

Excavations at Small Down Camp,
near Ebercreech, 1904.¹

BY H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

“WHAT is the date of this place?” is one of the first enquiries made by visitors to earthworks that are in process of excavation. At the end of the explorations this question is comparatively easy to answer, but although at the commencement the archæological excavator, at any rate an experienced one, has previously formed a fairly sound idea of the period of construction of the earthwork he is about to explore, he generally reserves his opinion, and informs his visitors, that the determination of the date of the earthwork is the purpose for which the excavations are being conducted, and that no definite conclusions can be formed until the relics have been carefully examined. Because a fortification is occupied during a certain period, it does not always follow that it was constructed *in* that period. We know that many hill-habitations have been occupied by successive peoples. Take, for instance, Ham Hill, in the south of Somersetshire, where Bronze Age, Late-Celtic, Romano-British and Roman relics have been found in some quantities: miscellaneous objects, too, of later dates have been discovered there more rarely, which would indicate either slight occupation of the hill after the Roman period, or, more probably, they would represent articles lost

1. Read at the Annual Meeting of the Society at Gillingham, July 19th, 1904.

by later peoples whilst temporarily using the hill or merely wandering over it.

But the subject of this paper is Small Down Camp, near Evercreech, where the writer had the pleasure of conducting some excavations for eight working days from April 20th to 28th of the present year, the exploration having been organized chiefly through the kindness and instrumentality of the Rev. W. T. Dyne, Vicar of Evercreech. A short description of Small Down Camp, from external appearances, appeared in the last volume of the Society's *Proceedings*, which account however, must now be repeated and added to considerably.

There are few references in printed books relating to Small Down. This Society visited the camp in 1878, but no remarks worthy of record appear to have been made. In A.D. 1262 the place was called "Smaledone."¹ "The hill of Smalldon" is mentioned in *Pedes Finium*, 1196-1307.² In the Court Rolls, Lambeth Palace, (No. 439,) mention is made of "Smaldoneswode," under the heading of Evercryche (Evercreech,) A.D. 1414. Sir John Fitzjames, who died in 1542, left to his wife, "jewels and oxen and all his sheep at 'Smallden,'" etc.³ "Smaldon" is marked on a map of Somerset, circa 1750.⁴ Phelps allotted a few lines in his "History" to a description of the Camp, which he spelt "Smaldon."⁵ Collinson, under the heading of Milton-Clevedon, called Small Down, "Smallcombe Hill,"⁶ but in another portion of his work he states that "Small-Down Hill is a lofty eminence two miles eastward from Evercreech Church, on the summit of which is a Roman encampment."⁷ Scarth in his paper on "Roman Somerset"⁸

1. Bennett's "MSS. of Wells Cathedral," p. 69.

2. Feet of Fines, Richard I—Edward I. *Som. Rec. Soc.*, Vol. 6, p. 172.

3. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. XXIV, pt. ii, p. 37.

4. In Taunton Museum.

5. Phelps' "History of Somerset," Vol. 2, p. 111.

6. Collinson's "History of Somerset," Vol. I, p. 222.

7. *Op. cit.*, Vol. III, p. 413.

8. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. XXIV, pt. ii, p. 1.

does not record that any Roman antiquities have been found at Small Down. "Small Down Knoll" is the name given to the Camp by the Ordnance Survey authorities. In Vol. III, p. 614, of his "History," Collinson mentions another Smalldon Hill in the county; he says "On Smalldon-hill, northward from the village of Winscombe, is a Roman Camp, the site of which is now occupied by a thick coppice-wood, called Smalldon-wood." These are the only references that have been discovered, after considerable research, which have direct reference to the Camp under consideration.

