

## NOTES

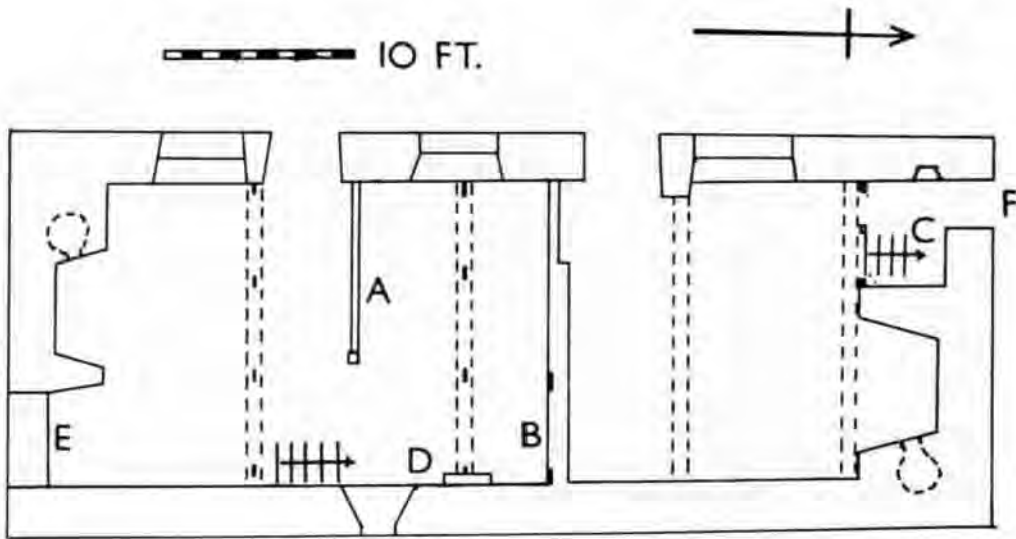
### CHURCH HOUSE AT SPAXTON

The records of the Quantoek parish of Spaxton include a notebook inscribed 'John Thomas His Book' (S.R.O., D/P/spax 23/1). John Thomas lived in the parish in the 18th century (his name appears on several pews in the church) and his notebook includes a copy of a description, originally made in 1687, of the bounds of the churchyard. The description begins with 'The wall against the Church house', and ends with 'all the wall of the north side of the Church yeard': this implies that the Church House adjoined either the north-east or north-west corner of the churchyard, and in the latter position, with its rear wall forming the western boundary of the churchyard, stands a two-storeyed building which is at present divided into a pair of cottages. The situation of this building, on a narrow strip of land between the churchyard and a lane, strengthens the assumption that this was originally Spaxton Church House; and it may also be significant that the bounds of 1687 refer to the rector's responsibility for a gate leading into the churchyard close to the Church House, for the former rectory (now Peart Hall) lies to the west of the churchyard, and successive rectors may well have used the gateway which exists today almost alongside the two cottages.

A 'cottage' is marked in the same position as the present building on the Spaxton tithe map of 1839, and there is a blocked doorway in an internal wall which separates the two dwellings into which the property is now divided. The schedule to the tithe map describes the building as belonging to the rector, and it remained Church property until 1973 (when it was known as 'Glebe Cottages'). The possibility that the building was formerly a rectory rather than a Church House is disproved, at least for the 17th century, by evidence contained in two glebe terriers dated 1638 and 1670 which survive in the form of copies (S.R.O., D/P/spax 3/1/1, 3/1/3): these describe the rectory as a 'mansion house' bounded by courts, gardens and various outbuildings. Two other houses which are referred to in the terriers appear to have been situated elsewhere in the parish, and the problem of discovering the date at which Glebe Cottages came into the possession of the Church is complicated by the fact that no previous deeds could be found when the property was bought by Mr. J. Marks in 1973.

The rubble walls of the building are plastered externally and the windows and roof are relatively recent in date, but a number of features have survived to indicate that the structure dates from at least as early as the 16th century: the walls are between 2½ and 3 feet thick, the chamfer-stops on the ceiling beams are of the 'Wern-hir' (step/run-out) type, and the joists supporting the upper floor are tenoned into the beams and are heavy (eg. 4½ ins by 6 ins), closely spaced and laid 'flat'. Church houses seem generally to date from the later medieval period, and the date 1536 carved on a bench end in Spaxton church may coincide with the removal of church 'ales' from the nave of the church into the Church House in this particular parish.

Another architectural feature of the building is the fact that the walls are 'stepped' (reduced in width) on the inner face, level with the floor of the upper storey, which suggests that the upper floor is an original feature. The building is also tall, and a partition wall, 8 ft high, on the upper floor predates the present roof-structure: the wall includes a blocked peaked-headed doorway and a post cut at an angle at the top to allow space (presumably) for an earlier rafter which seems to have had a similar alignment to the rafters of the present roof. The walls of the building therefore do not appear to have been heightened significantly when the present roof was constructed, and it would seem that a full upper storey was an early, and possibly original, feature of this building. There is at present less headroom on the ground floor (the clearance under one of the beams is 6 ft 10 ins), and it



Spaxton Church House : ground floor plan

is possible that the upper floor was used for the social gatherings which would have taken place in the Church House. Furthermore, redundant mortices on the undersides of two beams indicate the former existence of ground floor partition walls other than those existing at present (one of which, marked 'A' on the plan, is a recent replacement of an earlier partition, whilst the second, marked 'B', has been partially stripped to reveal a pair of studs, a middle and bottom rail, and vertical stakes which must have supported wattle-and-daub infill), and yet there is no sign of an early fireplace in the central area of the building. This confused pattern of partitions on the ground floor, coupled with the presence of fireplaces at the gable-end walls only, coincides with the view that the building was not designed as a dwelling, but was subsequently sub-divided for domestic (or other?) purposes. It is possible that, after the suppression of church ales in the mid-17th century, Spaxton Church House was used as a poor-house or a school (and it is claimed locally that the building was used as a school at one time), but the parochial records which might provide evidence of this no longer survive.

