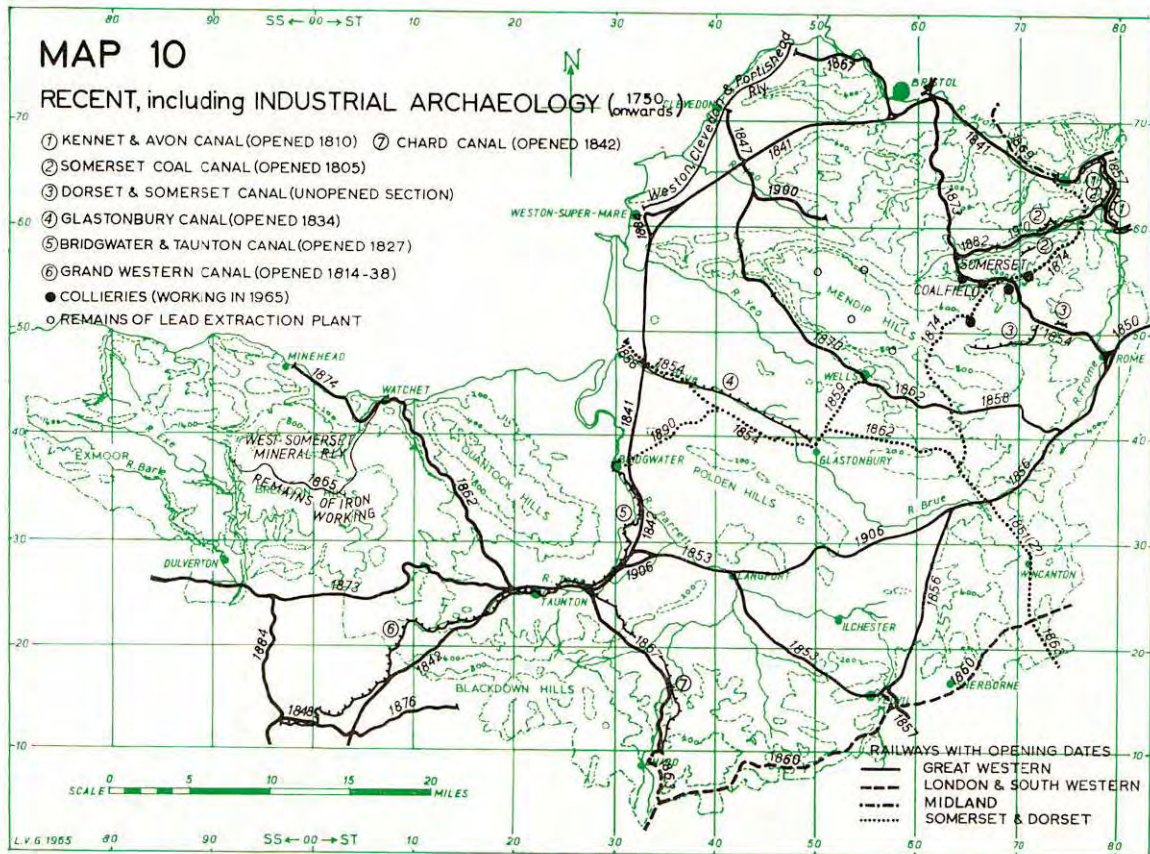
A survey of "pillow-mounds" is now being undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (Royal Comm. Hist. Monuments, 1964). Groups of them exist on Bathampton Down, and were recorded by Rev. John Skinner in the early 19th century on Cloford Common and Dean Hill, both on east Mendip. They may not all have been made for the same purpose, but they often occur in areas known to have been artificial rabbit warrens, and their period seems to be 17th/18th century.

9. RENAISSANCE TO INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (1540-1750/1800). This Map also has been prepared mainly to show sites of "field archaeology" interest referred to in the text.

MAP 10

RECENT, including INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY (1750 onwards)

- ① KENNET & AVON CANAL (OPENED 1810)
- ② SOMERSET COAL CANAL (OPENED 1805)
- ③ DORSET & SOMERSET CANAL (UNOPENED SECTION)
- ④ GLASTONBURY CANAL (OPENED 1834)
- ⑤ BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON CANAL (OPENED 1827)
- ⑥ GRAND WESTERN CANAL (OPENED 1814-38)
- COLLIERIES (WORKING IN 1965)
- REMAINS OF LEAD EXTRACTION PLANT



The windmills of Somerset have recently been listed by A. J. Higgs-Coulthard (1951-4), but as little is known of their dates, they have been omitted from this map, to which many of them could well belong. The need for a survey of Somerset windmills and windmill-sites is self-evident.

The archaeological importance of post-medieval pottery has only lately come to be recognized, and the Post-Medieval Ceramic Research Group was formed as recently as 1962. While the Bristol potteries have been fairly well studied (W. J. Pountney, 1920), much work remains to be done on the products of the kilns at Donyatt, Crock Street south-west of Donyatt, and Wincanton. Any opportunities to investigate the glass-works in the region of Nailsea should not be allowed to pass by.

