

NOTES

Abbreviations used in Notes and in Book Notices:

B.A., M.B.A., L.B.A.	Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age.
I.A., P.R.I.A.	Iron Age, Pre-Roman Iron Age.
N., S., etc.	North, South, etc.
Med.	Mediaeval.
Neo.	Neolithic.
R.B.	Romano-British.

EXCAVATIONS AT CADBURY-CONGRESBURY, SOMERSET, 1971 (ST 442650)¹

Some 500 square metres were examined at the N. end of the 5th century A.D. rampart and ditch across the centre of the hill-fort. This area contained four ramparts or banks, a large rock-cut ditch and at least six stone and/or timber structures. Unfortunately the complexities were such that the ditch and two of the ramparts were not examined in detail and have been left until 1972. Immediately behind them, however, an area first opened in 1970 produced the following sequence:

1. PRIA occupation beneath the PRIA rampart, represented only by pottery and a few post-holes.

2. A PRIA rampart of which only the rear remained, the greater part having fallen down the steep N. slope. The rear consisted of blocks of carboniferous limestone making a vertical face behind large, freshly-quarried blocks of stone forming the rampart core. Clear evidence in plan and section showed that this rampart had been timber-framed, with the rear posts standing in large holes immediately behind the rear face of the rampart itself. Immediately behind this face was a shallow quarry, an occupation level with abundant pottery, none of it obviously early in the Somerset PRIA sequence, and a hoard of 830 slingstones.

3. Evidence of conventional R.B. occupation was again lacking but re-occupation of the area immediately behind the PRIA rampart was demonstrated by two hearths, both using Pennant roof tiles of Roman type. Both hearths are probably related to buildings, one of which was shown to be approximately rectangular with dimensions of 3½m. × 3m. This building consisted of an area defined by a cut-back into the bedrock at one end and a made-up area edged by a revetment at the E. end, where it overlay the edge of the PRIA quarry. Both this building and the adjacent hearth were well-preserved because they were covered by the rampart of phase 4.

4. A stone-based rampart with upright posts at back and front was constructed across the first post-Roman occupation area (phase 3), diverging from and cutting through the remains of the P.R.I.A. rampart (phase 2).

Both phases 3 and 4 appear to be almost aceramic apart from very small numbers of residual 'late Roman' sherds, coarse hand-made sherds, and a quartzitic, wheel-made imported ware (Gaulish?).

5. A stone-based rectangular timber structure with an apsidal end was inserted through and over the post-Roman rampart, at the point where it overlay one of the pre-rampart buildings of phase 3. The apsidal end projected slightly in front of the phase 4 rampart, giving in plan the impression of a bastion. In front of this was an 'apron' of laid, medium-

¹ Cf. *Somerset Archaeol. & Natur. Hist.*, 114 (1970), 101-2.

sized stones, presumably structural, extending this structure as far as the back of the PRIA rampart (now in ruins). Sherds of imported Mediterranean pottery were found on top of the phase 4 rampart within this 'bastion', confirming that the 'bastion' was structurally later than the rampart and that the rampart itself, as demonstrated in 1970, was certainly built before the arrival of such pottery on the site.

Our tentative chronological frame-work for these three post-Roman phases is:

phase 3 — c. 430 - 450 A.D.

phase 4 — c. 450 - 480 A.D.

phase 5 — c. 480 - early 6th century A.D.

That the defences had collapsed by the time imported Mediterranean pottery was common on the site (as indicated by the 1970 evidence), was confirmed by the many Mediterranean sherds found above the collapse of the as-yet unexcavated ramparts and over the top of the ditch itself. Associated with this pottery was a great variety of coarse hand-made wares which would seem to belong to the late 5th or 6th century. There is still no conclusive evidence that the post-Roman occupation continued after the end of the 6th century, and it may well have been much shorter.