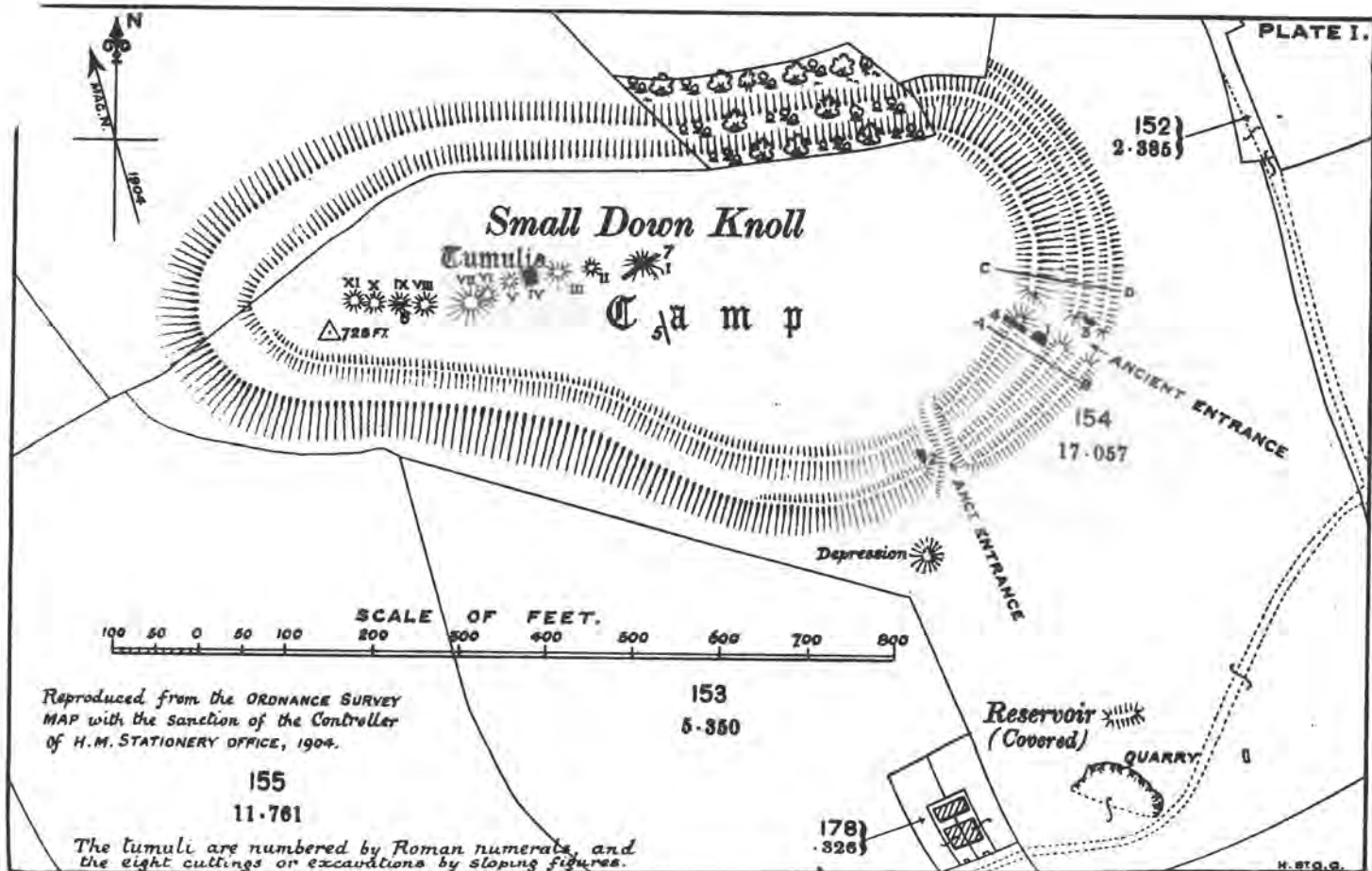
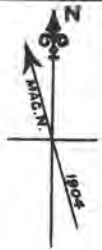
Small Down Camp, the summit of which is 728 feet above mean sea-level, is situated half-a-mile, as the crow flies, to the south-east of Chesterblade (where Roman remains and coins have been found); one mile, five furlongs to the north-east of Evercreech; one-and-three-quarter mile north-west of Batcombe; three-and-three-quarter miles N.N.W. of Bruton; and three-and-a-half miles S.E. of Shepton Mallet. Merehead Camp,¹ which is adjacent to the Roman Road from *Ad Axium* extending over the Mendip Hills to Old Sarum, is two miles five furlongs in a N.E. direction from Small Down.

Small Down Camp is in a very strong position, being surrounded on the north, west and south-west by a deep valley, the eastern side, which is the only accessible point, being connected with an outlying branch of the Mendip range. (See Photographs, Plate II.) Small Down comes under the heading of Class B of the new scheme for recording ancient defensive earthworks and fortified enclosures, viz., "Fortresses on hill-tops with artificial defences following the natural line of the hill."²

The camp (See Plan, Plate I) takes the form of an irregular elongated oval, being broader at the east than at the N.W. end, where it overlooks Chesterblade; and the inner bank encloses

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. XLIX, pt. ii, p. 177.

2. Congress of Archæological Societies in union with the Society of Antiquaries, 1903.



Small Down Knoll

Tumuli

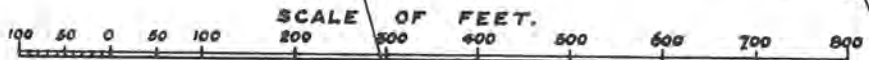
Camp

ANCIENT ENTRANCE

Depression

Reservoir (Covered)

QUARRY



Reproduced from the ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP with the sanction of the Controller of H. M. STATIONERY OFFICE, 1904.

155
11.761

153
5.350

178
3.326

The tumuli are numbered by Roman numerals, and the eight cuttings or excavations by sloping figures.

an area of five acres. The maximum exterior length of the camp is 1115 feet (or rather more than one-fifth of a mile), the interior length 885 feet, whilst the greatest external width is 500 feet. The greater part of the camp is encompassed by a vallum of considerable relief, averaging $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the natural slope of the ground in the highest parts. The whole of the eastern boundary of the camp, that is the weakest side, is defended by three valla with intervening fossæ. To give some idea of the strength of the earthworks on this side, it will be necessary to state that the summit of the inner vallum stands at an average height of $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the surface of the silting of the inner ditch, and about 21 feet higher than the surface of the silting of the outer ditch.¹ (See Sectional Diagrams on lines A.B. and C.D. Plate III.) The line of earthworks is broken along the northern side for a distance of 330 feet by a thick plantation. From this wood to the western end of the camp, what now remains of the vallum is surmounted in one part by a slight hedge, in another by a stone wall. The point at which the middle and outer ramparts die out on the N.E., as they approach steeper ground, cannot now be traced, as the wood and the hedge of the field (No. 135 of the Ordnance Survey) have interfered with, and somewhat mutilated, the earthworks in this part.

