

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGY 1977

EDITED BY M. A. ASTON AND B. J. MURLESS

The economic 'ill wind' which indirectly influenced archaeological activities in 1976 continued to blow in 1977. Nevertheless, discoveries by local fieldworkers continued unabated and the larger excavations undertaken by the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset and the Taunton Deane Research and Excavation Committee at Taunton benefitted from labour supplied through the Manpower Services Commission in Job Creation Programmes.

The proposals for a scheme of watching briefs were received in some quarters with misunderstanding and, sadly, mistrust. However, results obtained by the Ilchester District Archaeological Society, a small group broadly following the guidelines, show what can be achieved through a more systematic approach. The appointment of a member of the C.R.A.A.G.S. staff to liaise with the statutory bodies and others has been an archaeologically profitable step although agricultural activities in general have yet to be adequately monitored. On this latter aspect Dr. Ann Ellison (C.R.A.A.G.S.) has prepared a report which discusses the implications of proposed changes on Exmoor; she has also examined the effects of hard-stone quarrying in an area that includes Somerset and South Avon.

The Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society has published its first parish survey, of Wambrook, which reflects the diligence of its authors: Roger Carter, Mary Parmiter and Peter J. Wood. The same team also produced the year's least suspected find in the discovery of an Iron Age hillfort.

A multi-disciplinary approach has also been successfully adopted by the Society through experimental exercises in hedgerow dating and a project on the island of Steep Holm. Collaboration of this kind will, it is hoped, lead to further fruitful studies in landscape archaeology. Another benefit from the work on Steep Holm is the realization of the value of post-medieval archaeology, particularly where it relates to a landscape affected by industry and defensive considerations.

The publication of the consultative report of the County Structure Plan during 1977, with its inclusion of archaeology and architectural heritage sections, had a rewarding side effect. This was the establishment, by the Somerset County Council, of an Archaeology Panel of councillors and officials to meet and debate archaeological matters.

With a proliferation of activities by individuals and groups in archaeology on a part-time basis, the need has arisen for an extension of the consultative machinery relating to the identification of artefacts. In Somerset the County Museum has traditionally played a major role in this procedure but with increasing specialization the fieldworker requires the services of a wider range of advisers. One possible solution is the creation of 'surgeries' held at regular intervals during the year, and seminars where the significance of recent finds can be discussed. Such gatherings would have a mutual reward for the local worker and the specialist.

Despite the slackening in pace and number of development schemes in recent years there remains a wide range of threats to Somerset's archaeological heritage and for a large number of earthwork sites in the county the only certain way of retaining them is to obtain their ownership by gift or purchase. Accordingly, a feasibility study is being carried out by the S.A.N.H.S. into the possibility of the Society establishing or becoming an Archaeological Trust. A representative sample of the county's best remaining sites could then be acquired as a reserve for future generations.

Suggestions for improvements to layout and format of this section are always welcome, as is information about other people carrying out work in the county whose names have not appeared so far in 'Somerset Archaeology'. We are always anxious to learn of people carrying out archaeological research in the county; please do not assume that we know of everything that is going on.

Abbreviations

- C.R.A.A.G.S. — Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset.
 D.O.E. — Department of Environment.
 F.R.A.G. — Frome Rescue Archaeology Group.
 I.D.A.S. — Ilchester District Archaeological Society.
 S.I.A.S. — Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society.
 S.R.O. — Somerset Record Office
 T.D.R.E.C. — Taunton Deane Research and Excavation Committee

PREHISTORIC

Churchfields, Ansford ST 640328

Members of the South East Somerset Archaeological Society were able to recover a number of Neolithic and Early Bronze-Age worked flints from this site being developed for housing. Although excavation was not possible, in addition to a considerable quantity of Romano-British pottery, a number of flint tools and twenty-one unutilized chips and flakes were found in a ditch exposed by the developer's mechanical excavator (Fig. 1):—(1) Point of a Neolithic knife or sickle. (2) Hammer stone. (3) Utilized flake. (4) Scraper or knife with small retouched area. (5) and (6) Late Neolithic/ Early Bronze-Age scrapers. (7) Worn scraper. (8) Small blade or multi-purpose tool. (9) Scraper or knife. Thanks are due to Mr. S. Minnitt who identified the flints and to Miss P. Pope who drew them. (Ruth Keynes).

Redlynch, Bruton ST 698335

A large, round, well-preserved mound was located on a prominent hill overlooking Bruton. Its location and relationship to old field banks suggest that it is probably a barrow rather than a windmill mound.

Barrow Hill, Buckland Dinham ST 746503

Ploughing of the top of Barrow Hill suggests that there were formerly several round barrows along the ridge.

Lyte's Cary, Charlton Mackrell ST 533257

A large irregular mound in a low-lying field near a stream, reported by David Thackray, may be the much ploughed-down remains of a round barrow.

Codsand Moors, Cutcombe SS 869408

A circular enclosure located from air photographs by Richard McDonnell proved on examination to be a previously unrecorded hillslope enclosure with a ruined, roughly circular eroded stone rampart. No entrance is visible but there are roughly-terraced platforms within. The site is not shown on maps back to about 1800; it is crossed, north-south, by an early 19th-century enclosure wall. A detailed survey is necessary.

East Quantoxhead ST 129433

A well-preserved mound with flat top and ditch may be a barrow or possibly a windmill mound.

Barrow Hill, Elm ST 750500

Earthworks of enclosure banks, on the south side of Barrow Hill, which are not wholly related to modern field boundaries and ridge and furrow, may be the remains of a 'celtic' field system.

Charmborough, Holcombe ST 678513

The last remains of the neolithic long barrow and stone burial chamber were recently removed by the farmer.

Langport ST 423266

One Neolithic/Bronze-Age flint flake and 99 13th/14th-century sherds were recovered from a building site. (Peter Ellis, CRAAGS).

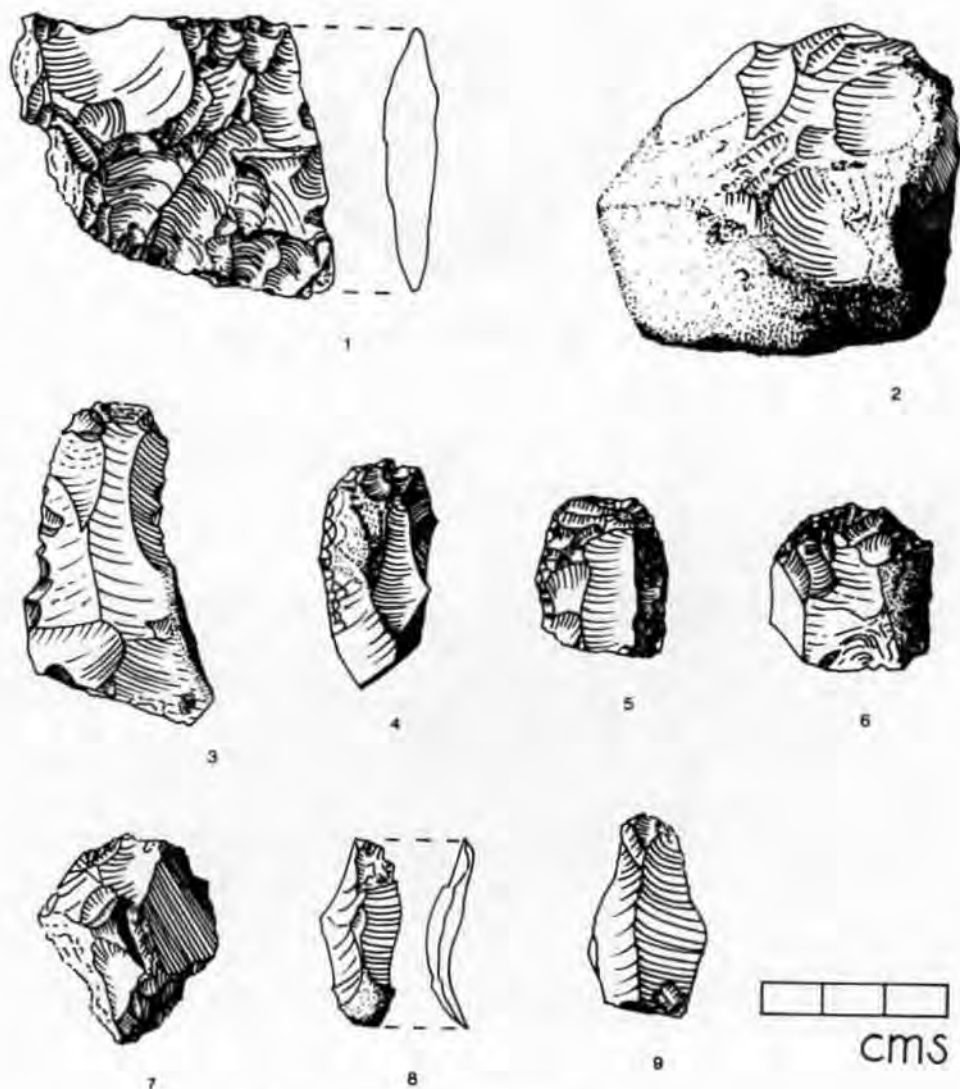


Fig. 1. Flints from Churchfields, Ansford.

Twitchen, Oare SS 823484

The remains of the deserted farm site are situated in a roughly circular enclosure which may be a hillslope enclosure.

Hawkcombe Head, Porlock SS 845456 (Fig. 2)

A spindle whorl was found by Frank Hawtin on this known Mesolithic site. It is an irregular discoid of red sandstone, 46 mm × 42 mm × 14 mm thick (weight 35 grammes), with an hour-glass perforation. It has been identified by Mr. S. Minnitt but is retained by Mr. Hawtin. (Frank Hawtin).



Fig. 2. Spindle whorl from Hawkcombe Head, Porlock.

Lower Pitts Farm, Priddy ST 538502

Two months' excavation in the summer of 1977 saw the completion of the excavation of the Mesolithic hut site and the resolution of a number of stratigraphical problems. A 10-metre-square trench at the east end of the same field explored surface flint concentrations and yielded artefacts from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. The uncalibrated radiocarbon date from Groningen Radiocarbon Laboratory for the burnt hut is 3050 ± 80 B.C.

The supposition that Mesolithic hunter/gatherers were living on the marginal environment of the Levels, Ebbor Gorge and Mendip regions still holds true. They probably practised a transhumance economy compatible with the land use of contemporary Neolithic groups in the area. The site was occupied at least twice, although difficulties arise here as the upper level containing a hearth on the south-eastern edge of the hut area was badly disturbed by the plough.

The 10-metre-square trench at the east end of the site provided five pieces of Bronze-Age pottery, all probably from the same vessel, from the ploughsoil. In all, 151 rolled Mesolithic flints with one unrolled rod were recovered, comprising a third of the total number of flints. Scrapers and a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead are among the implements in the remaining two-thirds of flint imported into the trench area.

Turf cutters were employed to shave the trench down to undisturbed levels. This careful method of excavation was developed for the Mesolithic site and proved to be the best method of detecting all soil disturbances from modern pegs, moles, etc. to prehistoric plough/ard marks, stakes and posts. In this stone-free trench, the tips of stakes and posts were all that remained. There appeared to be several different structures of probably different periods, but these were indecipherable. (Dr. Joan Taylor).

Piles Mill, Selworthy SS 904464

In March 1978 a core and three scrapers, two of which were damaged, were found in arable land where no previous prehistoric finds have occurred. (Mr. D. M. T. Morcom).

Foxhills, Westbury-sub-Mendip ST 515504 (Fig. 3)

A Mesolithic Tranchet axe of light grey patinated flint (weight 280 grammes) was found by Mr. Brian Hack in a ploughed field on the Mendips at 850 ft. in February 1978. It closely resembles in size, shape and section an axe from Wishanger, Hampshire, reported by W. F. Rankine, 'The Mesolithic of Southern England', *Research Papers of the Surrey Archaeological Society*, No. 4, 1956, figure 4, item 6. (Brian Hack).

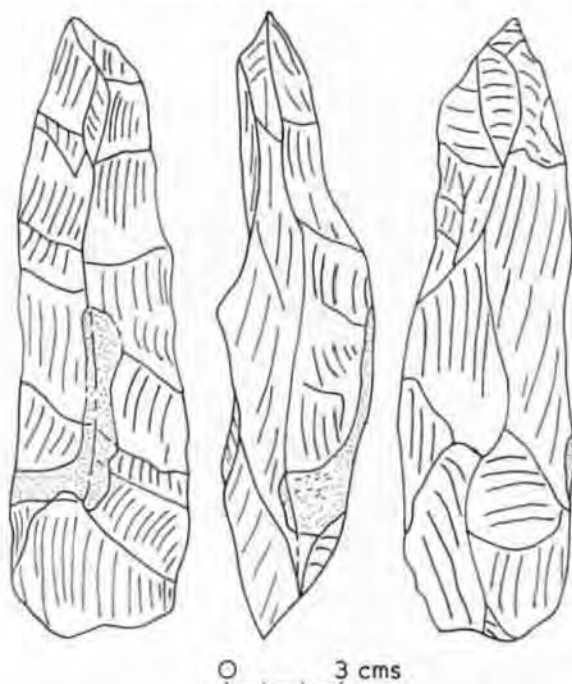


Fig. 3. Tranchet axe from Westbury-sub-Mendip. Drawing by Brian Hack.