Amongst the considerable quantity of material obtained was again a large number of flints, which must now be seen as a component of the post-Roman occupation; many fragments of 'Roman' and post-Roman glass; a fine series of iron knives and other iron objects, including a well-preserved sickle (belonging to phase 3 above), another perfectly preserved small type G penannular brooch (the fourth from the site), and further evidence of metal-working. Much animal bone continued to accumulate and, now that we have examined a considerable area of the relatively bone-free PRIA occupation, it can be seen as one of the main characteristics, along with flints and re-used 'Roman' artefacts such as Pennant tiles, of the 5th century re-occupation.

P. J. FOWLER, K. S. GARDNER, P. A. RAHTZ

FINDS FROM CHARLCOMBE PARISH (ST73276724)

A site producing large quantities of Roman material was found by Mr. Bob Whittaker; he informed the writer who examined the site and identified the finds. These were scattered over the surface where badgers had thrown out soil in digging their setts. Much pottery was found including large amounts of coarseware, mainly jars with out-turned rims, flanged dishes and straight-sided dishes. Much red colour coated Oxford ware was present. Also found were fragments of Roman window glass and pieces of pennant sandstone, probably from roof slates. All the material is of third and fourth century date.

The site lies on a steep south-facing slope, mainly within a copse. A spring rises 50 m. east of the site.

The finds from the site are deposited in the Roman Baths Museum, Bath.

J. PATRICK GREENE

EXCAVATIONS NEAR CRANDON BRIDGE, PURITON, 1971
(ST 326404)

Although it was known for some time that the minor road from Crandon Bridge past Puriton to the A38 was to be straightened near the 'Roman building' excavated by Dewar in 1939 and 1945, no advance investigation was carried out. When roadworks began in mid-February, 1971, mechanical removal of the top soil immediately exposed stone structures. The M5 Research Committee undertook an emergency excavation, made possible through the goodwill of Somerset County Council, which altered its construction sequence to allow 3 weeks for archaeological investigation, and the help of members of local archaeological groups, in particular the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society.

The total extent of occupation recorded was *c.* 300 m N.W./S.E. along the south side of the road but, of this, the area actually examined was only 110 m long by 20 m wide. Undoubtedly, however, the site extends to the south, at least as far as the King's Sedge-moor Drain, and probably up the hill to the north. All that could be done in the time available was to expose as much as possible of the site at its highest level in the area required for roadworks, and to excavate in depth one area about 20 m square at the S.E. end. The stone bases of 10 Roman structures were partly excavated and their plans recorded. They were all rectangular and all aligned on the same N./S. axis up and down the south-falling slope. None were definitely domestic buildings and, while the smallest can be said with some certainty to have been a lavatory, some seem best interpreted as warehouses, in particular, the latest corridor-type structures, examined in some detail at the E. end of the excavation. The small amount of tumble from the walls suggested timber superstructures, though clearly much stone-robbing had also occurred. All the structures exposed at the highest level apparently belong to the late-Roman period or later; but at the E. end of the site where, below present water table, the earliest structures were timber buildings associated with 'Durotrigan' pottery, occupation had spanned the Roman period from the 1st century onwards.

Medieval and later use of the site was also extensive. Ditches running NE./SW. had damaged several of the Roman buildings; part of the site had been overlaid by road metalling. One medieval building with a clay floor and a hearth was excavated; a well or sheep-dip had been built into the eastern structural complex, at the very place where possible timber structures with laid rubble floors overlay the remains of the corridor building.

The material from the site was considerable but lacking in variety, domestic items being conspicuous by their scarcity. The 129 coins ranged from Nerva to Valens, with the majority dating from the 4th century. The coarse pottery included *c.* 25 kilograms of mainly large, unabraded sherds from big storage jars and amphorae. Some of the latter are comparable in fabric with imported Mediterranean wares of *c.* 500 A.D. at Cadbury-Congresbury; other fabrics and forms are less familiar in Somerset and probably date from within the Roman period. The medieval pottery also included imported wares.

This is clearly a most important site which potentially could produce a great deal of information not only about trade into Somerset during and after the Roman period, but

also about differences in the water table in the post-Roman centuries. The likelihood of it being a port is strong. Of the minimum of *c.* 5 hectares of site that almost certainly exists, only a small amount has been completely destroyed. Some of it has indeed been preserved under the new tarmac and the southern grass verge.