In addition to the two fireplaces on the ground floor there is a fireplace on the upper floor against the northern gable-end wall. All three fireplaces have unmoulded jambs, and in two cases there is a wooden lintel with a simple chamfer along the lower edge: such features seem to offer no useful dating criteria. The lintel of the fireplace on the ground floor at the northern end of the building is missing. The stairs (marked 'C') which are situated next to this fireplace may occupy the position of an original stairway to the upper floor, but the flight of stairs in the southern cottage is a recent replacement of an earlier winding stair (which was located at the point marked 'D').

The position of the original entrance to Spaxton Church House is not clear. It may have coincided with one of the present doorways in the west wall of the building, but a wooden lintel was discovered recently when a cupboard was removed and a window (marked 'E') inserted alongside the fireplace in the southern gable-end wall, and it is possible that the building was entered through a gable-end doorway. The latter, moreover, would have been conveniently situated close to a 'hatch' which, according to the description of the churchyard bounds in 1687, stood between the Church House and the rector's gate and was the responsibility of the *parish* rather than a particular individual. The narrow opening (marked 'F') at the north-west corner of the building may merely have been cut to provide access

to a single-storeyed extension: this extension and a number of external buttresses have been omitted from the plan.

*Footnote.* The Rev. M.J. Odlum, in his recent *History of the Church and Village of Spaxton*, asserts that Spaxton Church House 'has not existed within living memory, but the foundations are still to be seen' (p. 50), and that it 'was located opposite the south porch of the church, on the other side of the lane' (p. 155). Having committed himself to this point of view, Mr. Odlum is forced to conclude (p. 279) that 'apparently no mention is made at all of the West end of the churchyard' in the bounds of 1687, and that the cottages at the west end 'were not mentioned in this list of bounds, it being considered unnecessary'. The only positive evidence which Mr. Odlum offers to justify this interpretation of the churchyard bounds is his claim that the glebe terrier of 1638 'tells us that the Church House was "straight over against the south church porch"'. In fact, the 1638 terrier makes no explicit reference to the Church House at all: it merely refers to a 'dwelling howse' in a close called Beane croft. The latter building was indeed situated opposite the south porch of the church, but Mr. Odlum seems merely to have *assumed* that it was 'undoubtedly at one time the Church House' (p. 171). In recent correspondence with the writer, however, Mr. Odlum has agreed that this assumption is incorrect.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Marks and Mr. and Mrs. Deacon, the present owners of the two cottages, for their generous cooperation, and Mr. M. Laithwaite for his comments on the text.

MARK B. McDERMOTT

## ROLLED GRAVER TECHNIQUE ON A WEAVING-COMB

The 'rolled graver' technique was one of the devices most widely used in the decoration of Iron Age bronze-work. Incised sharp-jointed curvilinear zig-zag or tremolo lines have been demonstrated as the product of a tool with a rounded, narrow cutting-edge at its tip, created by grinding at an angle across a rod of round or oval cross-section. This steel or bronze tool is termed a round-nosed graver by Lowery, Savage and Wilkins in their clarification of the terminology of small bronze-working tools.<sup>1</sup>

On the Continent this technique was in use at an early date: it was for instance being employed on Scandinavian razors of the Late Bronze Age.<sup>2</sup> In Britain it was in use from the mid-fifth century BC where it is to be found on La Tène I dagger scabbards from the inception of the native series of these weapons in the Lower Thames Valley.<sup>3</sup> The technique reached its floruit during the second and first centuries BC from which numerous examples could be cited: for example, a sword scabbard of probably second century BC date from the River Bann at Coleraine, Co. Derry,<sup>4</sup> an early first century BC bronze shield mount from Tal-y-Llyn, Merioneth,<sup>5</sup> and the probably early first century AD mirror from Old Warden, Beds.<sup>6</sup> In bronze-working this device has a long history, however its identification on a weaving-comb of antler from the west village at Meare, Somerset, illustrates a further application of this decorative technique hitherto unrecorded from the British Iron Age.

The weaving-comb, HH 82 WV, was found in Mound XXXVIII during Bulleid and Gray's excavations of the west village at the Iron Age settlement of Meare. It carries seven rolled graver lines which form a basically triangular motif wedged between a curved relief band (Fig. 1). Slight surface weathering of the comb has obscured the details of most of the lines; however, measurement of an unaffected portion shows that the track was approximately 1.3 mm in width, whilst a 1 mm length of the track involved two rocking motions of the tool, one each way. In the original publication of this piece these lines are described as 'rouletted',<sup>7</sup> but in fact the curvilinear, zig-zag track is characteristic of that produced by a round-nosed graver.<sup>8</sup> Alternatively such a line may have been produced by employing the rounded tip of a flat blade; however, the symmetry of the track would have required that the tip was carefully ground to shape with such a purpose in mind. The blade would have been pressed into the surface of the comb and brought forward by pivoting on its edges in the same manner as a graving tool.

The technique employed in the decoration of this comb makes this item apparently unique among the objects of worked bone and antler of the insular Iron Age: an examination of the extensive collections of bone and antler-work from the Iron Age settlements of Meare and Glastonbury produces no comparable piece.<sup>9</sup> Its use on some third and fourth century AD round-butted composite combs of antler from the Frisian 'terpen' seems to be the closest parallel both geographically and chronologically.<sup>10</sup>

On a smooth bronze surface the use of a graver is particularly effective, for the incised areas are highlighted by the resultant differences in light reflection: on metal the tool-marks would in addition be long-lived owing to the slow rate of wear to the surface. In contrast, despite the relatively good state of preservation of this comb, the elements of decoration applied with a graver are over most of the surface rather obscured by wear or later weathering, whilst the visual impact of such tool-marks on antler can have been considerably less effective. It would therefore seem that such delicate working is generally inappropriate for this medium, contrasting strongly as it does with the more usual weaving-comb decoration which relies so often on a series of straight knife or saw-cut lines frequently complemented by dot-and-circle incisions. Whilst the quality of this comb would by no means suggest that it was an experimental piece of work, it would seem that the use of the graver here was the individual touch of one particular craftsman, a technique which he had adopted from the repertoire of the contemporary metal-worker. The round-nosed graver is

not widely used on bronze objects from Meare: it appears, from the published drawing, that only one object, E 113 WV, a small piece of sheet bronze, may have been embellished by this technique.<sup>11</sup> It is likely that peripatetic metal craftsmen, for whom evidence has been found at Gussage All Saints, Dorset,<sup>12</sup> would have been instrumental in the dispersal of metal-working techniques. With so many of their decorated wares being prestige items, it is not surprising to find that at least one craftsman, fashioning a weaving-comb, was, if not actually seeking to emulate such bronze-work, at least sufficiently inspired by it to diverge from the highly standardized range of decorative devices more usually employed on Iron Age bone and antler-work.<sup>13</sup>