The main entrance-causeway to the camp is on the weakest side, namely the east, (see Photograph, Plate II) and, as we shall see later, it was proved by the excavations to be one of the original entrances at the time the camp was constructed. Its average width is 35 feet; it tapered however slightly towards the inner vallum. The other causeway on the S.E., averaging 30 feet in width, was also proved to be an ancient entrance. At *this* point the three eastern ramparts with intervening ditches

1. The inner vallum was higher above the silting of the inner fosse on the east and N.N.E. than in other parts. The inner vallum on the E.S.E. was probably more mutilated than in any other part of the camp; at this point the inner slope of the rampart has been trenched at some time, the débris having been thrown inwards, forming another slight bank.

cease ; on the south-west side of this causeway only two banks with a ditch between them can be traced, and having extended in a westerly direction for a distance of 90 paces, the ditch and outer rampart gradually die away and form, at any rate as regards the present surface of the ground, a terrace, bounded by the main vallum on one side and an abrupt slope on the outer side. This "terrace" extends right along the southern side, round the western end, and along the N.W. margin of the camp for some distance ;¹ a very slight depression or ditch again begins to appear on this side extending right through the wood, on the margin of which it joins the main inner ditch on the N.E. of the camp.

Every camp, and indeed every other ancient monument, presents some conspicuous feature for which it affords particular interest and for which it is noteworthy. What makes Small Down a remarkable and unusual ancient enclosure ? It is this. The site is a combination of an encampment and of a burial-ground (see Plan, Plate I.) Was the camp made before the erection of the tumuli on the summit, or *vice versa* ? This is a point the writer is at present unprepared to answer with assurance, but with certain advances in archæological field-work, it is a question that may probably be answered before many years have passed.

Judging from Sir R. C. Hoare's description of Battlesbury Camp, near Warminster, and, although his brief description is somewhat unsatisfactory,² he seems to have obtained evidence that the three tumuli connected with the rampart and ditch of the camp were constructed earlier than the lines of earthworks. The same was probably the case at Eggardun (see p. 47.)

It is, therefore, more probable that the barrows at Small Down existed before the lines of earthworks were constructed

1. It is quite possible that the abruptness of the slopes on these sides may have been increased by paring away the ground forming the external slope of the main, or inner, rampart and pushing the material downwards to form a terrace.

2. Hoare's "Ancient Wiltshire," Vol. I, p. 68.

than otherwise, although we obtained no *actual* proof that this was so. However the barrows and the ramparts and ditches of Small Down Camp all date from the Bronze Age,—a period which, in Britain, extended approximately from B.C. 1700 to B.C. 300, at which latter date (about the commencement of the Prehistoric Iron Age) the Lake Village at Glastonbury had hardly commenced to exist, or, if so, was quite in its infancy.

We found a cremated interment in one of the Small Down barrows, associated with Bronze Age shards, *not* however of the 'drinking-vessel' type—a ware which has recently been regarded, as a class, as belonging to the earlier part of the Bronze Age. Cremation was probably not practised in Britain before B.C. 1000, so that this establishes the very earliest date for the Small Down tumuli. The question therefore arises, "Do the relics and pottery found at the bottom of the silting of the ditch—in the cuttings made—afford evidence of earlier or later date than B.C. 1000?" *None* of the pottery—like that found in Barrow IV—is of the drinking-vessel type of the Bronze Age, and no object whatever found in the ditches can be assigned to an earlier date than B.C. 1000, and the probability is that the relics—which are barely enough to base hard-and-fast conclusions on—are of somewhat later date.

We will now turn our attention to the barrows situated in the centre and at the western end of the camp. Only three of these tumuli (Nos. I, III and VII of my Plan) had been marked on the 25-inch Ordnance Map (1904 edition,¹) but as a matter of fact there exists a continuous line of eleven mounds of varying elevations, some of which overlap one another. The best defined of them measure 25, 30, 50 and 60 feet respectively in diameter. With one exception, *viz.*, the smallest mound, No. IV, all had external indications of having been opened or "rifled" by digging holes into the centre.

1. The Ordnance Survey authorities have evidently only marked burial-mounds which had been *proved* to be such, and which are placed on record as having been opened.

Phelps in his "History of Somerset" (1839) informs us that they were opened by the Rev. John Skinner of Camerton, but unfortunately he has left behind him no *printed* record of his discoveries, which Phelps summarizes thus:—"In one barrow an ornamented urn was found, inverted, containing ashes only; in another, burnt bones and pieces of flint; and in the third, an urn of elegant form and superior workmanship." A drawing was made of the latter,¹ but it is insufficient to enable one to judge of the age and quality of the pottery with any degree of certainty. When this Society visited Doulting in 1865, the Vicar, the Rev. J. Fussell, exhibited an urn from Small Down. I have been unable to trace these urns, but we have been recently informed that the Skinner MSS. were left to the British Museum about fifty-five years ago—not to be opened for fifty years. It has now been found that the manuscripts consist of ninety-six vols. and two Index vols. Mr. T. S. Bush tells me that they take the form of a diary and have a considerable number of sketches attached.²

CUTTING 7.—(Plan, Plate I; Photograph, Plate II; and Sectional Diagram, Plate III.) The eleven barrows were numbered consecutively from east to west. We firstly dug a trench through Barrow I, five feet wide, in a s.w. and n.e. direction from the centre. This mound had been previously opened, as indicated by two irregular depressions in the barrow. It is sixty feet in diameter, and was erected on a natural ridge that extended in an easterly direction from here nearly as far as the main entrance to the camp. The summit of the barrow was $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the solid rock (oolithic limestone) in the centre. Nothing was found here except two flint flakes and a calcined flint on the surface, and a flint flake and tooth of sheep at a depth of 1.3 foot. In the middle of this mound and below one

1. Figured in Phelps, Vol. II, p. 117.

2. There is a volume of the Rev. J. Skinner's MSS. at the Literary Institute, Bath, at the beginning of which is written in pencil, "Nearly all the contents of this vol.—except poems—are in print in various periodicals."

of the external depressions mentioned before, at a depth of 2·1 feet, the neck and mouth of a red earthenware pitcher, of quite modern date, was found ("14" in Section, Plate III;) which from its position afforded conclusive evidence of the ground having been previously disturbed, probably by Mr. Skinner in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.¹ In the middle of the mound an extension was made in a n.w. direction, but nothing was found.

