TWO STONE AXE-HAMMERS FROM SOMERSET

1. ALLER

A complete axe-hammer (Fig. 1) was found by Mr. P. C. Maltby of Aller Court Farm, Aller, probably in 1972. It lay on the surface of a ploughed field about half a mile west of the village, at grid reference ST 388291. Dark green-grey in colour, the axe has an extremely pitted surface, with no surviving trace of polishing. It measures 21.5 cms. in length with a maximum breadth of 9.6 cms. The shaft-hole is 3.5 cms. in diameter and is 12.7 cms. from the blade. The axe compares with type IIc in Roe's classification of battle axes (Roe, 1966).

It was submitted for examination by the Implement Petrology Survey of the South West, where the work was carried out by Mr. R. V. Davis. Mr. Davis' report described the rock as 'an altered amphibolite with distinctive alteration of the mineral assemblage'. He went on to say that although it is not the product of one of the recognized 'axe factories', when the collection of stone axe thin-section slides is re-examined it is possible that it may form part of a new, previously unrecognized group. It is probably of Cornish origin. The axe was given the serial number SO 132/1689 by the Survey.

Mr. Maltby has very kindly placed the axe on loan to the Somerset County Museum, Taunton.

2. CHEDZOY

A fragment of an axe-hammer (Fig. 2) was found this year by Mr. C. Norman of 14 Broadlawn, Woolavington. Mr. Norman discovered it while field walking across a ploughed field near Chedzoy, at grid reference ST 35103755. The surviving portion is the blade end and includes part of the shaft-hole, the weak point of these tools. The weathering of the broken edge shows the breakage occurred in antiquity. It measures 9.2 cms. in length, 8.0 cms. in width and 6.1 cms. thick. The socket is 6.7 cms. from the blade.

Like the axe from Aller, the stone was dark green-grey in colour and the surface pitted. It was sent for petrological examination, again by Mr. Davis, and the results were very similar to the Aller axe: an altered amphibolite. So immediately there is a little more evidence for a possible new Cornish group.

The axe was given the serial number SO 133/1691 by the Survey, and is to be deposited in the Somerset County Museum by Mr. Norman.

Both axes were unstratified and unassociated finds. Objects associated with axe-hammers found elsewhere in Britain, however, date them to the Beaker-Early Bronze Age period (2200-1700 B.C.). Known Cornish 'factories' were producing shaft-hole tools at this time, namely groups I, III, XVII and XIX.

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My thanks are due to Sandy Morris for the drawings, Mr. Norman and Mr. Maltby for their kind help and co-operation and Mr. R. N. R. Pears of the Dorset County Museum for bringing the Aller axe to my attention.

