

Notes

MAMMOTH REMAINS AND PLEISTOCENE IMPLEMENTS FOUND ON THE WEST SOMERSET COAST

DURING the past one hundred and fifty years numerous skeletal remains of the Mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*) have been found on the West Somerset Coast, chiefly in the area from Watchet Harbour eastwards to Kilve beach (O.S. 6 in. Somerset, XXXVI, S.W.). A note in the *Taunton Courier*, March 1827, describes the finding of a complete molar tooth by an inmate of the Williton Workhouse 'whilst digging gravel on the beach at Doniford'. A few years later Sir Peregrine Acland of St. Audries obtained tusks, teeth and the bones of a mammoth on the foreshore near St. Audries. In the *Proceedings of the Geological Society*, 5 June 1839, there is a description of a mammoth tooth then in the Trevelyan Collection, 13 in. \times 6 in. and weighing eleven pounds. According to this report it was 'found in the diluvium on the shore near St. Audries, presented by the Rev'd. E. Webb January 1835'. Another reference is given in a paper on 'Minehead's Submarine Forest', read before the West Somerset Branch of the Society in 1943; in this the late Mr. C. W. K. Wallis mentioned that many years ago when the harbour at Watchet was being cleared and deepened two tusks of mammoth were found.

In February 1899, Mr. W. A. Rixon discovered on the shore at Kilve a tusk which was presented to the County Museum, Taunton Castle, in 1905; and a portion of a molar tooth was found on the shore at Kilve by the Rev. D. H. James and presented to the County Museum in 1918. More recently in the winter of 1947 the writer found a well-preserved portion of a tooth on the shore at Doniford. This was approximately 5 in. \times 5 in. \times 2½ in. and weighed two and a half pounds; subsequent visits to the beach at this period yielded several smaller portions of teeth. All the above finds were apparently quite casual and there seems to be no definite evidence as to the stratigraphical horizons from which they came.

In the summer of 1949 the writer was fortunate enough to discover a large part of a molar tooth *in situ* in the cliff gravels at Doniford, ¾ mile east of Watchet Harbour (Nat. Grid Ref. 31/083431). Although very decayed it was identified as *Elephas primigenius*. The position of this tooth was 16 ft. below the land surface (approx. 50 ft. O.D.) where it was embedded in the lower gravel. In the autumn of 1950, as a result of strong tides scouring the beach east of the Doniford River, the lower gravel, normally covered by sand or pebbles, was exposed. While examining this exposure the writer

discovered a large portion of a mammoth tusk bedded firmly in a patch of clayey gravel (Nat. Grid Ref. 31/094434). This must originally have been a large tusk, the part found being approximately 4 ft. 6 in. in length, and varying from 9 to 11 in. in width, the unusual width being probably due to distortion caused by pressure of the overlying gravel during decomposition.

The evidence of mammoth remains in the West Somerset gravels tends to prove that they were laid down in Pleistocene times, a period in which Palæolithic man also left traces in this part of the country. The first palæolith discovered by the writer in the area under review was a good example of an ovate hand-axe, Mousterian in type. It is made from a rich purple-brown chert, having a rather heavy creamy patina, and is slightly abraded. This unexpected discovery was made in the spring of 1948, since when fairly regular visits to the area have resulted in quite a number of finds. Among these are several good examples of Palæolithic hand-axes, ranging from middle and late Acheulian types to Mousterian. Numerous flakes have also been collected, in most cases having well-defined striking platforms and bulbs. Among them are some examples of the Levalloisian industry, while at least two others appear to be Aurignacian. Most of the remaining flakes and cores appear to be Upper Palæolithic in origin, but until these have been fully studied it would be unwise to express any definite opinion. It is hoped to publish drawings and detailed descriptions of these implements in the near future.

A. L. WEDLAKE.

PALÆOLITHIC HAND-AXE FROM CHEDDON FITZPAINE

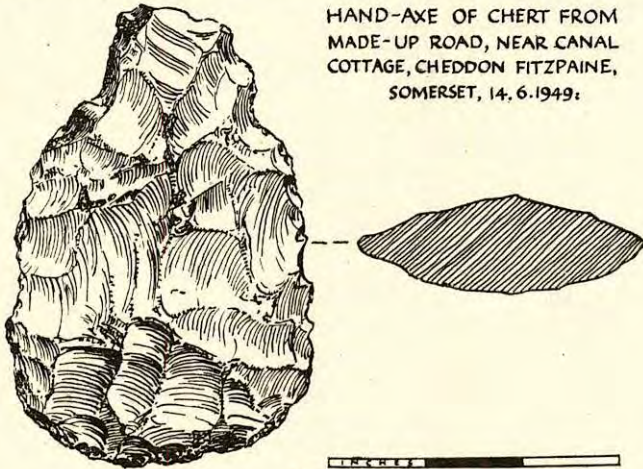
On 23 February 1950 Alan Bellamy, a schoolboy at St. Andrew's School, Taunton, deposited on loan at the Society's Museum, a Palæolithic hand-axe of chert which he had discovered on 14 June 1949 at the side of the gravelled Swing Bridge roadway near the Taunton-Bridgwater Canal, Cheddon Fitzpaine. The Nat. Grid Ref. is 31/244263. The source of this gravel is unknown but is not likely to have come from any distance.