Clay tobacco-pipes are of much importance for dating post-medieval occupation-levels, and a great many of these pipes were made in Bristol. The comprehensive national survey by Adrian Oswald (1960) shows the complexity and magnitude of the task. Although a good survey of the 17th century Bristol pipes and their makers was written by J. E. Pritchard (1923), there is a need for a full survey of all the Bristol clay tobacco pipes and their makers, and of the kiln-sites that have so far been found and investigated. Publication of the relevant researches of K. Marochan and K. Reed is eagerly awaited.

The history of the various stone quarries has formed a part of several sections of this paper, from the Roman period onwards; but from time to time interest appears to have shifted from one quarry-area to another. There is evidence that the Bath freestone quarries near Box/Hazelwood, and the quarries at Dundry and Doulling and Ham Hill were being worked during this period. Much can be done in elucidating the history of these and other quarry-areas by studying the stone used in dated buildings or parts of buildings.

The *Itinerary* of John Leland was carried out for the Somerset portion between 1540 and 1542. A study of the routes that he followed, often from abbey to abbey or other notable site, shows that he must have travelled along many roads that are still in use: for example the road from Bridgwater *via* Cannington and along the north edge of the Quantock Hills, passing near Cleeve Abbey on the way to Dunster and then across Exmoor *via* Simonsbath. Much can be learned about the road-system in the mid-16th century from his *Itinerary*.

RECENT, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY (Map 10) by Neil Cossons.

Industrial Archaeology is a new subject; the name is barely ten years

10. RECENT, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY. The scope of this Map, which has been prepared by Mr. Cossons, is explained by him on page 72.

old, and as yet little organized regional work has been done. (E. R. R. Green, *Industrial Archaeology of County Down*, 1963, is the first county survey). Map 10 must of necessity be regarded as a basic introduction to the Industrial Archaeological sites of Somerset. Many sites of importance do not lend themselves to the facile classifications so beloved of the traditional archaeologists and hence cannot be mapped in any meaningful way. Consequently it is the things which are fairly well known, the collieries and lead workings, canals and railways, which are represented. The majority of buildings and structures relating to a variety of industries await the measuring tape and camera of the Industrial Archaeologist, if he can reach them in time.

In the period since 1750 the changes which have occurred in the landscape of Somerset as a result of industrialization have been great, but against the time scale of man's occupation many sites have had only an ephemeral life. Not since the Dark Ages had such earthworks as the embankments of canal and railway been built, but already many of these are obsolete. The site of the ill-fated Dorset and Somerset Canal near Mells is in places little more than a crop mark. The huge caisson lock at Combe Hay on the Somerset Coal Canal has vanished without trace. Branch railways close and are covered by bungalows as at Camerton, whilst we shall never know the courses of many of the stone quarry tramways around Bath.

Railways and canals however, although ancient remains to the Industrial Archaeologist, and often as difficult to trace as prehistoric field systems, have usually some documentation. Occasionally there is none, so the changes being wrought in live industries by competition and modernization require his attention. The impending extinction of the steam engine exemplifies the urgent need for surveying and recording.

In Somerset the collieries at Kilmersdon, New Rock, Old Mills, and Writhlington all have steam-powered winding gear, although only the latter is fully occupied hauling coal. Two of these engines are by Evans of Paulton and are dated 1861 and 1875. At the County Museum, Taunton, is what is perhaps the sole remaining example of a beam engine by Bury, Curtis and Kennedy of Liverpool, whilst in the north of the County the Bathford Paper Mill is powered by a superb tandem-compound Corliss mill engine, c. 1912. All these engines (except that at Taunton) are under threat of demolition and are among the last survivors of the dynasty.

Although steam engines tend to disappear, redundant waterwheels may still be found in abundance in the county. Indeed Somerset provides a great challenge in this respect as the number of mills and mill sites with physical remains *in situ* runs into dozens, providing an urgent demand for comprehensive recording. Priston Mill and Albert Mill, Keynsham, are but two examples of sites possessing waterwheels. A breast-wheel at Coleford is in full working

order and many others in varied states of deterioration may be found throughout the county.

Existing work on the Industrial Archaeology of Somerset is sparse. J. W. Gough (1930) still remains the standard on Mendip lead mining although it cannot be regarded as a comprehensive survey of workings. R. Sellick (1962) deals in some detail with mineral working in the Brendon Hills and the associated railways, whilst more recently R. Atthill (1964) includes the Fussell family and turnpike roads in his study of Mendip.

The B.A.R.G. *Survey and Policy: Part II* (1965) points to the future with chapters on Industrial Archaeology (K. Hudson) and Communications (N. Cossons). Organized work is being undertaken in the north-east of the county by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society, whilst it is hoped that the Study Centre for the History of Technology, with Dr. R. A. Buchanan of the Bristol College of Science and Technology as its Director, will have an increasing role to play in the stimulation, co-ordination and organization of field work in the region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Assistance in compiling the individual period maps is acknowledged in the notes printed at the foot of the page opposite each map. Mr. N. V. Quinell of the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division has been helpful with all these maps. Mr. Max Hebditch has read the text and made helpful suggestions, some of which have been adopted.

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