## REFERENCES

1. P. Lowery, R. Savage, R. Wilkins, 'Scriber, Graver, Scorper, Tracer', *P.P.S.* (1971), 172.
2. K. Kersten, P. La Baume, *Vorgeschichte der Nordfriesischen Inseln*. (1958), pl. 85, 18.
3. E. M. Jope, 'Daggers of the Early Iron Age in Britain', *P.P.S.* (1961), 328.
4. J. V. S. Megaw, *Art of the European Iron Age* (1970), pl. 249.
5. *Ibid.*, pl. 262.
6. C. Fox, *Pattern and Purpose* (1958), pl. 60b.
7. A. Bulleid, H. St. G. Gray, *The Meare Lake Village*, vol. 1, (1948), 81.
8. This track is just discernible in the published photograph. *Ibid.*, pl. XXI.
9. I am grateful to Mr. P. A. Langmaid of the Somerset County Museum, Taunton, for facilities provided by him for the study of this material.
10. A. Roes, *Bone and Antler Objects from the Frisian Terp-Mounds* (1963), 8, pl. III 3, 4.
11. A. Bulleid, H. St. G. Gray, *The Meare Lake Village*, vol. 2. (1956), 124.
12. W. Wainwright, M. Spratling, 'The Iron Age Settlement of Gussage All Saints', *Antiquity* (1973), 124.
13. I am grateful to Mr. Michael Avery of the Department of Archaeology, Queen's University, Belfast, for his comments on the draft of this note.

STEPHEN H. PENNEY

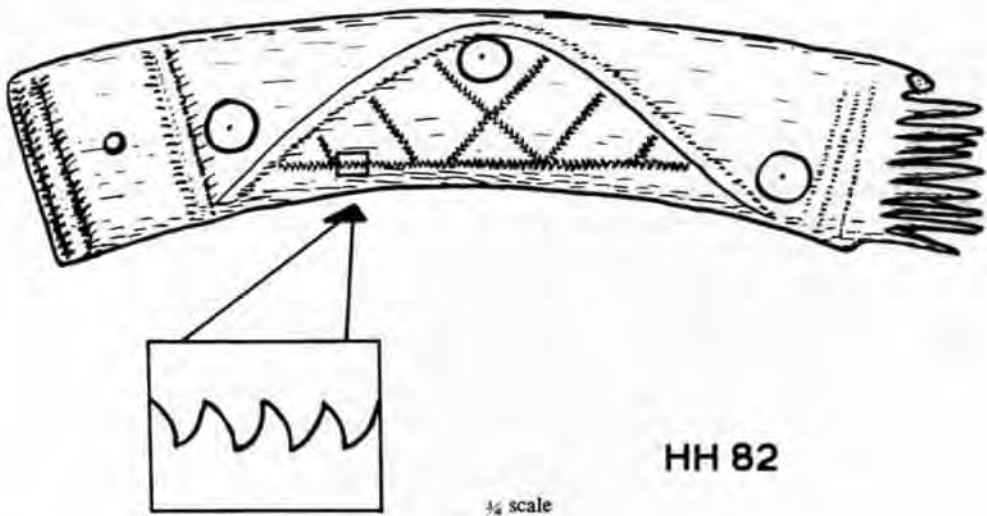


Fig. 1 Rolled graver technique on a weaving-comb

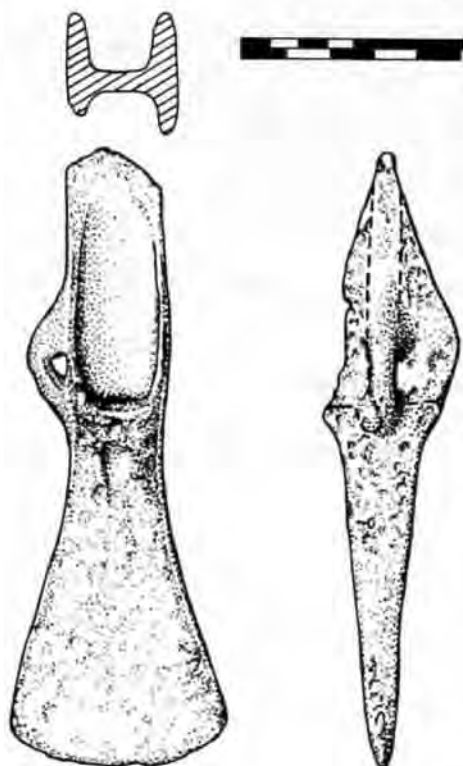
## A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE PALSTAVE FROM RADSTOCK, SOMERSET

In November 1973 a bronze palstave was offered for sale in a Yorkshire dealer's list with the description 'Middle Bronze Age palstave from Radstock, Somerset, 1902'.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately Mr. Clough, whose lists in recent years have contained many important British antiquities, was unable to throw any further light on the history of the palstave. He had obtained it from a collector in Morayshire and all the information about the provenance was contained on a ticket attached to it.<sup>2</sup>

There is no contemporary reference to the discovery in *Proceedings* even though the Society met locally at Shepton Mallet and Wells soon afterwards. A number of other palstaves found in the Radstock area are recorded by Dobson, and one, now in the Weston-super-Mare museum, is of closely comparable form and size.<sup>3</sup>

The County Museum and the Museums at Bath and Bristol were at the time unwilling to purchase the palstave, and it was bought by the writer.<sup>4</sup> The following note has been contributed by Dr. Helen Bamford of the Department of Archaeology, Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery:

'The Radstock palstave has a single loop set high on one side, just above the stop ridges. The hafting slot is relatively narrow and almost straight sided, the flanges being well developed. The blade is slender just below the stop ridges, giving the implement a slightly waisted appearance, and splays out to a curved, blunt cutting edge of moderate width. On either face of the blade, below the stop ridge is a V-shaped moulding. The butt and the flanges