Westbury Middle Pleistocene Project

Excavations in the middle Pleistocene cave sediments at Westbury Quarry, Westbury-sub-Mendip, ST 506504 (Fig. 4), began in 1976. The results of last year's work, together with a brief history of British Museum (Natural History) involvement in the site, were given in the 1976 Report. Arising out of the preliminary work last year extensive excavations were initiated in two newly discovered fossiliferous localities, which were named W3 and W5, while, in addition, work was continued in the rich small mammal beds of W2.

The initial excavation at W3 was in beds near the bottom of the middle Pleistocene succession of cave sediments. The site is situated close to the western wall of the cave, and when the section was extended laterally to expose the contact with the wall several new fossiliferous horizons were found. These proved to be even richer than the original deposits, with extremely abundant remains of bear together with some small mammals, and they almost certainly represent old bear occupation levels before the cave had been filled to the top by sediments.

The excavation at W5 was in beds near the top of the succession. The fossil remains were not as abundant as at W3, but they showed much greater variety, probably because the location of the site was close to an eastern opening into the cave. Extremely abundant small mammals were found in one horizon, and at this level, and the one above, the large mammal fauna includes horse, deer, rhinoceros, and large bovines. These are animals that may have entered the cave entrance for shelter or may have fallen down a shaft, and there is no evidence so far that they were brought in by predators. The small mammals, on the other hand, were probably derived from owl pellet accumulations in or close to the cave entrance. It would be possible in the future to excavate this site from the top of the quarry cliff and further excavations would be both safe for personnel and extremely rewarding.

Excavations were also continued at W2 (the so-called rodent earth). The two rodent beds were found to be parts of the same bed, dipping nearly parallel with the present slope of the cliff face. For the first time flints were found in this area, both

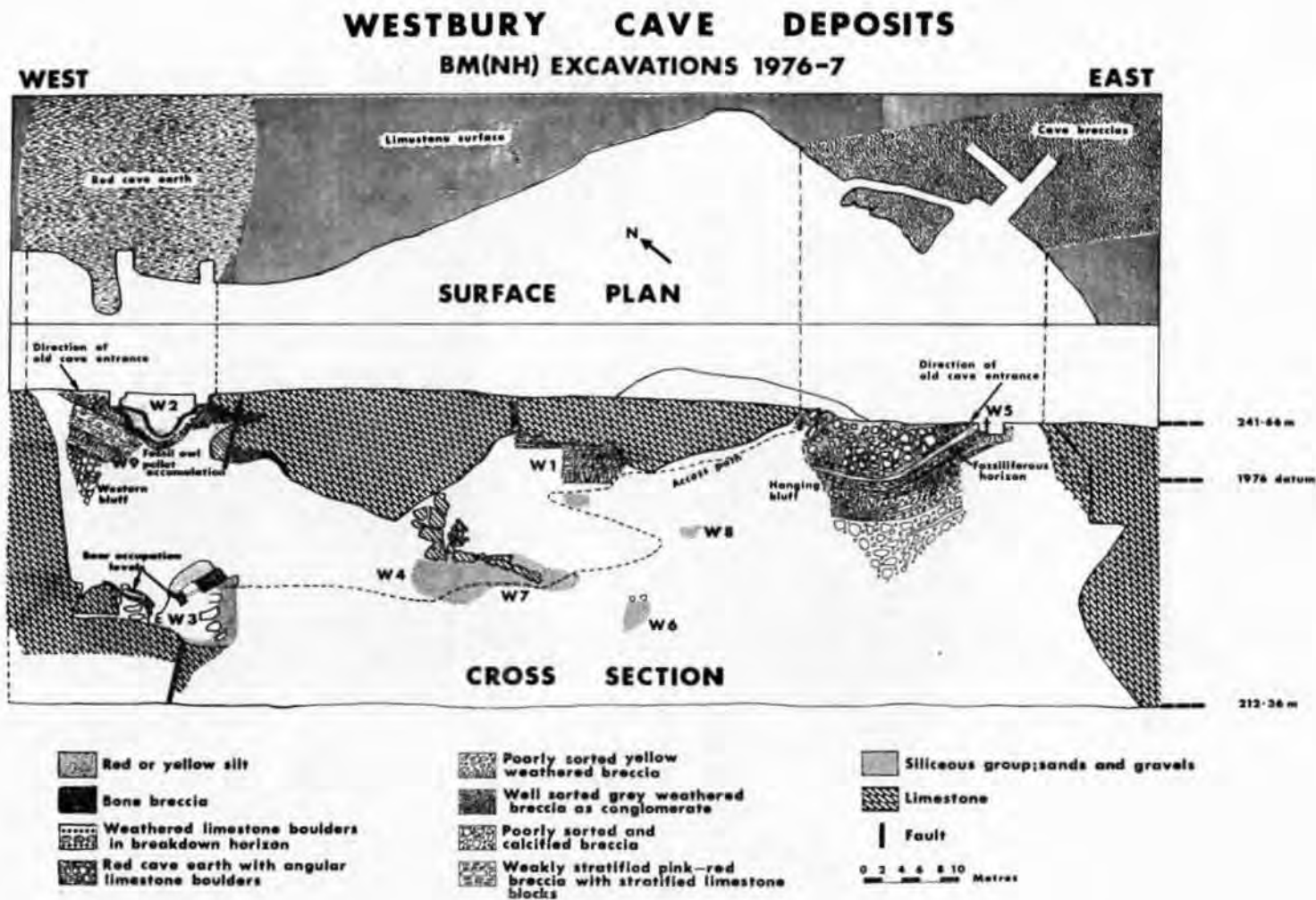


Fig. 4

above and below the extremely rich small mammal layers, and some of the flints show clear signs of having been worked. This sequence of red silts that makes up the 'rodent earth' was found this year to be resting on a collapsed breccia series, a remnant of which is exposed on the western bluff. Late in the season very rich fossiliferous beds were found in this series as well. Two new records of fossil lagomorph and bat have been recovered from the small samples taken from these two beds, and it is clear that they would repay further excavation. (Dr. P. Andrews).

Winsham, Whatley ST 355068

A large round mound about 1 metre high, with spread edge, reported by Roger Carter, is probably a reduced bowl barrow.

Howley, Whitestaunton

There is an Iron Age hillfort near Howley, locally called Harbury (tithe map: Hawberry) and finds of iron slag now lost have been made on local hilltops (e.g. see Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division record card ST 21 SE [8]). Several dense pieces of slag in 5-10 kg lumps have recently been found at ST 26430900. This slag is dark grey and has blow holes and run marks. The local farmer, Mr. Edwards, has also found slag further down the hill at ST 26020878 when he took out a hedge. (Roger Carter, Mary Parmiter and Peter Wood).

Spangate, Wootton Courtenay SS 921615

The remains of the deserted farm site are situated in a roughly circular enclosure approached by a holloway from the south. This may be a hillslope enclosure.

THE SOMERSET LEVELS PROJECT

Excavations of the Somerset Levels Project in 1977 were directed upon the Neolithic and Bronze Age structures previously examined by Bulleid, Godwin and the Project. Quantities of prehistoric wooden artefacts were recovered, and full environmental samples were taken. Surveys of the Brue valley were completed, and a full field record assembled. Reports on the 1976 work were published in *Somerset Levels Paper 3*; the 1977 work has appeared in *Somerset Levels Paper 4*, published in April 1978.

Major excavations: fifty metres of the Sweet Track, dated 3200 B.C., were excavated near the southern terminal, revealing two distinct track lines and providing further evidence for woodland and environmental studies. The Meare Heath Track, dated c. 1100 B.C., was traced to its northern terminal in a series of excavations (published in *Somerset Levels Paper 4*: 1978). Wood from both sites is being conserved by the Somerset Levels Project.

Surveys of prehistoric fenwood areas in the Levels and of earthworks over a wide area were completed in the course of the year.

Stray finds included a neolithic flint axe almost identical with one found beside the Sweet Track reported previously. (Dr. J. M. Coles and Miss B. J. Orme).

ROMAN

A Ph.D. dissertation, 'Romano-British Rural Settlement in South Somerset and North Dorset', for the University of Bristol, was completed by Roger Leech.

Yeovil Road, Ilchester By-pass, Ilchester ST 52252234

Mr. Dennis Berryman has deposited in the County Museum a collection of Roman and medieval pottery found during top-soil stripping on the Ilchester by-pass on 23rd May 1975. Mr. Peter Leach of C.R.A.A.G.S. has examined the material and comments that the Roman material is a generally good selection of the common

range of Romano-British pottery to be expected at Ilchester from the late 1st to the later 4th centuries. It includes Samian bowls and dishes principally of 2nd-century types, Hadrianic and Antonine, the base of one stamped with the name of the potter, CESORINI. There are 2nd-century Spanish amphora sherds, 2nd-3rd century imported mortaria, Oxfordshire colour-coated wares, New Forest pottery 4th-century cups and beakers and a large group of 2nd-4th century black burnished bowls. There is much locally-manufactured greyware with both sandy and micaceous fabrics.

The medieval pottery is a mixture of 11th-12th century 'Ilchester' manufactured pottery including coarse cookpots and 13th-14th century glazed and unglazed jug, cookpot and pitcher types.

Northover, Ilchester ST 523230

During a watching brief on foundation trenches for building, Roman pottery was collected but no features recorded. A medieval trench or timber slot of 12th-century date was cut by a stone-lined cesspit of 13th-14th century date. Post-medieval gullies or wall trenches were also recorded. Flood alluvium was reached at 2 metres. (Roy Scutchings for I.D.A.S.).

Manor Farm, Ilchester ST 520225

A watching brief is continuing during alterations to buildings and the digging of service trenches. Roman pottery has been collected and a 14th-century deposit or pit recorded. Three post-medieval walls, possibly of a boundary, have been located, one with burning and limestone mortar. A stone-lined cesspit of 18th-century and later date complete with pottery and glass has also been located. (Roy Scutchings for I.D.A.S.).

No. 12 Free Street, Ilchester ST 522225

A small rescue excavation was carried out in advance of the construction of a 2-metre deep car inspection pit. A Roman wall with herringbone masonry and wall plaster was recorded along with 13th-14th century rubble and articulated remains of a pig in an 18th-19th century pit. (Roy Scutchings for I.D.A.S.).

Catsgore, Somerton ST 506265

A geophysical survey by A. Bartlett and A. David of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (D.O.E.) has added considerably to knowledge of the ditch systems surrounding the Romano-British settlement and lying beyond the areas excavated in 1970-3. (Roger Leech for C.R.A.A.G.S.).

Popple Bridge, Yeovilton ST 537259

Replacement of the Bridge, built in 1813, carrying the Fosse Way over the River Cary permitted limited investigation by members of I.D.A.S. and S.I.A.S. The north face revealed nothing definitely earlier than the 18th century but absence of earlier levels was unproven.

Very cursory investigation of the south face revealed an earlier road 2.80 m wide, and 2.50 m below the modern surface and also below the existing water level. This feature bore a slight resemblance to the 1903 Fosse Way excavation at Radstock (J. McMurtrie, 'Notes on a further exploration of the Fosse Road at Radstock', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 50). The alignment was east of the centre line, possibly to square the river crossing. (John Bentley).

MIGRATION AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

Cynwit Castle, Cannington ST 247403

Fig. 5 shows the field system and earthworks surveyed by Ian Burrow and reported in Vol. 121.

Bradley Cross, Cheddar ST 478538

Dr. Peter Fowler has recorded a pre-medieval field system at Bradley Cross above Cheddar Gorge (Fig. 6). Further examples and a review of sites discovered so far is contained in H. C. Bowen and P. J. Fowler (eds.), 'Early Land Allotment', *British Archaeological Reports*, 48, 1978—especially 'Pre-medieval fields in the Bristol Region' by Peter Fowler.