The form of the axe is flat, square-butted pyriform or sub-triangular in shape, recently chipped at the point, which, however, was square and not acute. The butt-end is worked to a rough blade. The implement has been rolled and abraded and heavily patinated to a brownish-white. Its dimensions are: length, 4.7 in.; max. width, 3.4 in.; thickness, 1 in. It appears to be of late Acheulian type.¹

Finds of Abbevillian and Acheulian implements in chert are not uncommon from the area of the chert gravels on the Blackdown

¹ For a recent description of this class of implement, see T. T. Paterson and C. F. Tebbutt, *Proc. Prehistoric Society*, n.s. xiii (1947), 41 and fig. 3a.

Hills and from the area immediately to the south of Taunton,¹ and an ovate Acheulian chert implement, similar in condition to that found at Cheddon Fitzpaine, was picked up on a field of Broughton Dairy House Farm, Stoke St. Mary, in 1948.² While it is not improbable that the source of these implements may have



HAND-AXE OF CHERT FROM
MADE-UP ROAD, NEAR CANAL
COTTAGE, CHEDDON FITZPAINE,
SOMERSET, 14. 6. 1949:

Fig. 1.

been the chert gravel beds on the Blackdown ridge itself, it is equally possible that they may have been brought into the Tone Valley from the Broom Gravels near Axminster, where so many were manufactured.³ Another group of Acheulian-Aurignacian implements has been located in the gravels at Doniford.⁴

W. A. S.

MESOLITHIC CHIPPING FLOOR AT FIDEOAK FARM, BISHOP'S HULL

The discovery of this site was made at the end of May 1950 when the writer and his son, David, were inspecting trenches and the 'throw-out' from foundations of newly erected 132 KV steel towers in a field, part of which is being used for laying out a transformer and switching station by the South-Western Electricity

¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xlviii, i, 67; *Arch. News Letter*, iii, No. 8 (February 1951), 126.

² *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xciv, 45.

³ D. P. Dobson, *Arch. Somerset* (1931), 11.

⁴ Noted by A. L. Wedlake, present vol. of *Proceedings*, 168-9; a late Acheulian square-ended pyriform axe of slightly more developed form to that from Cheddon Fitzpaine was found by W. E. Surtees on high open ground of the Quantock Hills, above St. Audries, West Quantoxhead. It was given to Taunton Museum by Lady Chapman in 1889 (A. 2003).

Board. The field is arable, south of Fideoak Farm, and its north-western boundary is the River Tone. The field stands about 85 ft. O.D., the Nat. Grid Reference for the centre of the area of distribution being 31/192248.

It is in the red-brown alluvial top-soil and in a thin layer of gravel at a depth of 9 in. to 12 in. which overlies the red-purple Kemper Marl that most of the finds have been made. Some of the smaller flakes and microlithic débris are, however, found as much as 18 in. below the surface and thus well below cultivation disturbance. Trial excavations may give further indication of dating and the stage of culture of the industry.

The site has been recently described and a selection of thirty-two implements illustrated,¹ so it is not intended to enlarge on the discovery at this stage. The majority of the 500 artifacts (cores, flakes, blades, knives, hollow and thumb scrapers, points, burins and a portion of flaked axe) are made from chert of various colours derived from the Blackdown Hills; the remainder are of flint, which has probably been mostly imported from a distance. It is hoped to publish more fully the finds made from this and other open Mesolithic sites in Somerset in a later volume of the *Proceedings*.

W. A. S.

THE MEARE LAKE VILLAGE, 1949-50

The excavations at the Meare Lake Village (eastern village) were in progress on a comparatively small scale, from 25 August to 15 September 1949, and from 14 August to 2 September 1950. The work was directed by Mr. H. St. George Gray, O.B.E., who was assisted by Mrs. St. George Gray and other voluntary helpers; and there were three full-time workmen who had had previous experience. Among the volunteers who worked for two days or more were: Mr. W. R. Chisholm-Batten (two weeks), Mrs. J. B. Clark, Mrs. G. E. Fraser, Dr. M. W. Bird and Dr. E. B. Ford.

One Mound, No. XXX, begun in 1948, was completed in 1949; Mound XLVII, begun in 1949, was finished in 1950; Mound XX, begun in 1938, was continued in 1950; Mound XXXII was partly examined in 1949; and Mound XXV was completely dug in 1950. All these mounds were in the eastern half of the East Village.