Middle Bronze Age palstave from Radstock

on one face are slightly damaged, possibly as a result of flaws in the casting, and there is a deep, round hole in the hafting slot on one face, undercutting the stop ridge. The whole surface of the palstave is pitted by corrosion, and has a dark greenish patina. The dimensions are length 143 mm, width of the butt 22 mm, width of the blade 50 mm, width of flanges 29 mm. The implement is, in most of its features, typical of Middle Bronze Age palstaves found throughout Southern Britain. However, the height of the flanges, which, if complete, would have an almost lozenge-shaped profile, indicates that this specimen belongs to the South Western Group defined by M. A. Smith.<sup>5</sup> These have a distribution confined very largely to South Western England and occur in particular in hoards of a distinctive series centred on Somerset, including, for example, those found at Taunton Workhouse, Sherford and Edington Burtle.<sup>6</sup> The association in these hoards of South Western palstaves with ornament and tool types of close North German and Scandinavian affinities suggests a fairly late Middle Bronze Age date, around 1,200-1,000 BC.<sup>7</sup>

## REFERENCES

1. R. T. Clough, Stoneleigh, Keighley, Yorkshire. November 1973 list. Part 1, item no. 4.
2. Personal letter to the writer 4.1.1974.
3. D. P. Dobson, *The Archaeology of Somerset* (London, 1931), 249-50. I am grateful to Miss Gillian Huxley of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, British Museum, for checking the bronze implement index.
4. The palstave has now been acquired by the County Museum (December 1974).
5. M. A. Smith, 'Some Somerset Hoards and their place in the Bronze Ages in Southern Britain', *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.* XXX (1959), 167-8.
6. *Inventaria Archaeologica*, 7th set (1959), GB 43, 44, 45.

ANTHONY GUNSTONE  
Director, Lincolnshire Museums, Lincoln

## A LOWER PALAEOOLITHIC HAND-AXE FROM FIDDINGTON

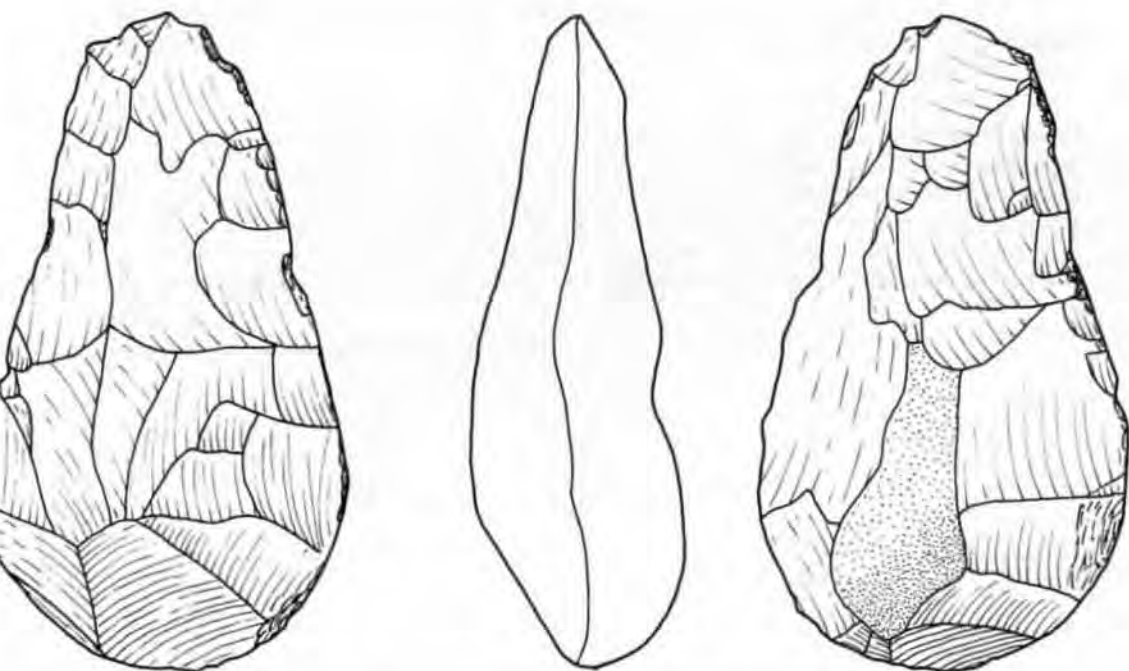
An Acheulean hand-axe was found in July, 1975 in a freshly ploughed field just to the north of the village of Fiddington (ST 24124095) at 100 ft. O.D. Measuring 13.6 cms in length, 7.8 cms in width and 3.9 cms in thickness, the axe is made of Blackdown chert and is pyriform in outline. Both faces have quite widespread patina and on one there is an area of cortex.

This discovery is particularly interesting for two reasons. Firstly, it shows no signs of having been rolled, the original flake scars still being very well defined. Secondly, its provenance is away from the main distribution of Lower Palaeolithic material in Somerset which basically follows a line from Watchet to Chard. The nearest major concentration is 8 miles away on the coast at Doniford (A.L. & W.J. Wedlake, *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 107, 93).

The finder, Mr. Richard Holt of Whitnell, near Fiddington, is in due course going to present the axe to the Admiral Blake Museum, Bridgwater.

STEPHEN MINNITT

Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, Somerset County Museum



An Acheulean hand axe from Fiddington



## A STONE AXE FROM TAUNTON

On 30 June, 1974 a stone axe (Fig. 1) was found by the writer at ST 22752496 in the centre of Taunton. It was lying in the spoil from a trench dug on the south side of, and parallel to, the River Tone. This trench, about 2 metres deep, was part of the sewage works being undertaken at the time and in section was composed of alluvial silts and gravels of the river valley.

The axe is broken, only the butt end being present. It was evidently broken in antiquity judging from the rounded edges but a search was made in the immediate vicinity in case there were more fragments or other implements. The fragment remaining is dark green-black in colour, 9 cm long, 6 cm wide at its widest, and 4.5 cm thick. Although originally polished, smooth areas surviving in places, the axe has evidently been rolled and pitted especially along the grain of the rock and it now appears rough with many holes.