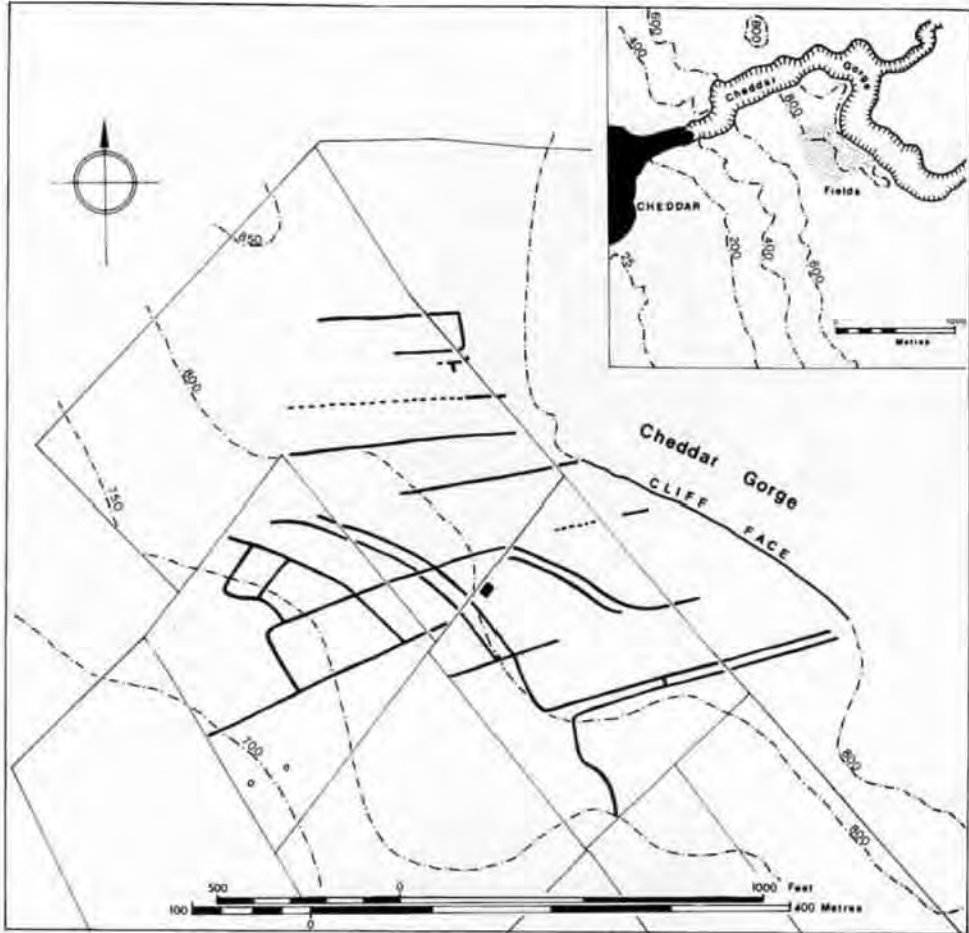


Fig. 6. Field System at Bradley Cross, Cheddar. Drawn by P. Fowler.

Fiddington ST 216407

A sheila-na-gig (female fertility figure) has been drawn and recorded on the south-east quoin of the nave of Fiddington church.

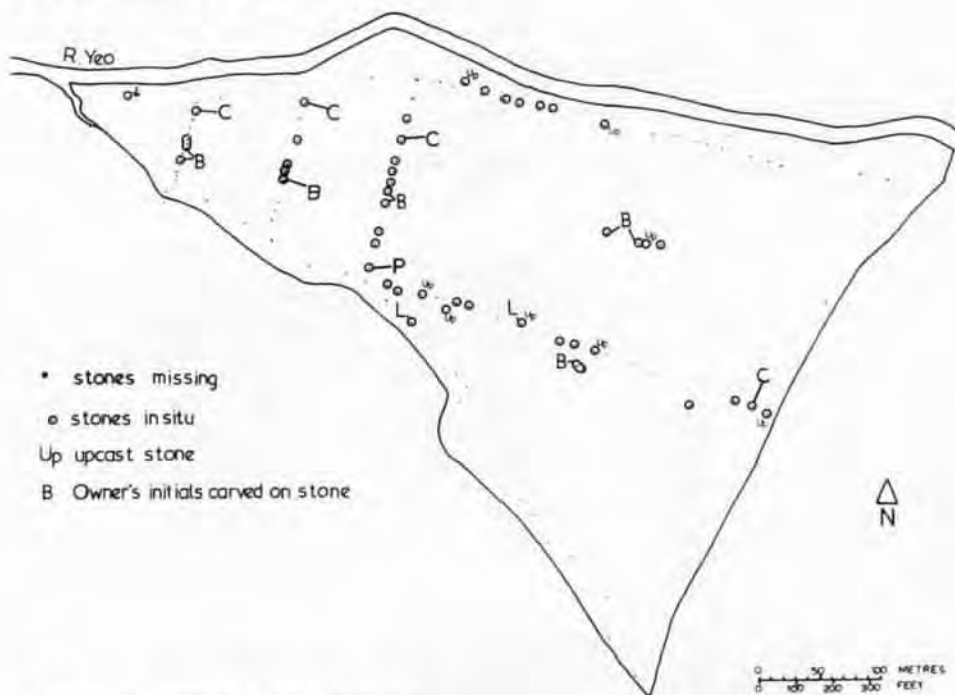
Stogursey ST 205428

Rerendering of the church tower in 1954 revealed that the tower of Stogursey church is built of herring-bone masonry almost to the top. This and other aspects of the development of the church in the 1070s are dealt with in a new church guide by the Rev. R. Ballard.

MEDIEVAL**Dole Stones, Milton Mead, Ash ST 475234 (Fig. 7)**

In a field called Milton Mead east of Long Load is a series of stones arranged

Dole Stones, Milton Mead.



Strip Fields, Milton Mead.

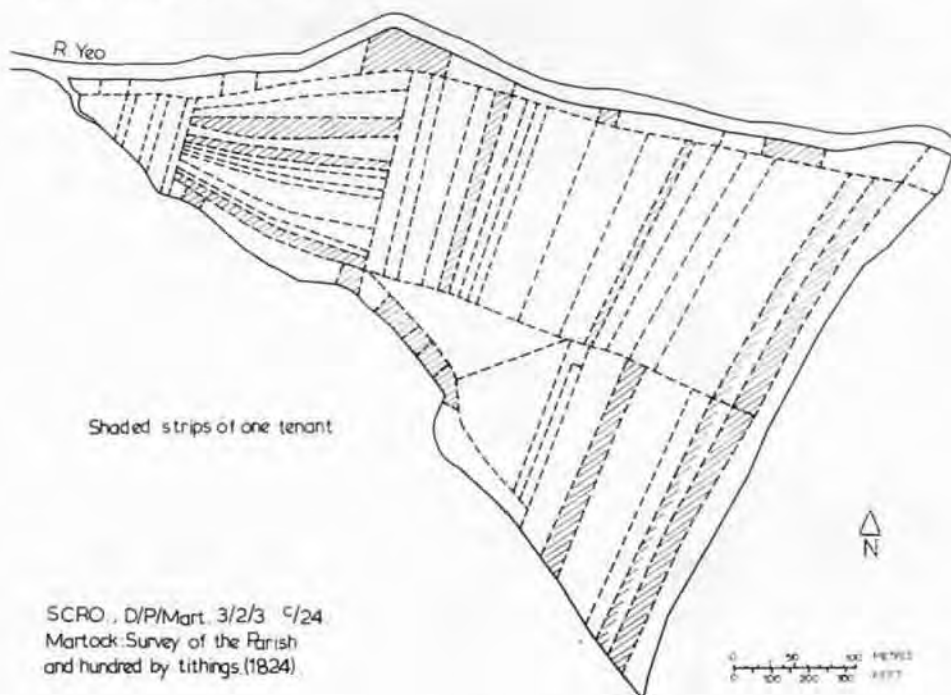


Fig. 7.

in rows, some of which have initials carved on them. These are undoubtedly dole stones marking out strip ownership patterns in the meadow land. The Martock Map (1824) shows the strip field pattern for Milton Mead and the arrangement of strips can be related to the distribution of the stones. Carved initials on some of the dole stones refer to tenants' names which can be found in the reference book for the map. The stones themselves are certainly post-medieval in origin but there can be no doubt that the strip field system associated with them is medieval. Several of the stones have been removed. They are shaped hamstone blocks measuring 36" long, 9" wide at the top extending to 15" wide at the bottom, and have a breadth of about 8" from back to front. (John Hardwick).

Manor Farm, Castle Cary ST 64113214 (Fig. 8)

The construction of a large dairy unit in September 1977 in an area adjacent to the site of the Norman Castle was accompanied by a watching brief by members of the South East Somerset Archaeological Society. After existing farm buildings had been razed, with the exception of an old barn, the bank to the south-east was cut away, revealing a ditch approximately 17 metres across and 6 metres deep cut into the natural dark sandy soil. The ditch infill consisted of a layer of yellow sand beneath which was a narrow dark layer, possibly an old turf line. Below this was a layer of dark sand mixed with stone, with a pocket of yellow sand. In the bottom of the ditch was a layer of mixed stone, including some from the Mendips. South-west of the ditch the remains of a bank could be seen on the surface. Beneath this was a layer of mortar 7 metres across, apparently overlying an old turf line. At the north-east end of the cutting an old farm road was exposed which had been used in living memory.

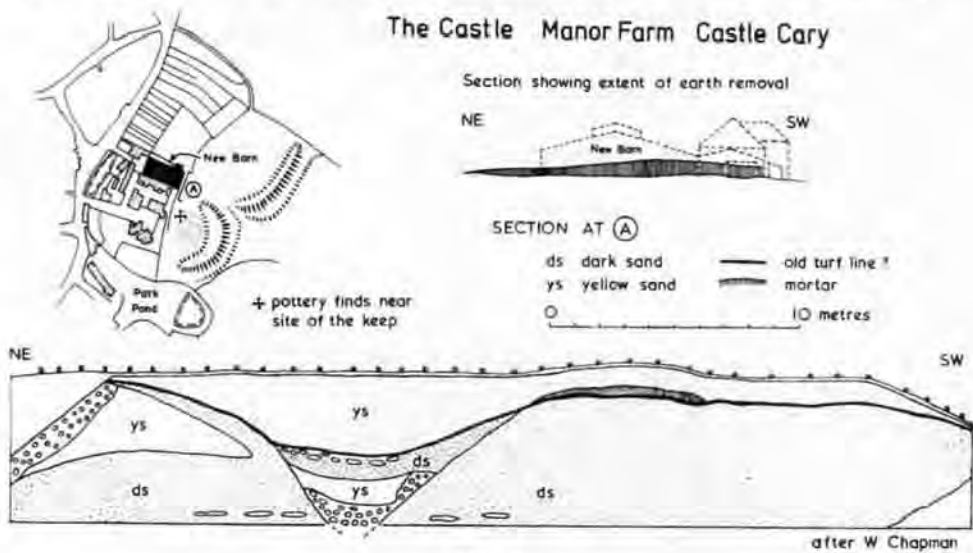


Fig. 8.

The foundations of old buildings and the yard surface remained undisturbed except where upright stanchions were put in. With one exception, the spoil from these holes produced no evidence. One hole, that at the centre of the south-east face of the new building, cut into the stone layer about one metre from the ditch section. It was also noted that a shallow trench had been excavated in the vicinity of the Norman Keep to re-route a water main, but this was infilled before recording could take place.

Eight sherds were recovered, three of the early 12th century, three of the 13th-14th centuries and two of the 17th century.

Thanks are due to Mr. Guy Churchouse, the owner, for allowing access to the site, Mr. W. Chapman for drawing the plans and Mr. T. Pearson for identifying the pottery. (John and Ruth Keynes).

Chaffcombe ST 35101020

Mr. Dennis Berryman carried out a watching brief when a site was cleared for a bungalow and recovered a scatter (35 sherds) of 12th-14th century pottery about 18" below the present ground surface.

Stentway, Combe St. Nicholas ST 29901215

Pottery sherds of 13th-14th century date, together with post-medieval Donyatt pottery have been found by Dr. Campbell in a ploughed field near Stentway. The pottery is almost exclusively fineware with gritted or green-glazed exteriors. The field is remote from settlements and unlikely to derive from midden waste. (Roger Carter).

Adsborough, Creech St. Michael ST 277292

In digging foundations for an extension to a bungalow, a collection of early medieval pottery was found, but no evidence of structures or stratification. Terry Pearson has examined the pottery and comments that it ranges in date from the 12th to the early 14th century. The pieces represent 3 or 4 cooking pots and parts of at least 2 jugs.

Filling Station, Magdalene Street, Glastonbury ST 499388

A watching brief was carried out by M. Aston and Mrs. Chaffey (of Glastonbury Antiquarian Society) when a hole 7.2 m x 3.2 m x 4.00 m deep was dug for a new petrol tank at the filling station west of the abbey in January 1977. About 2 m of stratification was revealed (Fig. 9) including the tarmac and hardcore of the forecourt, a dark layer (of garden soil), a thick layer of brown soil with many stones and much building material (?construction after 12th-century fire or ?destruction after dissolution) and below that a thick layer of dark grey clayey material with one thick layer of charcoal (?destruction in 12th-century fire). The natural soil was yellow sand and clay and grey clay.

GLASTONBURY
SKETCH SECTION ON GARAGE SITE East face

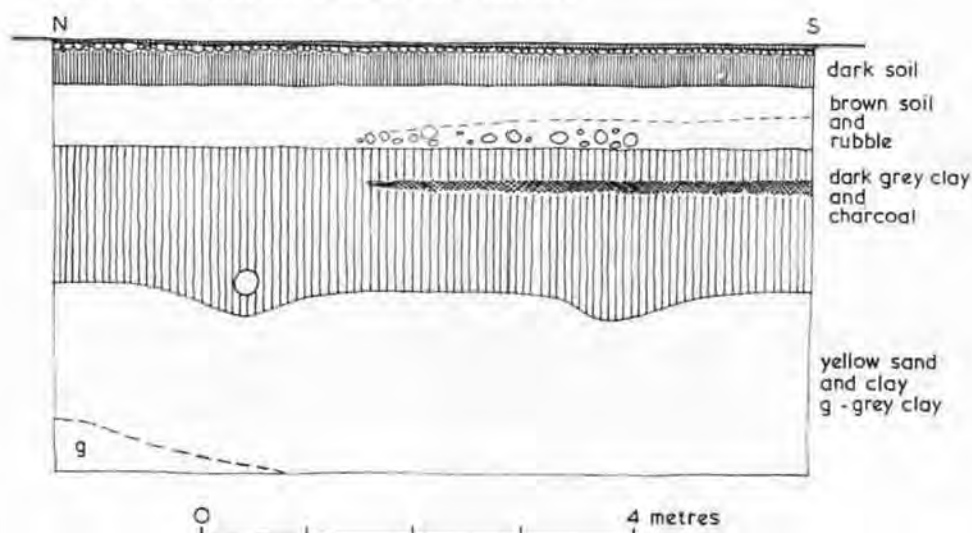


Fig. 9.