Timber foundation was exposed in several places where the peat was comparatively soft. Some of the oak was mortised (one hole $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter); oak and alder piles were also occasionally met with. The floors of clay—the material brought to the spot for the purpose—were somewhat confused and difficult to separate because of overlap. The clay hearths were numerous; they were frequently repaired and raised, the layers being superimposed. Some of them exceeded 4 ft. in diameter. In Mound XLVII there were no less than four groups of hearths on the four floors. One

¹ *The Archaeological News Letter*, iii, No. 8 (February 1951), 125-7.

group had ten superimposed hearths; another had six hearths; and the other two groups had four layers each. Mound XXX was also rich in hearths.

Among the finds were fibulae of La Tène III type, a penannular ring-brooch, a finely worked bronze finger-ring with perforations, and other bronze rings, a ring-headed pin of bronze, an iron earth-anvil, small yellow and blue glass beads and another of shale, three 'cheek-pieces' of horses' bridle-bits, one of them not only perforated but ornamented, an antler weaving-comb, spindle-whorls and a loom-weight, some broken saddle-querns, the greater part of a pottery storage jar, a complete small black pot, an ornamented bowl (also decorated on the base), an antler tool for inscribing double parallel lines on pottery, and a flint arrowhead.

A bronze spoon of Roman type, having a twisted handle connected with the bowl by a crank, a survival of a hinged joint, was found in Mound XLVII at a depth of 2.7 ft. below the surface and below the clay flooring. From its position it would appear that this spoon was traded from the Continent early in the occupation of the village—in a late phase of the Early Iron Age.

H. St. G. G.

A PAIR OF CAULDRON-HANDLES IN THE SOMERSET COUNTY MUSEUM

While going through the collections in the Society's Museum at Taunton Castle, the attention of the writer was drawn to two bronze ring-handles, obviously a pair. They form part of the collection of Arthur Hull, of Chard (1802-80). In his will he bequeathed his collection of 'Coins, Medals, Fossils and other Curiosities' to the Mayor and Corporation of Chard as a nucleus for a museum. The collection remained in the Town Hall at Chard until 1915, when it was transferred, on a long-term loan, to the Somerset County Museum.¹

Comparison with material illustrated by E. T. Leeds² showed at once that these two objects were ring-handles belonging to a bronze cauldron, and that they were very close in form to those attached to one found in the River Cherwell at Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxon., and which he placed in his Class AI.³

As in the Shipton example, the staples consist of three prominent ribs about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in width and about $\frac{4}{10}$ in. in thickness. The ribs are more closely set than those of the Shipton cauldron,⁴ and may or may not have been intended to be separate, though in one of the Taunton handles (Pl. XIIa, 1) part of the interior of the staple is

¹ H. St. G. Gray, *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxiii (1917), ii, 113-51.

² E. T. Leeds, *Archæologia*, lxxx (1930), 1-36.

³ E. T. Leeds, *op. cit.*, Pl. I, Pl. II, fig. 1, and p. 14.

⁴ E. T. Leeds, *op. cit.*, Pl. II, fig. 1.

ribbed. This feature is not apparent in the other (Pl. XIIa, 2). The staples are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in width and are roughly circular in section, their external diameter being a little under 2 in. The exterior of both staples shows traces of a ridge, marking the junction of the two valves of the mould. The outer side of each staple, as in those from Shipton, ends in a roughly rectangular plate, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. \times 1 in., which was cast on to the external surface of the neck of the cauldron. The interior end is less well-defined, but forms the third side of the triangle made by the turned-in flat rim of the cauldron and the internal surface of its neck.

The rings, which are cast, are just over 4 in. in external diameter, and of circular section, with a thickness of a little under $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. They seem to have been roughly finished with a chisel, so that the ridge marking the junction of the two valves of the mould, plainly seen in the Shipton example,¹ has been obliterated.

Of the cauldron itself nothing now remains except a small portion of the neck adhering to the staple. From this it can be seen that the neck was made of sheet-bronze, about $\frac{1}{20}$ in. thick, that it was corrugated (two interior corrugations survive) and that the upper part was bent inwards, as in the Shipton cauldron, to form a flat-topped rim, just over 1 in. wide.