It has been examined by R. T. Davis of the Implement Petrology Survey of the South West (in association with the South Western Group of Museums and Art Galleries and the Council for British Archaeology) and given the serial number SO 129 (1642).

Report (a) Macroscopic - Dark green; coarse grain; shows schistose structure; differential weathering of surfaces.

(b) Microscopic - Extremely sheared. Much shattered 'knots' of quartz with fine ground mass of feldspar. Large amount of intergranular iron. Small patches of augite and some mica flakes.

The comment of the Survey is that it is an iron rich, sheared diabase - but not Axe Group XVII because it lacks fibrous amphiboles. Its suggested locality of origin is Cornwall. This is only the second recorded polished axe to be found in Taunton. The other was found in 1929 at ST 22092599 on the north side of Greenway Road in a field being converted into nursery gardens. It was found by H. Allen of St. Andrew's Elementary School, Taunton, and given to the County Museum, Taunton (ACC. No. A.2185). The second axe will also be deposited in the County Museum. I am grateful to Alan Male for the drawing.

M. ASTON

Field Archaeologist, County Planning Department

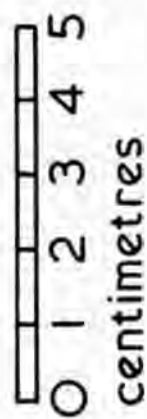
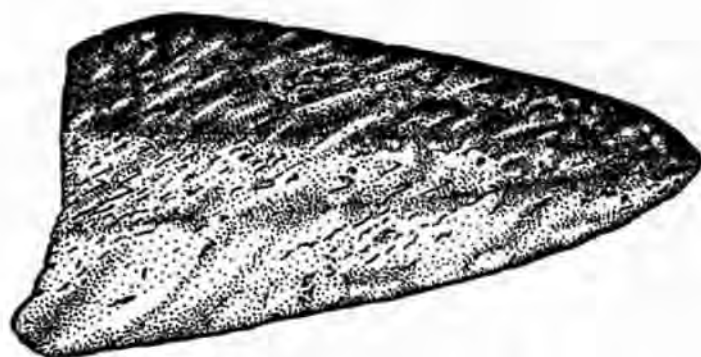
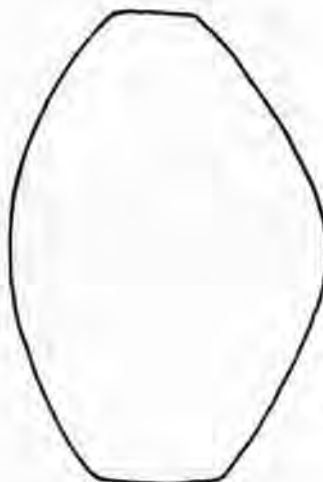
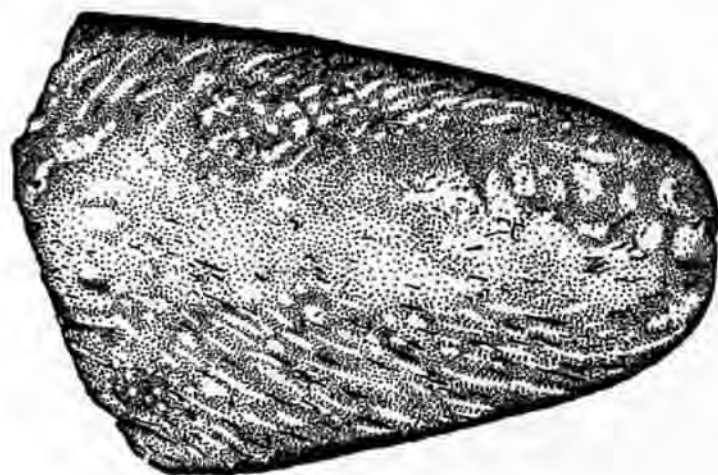
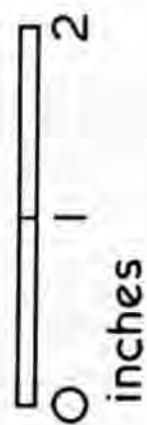
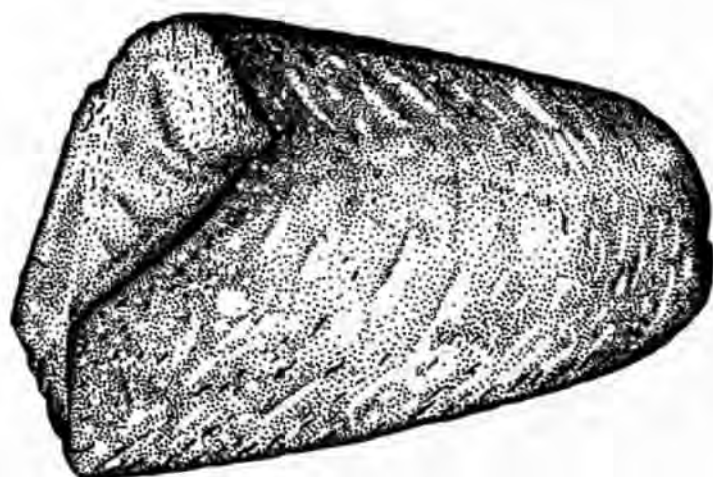


Fig. 1 Stone axe from Taunton

## AN IRON AGE AND ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT AT PODIMORE, SOMERSET

### PREVIOUS HISTORY

An Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Podimore was first recorded in 1911; a note accompanying a box of pottery in Sherborne Museum, Dorset (accession no. 153/69) reads: 'Sundry Roman pottery found at Podimore (September, 1911) in the N.E. corner of the arable field no. 133 on the estate map. Several trenches were cut, but practically no foundations were met with. There are further signs of early occupation in the S.E. corner and the tenant states that the black soil extends for 4-5 acres into the N. end of no. 66 belonging to Mr. Harding.' This pottery is described further below, the approximate find-spot being marked on the map (Fig. 1) which also shows the field numbers referred to.