Langport

Work on service pipes in Spring 1978 in the main street of the town, Bow Street and Cheapside, exposed an earlier paved road 75 cms below the present road surface. The paving was of lias of random shapes and dimensions (20-45 cms). Alluvium was exposed 1 m below present road surface at the junction of Whatley Lane and Cheapside, ST 42022680. (Colin Clements).

Merriott ST 443133

On the north-facing hill north of the church are two almost square hollow enclosures, one with a circular mound inside. Despite the unlikely location these are probably fishponds fed by springs in the hill behind. There are other linear earthworks associated, one of which seems to be a terraceway.

Burrowbridge, Othery ST 358305

Landslips and earth-moving on the south-west side of Burrow Mump failed to reveal any evidence of human occupation.

Catsgore Road, Somerton ST 50132656

Mr. Dennis Berryman found part of a green/orange glazed medieval ridge tile and a scatter of worked stone in a ploughed field (March 1976).

Bow Green, Staple Fitzpaine ST 254177

A collection of freshly-broken early medieval pot sherds was found in a ploughed field in May where early maps indicate some sort of buildings. It is possible that the site represents a medieval farm site. Terry Pearson has dated the pottery to the 12th-14th centuries with an absence of 14th-century glazed pottery; some 18th-century Donyatt pottery is present.

Manor Farm, Stogursey ST 205428

A watching brief carried out by M. Aston as trenches were dug for the foundations of a bungalow failed to disclose any evidence of the medieval priory or indeed any medieval occupation.

Cemetery of Augustinian Priory, Taunton ST 230248

A large excavation intended to locate the medieval buildings of the Augustinian Priory in Taunton was undertaken under the direction of Mr. John Hinchcliffe of the D.O.E. Central Excavation Unit in association with C.R.A.A.G.S. and T.D.R.E.C., following demolition of the 18th-century building, 'The Priory', in Canon Street. No masonry buildings were located but part of the extensive lay cemetery of the Priory was excavated with over 100 skeletons being removed for examination.

Hawkes' Yard, East Street, Taunton ST 230246

In Spring 1977, under the direction of Peter Leach of C.R.A.A.G.S. in association with T.D.R.E.C., a section was cut across the line of the Taunton town defences in Hawkes' Yard prior to redevelopment for shops and offices. The earliest rampart had been constructed over a Saxon ground surface, probably in the 12th century. Subsequently, probably in the early 13th century, this bank had been enlarged and the ditch fronting it widened and deepened. By the later middle ages much erosion had taken place and from the 17th century onwards infilling and rubbish pits eventually obscured the defences.

Castle Keep, Taunton Castle ST 226246

In association with S.A.N.H.S., Dr. Warwick Rodwell of C.R.A.A.G.S. carried out a survey of the keep remains of Taunton Castle in the garden of the Castle Hotel.

Local History Library, Taunton Castle ST 226244

During 1972 human burials, one being cut by a 13th-century wall, were recorded under a floor during restoration for the Library. The burials appeared to be part of a distribution extending across Castle Green but no further opportunity for examination was available. In 1977 the Library site was re-opened to obtain bone samples for Carbon 14 dating. Publication forthcoming. (Colin Clements).

Priory Barn, Taunton ST 229249

In advance of possible redevelopment of Small's builder's yard Mr. Peter Leach of C.R.A.A.G.S. carried out trial excavations for T.D.R.E.C. around the medieval 'barn' of Taunton Augustinian priory. Trenches failed to reveal any buildings west of the 'barn' and therefore this area was probably outside the medieval priory precinct. The 'barn' itself was fully surveyed and found to be part of a monastic range with remains of a gatehouse at the south end. Only later was the building converted into a barn. Its present form it dates probably from the 15th or 16th century although earlier masonry is incorporated within it.

Later excavations in early 1978 explored more fully the area east of the 'barn'. Foundations of an earlier gatehouse under the surviving building were found together with a large 'tank' or 'pond'. This dated from the 12th century and may have been associated in some way with the construction of the priory. It had been backfilled with stone, rubble, plaster and much vegetable material including a dozen shoes and two medieval sword scabbards. Only a very small part of the whole 'tank' was examined.

Trull ST 215222

Sherds dating from the 10th century to the present have been found together with earthworks. The parish tithe map (1842) records a cottage and barton on the site of which a floor and an area of cobbling are extant. (Marion Newson).

MEDIEVAL PARKS

Haselbury Park, Haselbury Plucknett ST 488085

The park-pale earthwork on the west side of this park is clearly defined by a bank $\frac{1}{2}$ metre high and 3-4 metres across. The ditch, clearly demarcated, is on the inside of the bank. The area enclosed is approximately 1400 metres \times 800 metres (Fig. 10).

Mohuns Park, Henstridge ST 732213

The park pale of this probable hunting park consists of a broad earthwork bank with a ditch on the outside. The bank is 1 metre high and 4-5 metres across on the north side of the park. The area enclosed is approximately 800 \times 700 metres (Fig. 10).

Shervage Wood, Holford ST 162403

Fieldwork on a possible park located from documents by the editors of the Victoria County History failed to locate any sizeable earthworks indicating a park pale, but numerous substantial hedge banks were noted around blocks of woodland.

Prior's Park, Pitminster ST 217174

Few traces could be found of a park pale around the area of the medieval park in Prior's Park Wood. There are substantial field banks, however, on the south and west sides.

Park Farm, Staple Fitzpaine ST 278190

Traces of the park pale of this small park can still be traced in earthworks on the north and north-west sides. A dry fishpond with a ruined dam remains as earthworks at ST 277192. The area of the park is approximately 800 \times 800 metres (Fig. 10).

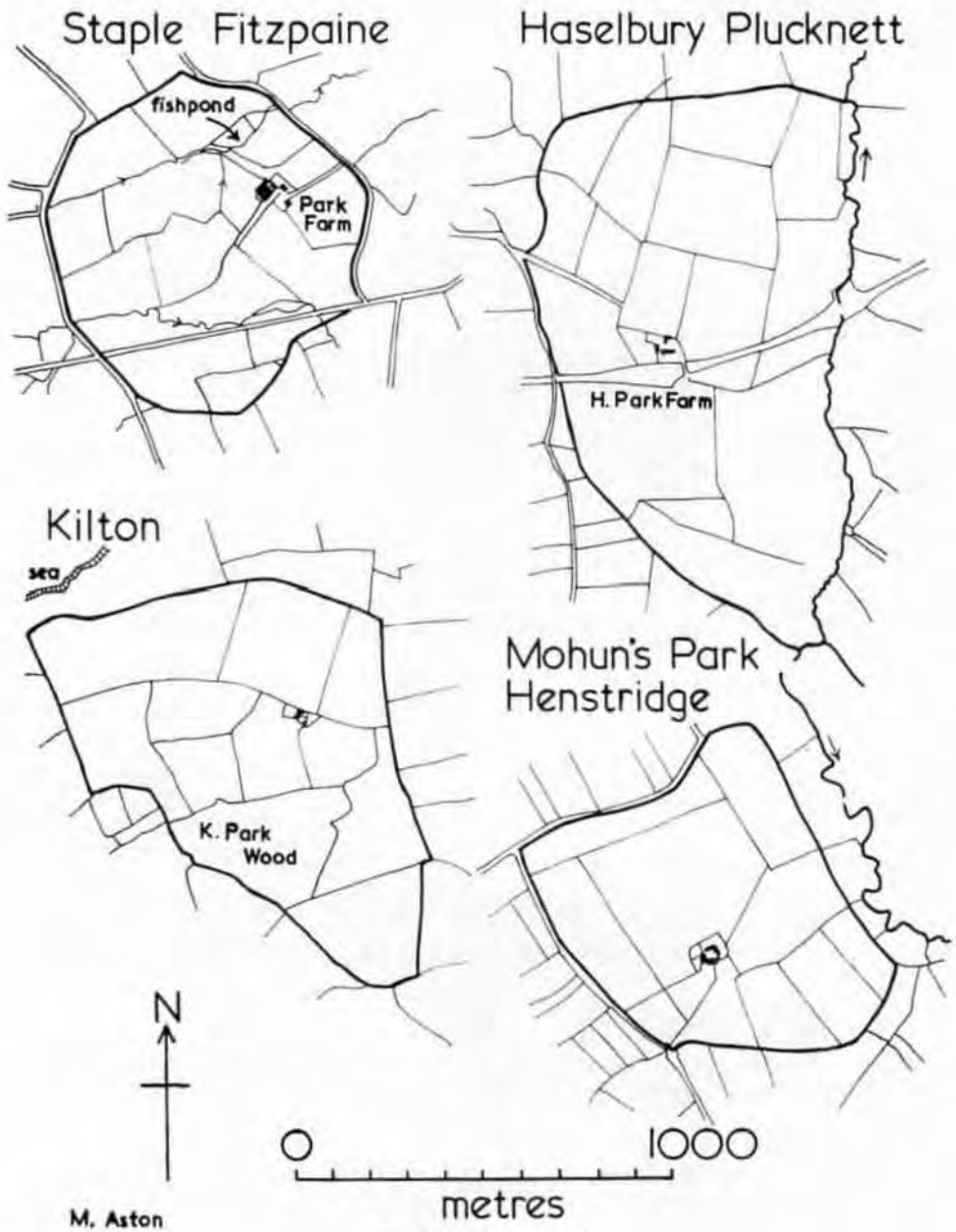


Fig. 10. Medieval Parks.

Staple Park, Staple Fitzpaine ST 243168

The southern edge of this very extensive deer park is marked by a prominent bank up to 3 metres high in places. The full extent of the park pale has not been traced, although early maps indicate its probable extent.

Kilton Park, Stringston ST 155443

The park pale of this medieval park is clearly defined on its west, north and east sides. In places the bank is 1 metre high with ditches, possibly of modern origin, on each side. The area enclosed is approximately 1000 × 700 metres (Fig. 10).

Wellington Park, Wellington ST 132177

Few traces could be found of the park pale of this documented medieval park. A section of bank 1 metre high and 3 metres across with a ditch at ST 138177 may be part of the pale.

Park, West Buckland ST 171206

No traces could be found of the park pale of this park although field names and the Park Farm estate on the tithe map indicate the probable extent.

(M. Aston)

MOATED SITES

Redlynch, Bruton ST 698335

Adjacent to a marlpit and in the same field as the barrow listed above (p. 118) lies a probable moated site and shallow dry fishpond. About half of the moat is water-filled; there are no traces of buildings on the platform.

Walrow, Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge ST 327471

Mr. S. Nash has noted the remains of a rectangular ditched enclosure, associated with medieval pottery, which is probably the remains of a moated manor site. Part of the moat is now covered by a realigned road.

The Priory, Ditchat ST 623363

Dr. R. W. Dunning reports that The Priory, a former residence of the Dean of Wells, was moated in the 15th century. There seem to be no traces of a moat today.

Blockhouse Farm, Nynehead ST 140237

The tithe map of Nynehead shows a possible moated enclosure south of the farm buildings.

Coage's Park, Queen Camel ST 590264

Aerial photography in low sunlight revealed a previously unsuspected square ditched earthwork enclosure which is probably the moated lodge of Coage's Park, known to have been in this area in the 16th century.

(M. Aston)

MONASTIC SITES

Manor Farm, Abbas and Templecombe ST 710221

There are no remains of the Preceptory at Manor Farm; the last remnants of a medieval chapel were removed some years ago when a new house was built on part of the site. Earthworks remain of a moated enclosure which was formerly fishponds.

Oath, Aller ST 388272

There is no trace of earthworks, pottery or other finds of the hermitage on this site located by the editors of the Victoria County History.

Stavordale, Charlton Musgrove ST 734318

On the north side of the track leading to the priory remains there are earthworks probably indicating the boundary of the precinct. Linear banks up to $\frac{1}{2}$ metre high and 3-4 metres across with substantial ditches run parallel with the track.

Buckland Farm, Durston ST 302281

During alterations to an outbuilding on the site of Minchin Buckland priory a two-light window of probable mediæval date was found built into a wall.

Montacute Priory, Montacute ST 494168

A massive embankment runs west of the gatehouse of the Cluniac priory along the south side of a holloway towards Ham Hill. Its full extent has not been traced but it probably represents the north side of the priory precinct. Nearby at ST 492170 a holloway seems to have been adapted to accommodate a flight of fishponds.

(M. Aston)

RIDGE AND FURROW FIELD SYSTEMS

Quantocks: several areas of narrow ridge and furrow have been recognized on the top of the Quantocks, often associated with small clearance mounds of small stones. Examples include:-

Lydeard Hill, Bishop's Lydeard ST 181341: areas of ridge and furrow associated with enclosure banks.