M. LANGDON and P. J. FOWLER.

Sites on the M5 Motorway in the Bridgwater area:

At Puriton (ST 316417) where air photographs showed crop marks, a small excavation produced four small worked flints, possibly Mesolithic, but no structures were found.

Under Puriton cricket field (ST 315415) a R.B. site of the 3rd and 4th centuries was discovered during roadworks.

At Horsey (ST 319391) a 14th century occupation level lay under the foundations of an 18th century cottage; a linear flood bank of the 16th century was revealed in drainage ditches for the motorway.

Buried peat and flood levels were observed in the new ditches in the East Bower and Huntworth areas.

At North Newton, a schoolboy, Ben Phippen, reported traces of a R.B. occupation of the 2nd century and a small excavation was carried out.

These sites were investigated by the Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society, which also took part in the rescue excavation near Crandon Bridge.

M. LANGDON.

EXCAVATIONS AT CROCK STREET, DONYATT (ST33081336)

The site was excavated by the Donyatt Research Group, by kind permission of the owners, Somerset County Council, and the farmer, Mr. F. W. Pearce. The area was selected on the basis of a geophysical survey carried out by Tony Clarke on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment. Anomalies were recorded on other sites in the area, and some of these will be investigated in 1972. Financed by the Maltwood Trust and Somerset Archaeological Society.

Two areas, A and B, were excavated. In area A, the base of a two-flue kiln (updraught type) was found, although much damaged by ploughing. The two fire-mouths were slightly sunken and made of flat tiles, the N.E. example being the better preserved. North and East of the kiln, at a 5 m. radius from it, was a circle of 5 post holes, with others inside the circle. The natural clay surface around the kiln was packed with small sherds, forming a floor or working area, and two small ditches, filled with black ash and wasters, linked the fire-mouths with a drainage ditch. The kiln belongs to one period only, and, although several Late Med. features, such as knife-slashed handles and thumb bases, were found, a date of 1500-1550 was indicated by lobed-cup sherds, and a Raeren mug. All the pottery was grey-buff in colour, with greenish-amber or copper-green glaze. Decorative motifs included rosette stamps, one well-made fleur-de-lys, white slip-combing and sgraffito designs. The most common forms were jugs, cisterns and cooking pots; lobed-cups were also represented.

The excavation of Area B revealed substantial stone walls, surrounded by a layer of flint cobbles, part of which had been covered by a lean-to. The latest phase of this building, which was probably destroyed by fire, seemed to date from 1650-1700. Beneath it was an occupation layer, contemporary with the kiln in area A; this part of the site will be examined in more detail another season.

R. COLEMAN SMITH and T. PEARSON.

EXCAVATIONS AT GATCOMBE, 1970-71

Excavations at Gatcombe in 1970 and 1971 covered an area of almost 550 sq. ms. Substantial parts of four buildings were excavated. In area C, building 11 proved to be over 15 ms. wide and at least 11 ms. long, with one large room, fronted by a long corridor. In the room, rough cobbling, a drain and two flanking stone platforms suggested use as a workshop, and the mass of animal bones and bone pins discovered in a "cellar" beneath the front corridor perhaps point to a slaughterhouse. In area B, two buildings erected in the late 3rd century seem to have been bakeries. Building 16 was at least 16ms. long and probably 9 ms. wide, with a battery of four stone ovens. Building 12 was 12 ms. wide but was only traced for a distance of 8 ms. In the end of the part that was excavated, however, were found two massive, well-preserved ovens, as well as a quern-platform and a hearth. Building 16 was eventually replaced by another building (13/14), probably after a short abandonment. The new building followed, and utilised, the foundations of much of the old one, but its interior plan was markedly different. At one end were two square rooms, which opened onto a paved yard with water-tank stand and metal-working hearth. Various platforms and benches were built around the edge of the yard. Beyond this was a second yard which may have been a farmyard. This building went through three sub-phases, and in view of its foundation date, in the early 5th century, it may well have been occupied into the second half of the 5th century.