It is unfortunate that the provenance of this pair of handles was not recorded, because, as far as is known, the only other example of a Class A cauldron to be found in England is the specimen from Shipton.² The handles show signs of having been buried in a peaty soil, as crevices in them still contain a black substance, mixed with hydrated ferric oxide. The greater part of the Hull Collection, and all the Bronze Age material, comes from the neighbourhood of Chard.³ Among these Bronze Age objects may be mentioned a palstave from Wootton Farm, Bewley Down, a few miles from Chard, on the Somerset-Devon border. It may be of some significance that Hull surveyed Bewley Down for its inclosure.⁴

A. D. H.

WHITE MARBLE URN FROM THE OLD RIVER AXE, LYMPHAM

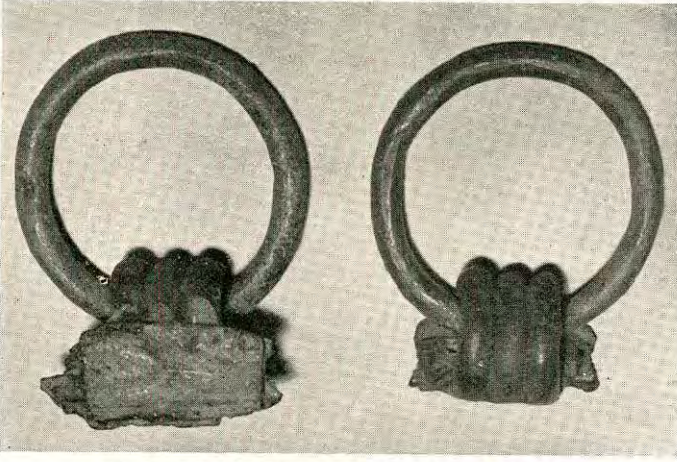
The marble urn seen on Plate XIIIb, was presented to the County Museum, Taunton Castle, by Mr. J. Brandon, Sidmouth, Devon, in Nov. 1949. It is made of a white statuary marble, and is hand cut (not wheel or lathe-turned). The conical moulded cover once possessed a knob or finial which was held by a square iron dowel. The body is oviform, having a short neck and heavy

¹ E. T. Leeds, *op. cit.*, Pl. 1.

² Of the other Class A cauldrons recorded by Leeds, two, or possibly three come from Scotland, and nine, or possibly eleven from Ireland (*op. cit.*, 31-2).

³ H. St. G. Gray, *op. cit.*, 115-16.

⁴ G. P. R. Pulman, *The Book of the Axe* (1875), 559.



(a) Cauldron-Handles in Taunton Museum.

1. Staple viewed from above. 2. Staple, eternal view.



(b) White Marble Urn from the Axe, Lymsham.

moulded rim with internal flange for the lid. Around the middle of the body is a raised flat band and at the junction of neck and shoulder are small solid handles, imitating the false volute handles of a Greek amphora. There is a small stain on one side of the body. Height: 12.3 in.; with lid, 15.5 in. Diameter: max., 11.7 in.; at rim, 7.7 in.; at base, 2.5 in.

The vase or urn was said to have been recovered near Hobb's Boat, an inn on the south bank of the old course of the River Axe in Lympsham parish, Somerset, during alterations to the course of the river about the beginning of the present century (Nat. Grid Ref. 31/341560). It came into the possession of the local parson who gave it to the Rev. Albion Kirke, Rector of Loxton (1906-29) and brother-in-law to the wife of the present donor.

The Greek and Roman Department and the British and Medieval Department at the British Museum as well as other authorities have suggested that, although the vessel may be classical in date, it is probably a 'collector's piece' of the period of the Grand Tour. Be that as it may, a remarkable urn, now in the British Museum, somewhat similar in general character but larger and made of serpentine, apparently on a pole-lathe, was dug up in London in 1881. It was found with a fine decorated leaden ossuary, a glass cinerary urn and other Roman objects at a depth of 18 ft. in Warwick Square.¹ This magnificent vase has a conical lid (the knob of which is also missing), curved horizontal handles cut out of the solid and a moulded base. It is indeed a stone copy of a late Graeco-Italian krater and, although it was suggested by Alfred Tylor, who first described it, that it might be of British origin, it seems more likely to have been a Roman import. In it were found calcined human bones and a coin of Claudius, struck in A.D. 41, and it was possibly used for some administrator or official who died in the mid or late first-century.

Such finds are rare enough in this country and while the Lympsham vase could have been a piece brought over to decorate an eighteenth-century garden or house, the possibility of its use as a funerary urn of the late first century cannot be entirely ruled out in the absence of direct evidence as to its age.

W. A. S.

ROMAN SITE ON R.A.F. STATION, LOCKING

Traces of a building of the Roman period have recently been disclosed by the cutting of foundation trenches for new married quarters on the R.A.F. Station at Locking, near Weston-Super-Mare.

The site is about 300 yards south of the earthwork shown on the 1 in. O.S. Map (Nat. Grid Reference 31/364606). It stands 45 feet above sea-level.

¹ *Archæologia*, xlviii (1885), 223, Pl. xii, fig. 4; *B.M. Guide Rom. Brit.* (1922), 100; C. E. Vulliamy, *Arch. Middlesex and London* (1930), 175, 295.