Fire Beacon, Crowcombe ST 149371: blocks of ridge and furrow at different angles and separated by low balks near to the stone cairn.

Great Hill, Crowcombe: ST 158363: areas of ridge and furrow all around the large stone cairn.

Great Bear, Over Stowey ST 165385: burning of undergrowth revealed areas of ridge and furrow and stone clearance mounds.

Marrow Hill, West Bagborough ST 160358: areas of ridge and furrow associated with a low flattened irregular mound which may be a ruined barrow.

(M. Aston)

DESERTED SETTLEMENTS

Deserted settlements, Mudford parish: since the article published in Vol. 121 of these Proceedings the following pieces of information have emerged. Although the Black Death is unlikely to have destroyed any of the Mudford settlements it should be noted that the plague appears to have been severe in this part of Somerset. If the lists of incumbents are examined it will be noted that three are listed for Mudford in 1348, Jon de Temedbury, Will Geyon and Rob Byngham, and two for neighbouring Limington, Thomas Knyght and Thomas de Kynardslygh, again in 1348. If this number of priests perished, the effect on the common operation of the fields may have been disastrous, severely weakening the villages' population structure.

At Hinton there is a very prominent boundary bank and ditch around the northern field of earthworks and it must be assumed that one of the main areas of the village lay north of the present farm buildings. Up Mudford has more extensive areas of earthworks, indicating shrinkage or movement of settlement, than are shown on Fig. 1. Holloways and platforms of abandoned roads and crofts can be readily identified to the south and south-west of the present settlement. Likewise around Mudford Sock there are vague areas of earthworks, some of which must represent abandoned croft and building sites. (M. Aston).

VILLAGES

Play Street, Bickenhall ST 283187

Air photographs taken after ploughing show extensive remains of the settlement located last year. It seems to consist of a street, marked by a shallow holloway with crofts and building plots along each side (Fig. 11).

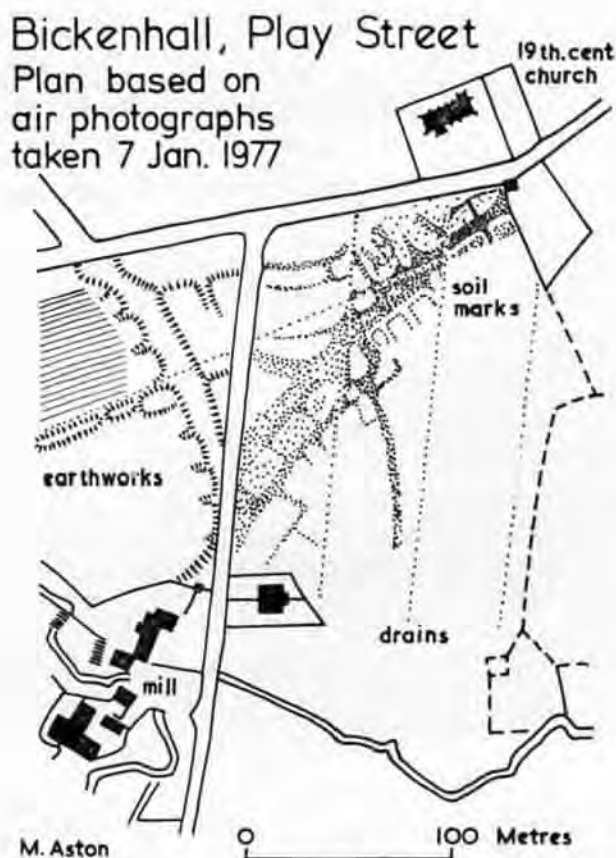


Fig. 11.

Discove, Bruton ST 692335

Old Ordnance Survey maps show that there were formerly more cottages south of Discove Farm. Several enclosures and areas of earthworks remain but there are no clear traces of the remains of holloways or abandoned crofts.

Chilton Trinity ST 304400

On the side of the Parrett estuary at the end of a long abandoned lane are extensive earthwork remains within a rectangular enclosure, probably of a medieval settlement. The site is similar to that on Pawlett Hams (ST 275428).

Dean, Cranmore ST 674442

To the north of the A361 and east of the present hamlet is an extensive area of enclosures and platforms with the sites of several buildings clearly visible.

Draycott, Limington ST 554215

On the north side of the road are extensive earthworks indicating the sites of abandoned crofts.

Muchelney ST 430243

On the south side of the village are earthworks of an abandoned road and a number of platforms with nettles, probably representing abandoned farm or cottage sites.

Thorney, Muchelney ST 429234

Between the buildings in this hamlet are areas of earthworks, including an area of enclosures on the south-west side, which probably represent abandoned farm sites.

Upcott, Nynehead ST 145232

There are earthworks of crofts and platforms between the houses in this hamlet.

Honibere, Stringston ST 182435

Fieldwork failed to locate any earthworks or scatters of pottery associated with the village of Honibere, which is referred to in documents.

Sparkford ST 608255

Fieldwork along the line of the Sparkford by-pass, A303, by members of the South East Somerset Archaeological Society, located an area of earthworks south of the church, including a holloway and village boundary bank. No clear house platforms or crofts are discernible.

Sandford, Wembdon ST 269378

Aerial photographs taken in low sunlight reveal extensive earthworks of a village including holloways and a large ditched rectangular platform which could possibly be a moated manor site.

Downhead, West Camel ST 565257

Aerial photographs taken in low sunlight indicate village earthworks including platforms and a holloway. Downhead must formerly have been extended further north along a continuation of the present village street.

(M. Aston)

FARMS

Over the last 18 months considerable progress has been made in the location of a number of deserted farm sites in western Somerset. Many of these can be shown to be of at least medieval date from published tax lists and other documentary sources. At many there are still earthworks and ruined buildings remaining but a considerable number have been cleared in the agricultural improvement schemes on and around Exmoor. Fig. 12 is an interim statement of the sites located so far. (M. Aston)

Hurscombe, Brompton Regis SS 976323

In Autumn 1977 Peter Leach for C.R.A.A.G.S. and T.D.R.E.C. carried out excavations at the deserted farm site of Hurscombe in advance of flooding by the Wimbleball Reservoir. The 18th/19th century buildings had been demolished before they could be recorded and much of the area of earthworks disturbed. The existence of the farm is implied in the 1327 Lay Subsidy but excavations, while not revealing substantial foundations of buildings, did show occupation extending back to the 13th century.

Smarmoor, Brompton Regis SS 952336

Only fragmentary earthworks and enclosures remain of this probable medieval farm site. There has been much agricultural improvement nearby.

DESERTED FARM SITES IN WESTERN SOMERSET

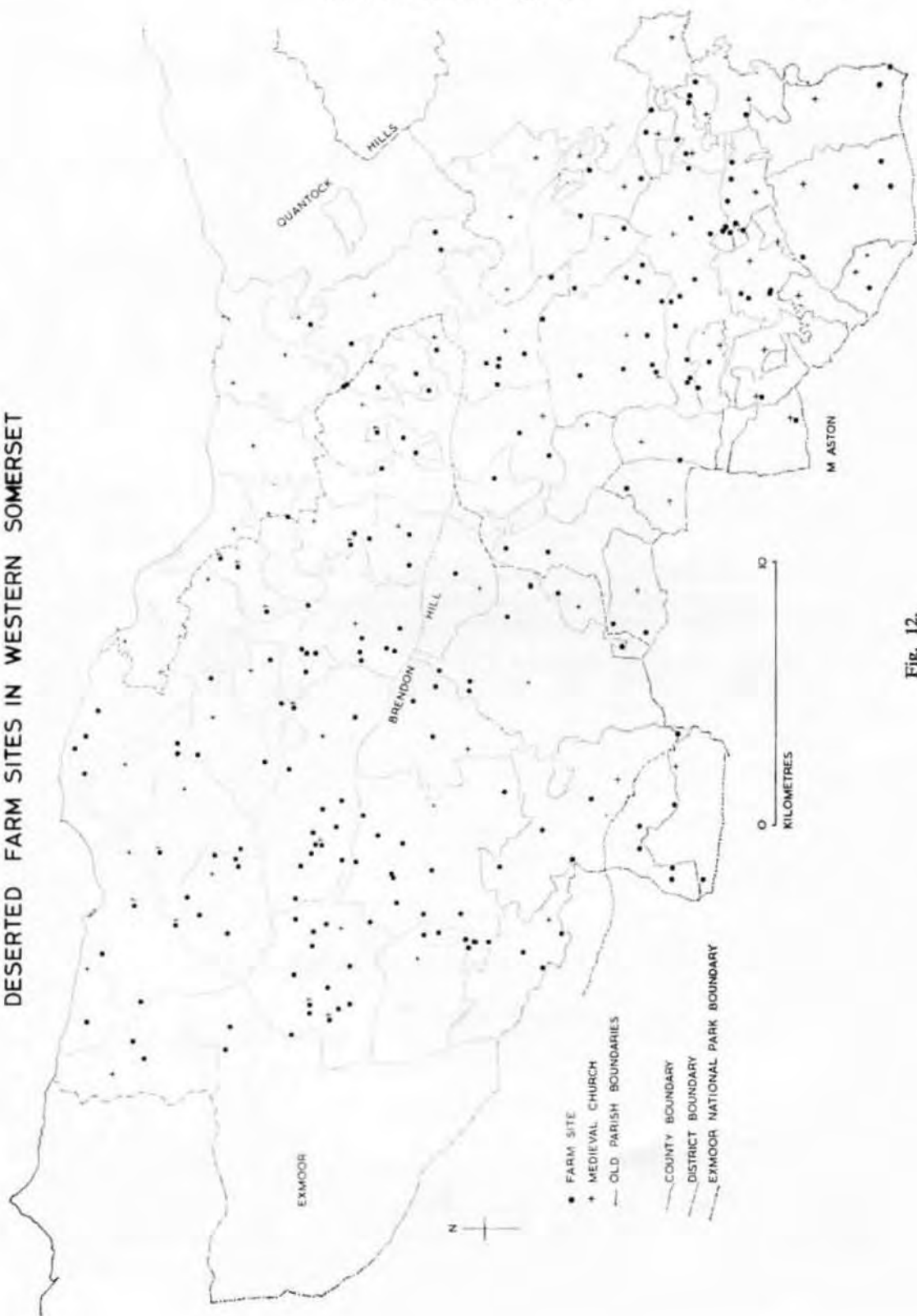


Fig. 12.

Holmoor, Exford SS 862404

Clear earthworks of a possible longhouse and several enclosures remain at this deserted farm site on the east side of a deep stream valley. A holloway approaches from the north.

Higher Week, Exton SS 950350

All trace of this deserted farm site has been removed together with field boundaries in agricultural improvement operations.

Pixton, Nynehead ST 134238

Ruined stone and cob walls and earthworks remain of this deserted medieval farm site. Pools on the north and west sides may be marlpits, or they may be the remains of an incomplete moated enclosure.

Withycombe, Oare SS 808462

Foundations of several buildings and earthworks remain of this deserted farm site.

Weirwood, Porlock SS 830462

Ruined walls and enclosure banks remain of this deserted farm site.

Bryants(?), Rodney Stoke ST 497507

There are clearly defined earthworks of buildings and yards within an enclosure near Stoke Woods, high on the southern edge of the Mendips. The site is similar to those described by Ann Everton in *Archaeological Review* No. 6 (1971), pp. 42-43.

East Curry Manor, Stoke St. Gregory ST 374292

Earthworks to the west and south-west of the manor site may indicate a more extensive settlement associated with East Curry Manor.

Mousehanger, Winsford SS 910324

The ruined farmhouse and areas of earthworks including a possible mill leat remain on this medieval farm site.

Pinn, Winsford SS 884370

All trace of this medieval farm site has been removed in agricultural improvement operations.

Road, Winsford SS 860375

Extensive earthworks and enclosures remain of this medieval farm site west of Road Castle.

Riscombe, Winsford SS 880352

Earthworks of several buildings remain on this medieval farm site.

Huntercombe, Hawkridge, Withypoole SS 848317

Areas of vague earthworks remain at this deserted farm site in a deep valley.

POST-MEDIEVAL

Combe Wood, Combe Florey ST 141317

A roofless tower remains on the edge of a wood. It appears to be of 18th-century date although some of the window frames are wooden and of probable 17th-century date. Originally the building had 3 floors with fireplaces and two unused, unfloored storeys above. The history of the building has not been investigated: it appears to be a folly.

Warren Farm, Exmoor SS 795407 (Fig. 13)

At least 4 prominent pillow mounds have been located on the slopes south of Warren Farm. They are orientated north-south down the slope, similar to the examples on Dartmoor.