CUTTING 6.—(See Plan, Plate I.) A small cutting was made on the last day of the explorations, through Barrow IX, a mound that also showed signs of having been dug into, but as no relics were found the work was abandoned after a depth of 1·4 foot had been reached.

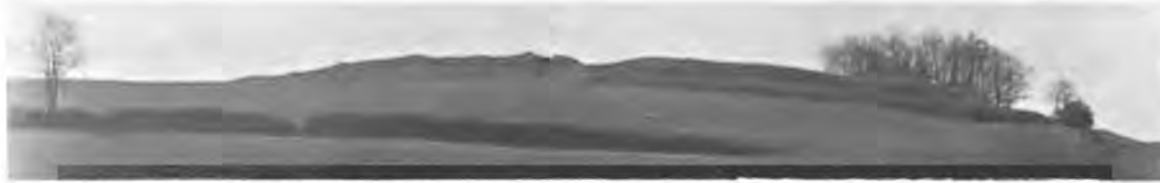
CUTTING 8.—(See Plan, Plate I; and Section, Plate III.) Barrow IV, 25 feet in diameter, probably left intact owing to its smallness, was excavated thoroughly, resulting in the discovery of a cremated interment at a depth of 2·3 feet, placed on the surface of the undisturbed sand. There was no indication of a cinerary urn having been used. The remains, which were very imperfectly incinerated, are those of a young person. Fairly large fragments of skull-bone and the patellæ were quite recognizable. Immediately on the discovery of these calcined remains, the cutting was largely extended and the turf removed from the rest of the barrow, the whole of the material forming the mound—a fine, sandy, soil,—being carefully dug over and sifted. This area (see Section, Plate III) was found to contain many flint implements, flakes and pottery. The latter consisted of fourteen fragments of rough hand-made earthenware, containing no grains of quartz or other hard substances, and for the most part of a brown colour—a ware typical of the latter half of the Bronze Age. The flint flakes, some of which were well struck, numbered eighty-one. Of

1. A young tree was planted this year on Barrow III to commemorate the 21st birthday of the owner of the land. This is probably the second barrow opened by Mr. Skinner, the third being No. VII of my plan.

burnt flakes and other flints showing indications of having been burnt, there were twenty. Of flint cores showing the manner in which the flakes were struck off, there were three. (Fig. 5, Plate III.) Five unfinished tools of flint showed some rough secondary chipping. The most important flint implements however consisted of four knives (Fig. 6, Plate III,) a scraper (Fig. 1, Plate III,) and two saws (Figs. 3 and 4, Plate III.) One of these saws (Fig. 4) is of very fine workmanship. All this flint was of course imported to Small Down, but there is nothing unusual in finding such a quantity of chippings and implements in a tumulus. In the case of the partial excavation of a large barrow at Martinstown, near Dorchester, undertaken last year by Mr. C. S. Prideaux and myself, we found no less than 1300 flint flakes, in mould covering interments of the Bronze Age.¹ It is very difficult to account for such quantities of flints and potsherds found distributed through a barrow, but they were evidently of set purpose. The flints do not only occur as mere flakes and chippings, but often as definite articles of utility. The potsherds do not as a rule consist of fragments of sepulchral pottery but in the majority of cases of portions of ordinary domestic utensils, devoid of ornament. Canon Greenwell has recorded the same occurrence in the tumuli of the Yorkshire Wolds, and he suggests that these scraps of pottery and flints may have been intentionally scattered by those engaged in throwing-up the barrows over the dead. The fragments are seldom, if ever, recognized as belonging to the same pot, whereas one would expect to find many fragments of the same vessels, possibly used and broken during the funeral obsequies. Were these remains—flints and shards—symbolical of some religious idea?

Before leaving Barrow IV we made sure that the cremated interment rested on undisturbed material by digging a hole

1. Account to be published in *Proc. Dorset Field Club*, Vol. XXVI.



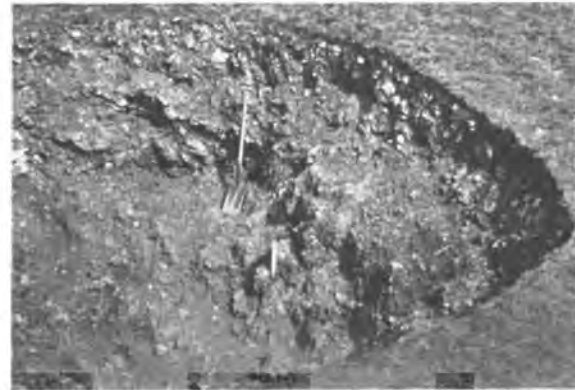
SMALL DOWN CAMP, FROM N.E., SHOWING POSITION OF CUTTINGS 1 & 3 (DITCH), AND 4 (RAMPART).



SMALL DOWN CAMP, FROM S.E., SHOWING S.E. ENTRANCE, AND BARROW 1 INSIDE CAMP.



CUTTING 1 ACROSS FOSSE, SMALL DOWN CAMP.



CUTTING 3 ACROSS FOSSE, SMALL DOWN CAMP.

From Photographs by H. St. George Gray.

3½ feet deep into what proved to be natural sand, which became lighter in colour towards the bottom.