At the request of Dr. F. S. Wallis, of Bristol Museum, Mrs. D. P. Hinton and the writer paid a brief visit on 22 November 1950. A more thorough examination was made on 28 December in the company of Mr. Graham Brown, when it was found that what had been disturbed is the corner of a rectangular building that may be of considerable extent. The rough foundations of walls occur at depths varying from 6 to 15 in. All the courses of the walls proper appear to have been removed by stone-robbers, but a few well-dressed stones were found out of position. In one place, a drainage trench 6 feet deep has sliced away the side of a stone-lined drain. Only rough, gravel floors were observed. There was a complete absence of bricks, roof-tiles, tesserae, or anything which would show the building to have been other than of solid but simple construction.

A number of potsherds have been retrieved and deposited in Weston-super-Mare Museum. They are mostly of coarse grey or black ware, with rims suggestive of a late third- or fourth-century dating. One fragment of green-glazed mediæval ware was found; it is of the type which occurs on other Roman sites in this area, similar mediæval sherds having been found on the Yatton villa site, which is four miles away.

Although the Ministry of Works has decided against excavation, Mr. Graham Brown hopes to visit the site at intervals during the building operations and to keep such records as are possible.

C. M. SYKES.

SAMUEL HASELL'S VILLA NO. 16

Whatever the final verdict may be regarding the late Samuel Hasell as a field archæologist and observer, his map siting for his Villa No. 16 on Bradley (locally: 'Broadlea') Hill, north of Somerton, has proved correct (Nat. Grid. Ref. 31/480303). Its previous omission from their records by the various authorities concerned can therefore now be rectified. The occasion for a search was suggested by the discovery of a bundle of papers, including letters, maps and drawings, in Taunton Castle, presented to the Society by Henry Laver, F.S.A., Hon. Curator of Colchester Castle Museum, in June 1901. A map of approximately double the size of that illustrating Colt Hoare's *Pitney Pavement* (1832), after careful measurement, provided evidence to lead W. A. Seaby and the writer direct to the field where some part of the foundations remain. A portion of the villa lies under a small mound, where the presence of a lias roofing slab on the surface gave the required clue. Very limited excavation in the spring of 1950 revealed a complex of blue lias foundations of different periods, but both typical of the better built villas of central Somerset, and in the trial trench a small amount of late pottery, perhaps fourth-century ware, was recovered. The soil is quite shallow, and it would seem that quarrying or extensive stone robbing has, elsewhere than under the

small mound mentioned above, done extensive damage in the past. The field is situated above the 100-ft. contour immediately north of the area previously occupied by Great Piece Plantation, now grubbed (O.S. 6 in. Somerset Sheet LXIII. S.W.). Thanks are due to Mr. W. E. Hilborne of Etsome Dairy Farm, Somerton, for his kindly interest and ready co-operation in granting permission to examine the site.

H. S. L. D.

ROMAN DISCOVERY AT LARKHILL, YEovil

On 18 February 1949 workmen engaged in laying an electric cable at Larkhill, Yeovil, discovered and brought to the Museum a human skull, portions of the jaw, a number of teeth, and a Roman coin, the last-mentioned having been found inside the skull. The discovery was made some 400 yards north of the main Preston road and slightly to the east of Larkhill Road, near the site of an old quarry (N.G.R. 31/542167). The late Mr. Courtney Gardner, in a note contributed to *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, xi, 346, and revised for publication by Mr. H. St. George Gray, describes the finding in 1909 on this site of a quantity of Romano-British pottery, articles of bone and iron, and human and animal remains. The late Dr. W. A. Hunt, in a letter to the *British Dental Journal* in 1913, reprinted in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, xiii, 238, also describes digging out a skeleton here and finding at various times coins dating from Constantine I to Magnentius (A.D. 306-350). Portions of human remains from the site have, in fact, been in the possession of Yeovil Museum for some years and may have been discovered by the late Hon. Curator or handed to him by Dr. Hunt. The site is a likely one for finds of this nature since, though not marked on the map of Roman Somerset in the *V.C.H.*, i, a Roman road evidently left the Fosse Way at Ilchester and ran south-easterly towards Dorchester, crossing the present Larkhill Road from west to east. It then skirted the quarry to cross the present main road and emerge somewhere near the summit of Hendford Hill.

The finds were examined by Mr. H. St. George Gray, whose assistance is gratefully acknowledged, and the skull appears to be that of a small man of middle age. The teeth are much ground down, suggesting hard masticating, and there is some osteomata and discoloration as a result of the presence of the coin. Probably owing to shallow burial, the general condition of the remains is poor and Mr. Gray is of the opinion that anatomical reconstruction is not worth while. It is very likely, however, that further discoveries will be made on the site. The coin, placed on the tongue after death as 'passage money', found a resting-place on the base of the skull. It proved to be a reduced *foliis* of Constantine I: *obverse*, IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG., laureated head to the left;

reverse, SOLI INVICTO COMITI, the Sun standing, right hand raised, left holding a globe, head radiated. The mint-mark is illegible.