Exmoor Warren Farm

PILLOW MOUNDS

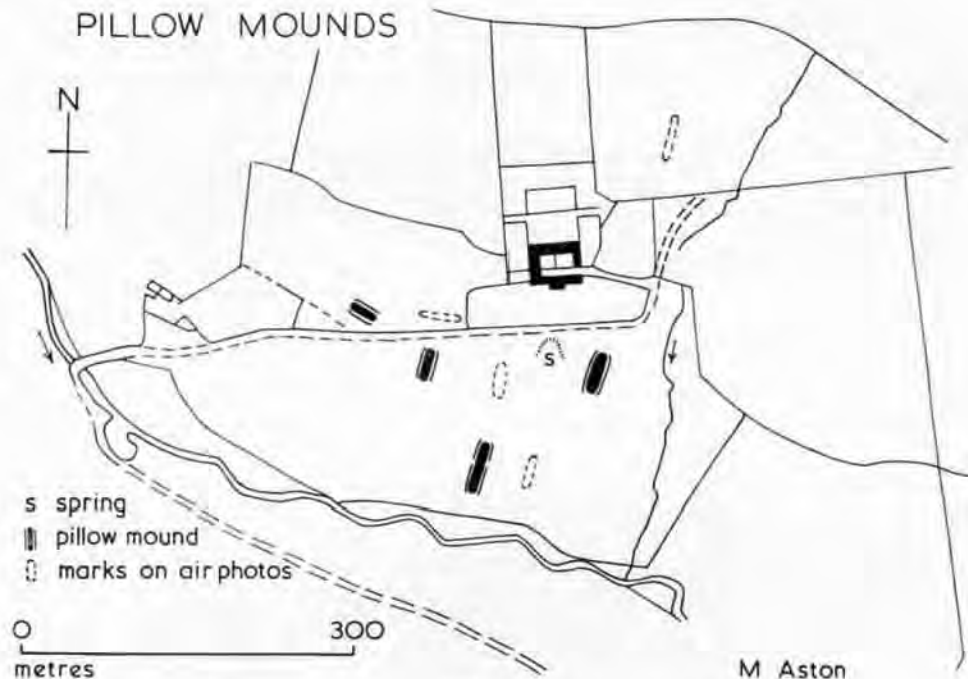


Fig. 13.

Hardington, Hemington ST 740527

Earthworks associated with the deserted medieval village and the park and ornamental gardens of the Bampfylde family in the 17th and 18th centuries were bulldozed and levelled in October 1977 (see p. 00). The pillow mound has been retained.

Hainbury Mill, Ilchester ST 527234

The Mill leat remains intact with relief hatches and spillway, the latter having remains of an old timber sill. The mill itself has been reduced from its reputed three storeys to one, this now being roofed with galvanised iron and used as a store, the surviving doors and windows having their original wooden lintels. No machinery or other evidence of milling remains. The wheel pit to the south of the mill is now roofless with no remains of wheel, axle or bearings. However the stone blocks, upon which the bearings sat, are extant and from them can be deduced the wheel's diameter and width—12' 0" × 7' 0". It was either undershot or very low breast using paddles not buckets.

Adjoining the mill and wheel pit to the west and built half over the tail race are the four roofless walls of a much later structure. This was two-storeyed, built of lias blocks to the south and north, and to the west of brick above first floor level with a brick arch spanning the tail-race exit. These bricks are stamped 'CV' (Charles Vining, brickmaker 1830-42 with brickyards at Ilchester Road, Yeovil, and at Mudford). The window openings are arched, with Ham-stone voussoirs and blocks, and

had cast iron window frames (part of one was excavated). The first floor over the tail race and the second floor had wood joists—the sockets for which are in the walls. The first floor over the cellar was supported on three rolled iron girders, which remain. The second floor was supported in the centre by possibly three cast-iron pillars making the first floor an undivided work area. Two remain although fallen and one was excavated and photographed. The roof was slated and broken remains have been found under debris.

This building bears no relationship to use as a corn mill and was more likely a manufactory of flax or wool, for it is similar in structure to some old West Somerset woollen mills and was built adjoining the corn mill to utilise the existing water power. (D. W. Warren).

North Hill and Selworthy Beacon, Minehead SS 907485

Richard McDonnell, working from 1947 R.A.F. Vertical Air Photographs, has recorded earthworks associated with a Second World War tank training range.

PRIDDY BLACK DOWN

SECOND WORLD WAR ?DECOY TOWN



MINEHEAD NORTH HILL

SECOND WORLD WAR TANK RANGE



Fig. 14. Second World War sites.

Three triangular tank courses were formerly in existence and three moveable target tracks (only one of which remains), together with a variety of unexplained mounds and hollows. Further information on this site would be of considerable interest (Fig. 14).

Pawlett ST 284429

A large building, of steel and corrugated iron sheeting, remains in a scrap-yard. It was formerly a barrage balloon hangar thought to be on its original site since a mooring pylon is nearby.

Black Down, Priddy ST 480573

All over Black Down are lines of round mounds arranged on a grid pattern. On the south side there is a large air-raid shelter. The only explanation so far offered is that this site is the remains of a 'decoy town' to attract enemy bombers. Others are said to have existed on the Blackdowns and at Lymsham. Further information on this site would be of considerable interest (Fig. 14).

CROPMARKS

1977 was a poor year for cropmarks, with dull overcast weather and a great deal of rain. As a result very few new sites were noted.

Ivyton, Broomfield ST 205318

A large near-circular enclosure on the top of the ridge was noted in an area which produced more extensive cropmarks in 1976.

Nailsbourne, Kingston St Mary ST 215288

A number of cropmarks were noted in a field west of the village, including probable natural patches, later drainage channels and miscellaneous linear marks.

Hunting House, North Petherton ST 265313

A large rectangular enclosure with bowed sides and rounded corners was noted in an area with many abandoned field boundaries.

Norton Fitzwarren ST 190262

Extensive cropmarks of abandoned field boundaries and other marks were noted south-west of the village.

Beacon Lane, Wellington Without ST 139178

An irregular enclosure of darker grass was noted in a pasture field near the abandoned Beacon Lane Farm.

(M. Aston)

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Work has continued in Vernacular Architecture over a wide area of Somerset. Interesting discoveries included the tenth recorded base-cruck building in Somerset, Hannam Manor in Cheddar, which has an ornate and extremely heavy roof to the solar with cusped braces, yet spanning a room only 13½ ft. wide (the second smallest span of a base cruck recorded in England and Wales). More recently Durrett's Farmhouse at Broomfield has the first instance recorded in Somerset of two bacon-curing chambers in one house.

True crucks have been found in houses in Crowcombe and Combe St. Nicholas; jointed crucks continue to appear in some numbers, examples this year being found in Buckland St. Mary, Combe St. Nicholas, Cossington (2), Hinton St. George (now 6 examples in this village), Martock, Huish Champflower, Broomfield, Chard and Wambrook (now 7 examples in the village).

Records of all these and all other houses studied have been deposited in S.R.O. (Ron Gilson).

Aisled Barns. These have been found at Butleigh Court (ST 518338), much altered and decayed, at Butleigh (ST 516321), both by Mrs. A. Healey, and at the Manor Farm, Kingsdon (ST 518262) by R. G. Gilson, in addition to those previously recorded at Poundisford Park (ST 223202) and at Chipley Park, Nynhead (ST 116238). All are 18th/19th-century except the latter which is not later than 17th-century.

Painted Fireplaces. The painting referred to in SANHS 120 (1976), p. 79, is confined to the fireplace and does not, so far as is known, extend on to the walls. Other painted fireplaces have also been found at the (Rectorial) Manor House, Croscombe, ST 593443, not to be confused with Old Manor House (ST 591444) mentioned in the same Volume, and at Laurel House, Alhampton, Ditchat (ST 627349) by R. G. Gilson, both of 17th-century date. Another example found some years ago is at The Refuge, Temple Cloud, Avon, ST 623576. They are also known in Devon. (E. H. D. Williams).

Roof truss apices. In most post-medieval roof trusses the principal rafters are joined at the apex by a mortice and tenon joint, but in several cases found lately the principals are joined by a saddle, sometimes carrying a short king post, an early form normally associated with medieval crucks. At Galhampton Manor, North Cadbury (ST 640294) are two such trusses datable to 1723; M. B. McDermott has recorded similar trusses of probably 17th-century date at Cherry Tree Cottage, Isle Abbots (ST 350209). At Rectory Farm, Englishcombe (ST 716628) and in a later part of the house at Bell House (above) are other 17th-century examples, probably of reused timbers. Saddles without king posts occur in a late 17th/18th-century context at Manor Farm, Norton St. Philip (ST 773559), of uncertain date at Beckington Mill (ST 797522), and of medieval date but in non-cruck trusses at Yarborough Farm, Banwell (ST 389580). Where not of reused timbers the late usage in a non-cruck context of an early cruck technique perhaps illustrates the strength of the cruck tradition in Somerset. (E. H. D. Williams).

Lion's Gate, Abbas and Templecombe ST 709223

Alterations and recent modernization completely disguise a 4-bay medieval house. Under a later roof are considerable remains of three cruck trusses of which the open centre one over the hall is a base cruck; this, the eleventh example of this type of roof now recorded, and by far the most easterly, is structurally not necessary to span the width of only 17' 8", and implies a high social status for this small house. Another truss is an interesting hybrid of base and true cruck. (E. H. D. Williams).

Pendyn, Nailbourne, Kingston St. Mary ST 215285

In the kitchen, which together with the cross passage is all that remains of a standard three-roomed sub-medieval house, is a bacon-curing chamber of unusual layout combining early and later features; fully open to the hearth (Type 2, SANHS 1976) it has a separate flue alongside the fireplace stack and the access door is into the top of the chamber from the first floor. In this last respect it resembled a feature found in a building at Manor Farm, Templecombe, ST 710220, where a door at first-floor level leads into the base of a smoke bay over a hearth extending the full width of the room, this being the first certain example of a Type 1 chamber. This is on the site of the Knights Templars' Preceptory.

Trinity Area, Frome

Survey of the late 17th and early 18th-century suburb by C.R.A.A.G.S. and F.R.A.G. on behalf of the R.C.H.M. (England) was completed and preparation of the final text was begun. (Roger Leech for C.R.A.A.G.S.).

Cross Farmhouse, Westhay, Meare ST 436424

Martyn Brown has drawn attention to a painted stud and panel screen of date not later than the 16th century of geometric and stylised floral design; it was perfectly preserved under reed and plaster recently removed.

Miss Sylvia Collier has submitted the following note and list from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). The number of buildings recorded by people other than the R.C.H.M. staff is steadily growing and making a valuable contribution to the national archive. In the following list of records acquired during 1977 the names of contributors are added in brackets.

<i>West Bradley, Court Barn.</i> ST 546370	Timber-framed barn; early 15th century.	Report, sections. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>Buckland St. Mary, Little Hill Cottage.</i> ST 268132	Stone house; late 16th century; later additions.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>North Cadbury, Galhampton Manor House.</i> ST 640294	Stone house; 1723; incorporating earlier stonework; later additions.	Report, plans, details. (E. H. D. Williams) (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Chard, South Chard, The Old Cottage.</i> ST 328053	Stone house; 18th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Chard Town, Crimchard, Newhouse Farm.</i> ST 317092	Stone and cob house; late 17th century; later additions.	Report, photos, plans. (R.C.H.M. + R. G. Gilson)
<i>Chard, Tatworth, Gulwell House abd cottage.</i> ST 328057	Cob house; 16th century; later additions.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Chard Town, East Street, St. Gilda's Convent.</i> ST 326087	Stuccoed house; 18th century; 19th century additions.	Report, photos, plans, sections. (C. Austin)
<i>Holyrood Street, Chapter Cottage.</i> ST 322083	Stone house; 16th century; early 17th century additions, conversion to tenements.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Cheddar, Oak House.</i> ST 456540.	Stone house; c1600; later additions.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Cheddon Fitzpaine, Glebe Farm.</i> ST 243278	Cob house; 17th century; incorporating earlier features, enlarged in stone.	Report, plans, elevations. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>Combe St. Nicholas, Clayhanger, 'Combe Dale'.</i> ST 316113	Stone house; 17th century; later additions.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Clayhanger, 'Hedges'.</i> ST 317113	Stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Vicarage Hill, No. 6.</i> ST 301113	Stone house; late 16th century; incorporating medieval cruck.	Report, plans, sections, details. (R. G. Gilson).
<i>Chillington, Green Cottages, No. 2.</i> ST 388111	Cob house; medieval.	Report, plans, sections, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Churchstanton, Churchinford, Fairhouse Farm.</i> ST 219123	Rendered house; c1500; later additions.	Report, plans. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>Compton Dundon, Dundon, Lockyer's Farm.</i> ST 497322	Stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>Cossington, Church Farm,</i> ST 357403	Stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Old Dairy House.</i> ST 358403	Stone house; late 16th century; 17th century addition.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Hill View.</i> ST 356402	Stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Manor Road, No. 9.</i> ST 357404	Stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Millmoat Farm.</i> ST 360404	Stone house; 16th-17th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Creech St Michael, Ham, Coal Harbour.</i> ST 289253	Stone house; early 17th century.	Reports, plans, sections. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>North Curry, Knapp, Nut Tree Cottage.</i> ST 306253	Cob house; probably 18th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Wrantage, Weavers.</i> ST 308228	Stone house; 16th century; 17th century rebuilding.	Report, plans, sections, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Ditcheat, Alhampton, Corner House.</i> ST 627349	Stone house; early 17th century.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)