Cropmarks c. 600 m. to the west of the above, probably of an Iron Age enclosure, were noticed from the air in 1949, and were described in a short note by H. S. L. Dewar: 'Early in the summer of 1949, H. J. Penrose, O.B.E., Chief Test Pilot of Westland Aircraft Limited, drew the writer's attention to a peculiar cropmarking in a field at Podimore . . . as at Little Woodbury, the site has "antenna" ditches joining the enclosure ditch. In addition the Podimore cropmarks show a series of drainage or other ditches, and two may be seen to connect with the enclosure ditch surrounding the settlement . . . Some 500 yds to the east of the cropmarkings, the writer's copy of the above six inch sheet [supplied by the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division] bears the mark "causeway", and a note on "Roman remains, quern, foundations, but no pavement" signed "E.A.R."' (Dewar 1952).

Cropmarks on vertical air photographs (Somerset Roads 656092 Job no. 186) taken in May, 1970 for the South Western Road Construction Unit, which I examined in advance of the A303 Ilchester Bypass Scheme, suggest that the sites noted in 1911 and 1949 were part of the same complex. In 1973 a small excavation and watching brief by C. F. Clements for the Department of the Environment in advance of the construction of a pumping station in the north-east corner of field 126 produced no conclusive results. (I am indebted to Mr. Clements for permission to refer to his work in advance of its publication.)

### THE CROPMARKS

An interpretation (Fig. 1) of the 1970 photograph (Plate 1) was obtained by photographing the relevant small part of the original print. Using Agfa Dia-direct film a transparency was obtained which was then used to project an image of the cropmark area at 1:1,000 onto an enlargement at the same scale of the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 plan. There was little discrepancy between the enlarged photograph and plan: the cropmarks are probably within 2 m. of their actual positions, and their widths can be measured to within 1 m.

The site is situated on gravel. Extending north-west to south-east for at least 720 m. a trackway c. 25 m. wide is defined by a ditch 1-2 m. wide on the north and 2-4 m. wide on the south. In field 126 it is impossible to determine from the air photograph the dating of the trackway relative to other linear features and the 'banjo' shaped enclosure across its line photographed in 1949. In field 133 a smaller track c. 8 m. wide branches off to the north and then again to the east defining the western edge of two enclosures, the northernmost one in the area where pottery was found in 1911. Other features including linear markings, a pennanular ditch and a rectangular half enclosure 42 m. in width cannot certainly be related to the trackways.

In fields 102 and 131 medieval ridge and furrow (Plate 1) reflected in present day field boundaries apparently seals and follows the same curving alignment as the earlier wide trackway: field boundaries to the east and west also follow both the medieval ridge and furrow and the trackways showing as cropmarks. The date at which ridge and furrow