E. A. BATTY.

Librarian and Curator, Yeovil Museum.

TRIAL EXCAVATIONS AT UPPER LANGRIDGE FARM

Trial excavations were made in 1949 and 1950 at Upper Langridge Farm, about two miles north of Bath and nearly half a mile north of the road to Bristol from Bath via Wick (O.S. 6 in. Somerset, VIII S.W.; Nat. Grid Ref. 31/735686), by members of Kingswood School Archaeological Society. Permission was kindly given by Mr. Roderick Lawson, who owns and farms the land, for trenches to be dug in the 'Top Field' or 'Twelve-Acre Field', a site previously examined in 1912-13.¹

Owing to the strictly limited area available, for example because of requirements of hay-making, it is possible at present only to add a little to knowledge of the site and to make certain suggestions. With the very shallow depth of soil (typical of Lansdown), and considerable disturbance through ploughing, stratification was almost non-existent in the areas examined. It would, however, be valuable if a larger excavation could at some date be undertaken, to determine the nature of structures in other parts of the site, of which there are surface indications, and to establish their sequence.

Pottery and other finds suggest an early date for perhaps a fairly lengthy first occupation of the site. These include a fragment of Samian ware of Drag. 37, Cupid with torches, for which a late first or early second-century date would be appropriate.² Parts of platters of Forms 18 and 18/31 also indicate a first-early second-century date, and this is the general inference from the coarse pottery, and from the three brooches (two bronze and one iron, one a disc-brooch), which do not however seem more closely datable.

The most important single find was a piece of chair-leg of Kimmeridge shale, very similar to, and slightly larger than, a fragment from Maiden Castle.³ In the absence of true stratification it is not possible to give a confident indication of date, but it does not appear to be of fourth-century date as at Maiden Castle. I am not aware of other finds of Romano-British articles of Kimmeridge shale from North Somerset sites.

It may be provisionally suggested that the site enjoyed a first-second-century occupation, and a further occupation in the late third and fourth centuries, but extended excavation would be needed to establish this. Such a history would not be incompatible

¹ *Proc. Bath & District Branch Som. Arch. Soc.* (1909-13), 184-9 and 253-7.

² cf. Oswald, *Figure Types*, ii, 450 (Trajan-Antonine).

³ R. E. M. Wheeler, *Maiden Castle*, fig. 111, No. 23, and p. 319.

with either the pottery finds or the evidence, admittedly slight, of coins. The three-roomed building (still traceable on the surface) uncovered in 1912 is said to have yielded coins of Trebonianus Gallus and Postumus.¹ In 1950 an AE 3 of Valentinian I was found, and a recent surface find of an AE 3 of Constantine II (?) has been kindly shown to me by Mr. E. A. Shore.

It remains to add that no evidence was secured to demonstrate a pre-Roman date for a wall thought in 1912 to be 'British'. A few sherds of Early Iron Age pottery, similar to those from the near-by site of Little Solisbury (Halstatt-La Tene I),² were found in the area examined, one of which came from the wall trench below a collapsed wall of probably early Romano-British date.

I am much indebted to Mr. J. W. Brailsford, F.S.A., Assistant Keeper in the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities in the British Museum, for examining certain of the finds.

J. W. GARDNER.

TWO ROMAN FIBULÆ FROM SOMERSET

The two brooches figured below have both come to light recently in different parts of Somerset. The wealth of Roman *fibulæ*, rings and other decorative bronze pieces from the county is well attested by the large and important groups at Bristol City Museum, mostly from the J. Skinner and A. Capper Pass Collections and at the Somerset County Museum, Taunton, from collections formed by the Drs. Walter, Arthur Hull and from numerous chance finds.

The brooch, Fig. I (B), was located by Mr. James Stevens Cox, F.S.A., in November 1949 at the bottom of a muniment chest at Down House (The Manor) Shapwick, the home of the late Miss H. S. Vialls-Strangways. Nothing was found with it to indicate its provenance, but it is quite likely to have come from the Manor estate at Shapwick. It was presented to the County Museum by Mrs. B. Callaway, co-executor. The brooch is a small variety of the dolphin type with short arms closed at the ends, and the bow has two narrow lateral ribs. The end of the foot is moulded; the spring pin is complete except for the loop at the end of the spring. The brooch type belongs to Collingwood's Group H, probably late first or early second century.³ While many examples of the dolphin brooch with short arms could be quoted, an exact parallel has not been traced.

The brooch, Fig. I (A), is part of the collection deposited at Taunton by the Downside Archæological Society in July 1950.