Alhampton, Court House. ST 628347 <i>Douling</i> , Tithe Barn. ST 647430	Stone house; c1650. Stone barn; c1400.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson) Report, plans, sections roof, details. (E. H. D. Williams) (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Dowlish Wake</i> , Higher Farm. ST 375126	Stone house; 16th century, probably late; 17th century alterations.	Report, plans, sections, details. (R. G. Gilson)
Mill Cottage. ST 377127	Stone house; late medieval.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
The Old Parsonage. ST 374127	Stone part of larger house; 16th century.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Elworthy</i> , Willet, Willet Farmhouse (cowman's cottage). ST 104336	Stone house; 15th century.	Report, plans, sections. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>Fitzhead</i> , Meadow Gate. ST 116287	Cob faced with stone house; late 15th century.	Report, plans, details. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>Glastonbury</i> , Abbey Barn. ST 504386	Stone barn; late 14th century.	Reports, photos, plans, sections, details. (E. H. D. Williams) (R. G. Gilson)
<i>West Hatch</i> , Hunters Lodge. ST 287211	Stone house; 16th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
Meare Court Farm. ST 297219	Stone house; 17th century; later additions.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
Virgins. ST 287209	Stone house; late medieval.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Hinton St George</i> , Abbey House. ST 419125	Stone house; 18th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
Bridge Farm. ST 428135	Stone house; medieval; later alterations.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
Lopen Road, Nos. 13 & 14, ST 422127	Stone house; late 17th century; divided into cottages.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
The Old Malthouse. ST 420126	Stone house; 16th century; 17th century addition; late 18th century extensive remodelling.	Report, plans, sections. (R. G. Gilson)
West Street, Oldway Lodge. ST 418125	Stone house; early 16th century.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Lopen</i> , Court Farm House. ST 426143	Brick and stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
Shores Farm. ST 426142	Stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Martock</i> , East Street, Byron House & Welmans. ST 465193	Stone house; late 17th century; reroofed in 18th century; unit house added.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
East Street, The Yews. ST 465193	Cruck and stone house; medieval.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
East Street Farm. ST 466193	Stone house; 17th century.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Muchelney</i> , Muchelney Ham, house. ST 441238	Stone house; 16th century.	Report, plans, details. (L. J. Hall)
<i>North Petherton</i> , North Newton, Lower Rydon Farm. ST 295295	Cob house; 16th century.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>South Petherton</i> , Hayes End Manor. ST 437167	Stone house; c1500; c1700 addition.	Report, plans, details. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Pitney</i> , house. ST 444284	Stone house; early 17th century.	Report, plans. (E. H. D. Williams)
<i>Queen Camel</i> , house. ST 589261	Stone house; 19th century.	Reports, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Stocklinch</i> , Ilford Bridge Farm. ST 372176	Stone house; 16th century; late 17th century additions.	Report, plans, details (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Stogursey</i> , Grisleys Farm. ST 194436	Stone house; early 17th century; addition c1700.	Report, plans. (R. G. Gilson)
<i>Stoke-sub-Hamdon</i> , Castle Street, house. ST 477177	Stone house; early 17th century.	Report, photos, plans. (C. Austin)
<i>Long Sutton</i> , The Court House. ST 466260	Stone house; medieval; 17th century alterations.	Report, plans, sections, details. (E. H. D. Williams) (R. G. Gilson)

Taunton, Canon Street, The
Priory.
Parkfield Road, Musgrove
Manor House. ST 217242
Wedmore, Porch House.
ST 430474

Stone, stuccoed house; early 19th
century.

Stone house; 16th century?

Rubble house; 16th century; 17th-
century additions; 19th century wing
added.

Whitestaunton, Northay Farm.
ST 282112

Stone house; early 16th century;
c1700 additions.

Wincanton, Tout Hill, The Dogs.
ST 713284

Stone house; 17th century.

Report, photos, plans.
(R.C.H.M.)

Report, plans.
(E. H. D. Williams)
Report, plans.
(E. H. D. Williams)

Report, plans, details.
(R. G. Gilson)
Report, plans,
elevations.
(E. H. D. Williams)

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Chandos Glass Cone, Bridgwater ST 298375

The interim site plan (Fig. 15) shows the circular brick base of the cone within which lies the 18th-century glass furnace. Since the excavation of the remains (Somerset Archaeology 1976) work has continued in the fields of historical research and the processing of artefacts.

CHANDOS GLASS CONE, BRIDGWATER

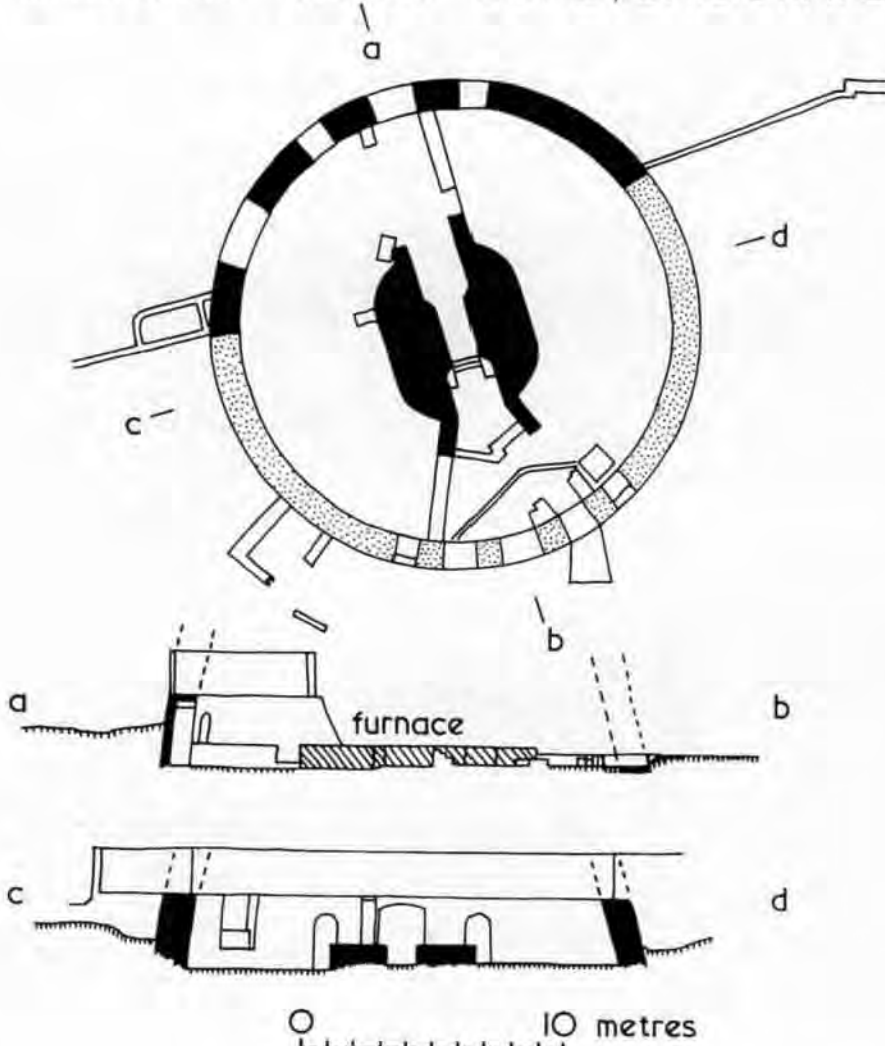


Fig. 15.

A considerable quantity of pottery was recovered associated with the period c. 1840-1939 when the site was operated by the Bridgwater brick and tile maker, John Browne (later the Somerset Trading Company). During this time the glass cone housed within its structure three pottery kilns. A range of domestic utensils as well as building materials were produced. Some sherds found are of Donyatt-type ware and belong to an earlier period. A comprehensive study of post-medieval pottery found in Bridgwater has yet to be undertaken.

Kennisham Hill Engine House, Luxborough SS 963360

This structure was typical in design of a Cornish engine house. Built in 1873, it housed a rotary beam engine which served the dual functions of pumping and winding in connection with an adjacent iron mine.¹ Mining operations, by the Ebbw Vale Company, ceased in 1883 but the structure remained in a ruinous state until 1978 when it was demolished by its present owners, the Forestry Commission. However, before this action took place, trees in the immediate vicinity were felled affording an uninterrupted view. At this juncture Mr. M. Jones (S.I.A.S.) made a photographic record to supplement his measured drawing deposited at the Somerset Record Office.²

Of the six permanent engine houses constructed on the Brendon Hills, that at Burrow Farm (ST 009346) is now the sole survivor and has been the subject of a report by the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society.³

1. R. Sellick, *The West Somerset Mineral Railway and the Story of the Brendon Hills Iron Mines* (1970), 53.
2. Somerset Record Office, T/Ph/jn.
3. *Journal of the Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society*, 1 (1975), 46.

(Brian J. Murless).

Blackmoor Valley, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, Priddy ST 50485564

The presumed remains of a waterwheel were excavated at Charterhouse by the Wessex Cave Club in 1977. Remains of a leat, locally stone-lined or culverted, always c.5 m above the valley floor, may be followed down the right bank of the valley from the slaggers' reservoir. It ends at or close to the site, which consists of a slot, about 1.5 m wide and c.6 m deep, all below ground level, in solid rock below and dry or mortared masonry above. It originally overhung at both ends but was open in the middle, where two short arms formed a cross and housed the bearings and axle of the wheel, which had 3 : 1 gearing that drove some unknown machinery in a building at ground level above. The wheel had an iron axle, 8 cm square, in brass(?) half bearings, and a solid wood hub held in place by iron hoops, 55 cm diameter. The spokes had vanished, having probably rotted, but two wood and sheet iron buckets were found below. Gear wheels were of cast iron and the lower one had split. The wheel diameter was probably about 5-6 m. After the wheel was abandoned the pit was used briefly for tailings disposal, and was then partly filled in. The water ran into a pile of boulders at the lowest level, and from there into a natural swallet. Artefacts built into the masonry indicate that the wheel dates from the Mendip Mining Company time, 1865-1885. The machinery is reburied undamaged, but the swallet below is being excavated. (See *Wessex Cave Club Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 167, pp. 104-105). (W. I. Stanton).

Ubley's Rakes, Priddy ST 510553

Clearance of infill from the postulated 'Groof House' adjoining the horse-whim platform has exposed a small forge hearth, the remains of a coal heap in one corner and some placed stones on the floor, perhaps as seats. The presence of iron nails around the inside edges of the feature and under the earth and stones infill suggests a timber roof, no trace of which has survived. It could have been moved to another site. A few small pieces of iron, possibly associated with mining operations, were found on rock ledges and in the lower layers of the infill. The feature, which was formed by enlarging part of a natural rift in the limestone, could have been a forge and shelter

associated with the operations of the Ducal Coal and Iron Company who were prospecting for these minerals and lead, c.1880, in various parts of the Mendip Hills.

The second 'Groof House' is believed to have been a magazine for explosives. The presence of a horse whim may indicate actual or intended mining operations at depths greater than 100 feet, when some form of mechanical aid becomes necessary for the removal of materials. The location of the site is theoretically favourable being at the intersection of two 'rakes'. There is, however, no visible evidence, nor, it appears, any documentary record of usable materials being raised from this mine. A similar set of features is visible at ST 507554.

(References: *Archaeological Review*, No. 3; *Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society*, Journal No. 4, 1971.) (R. L. Burgess).

Dunball Limeworks, Puriton ST 317409

The disused limeworks at Dunball once formed part of a small industrial complex which extended eastwards from the River Parrett along the Polden Hills. Activities in the area had begun by the 1840s and were eventually to include a range of materials and products: bricks, cement, lime, manure and salt. The various works were interconnected by a rail network of standard and narrow-gauge lines; water access was afforded by wharves on the Parrett, and the King's Sedgemoor Drain which bounds the area to the south.

Archaeological activity commenced in 1971 with the recording of lime kilns by the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society.¹ This work took place in advance of the construction of the M5 Motorway which destroyed the western portion of a cement and lime works. The eastern portion continued in use until 1973 but the subsequent abandonment of the site resulted in a serious deterioration of the remaining structures through vandalism and collapse.

During January, 1978, members of S.I.A.S. surveyed the works and made a photographic record of the buildings and machinery. The works were operated by John Board whose company was renowned for the manufacture of bricks and tiles at Dunwear near Bridgwater. The Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society has also been active at Dunball in recording the remains of the salt works.²

1. *Archaeological Review*, 6, 1971, 1.

2. A. Whittaker, 'The Salt Industry at Puriton, Somerset', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, 114 (1970), 96-9
(Brian J. Murless)

Southfield Brickyard, Taunton

Following a request from the Taunton Deane Borough Council, S.I.A.S. undertook a trial excavation in August, 1977, in a field at South Road, Taunton (ST 233242). Tithes and other map evidence suggested that this was the site of a brick and tile works. Initial excavation uncovered the foundations of a brick structure, the flooring of which was composed in part of laid brick and also of broken tile fragments in a compact layer of ash. The fill of this structure consisted of layers of discarded brickyard material and domestic waste. It is tentatively suggested that this was once a primitive kiln of the updraught type but investigations are continuing. Although trade directories indicate that brickmaking was carried out here, and an adjacent yard at South Street, Taunton, during the 19th century, historical evidence points to an earlier tradition of clay working in the area. (Brian J. Murless).