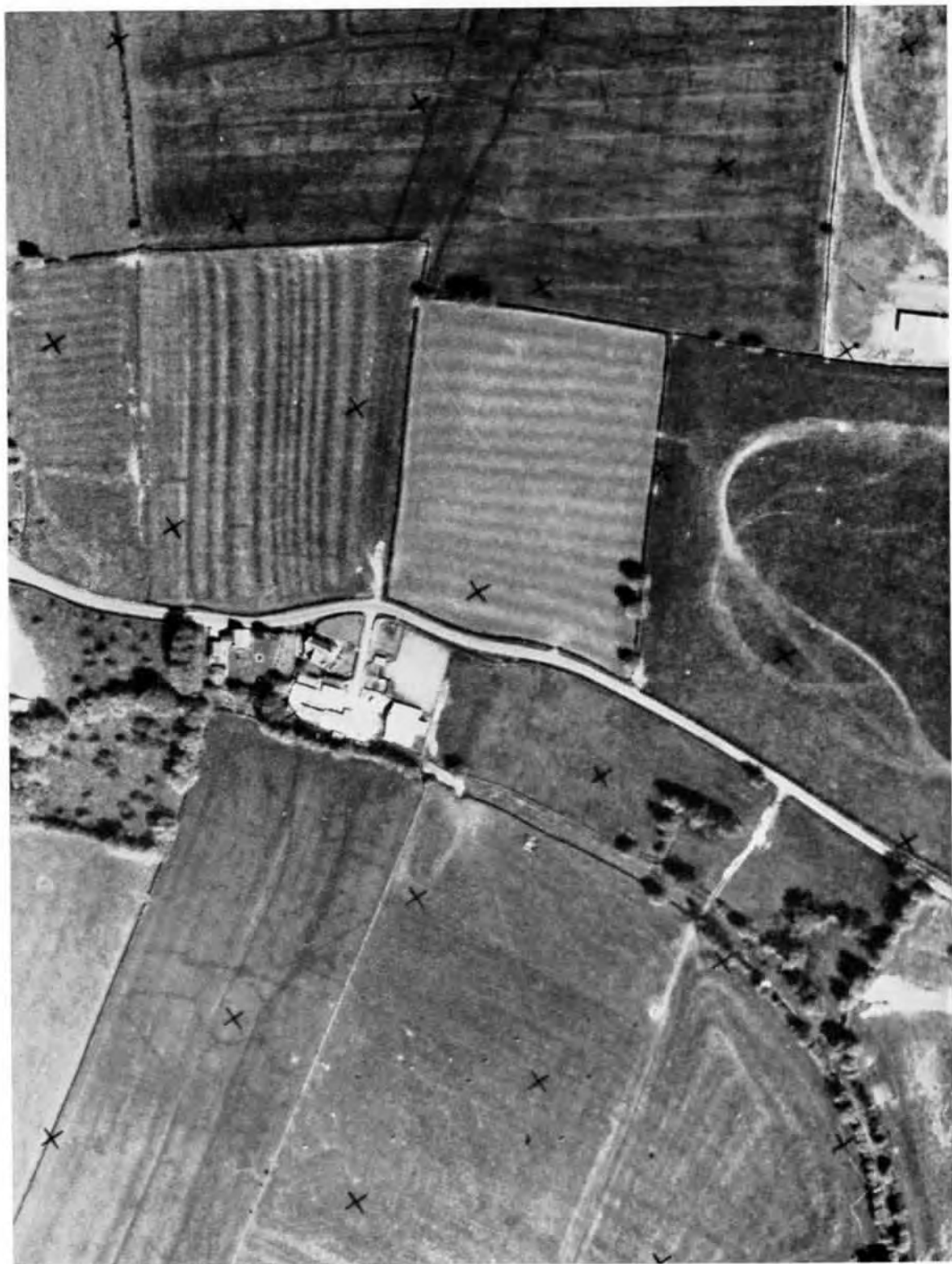
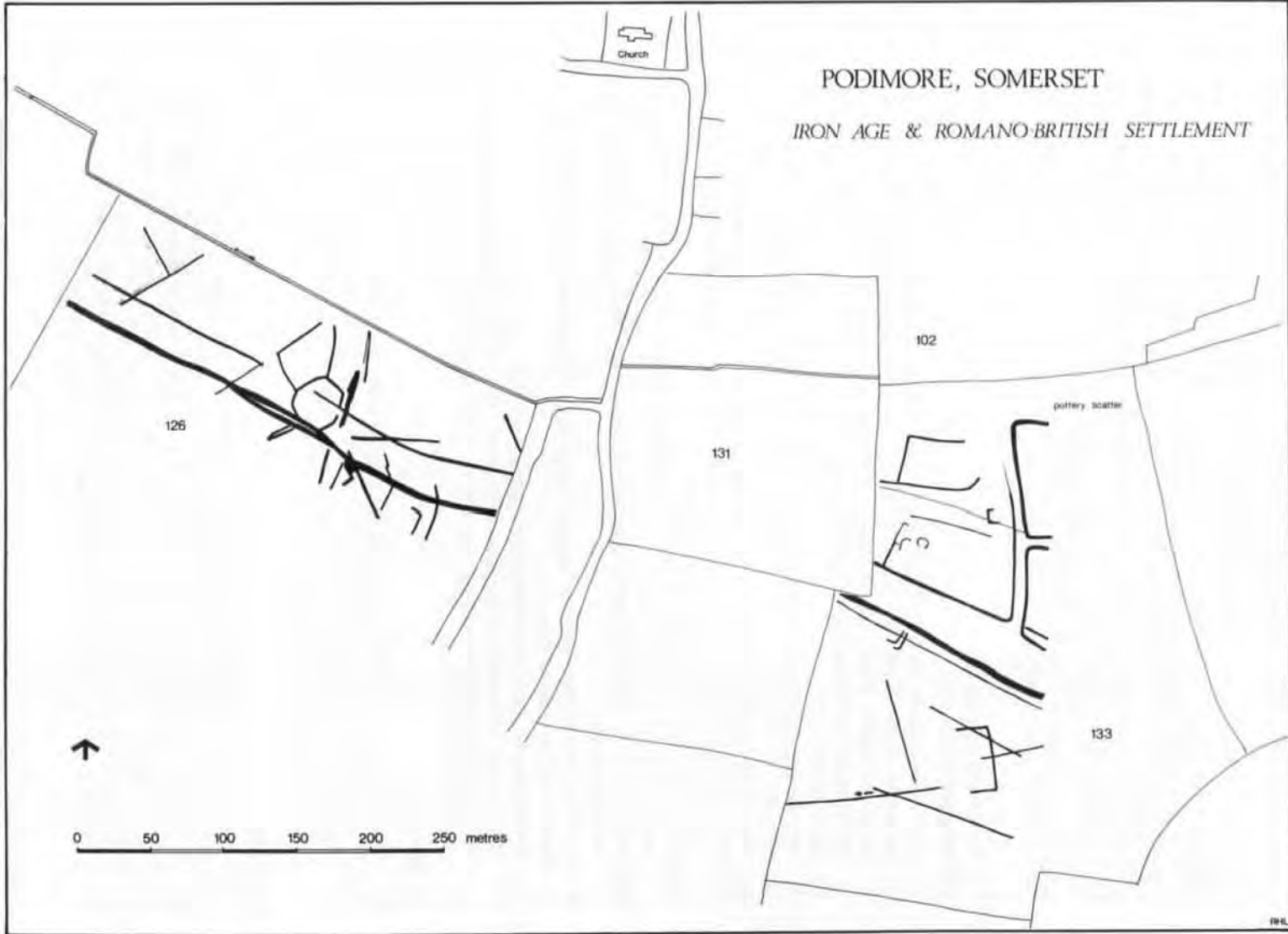


Plate I. Podimore, Somerset.

PODIMORE, SOMERSET

IRON AGE & ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT



appeared is by no means certain (Taylor, 1974, 13), and the trackways, although earlier than the ridge and furrow, could still be part of a post-Roman landscape. Nevertheless, they are more likely to be Romano-British; the three separate enclosures showing as cropmarks in field 133 are very similar to paddocks or closes now known to surround a number of Romano-British villas and settlements, as for instance in the Nene valley (Taylor, 1975) and Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire (Todd, 1973, 91-3). The 'banjo' shaped enclosure is paralleled by examples of Iron Age date in Hampshire and Wiltshire (Perry, 1966), while the half rectangular enclosure and other linear features are of uncertain date, but likely to be earlier than the ridge and furrow. The presence of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement is suggested also by the pottery, though this cannot certainly be related to the cropmarks without excavation.

#### THE POTTERY FOUND IN 1911

*Illustrated pieces (Fig. 2)*

1. Flat rimmed bowl; medium hard, soapy, large crushed shell inclusions, buff to black; probably of the middle pre-Roman Iron Age, see South Cadbury (Alcock, 1972, 132).
- 2-7. Bead rim bowls; black burnished ware category 1 (Farrar, 1973, 75-6); probably of the ultimate pre-Roman Iron Age, first century AD (Alcock, 1972, 164).
8. Bowl; as 2/7.
9. Everted rim jar; fabric as 2-7; second to fourth centuries AD (Gillam, 1970, types 118-48).
10. Flat rim bowl; fabric as 2-7; second century AD (Gillam, 1970, types 217-25).
11. Flanged rim bowl; fabric as 2-7; late third and fourth centuries AD (Gillam, 1970, type 228); four similar vessels not illustrated.
- 12-13. Plain rim bowls with lattice decoration; fabric as 2-7; second to fourth centuries AD (Gillam, 1970, types 316, 318).
- 14-17. Plain rim bowls, not decorated; fabric as 2-7; second to fourth centuries AD (Gillam, 1970, type 330).
18. Jar with incised wavy line decoration; grey, hard smooth burnished exterior, micaceous with fine quartz grains.
19. Everted rim jar; grey, hard burnished exterior, very fine, micaceous.
20. Bowl; orange red, soft smooth, fine, micaceous with darker ovoid inclusions; third or fourth centuries AD from kilns in the Oxford area (Young, 1973).
21. Flanged bowl; as 20.