¹ *Proc. Bath Branch* (1909-13), 185. The other coin-finds are given as two of Claudius I (pp. 186 and 255) and five unidentifiable.

² cf. Falconer and Adams, *Recent Finds at Solisbury Hill Camp, near Bath*, in *Proc. Spel. Society*, University of Bristol, iv, No. 3, 183-222.

³ R. G. Collingwood, *The Archæology of Roman Britain* (1930), 247, fig. 60.

It was found by M. J. L. M. Hickling, Secretary of the Society, in 1949 on the site of the Roman villa, first recorded and explored by Rev. John Skinner, south of the ridgeway between Paulton and Camerton in a field adjacent to a field called 'Chessils' and overlooking Clandown about 500 feet above sea level (Nat. Grid Ref. 31/672569). On this field were also found several sherds of typical black and red Romano-British ware and a small arrowhead.¹

The brooch is of trumpet form, but has lost its spring and hasp and is a good example of its kind. The brooch has been richly

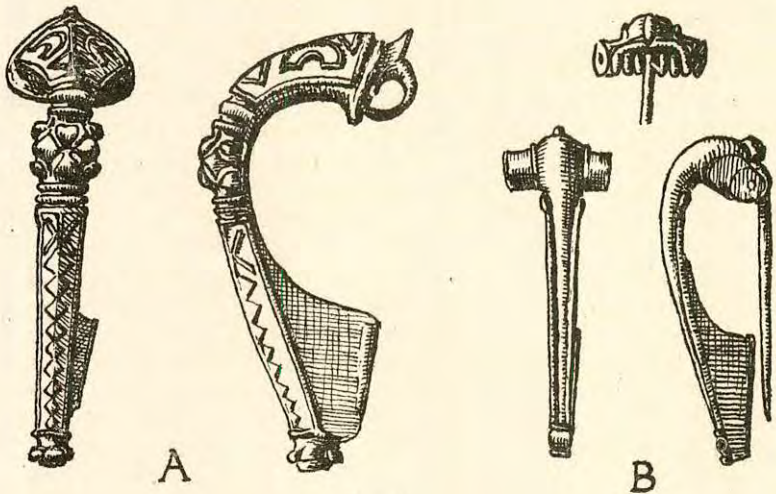


Fig. 1.

enamelled on the trumpet-end with blue in the eyes, red in the mouth and forehead lozenges and probably light green enamel in the background. The zig-zag design of the bow has also traces of enamel filling. The form belongs to Collingwood's type R (iii) and is placed by him as dating from the first half of the second century.²

The form is a common one, especially in the north of the country, and several close parallels can be quoted from southern Britain. There is one very similar to that under discussion labelled 'Mendip' at Bristol Museum; ³ another in the same museum from Sea Mills, with a slightly modified design for the enamel compartments; ⁴ a third, found in the Thames, now in the London Museum; ⁵

¹ The finds are recorded and the brooch illustrated by M. J. L. M. Hickling, *Proc. and Journ. Downside Arch. Soc.*, i, No. 2 (December 1949), 5, Pl. iv (cyclostyled typescript).

² R. G. Collingwood, *op. cit.*, 253, fig. 62.

³ F. 1865, from the Capper Pass Collection.

⁴ F. 1919; other trumpet-ended enamel brooches of different designs at Bristol are F. 692 (no locality) and F. 1866 (Mendip).

⁵ *London in Roman Times*, 96, No. 29; p. 97, fig. 28, no. 29 (A.20228).

and a fourth from Allington, South Wilts, now in Salisbury Museum. Mr. Hugh de S. Shortt has fully discussed the Allington brooch and its significance and the writer would refer the reader to his note.¹

W. A. S.

A MEDIEVAL SITE IN BROOMFIELD, SOMERSET: AN
INTERIM REPORT

Bullscroft is a pasture field on the East side of Broomfield churchyard, bounded on the south by the road connecting the church with the vicarage (Nat. Grid Ref. 31/225321). That part immediately adjoining the churchyard and school buildings was noticed by the writer in August 1949 to be enclosed by a clearly defined bank running approximately due east for some 40 yards from the north-east corner of the churchyard, returning to the south at an obtuse angle to reach the road at an iron gateway leading into the field. It was also noticed that there was a particularly luxuriant growth of grass following this bank, suggesting the presence of a ditch in association with it.