CUTTING 5.—(See Plan, Plate I.) In order that we might make the excavations more complete in the interior of the camp, we trenched the ground in one part for a distance of thirty-five feet (width 2·3 feet.) Here we found a well-formed flint scraper, (Fig. 2, Plate III), depth 1 foot; a calcined flint; a flint flake; and a fragment of reddish-brown, soft, British pottery without grains. Nothing of Roman or post-Roman date was found in the interior of the camp.

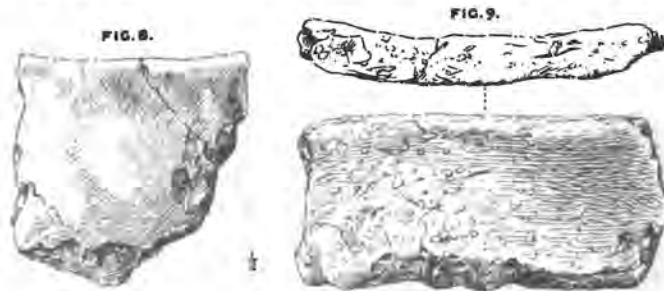
CUTTING 1.—(See Plan, Plate I; Photograph, Plate II; and Section, Plate III.) Probably the most interesting part of the investigations was the re-excavation of the inner ditch close up to the southern edge of the eastern entrance-causeway. It is somewhat surprising that the ditches on this side of the camp had not silted up to a greater extent, but one never finds a ditch in the limestone formation filled up from natural causes to the same extent as is the case in a chalk district. The surface of the silting of this inner ditch at Cutting 1 was found to be approximately 5½ feet lower than the original turf-level at this point before the earthworks were formed.

Cutting 1 (Section, Plate III) through the inner ditch, 10 feet wide, was commenced on the first day. Mould and small stones were found to extend in the middle of the silting to a depth of 2·8 feet, and from this depth to the bottom of the ditch the material became coarser, and consisted for the most part of stone which had flaked off the walls of the ditch from frost and natural causes during the process of the filling-up of the ditch. It soon proved evident that the ditch had been roughly hewn out of the oolitic limestone,¹ to a maximum depth of 7½ feet from the surface of the silting and a minimum depth of 5·6 feet. (See Photograph, Plate II.)

1. Mr. H. L. Bowman (University Museum, Oxford) has examined a sample of this rock, and finds that it contains a good deal of crystalline calcite, but it is not in any way remarkable.

The width of the ditch at top was 19 feet, at bottom 12 feet. My paper in *Archæologia*, Vol. 58, on the Arbor Low Stone Circle, Derbyshire, deals somewhat exhaustively with the formation of these roughly-hewn ditches.

The chief purpose for which Cutting 1 was made close up to the causeway, was, firstly, to ascertain whether the ditch ended here, in the endeavour to prove that the entrance-causeway was part of the original scheme in the formation of the camp; and, secondly, whether relics existed in the silting which would afford evidence of date. On both points we were successful, the somewhat squared end of the ditch having been found by extending the cutting $2\frac{1}{4}$ feet towards the north; and with regard to the relics found in the bottom we have reliable evidence that the ditch was allowed to fill up from natural causes, *during* the Bronze Age, and doubtless the earthworks were *constructed* within that period. No less than fifty-one fragments of British (Bronze Age) pottery were found at depths varying from 4.5 to 7.1 feet, some forming parts of very large, thick, vessels, none however being decorated; all was hand-made, and both the soft variety of British, (Fig. 8 of the accompanying illustration) and the coarse variety, (Fig. 9,) were



Fragments of British pottery found in the Ditch of Small Down Camp.

represented, the latter consisting of a marly clay with fragments of shell; containing also small grains of calcite and quartz,¹ the pottery effervescing strongly with acid.

1. These grains were detected under the microscope by Mr. Bowman.

No flint flakes occurred here, but a flint knife, length 38 mm., with secondary chipping, was found at a depth of 4.5 feet. (Fig. 7, Plate III, and "7" in Section.) Nearly on the bottom of the ditch, in its shallowest part, a small and very thin fragment of bronze was discovered, depth 5.3 feet, ("11" in Section, Plate III.) This was the only piece of bronze found during the excavations; but I came across a long piece of bronze, of nondescript character, sticking out of a mole-heap in the interior of the camp. Lastly, the ditch under consideration produced two fragments of rather later pottery, (not later than the Romano-British period however) but these were only at a depth of two feet from the surface of the silting and consequently above the area in which the Bronze Age relics were found here. Animal remains, including bones of ox and horse, and a small tusk of pig, were found at various depths in the silting.

CUTTING 3.—(Plan, Plate I.) On the other side of the eastern entrance, and in the outer ditch, a cutting, seven feet wide, was made close up to the causeway and on the northern side of it.¹ The squared rock-end edge was followed out to the bottom, the horizontal width of the slope in the centre of the ditch being 5 feet. The bottom was reached at a depth of 6½ feet from the surface of the silting, and the width of the ditch at top proved to be 14¼ feet. This cutting yielded two fragments of British pottery at a depth of 2¼ feet, and a small fragment rested on the bottom; five flint flakes, depth from 1.3 to 2.3 feet, some with secondary chipping; a calcined flint; a few animal remains; and portion of the right temporal bone of a young person, showing the cavity for the condyle of the mandible, the posterior part of the zygomatic arch and the superior wall of the *meatus auditorius*. This cutting, too, afforded evidence of Bronze Age date, and supported the state-

1. The position is seen in the upper photograph on Plate II where two excavators are standing. This photograph also shows the position of Cutting 1 through the Ditch, and the Cutting (No. 4) through the Rampart.