Beneath these masonry remains in area B, traces of earlier occupation were found. The earliest were two or three flint flakes and microlithic blades, but the earliest structural remains are no earlier than 1st century. A complex of post-holes with no obvious pattern were attributable to the 1st or 2nd centuries A.D.; a small cremation burial of the early 3rd century brings the total of such burials from this area to three. The cremation vessel, apart from containing a complete grey beaker also yielded a tanged-and-barbed arrow-head of late Neo. type. There was no suggestion of occupation of this part of the site during the mid-3rd century.

KEITH BRANIGAN.

EXCAVATIONS AT NORTON FITZWARREN (ST 195263)

The Society would like to thank Mr. L. B. Jakins, the land-owner, for permission to dig and for his interest and forbearance; we are also very grateful to the many volunteers, both members and others, for all their hard work; and particularly to No. 2 Locating Battery, Royal Artillery, Larkhill, who carried out a detailed survey of the site, a task which was essential, but beyond the resources of the excavation team.

The 1971 excavation was again principally concerned with the M.B.A. phase, and took

place mainly in the N.W. part of the site.¹ Six phases can now be recognised.

I. *Neolithic*; before 2000 B.C. Flint and chert flakes and tools have been found in most trenches, but no structures belonging to this phase have been identified. One piece of pottery, comparable with Hembury-ware (early Neo. in Devon), was found in the B.A. ditch, and could represent a local lingering of Neo. pottery traditions.

II. *Middle Bronze Age*; c. 1400-1000 B.C. The hoard found in 1970 belongs to this phase, and is contemporary with the large defensive ditch, now thought to enclose an area of about 5 acres on the N.W. part of the hill. The ditch has now been found in six sections; its line can only be fixed by digging, as the geological features on the site make the use of geophysical prospecting machines more confusing than useful. The ditch is now thought to be up to 8 ft. deep and to have had a bank on each side. More decorated pottery has been found in it, and a small perforated whetstone. A small gully was also found, and contained masses of burnt daub, as well as B.A. pottery.

III. *Earliest Pre-Roman Iron Age*; c. 500 B.C. A few fragments of pottery of this phase were found in 1970. This year, two large pits were found, both containing large amounts of 'situlate jar' pottery, and one including iron-slag. Both pits were sealed by the back of the I.A. rampart, showing that the settlement in the first phase of the I.A. was probably undefended.

IV. *Later Pre-Roman Iron Age*; c. 100 B.C. Several small pits and gullies, containing iron-slag and 'Glastonbury' pottery have been found. The main rampart is believed to belong to this phase; the bank is of simple dump construction, and has a large V-shaped ditch in front. A trench at the South end of the site, not far from a spring, was sterile; this suggests that the ramparts were built around an area large enough for cattle, as well as the human inhabitants.

V. *Final Pre-Roman Age*; c. 40 A.D. The main ditch had been re-cut on a smaller scale; wheel-made pottery was found in this new ditch, and suggests that the hill-fort was refurbished, probably at the time of the Roman conquest. A possible road surface, found at the top of the S.W. holloway, below 5 ft. of ploughsoil, may also belong to this phase, although it certainly continued to be used in the Roman period.

VI. *Romano-British*; c. 43-100 A.D. Pits and gullies contained large quantities of early R.B. pottery, mainly of very simple types. The complete absence of coins and Samian ware suggest that the site was soon abandoned, settlement being transferred to the lower ground nearby; later R.B. pottery has come from other parts of the parish.

There is no evidence of any later occupation of the hill-top, in spite of local traditions, pointing to its use for military or market purposes in the Middle Ages.

NANCY LANGMAID.

¹ Previous notes have appeared in P.S.A.S., 42, 1908; P.S.A.S., 112, 1968, and P.S.A.S., 114, 1970. A more detailed account appeared in Current Archaeology 28, September 1971.

EXCAVATION AT CATSGORE, SOMERTON, SOMERSET, 1971
(ST 507263)

The excavation was sponsored by the Department of the Environment, the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, the Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society and Bristol Education Committee. The work took place with the kind permission of N. Nutting Esq., of Catsgore Farm. Over 70 voluntary helpers came to the site at their own expense, including 31 pupils from Lawrence Weston and Lockleaze Schools, Bristol. Full acknowledgements to the many other persons who contributed to the success of the excavation will be made in the final report.