In June and July, 1950, through the kindness of Major J. A. C. Hamilton, the owner, and Mr. Thorne of Duckspool Farm, the grazing tenant, a small trial excavation was carried out on this site. In this, the writer was assisted by his wife and brother-in-law, and, from time to time, by the Assistant Keeper of the Taunton Museum. Five cuttings were made, the first across the south arm of the bank to determine whether a ditch existed. This was found, its bottom 1 ft. wide, 3 ft. 9 in. below surface, and nearly 6 ft. wide from lip to lip. The filling was remarkably homogeneous, suggesting a deliberate filling up. From the fact that there were no post-mediaeval objects in the filling, this had been done presumably in the middle ages. Three mediaeval sherds came from the filling. There were traces of a stone wall on the bank; associated pottery was also mediaeval. The other cuttings were made within the enclosure towards its north side, to detect any building that may have stood there.

One cutting produced what may have been the foundation trench for a wooden building's sleeper wall. It was V-shaped, 4 ft. wide at the top, the bottom being 4 ft. 6 in. below present level, having been dug 3 ft. into natural rock. In the upper part of the filling a pit had been dug at some later period, from which unfortunately no dateable object was recovered. The trench was filled with stone packing in the lower part, heavily mixed with which was much burnt or naturally carbonized wood, of which a sample was taken for analysis. Pottery in the trench was mediaeval, and there were some animal bones present. No certain structural remains were found in the other cuttings, but all produced, in varying quantities,

¹ H. de S. Shortt, *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, lii, No. cxc1 (Dec. 1949).

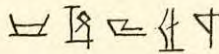
stone roofing slates,¹ many of which preserved the hole for the nail by which they had been fastened to their battens, and also a large quantity of glazed earthenware ridge-tile fragments.² Of these, the greater part appear to belong to Sir Cyril Fox's class II, but there are some of class IV.³ A fair amount of pottery was also recovered from these cuttings. This was wholly mediæval, apart from seventeenth- to early nineteenth-century miscellanea in the topsoil. Some of the rim forms appear to be early, but detailed study is needed before a definite statement can be made. Other finds included a small bronze elongated drop-shaped pendant, many iron nails and some flint scraps.

Further excavation is planned on this site, when it is hoped to produce more definite evidence of the exact nature of the site.⁴

H. CATLING.

ADDENDUM TO THE MASONS' MARKS ON WELLS CATHEDRAL CHURCH

The following marks were omitted from the paper published in *Proceedings*, xciv (1948-9), 123-8.



387 388 389 390 391

Fig. 1.

NAVE, SOUTH—*Ground Floor*: ON work connected with the repair to the Central Tower (c. 1340), 387.

LIBRARY—*Southern half over Eastern Cloister*, built by Bishop Bubwith's bequest, but slightly later than the northern eight bays (c. 1430), 388.

CHAIN GATE.—Bishop Beckington's work (c. 1456), 389-91.

G. A. A. WRIGHT.

¹ These might well have come from the Rooks Castle quarry, see *S.R.S.*, vol. liii, No. 475.

² One ridge-tile was restored from fragments by Mr. A. D. Hallam, Assistant Keeper of the Taunton Museum.

³ Cf. H. St. George Gray, 'Excavations at Burrow Mump, 1939', *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxxxv, 125-7.

⁴ A typescript trench report with sections, lists of finds and photographs is in the Society's library at Taunton.

AN UNPUBLISHED ACHIEVEMENT OF ROYAL ARMS¹

Wells Cathedral.

House, Stuart, full achievement. *Site*, East wall, Chapter House. *Material*, stone and stone framed. *Size* c. 3 feet square. *Shield*, acc. *Helmet*, white (steel) garnished gold, black bars. *Mantling*, apparently gold but mostly white (arg.) lining showing. *Crown*, gold, four arched. *Crest*, in very poor condition. *Supporters* (dexter), lion gold, stat., guard., with four arched gold crown; (sinister) unicorn white (arg.) chain gold passes first to back, then across front, and ends between legs. *Badges*, rose, (dexter); thistle (sinister). *Mottoes*, garter (Honi, etc.), scroll (Dieu, etc.).

The condition of the whole is poor and it requires cleaning and attention. The stone frame has only three sides, the window cill or cornice doing duty for the bottom section. On it in gold and black lettering, which has practically disappeared, is this unique inscription 'JACOBUS REX ECCLESIAE NURTITIUS'. The achievement is over the seat, which, while not differing from the others, is marked with a modern brass as for the bishop. A crochet and piece of ball flower ornament of fourteenth-century panel work have been removed to display the arms. The whole of the (bishop's) panel, including two heads, appears to have been painted at the same time as the achievement. A St. Andrew's cross in red is visible on the dexter side, probably part of the arms of the See, and there are apparently remains of another coat (sinister). This cannot possibly now be deciphered, which is a pity as it was probably the arms of the bishop of the day, and would have served to date the whole as James I or James II.

R. D. REID.

¹ This was omitted from Prof. E. Fawcett's list of *The Royal Arms and Achievements in Somerset Churches*, published by the Somerset Archaeological Society in 1937 and 1938, and is now submitted by Dr. Reid.