Steam Pumping Station, Westonzoiland ST 340328

Early in 1977 the Wessex Water Authority requested the assistance of S.I.A.S. in restoring to a workable condition the steam engine and pumping plant that was used for draining the Weston Level. The engine and pump dates from 1861 and replaced a beam engine and scoop wheel of 1830, reputedly the first steam pump on the Somerset Levels. The existing engine was built by Easton and Amos: it is a true vertical engine with twin cylinders, one at each end of an overhead crank-shaft. The shaft carries a flywheel which, by means of wooden teeth on its bevelled rim, drives through a vertical shaft to an Appold pump in a well beneath.

The engine house appears to be basically the original structure, although alterations have taken place. The engine and its present Lancashire boiler were taken out of service in the early 1950s, when a small diesel pump was installed alongside in a new building.

The S.I.A.S. commitment to clean the engine having been completed, a number of persons involved in the project met in October, 1977, to establish the Westonzoyland Engine Group. The aim of this independent group, under the Chairmanship of Mr. I. Miles, is to set up a steam and land drainage museum on the site, the focal point of which would be the engine and pump in steam.

SURVEYS

Exmoor, Air Photographs

Mr. Richard McDonnell embarked on the task of plotting archaeological information at 1 : 10560 scale from available aerial photographs by completing a survey of Exmoor. An unsuspected density of features, not all of archaeological interest and some of recent origin, has been revealed.

Limekiln Survey

Modern large-scale extraction of carboniferous limestone on the Mendip Hills is the successor to a quarrying industry organized on a local level throughout Somerset. One manifestation of this activity was the limekiln, either associated directly with a quarry or in isolation as on the West Somerset coast. During 1977 a survey was commenced by Mr. A. P. Ward for S.I.A.S. in order to determine the number and distribution of kilns within Somerset. Although the present boundaries of the County are being adhered to, two limekilns on the island of Steep Holm have been examined. Ordnance Survey maps (25 in. scale, 2nd Edition) formed the basis for the initial survey and use was made of data in the Sites and Structures Record at County Hall, Taunton. Some 450 limekilns were located by this method but subsequent searches of Tithe Awards and earlier editions of O.S. sheets have so far revealed a further 50.

Fieldwork has indicated structural differences between limekilns in the east and west of the County as well as distinguishing between those constructed primarily for agricultural purposes and those which functioned on a commercial basis. It is also apparent that there are factors affecting the survival of limekilns in particular areas; no Somerset examples have yet been afforded statutory protection. (A. P. Ward).

Watching Briefs

Peter Ellis of C.R.A.A.G.S. has been assigned the new task of maintaining liaison with the statutory undertakers and certain major developers for the purpose of monitoring the discovery and destruction of archaeological sites during such operations as pipeline construction and road improvement schemes. During the year, Mr. Ellis has examined a large number of sites, ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval.

A watching brief was maintained on a Wessex Water Authority pipeline from Wimbleball Reservoir running between Ford (ST 094288) and Adsborough (ST 282292), and between Curry Mead (ST 369225) and Huish Episcopi (ST 426264) (see p. 105). The following finds were made:—

Bishop's Lydeard ST 175290. 3 flint flakes.

Fitzhead

ST 102288. 3 flint flakes; 1 chert flake.

ST 115288. 1 flint flake.

ST 117288. 5 flint flakes.

ST 125288. 1 flint flake.

Halse

ST 129288. 1 flint flake.

ST 133288. 1 flint flake.

ST 148289. 1 flint flake.

Kingston St. Mary

ST 210292. 3 flint flakes.

ST 215290. 1 chert scraper.

ST 226287. 3 flint flakes were recovered from a field where a rectangular and a D-shaped enclosure were visible on aerial photographs. No indications of these enclosures were found on the ground.

West Monkton ST 250281. 3 flint flakes.

(Peter Ellis).

AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 1977

(SOUTH AVON IN HISTORIC SOMERSET)

Compiled by Rob Isles of the Conservation Section, County Planning Department, Avon County Council.

PREHISTORIC

Congresbury ST 44676514

A leaf-shaped arrowhead was found in a water-pipe trench.

Nailsea ST 47487116

A leaf-shaped arrowhead was found by C. Robinson.

Little Down Camp, North Stoke ST 709688

The defence works of this triangular-shaped camp are extensive but have suffered considerable destruction. All that is visible is a single bank with a berm and then a ditch outside to the east. The gap in the centre is almost certainly modern. The visible ditch runs out and ends at the south on the edge of the scarp. The bank returns in reduced form to run along the edge of the scarp to the apex of the triangle and is continued to form the third, NW, side of the triangle. At the approach to the north end of the base bank, the NW side bank expands and is higher in such a way as to form a sort of out-turned entrance.

An unpublished excavation by Mr. Gardner of Kingswood School and the late F. A. Shore proved that on the east side of the camp there was an outer bank and ditch. Nothing is visible on the ground (1972). Witts in his *Archaeological Handbook of Gloucestershire* describes this outer bank. (E. K. Tratman).

Yatton

Stone axe hammer found by D. Clarke. The source of the stone is the Lake District.

ROMAN

Ivy House Farm, Banwell ST 38226135

During rhyne recutting, a probable site of a Roman building was unearthed. Finds included much Romano-British pottery, a brooch and a quern fragment as well as lias flagstones and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. (Marie Clarke).

Banwell ST 401610

Roman pottery including Samian, decorated grey wares and black cooking pot were found during rhyne clearance at Bower House enclosure. (Marie Clarke).

Ludwell Farm, Hutton ST 35875927

Large quantities of Romano-British pottery were found in 1965 (pipe trench) by John Norris and in 1976 (rhyne cutting) by Marie Clarke. Other finds include animal bones and a sandstone roofing tile as well as twelve medieval sherds. To the east of the farm are ploughed but recognizable earthworks, probably medieval but possibly Roman.

Hutton ST 35985815

A scatter of Romano-British pottery was found in a field west of Hutton Cavern. (Chris Richards).

Loxton ST 37505660

Romano-British pottery was found in a field called 'Quarland'. (Chris Richards).

Newton St. Loe ST 708656

An extensive scatter of oyster shells was noted when the field was ploughed. This is probably the midden of the Roman villa, to the east, and if so, the building was more extensive than was thought. No finds or walling were visible, however, in a pipe trench 100 m north of the scatter.

From ST 70716559 an agger runs straight approximately NE for over 500 m towards the Avon, where it is crossed by the embankment of the L.M.S. railway line. The agger is flat-topped 5-6 m wide and 0.7 m high and each side has a ditch. On the north side of the river a well graded curving agger, largely obscured by a modern path, runs up to the Bitton-Bath Road. (Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain*, RR 54) (E. K. Tratman).

Weston ST 35906417

A Romano-British pottery scatter was noted. (Chris Richards).

Wemberham Roman Villa, Yatton

The plan of the villa, illustrated in the *Victoria County History* (1906), is shown as parchmarks on air photographs taken on behalf of the N.M.R. (Refs. ST 4065/2/205, ST 4056/1/202 and others). (Roger Leech for C.R.A.A.G.S.).

MEDIEVAL

Medieval settlements

A preliminary handlist of places which were settlements in the medieval period was prepared by Miss Dorothy Salmon for C.R.A.A.G.S. The results were incorporated in the Avon County Council Sites and Monuments Record. Further work is planned for 1978.

Backwell

A gold enamel ring inscribed on the inside 'SUM PRIUS QUAM TE' and probably of 15th-century date was found by Mrs. M. E. Vowles in her garden.

Land House Farm, Banwell ST 39866233

Over 40 medieval sherds have been collected from this area. (Marie Clarke).

Freshford ST 78006040

Woodwick deserted village was partly cut into by the A36 road improvements. Some 16th and 17th-century sherds were collected from the site by Mr. Lyddieth of Limpley Stoke, along with some daub with calcinated flint which may be earlier.

Compton Dando ST 64826404 - 64806383

A sunken track and six platforms of a deserted hamlet visible on a 1946 aerial photograph and not previously recorded were noted. By 1977 the earthworks had been almost ploughed flat, but much late-medieval and post-medieval material with iron slag was found on the surface. Nearby at ST 64706382 a heavy scatter of 17th and 18th-century pottery in a ploughed field probably represented the site of a few houses on the edge of the former Compton Common.

Keynsham Abbey, Keynsham ST 655688

Continued excavation by the Folk House Archaeology Club, directed by E. J. Mason, has uncovered walling of the south transept, part of a slype and burials. The excavation report is awaiting publication space but informal progress reports are made in the F.H.A.C. newsletters.

Kingston Seymour ST 38996524

Stone slabs about 18" down in a pipe trench and associated with 12th and 13th-century pottery were noted. (Marie Clarke).

St. Loe's Castle, Newton St. Loe ST 69356397

Excavations continued, directed by C. J. Arnold for Newton Park College. Work to date has been concerned with buildings adjacent to the 14th-century keep and defensive works, which are rather grander than would appear from the standing remains alone.

Norton Malward ST 60006500

Village earthworks first noted from aerial photographs were ploughed flat by 1977. Pottery dating from the 14th to the 17th centuries was recovered from black plough soil.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Crucks in Avon

In collaboration with Miss P. Brimacombe, Conservation Officer for Woodspring District Council, the first two cruck-built houses have been recorded in North West Somerset (Avon). The only previous crucks recorded so far north are in the north-east: Englishcombe Tithe Barn, and (now demolished) Weston Manor Farm Barn, Bath. The new ones are at Bell House, Worle, Weston-super-Mare (ST 356630) and Brimbleworth Farmhouse, St. Georges, Banwell (ST 373637). At the former, probably of c.1500, it is uncertain if they are true or jointed; at the latter, of 15th-century date, one over the solar is a tenoned jointed cruck and one (possibly two) over the service end is/are face-pegged. The most northerly of the latter, rare variety previously recorded is at Westonzoyleland, Somerset. (E. H. D. Williams).

UNDATED

Earthwork on Banner Down, Batheaston ST 790648

Its SE side is parallel to the line of the Fosse Way, which it seems to avoid. This is complete and 50 m long. The NE side is traceable to the escarpment away from the Fosse. The SW side is traceable most of the way to the escarpment. Nothing of the SW side could be seen. The area is densely overgrown with brambles and thorn bushes. Where grass can be seen it is very hummocky. Colt Hoare has described an earthwork in this area and it is likely that this is the one he described. The date of it is uncertain, but probably Roman. (E. K. Tratman).

Camp, Langridge, Charlcombe ST 722697

An irregular rectangle as depicted on the Ordnance Survey map. It is cut by the main road. East of the road it has been subjected to superficial quarrying. The part west of the road has now almost disappeared in the playing field that occupies the area. (E. K. Tratman).

Earthwork on Durley Hill, Keynsham ST 637692

Accounts in the Proc. of Bath N.H.S. and Ant. Field Club refer to earthworks on both sides of the Avon protecting the ford across the river at Hanham. On the Hanham side there is no evidence for any defensive earthwork. On the Keynsham side on the flat top of the Durley ridge there is the western half of an apparently circular work, cut by the road. It is much ploughed down and the eastern half cannot be traced. The bank is low and wide and the ditch is inside. Its diameter is estimated at 100 m. It is best seen south of the road. The site has no defensive value. It is possible that this is a remnant of a henge monument. The two visible ends are at ST 63626900 and ST 63646925, and are in Whitchurch parish. (E. K. Tratman).

Camp, North Stoke ST 714689

This feeble-looking sub-rectangular earthwork is much damaged by agricultural activities. The entrance is in the SE side eccentrically placed towards the east. The NW side has been largely destroyed. An unrecorded outwork starts from the NE corner and runs north, with ditch to the east to cross the fence on to the golf course where it returns westerly and ends where the ground has been made up. (E. K. Tratman).

Conygar Hill, Portbury ST 499751

The top of this small ovoid hill is defended by a low bank following the edge of the escarpment. Within it is a mound, perhaps a burial mound. The entrance is eccentrically placed in the NW segment. The actual site is obscured by brambles. A sunken way runs down from the site and curves round to the N. For the first part the sunken way is protected by an outwork joined to the main bank. It is possible that there was once an outer defence along the edge of the bench marked by the 30 m (100 ft.) contour. The site is undated. (E. K. Tratman).

Windmill Hill, Portbury ST 505741

There is a linear earthwork running along the northern or forward edge of the hill. The ditch is on the north side of the bank. The ruins of the windmill can be seen set into the bank which is in places 1.5 m high and 3 m wide. There are no 'returns' of the work to make an enclosure. There is dense woodland and many brambles. The length observed was about 200 m. (E. K. Tratman).

Winscombe ST 57158215

A small circular ditched enclosure about 10 m in diameter has a possible entrance on the east side. The earthwork has been badly damaged by ploughing and has been almost destroyed on the south side. (Ann Everton).

Winscombe ST 42455642

There is a very clear, small three-sided earthwork enclosure in the orchard between Hale Farm and the A38. It is presumed to be some sort of home-paddock enclosure attached to Hale Farm, which is itself an interesting farmhouse with a documented history extending back to the late 12th century. A steep gully in the south western corner of the enclosure is a holloway leading out to the old, deep-worn Bristol-Exeter coach road. This entrance was in use in 1799, according to the Winscombe enclosure map. (Frances Neale).