An area adjacent to that excavated in 1950¹ was examined after a combination of hill-wash and deep ploughing had brought much building debris to the surface. Excavation revealed a sequence of buildings dating from the 1st to the 4th centuries A.D., and showed that modifications must be made to the conclusions reached in 1950 regarding the dates and functions of the buildings then excavated. Building debris brought to the surface in adjacent fields indicates that this site and the one excavated in 1970, 200 metres to the northwest, are part of a settlement covering over 3 hectares.

Belonging to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries were a number of features including a gully and associated rubbish pit, the stone foundation for a rectangular building and the circular 'native hut' partially excavated in 1950. The ring of post-holes conjectured for the circular hut was not evident in the excavated area; instead the outer face of an unmortared wall came right up to the edge of the ditch surrounding the hut. The bottom and outer face of this ditch had been lined with lias slabs. Inside the area enclosed by the ditch and wall a tightly packed layer of rubble overlay the 1st century ground surface. Until the rest of this surface has been completely examined, the function of the building must remain in doubt. Durotrigian pottery was found in association with all the above features.

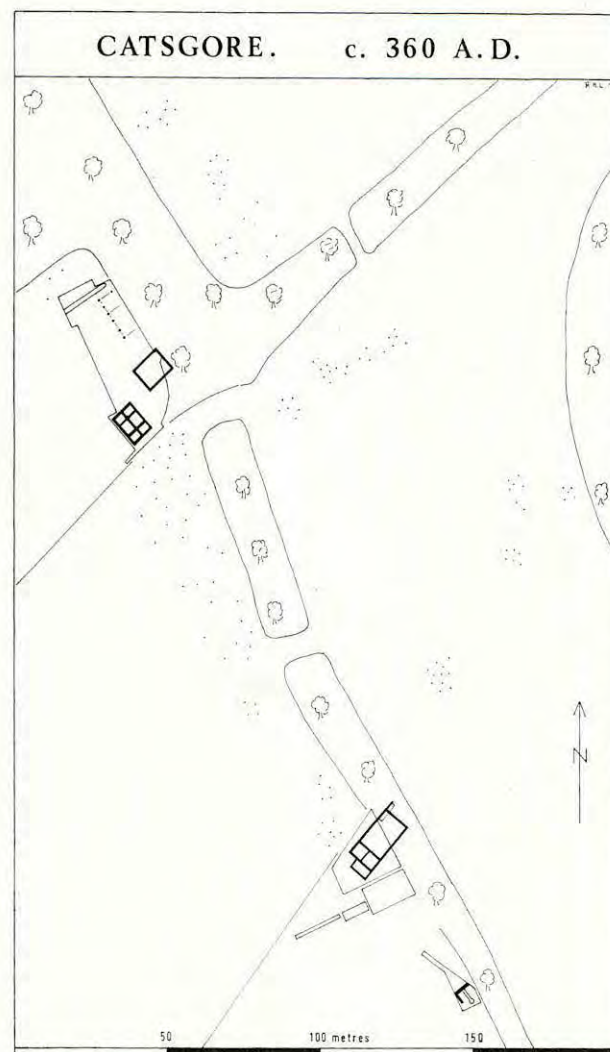
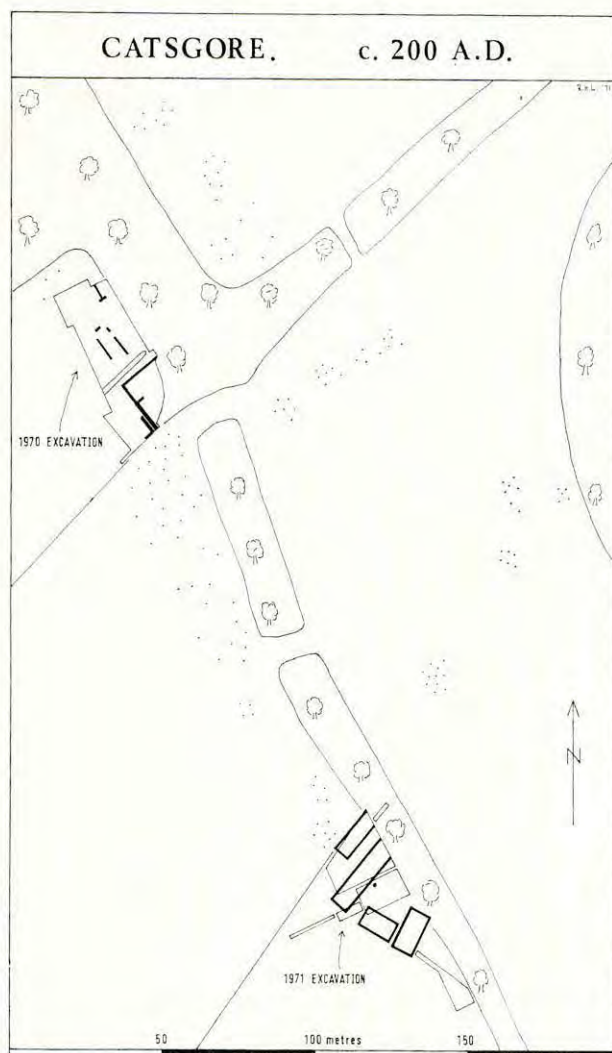
Two rectangular buildings with stone foundations belonged to the late 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. The first, with a well-defined series of drains and possible stall divisions, was probably a cowshed or stable. The second, with several drains, a rectangular storage bin and two ovens, was over 25 metres long and 7 metres wide. Both buildings were contemporary with the two rectangular buildings excavated in 1950. The courtyard and well, associated with the latter, are now known to be bounded on three sides by buildings.