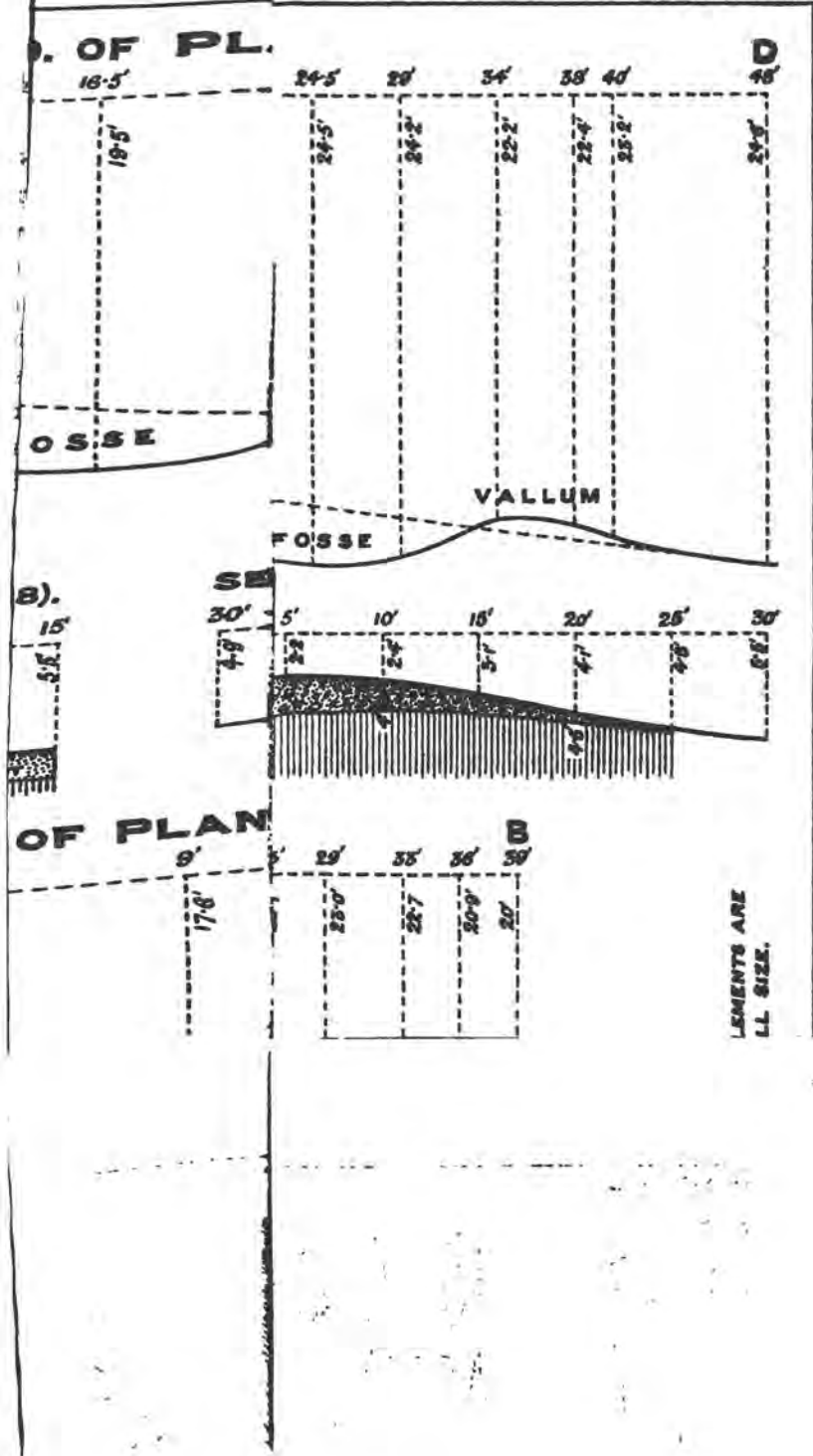
ment—already proved by Cutting 1—that the entrance to the camp on the east was an ancient entrance.

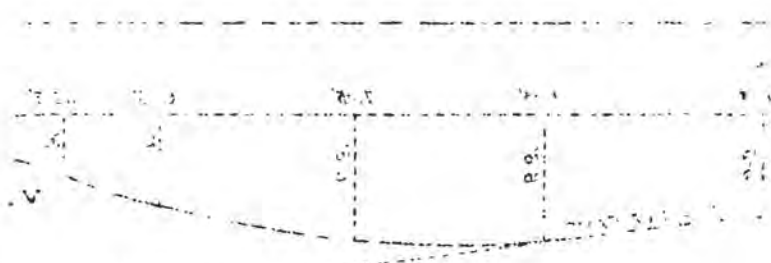
CUTTING 2, INNER DITCH.—(See Plan, Plate I; Photograph, Plate II; and Section, Plate III.) A third cutting was made through the ditch, close up to the second entrance on the south-east, and on the western side of the causeway.¹ The cutting, maximum width 12 feet, was made to ascertain whether this causeway was also an ancient one. The end of the ditch was found to be very distinctly defined, and to be rather more rounded-off than in the other cases; but the depth of the ditch was less here, the bottom being reached at depths varying from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{4}$ feet from the surface. The width of the ditch at the top was $18\frac{1}{4}$ feet. Several animal remains were discovered, and a fragment of soft British pottery at a depth of $4\frac{1}{4}$ feet. But the most interesting discovery made here was the greater portion of a human lower jaw, found at a depth of 3·2 feet, resting on a ledge of the rock-wall of the causeway, in the position indicated by a wooden peg in the photograph (Plate II) and “12” in Section (Plate III.) This jaw in itself, without any other portion of the skull, is of little value from an anthropological or racial point of view; but Dr. J. G. Garson, an expert on osteological human remains, has given me the chief measurements of the jaw, which are of course of value in comparing this with measured jaws from other sites. The following are the measurements:—