*Not illustrated*

22. One sherd of Corfe Mullen ware; probably first century AD (Calkin, 1935).
23. Fourteen sherds of plain Samian vessels, all probably second century AD.
24. Sherd from three vessels of New Forest origin, Swan's group III (Swan, 1973, 120); late third to fourth century AD.

#### CONCLUSION

Cropmarks and examination of the pottery found in 1911 suggest the existence of a settlement occupied from the middle pre-Roman Iron Age to the fourth century AD. Present day hedges and medieval ridge and furrow, sealing and following trackway alignments probably of Romano-British or Iron Age date, hint at continuity in the landscape over a long period. The construction of the Ilchester Bypass in 1975-6 may provide an opportunity to examine the possible westward continuation of the wide trackway at ST 536252; further air photography could also provide more information.

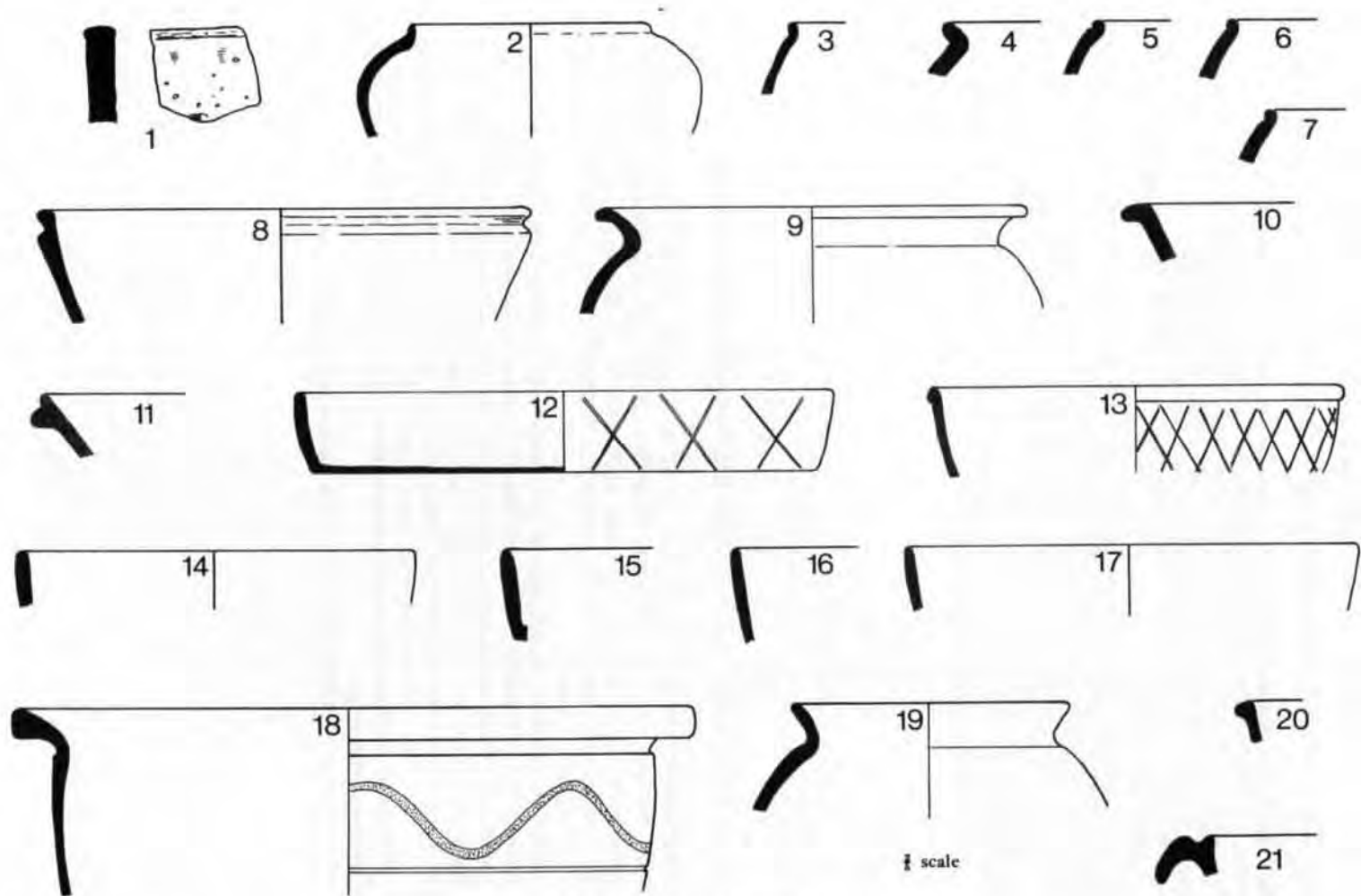


Fig. 2 Podimore, Somerset

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R. H. LEECH

## THE IRON AGE DITCHED ENCLOSURE AT PODIMORE

The discovery of this site from the air by H. J. Penrose, O.B.E., Chief Test Pilot of Westland Aircraft Ltd., was reported in these *Proceedings* by H. S. L. Dewar in 1952. The proposed construction of a village sewage plant close to the site in the winter of 1973 called for some action and the writer undertook a watching brief on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments.

With the assistance of members of the South East Somerset Archaeological Society and the Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society, excavations were carried out on the sites of two sewage developments, the first near the Iron Age ditched enclosure and the second in the centre of Podimore village. The first excavation, combined with field work, produced some new data on a probable Romano-British driveway and related field system and established that the main sewage plant would not destroy any visible evidence of early settlement. The second excavation recorded details of 14-16th century AD occupation in the centre of the village.

A copy of the full excavation report is in the Society's library.

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