By the late 3rd century A.D. the site of the above buildings had been entirely replanned. Parts of two rectangular stone buildings belonging to this phase were excavated, and were shown to have been occupied until c. 365 A.D. The first overlay two of the earlier buildings and was itself sealed by a medieval road, formerly thought to be the line of a Roman road. This building was initially undivided inside, but was later subdivided into three rooms, and extended on the west and east sides. The second building lay at the southern end of the known settlement, and features in the area excavated included a corn dryer and associated storage bin.

In 1972 an area adjacent to the 1970 excavation will be examined. The entire area between the 1970 and 1971 excavations is being much disturbed by ploughing, and the overall aim of the excavation is now seen as being the complete examination of the western part of the settlement.

R. H. LEECH.

¹ "The Roman Site at Catsgore, Somerton", C. A. Raleigh Radford, *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, **94**, 1951.



Notes on the plans. On the plan of Catsgore c. 200 A.D. the two most southerly buildings are those excavated in 1950. On both plans dots represent building debris on the surface of the ploughed fields.
Scale 1/2500

PRESUMED PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM WORDSWORTH
WHEN YOUNG

An offprint of the presumed portrait of William Wordsworth when young together with the note which appeared in volume 114 of *Proceedings* was sent to the National Portrait Gallery. This resulted in the date of the drawing (*circa* 1787) being questioned, as the costume was not considered to be in keeping with that period.

Before being accepted for the Wordsworth Bicentenary Exhibition in 1970 the drawing had been specially taken to London at the request of the Arts Council for vetting by a leading authority on portraits. A further examination of the portrait has now been made by experts, amongst whom was the authority who originally vetted the drawing in 1970. From the style of the collar and cravat depicted in the drawing the unanimous verdict now is that the date is *circa* 1835. This therefore disqualifies it from being a portrait of the poet, and discountenances a long held family tradition. The marked likeness to the poet, however, remains. This, and the known provenance of the drawing, and the fact that it was found put away together with two poems of the poet, one signed by him, a letter from him to his first cousin William Crackanthorpe, and a letter from his daughter, Dora, to another Crackanthorpe cousin, must mean that it is a portrait of a relation of William Wordsworth of a later generation. The author regrets having contributed a thesis to these *Proceedings* which has been found to be untenable.

C. COOKSON