Bigonial width	...	...	93mm.
Length of horizontal ramus	...	...	82mm.
Symphysial height	...	...	29mm.
Anterior mandibular width			
		(Topinard)	68mm.
Width of ascending ramus	...	...	27mm.
Mandibular angle	...	...	125°

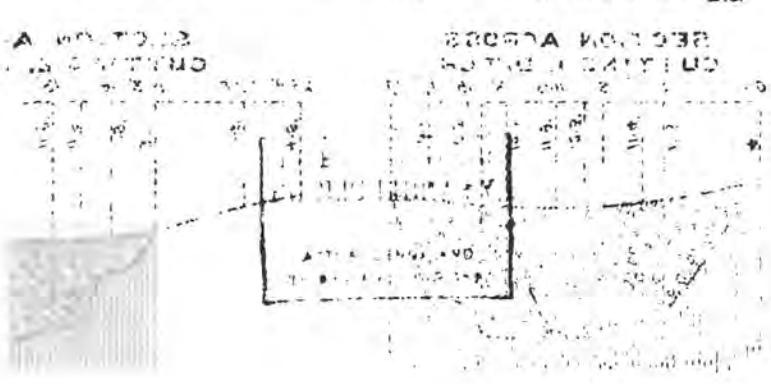
Human bone seems to have been as much disregarded as

1. The position of the cutting is faintly seen in the general view of the camp from the s.e., Plate II.





SECTION A-A
 SECTION B-B
 SECTION C-C
 SECTION D-D
 SECTION E-E
 SECTION F-F
 SECTION G-G
 SECTION H-H
 SECTION I-I
 SECTION J-J
 SECTION K-K
 SECTION L-L
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 SECTION V-V
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 SECTION X-X
 SECTION Y-Y
 SECTION Z-Z



SECTION A-A
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SMALL
 DOWN
 CAMP
 NEAR
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animal bone. In nearly every series of excavations, dating from pre-Roman times, that I have been connected with, fragments of human bones, quite apart from complete skeletons, have been found. This year at the Glastonbury Lake Village excavations we found a piece of human skull on one of the floors of a hut.¹ It is possible that these fragmentary human bones from prehistoric and even later sites represent the remains of cannibal feasts. Possibly the skulls of enemies were kept as trophies of war, as is known to be a custom with certain savage races even at the present day. Possibly the dead, and especially warriors slain in battle, were not always buried, their bones eventually becoming mingled with those of animals killed for food.

CUTTING 4.—(See Plan, Plate I; and top Photograph, Plate II.) The last cutting to mention is that made through the inner vallum close to the southern side of the eastern entrance causeway. This excavation was made in the hopes of finding some relics of a definite character on the old surface line under the bank, which would be of considerable importance, inasmuch as they would afford reliable evidence of the age of construction. Unfortunately our efforts here proved nothing and the bank yielded little beyond a few animal remains on the old surface line, including two teeth of ox, a flint sling-stone and three flint flakes (one of which had secondary chipping) found at depths varying from 5·4 feet to 6·7 feet. The cutting through the rampart was not made at the highest point, but the following was the formation of the bank in this part:—Turf and turf-mould, 0·8 foot; stone obtained in excavating the ditch, 3·7 feet; soil (very moist) and small stones obtained from the surface of the ground when the construction of the

1. Fragments of human skull and other bones were found by Dr. S. A. D'Arcy in crannogs, near Clones. *Journ., Ryl. Soc. Antiq., Ireland*, Vol. XXVII, 1897, p. 399; and Vol. XXX, 1900, p. 234. In the Romano-British villages of Woodyates and Rotherley, exhaustively excavated by General Pitt-Rivers, many fragmentary human remains were found, in addition to many complete skeletons. See "Excavations in Cranborne Chase," Vol. III, p. 219.

ditch was commenced, 2·2 feet ; total depth to old surface line, which was indistinctly marked, 6·7 feet.

The depression marked on the O. S. sheet just outside the s.s.e. side of the camp was not regarded as being of ancient origin, and it was therefore not excavated.

This completed the excavations conducted at Small Down Camp, and it is hoped that this work, and similar work at Castle Neroche last year, may be followed up by excavations into other well known Somersetshire earthworks, most of which have never been explored, or if so, not methodically. As we have seen, the date of Small Down has been brought within the limits of the Bronze Age, and there is evidence that it was occupied *circa* B.C. 1,000 to B.C. 400. More it would be unsafe to say. It is easier to give such a wide date for this Camp, than it is to realize what such a space of time, viz., 600 years, means. Mighty changes took place during one century of mediæval times, and far more rapid changes, of course, take place at the present day ; therefore we must not gauge the rapidity of changes before our present era by those of recent centuries. Still it is very tantalizing, after having explored an ancient earthwork to be unable to bring the date of earliest occupation within narrower limits. The Camp was probably never a permanent residence ; it may represent the summer residence of a tribe which moved up into the hills with its flocks during the hotter months, or it may have been used merely as a cemetery and as an occasional defensive position for man and beast, when the enemy presented a bellicose attitude. The presence of the burial-mounds in no way suggests the occupation of the camp as a constant habitation for the living, but rather the contrary.

Ancient camps do not usually include tumuli within their area ; indeed it is an uncommon occurrence. The Mam Tor fortress, near Castleton, Derbyshire, has two barrows within the line of earthworks on the south.¹ I am told that the earth-

1. *Journ., Derbyshire Arch. Soc.*, 1902, Vol. 24, p. 27.

works which encompass Danesborough Camp, on the Quantock Hills, enclose a mound in the interior of the Camp, but I have not seen it. Clay Hill, to the west of Warminster, is encircled by a rampart and ditch, and has two mounds on the summit, in one of which Sir R. C. Hoare found calcined human remains.¹ Battlesbury Camp, near Warminster, has previously been referred to (p. 36.) Scratchbury Camp, also near Warminster, but nearer Heytesbury, has seven mounds within its area, some of which Hoare proved to be sepulchral.² Bratton Camp,³ two miles east of Westbury, encloses a long barrow in which Mr. Cunnington found (a century ago) three skeletons, near the top,—possibly secondary interments of the Roman Age.⁴ White Sheet Hill Camp,⁵ one-and-a-half mile north of Mere (Wilts), encloses three mounds, which Hoare states are not sepulchral.⁶ Winkelbury,⁷ a pre-Roman Camp, occupying a northern spur of the South Wilts Downs, presents a somewhat similar instance, but the six barrows are not within the Camp proper, but occur at the southern end of the promontory and just outside the main ramparts.

Turning to Dorsetshire Camps, Chalbury Rings,⁸ between Dorchester and Weymouth, contains two barrows within its area, one of which was opened by Warne and found to be sepulchral. Within Poundbury Rings,⁹ Dorchester, there is one barrow in the centre. Within the hill-fortress of Eggardun,¹⁰ near Askerswell, there are two barrows, both of which

1. Hoare's "Ancient Wilts," Vol. I, p. 51.
2. *Op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 70.
3. *Op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 55.
4. See Wor Barrow, Handley, "Excavations in Cranborne Chase," Vol. IV.
5. This must not be confused with White Sheet Hill extending westward from Salisbury.
6. Hoare's "Ancient Wilts," Vol. I, p. 43.
7. Excavated by General Pitt-Rivers, 1881-2; and fully described in "Excavations in Cranborne Chase," Vol. II.
8. *Proc. Dorset Field Club*, Vol. XXI, p. 190.
9. *Op. cit.*, Vol. XXI, p. 190.
10. *Op. cit.*, Vol. XXII, p. 33.

bear external evidence of having been dug into (previously to 1904). Amongst other field-work conducted by Mr. C. S. Prideaux at Eggardun in July-August, 1904, he cut a section through the northern mound, but the writer, who visited the excavations, was disappointed to find that the mound produced only a fragment of soft British pottery.



Iron Dagger, said to have been found at "Small Down."

The accompanying illustration represents an iron dagger, length 15 inches, dating from the middle of the fifteenth century, which was found at "Small Down," and is in the possession of Miss Cox, of Bruton. Whether it was discovered as a surface find within the area of the Camp or on another part of Small Down farm, does not appear to be known with certainty.

[It must be stated that the explorations were carried out privately, the subscribers to the Excavation Fund being Miss Dyne, Rev. W. T. Dyne, Rev. F. W. Weaver, Major Sherston, and the Somersetshire Archaeological Society. Six labourers were employed for the work. The trustees under whom the property is managed, viz., Messrs. Edwin Allen and Bowring, readily assented to the work being carried out, and through their kind instrumentality the 'finds' have been presented to Taunton Castle Museum. Assistance was also kindly given in various ways connected with the work by Messrs. Naish (the tenant), Oswald Allen, and Edmond Hill, and by Messrs. C. E. Burnell, C. R. Wainwright and R. O. Carey, the officials of the Shepton Mallet Natural History Society. My thanks are also due to Messrs. J. Reginald H. Weaver and

C. E. Burnell, for some of the the photographs from which lantern slides were made for illustrating this paper when it was read at Gillingham.]

SHORT DESCRIPTIONS OF "FINDS" FIGURED IN PLATE III.

- Fig. 1.—Well-formed flint scraper, of a common type, with pronounced bulb of percussion. Found in Barrow IV, in the fine, sandy, soil which covered the cremated interment.
- Fig. 2.—Small, finely-chipped scraper, of brownish-black flint, with prominent bulb of percussion. Found in Cutting 5 in the interior of the Camp, depth 1 foot.
- Fig. 3.—Small flint saw made from an external flake, a portion of the crust of the flint being observable. The serrations on the 'business' edge are small and sharp. Found near Fig. 1, and at the same level.
- Fig. 4.—Flint saw made from an external flake, the crust of which covers the greater part of the surface figured. The serrations are very even, and bear evidence of considerable use. Found in Barrow IV, at the same level as Fig. 1.
- Fig. 5.—One of the flint cores found in Barrow IV.
- Fig. 6.—Flint flake, exhibiting carefully-worked dorsal ridges at the upper end. The top end bears marks of having been bruised. The left side of the flake was probably used as a knife. Found with two similar knives in Barrow IV.
- Fig. 7.—Worked flint implement, which at first sight would probably be classed as an arrowhead. Indeed it may have been intended for an arrowhead; if so it proved a 'failure' and was consequently never completed. But it was more probably meant to be utilized as a knife. However the worked edges, (right side and base), as may be seen by the side view, were never finished, and moreover the right edge bears indications of having been crushed. Found in the silting of the inner Ditch, Cutting 1, at a depth of 4.5 feet.