STEPHEN MINNITT,
Somerset County Museum

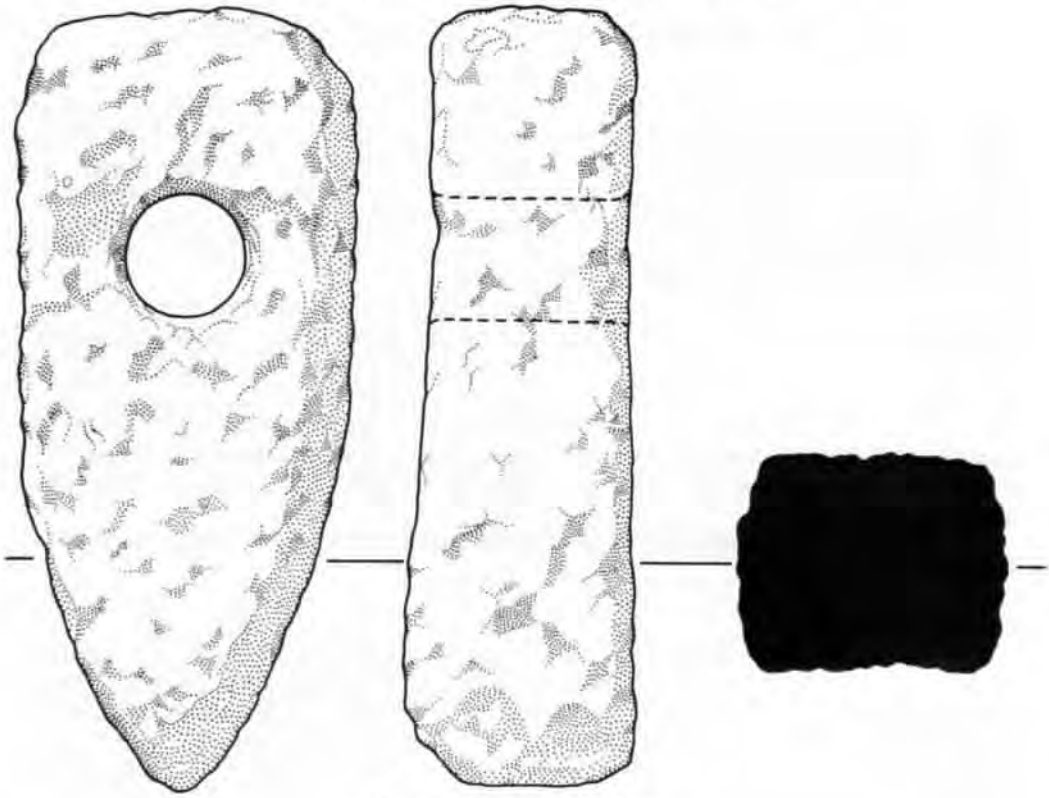

Fig. 1. Axe-hammer from Aller.

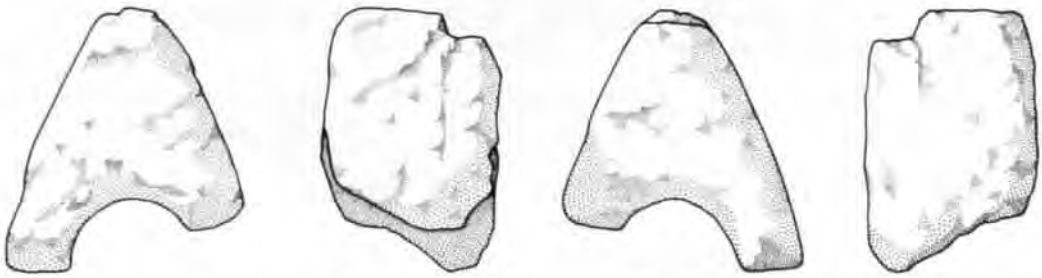

Fig. 2. Axe-hammer fragment from Chedzoy.

A CHERT HAND-AXE FROM CHARD, SOMERSET

The purpose of this note is to place on record the finding of a large, chert Palaeolithic hand-axe, and briefly to consider the origin and date of the extensive sheets of gravel which exist along the valley of the River Axe, from Chard to the sea.

The hand-axe (Fig. 1) was found by the writer in the large gravel quarry about ½ km south of Chard Junction station (ST 342045), worked by Messrs J. R. Pratt and Sons. The occasion was a visit by the Quaternary Research Association in April, 1974, and the hand-axe was picked off the heap of large stones beneath the screening plant. Mr. N. Stephens, a member of the party, has since kindly made enquiries and been assured by the gravel company that no gravel was being screened at that time from any other source than the pit itself. A rolled chert flake was also on the heap, and another member of the party, Mr. Gale Sieveking, found another in the gravel scree within the pit.

The hand-axe is a finely-made tool 21.5 cm (8½in) long, of flattish pointed form, and is in a sharp, almost mint condition. This condition is in marked contrast to that of a small (10 cm) twisted-ovate hand-axe of chert also found by the writer in the same pit in June, 1959. This earlier find is very rolled, to such an extent that the flake ridges are almost obliterated and the piece is barely recognisable as an artifact. It was found in fallen material at the base of the pit on the north side beneath a section of well-bedded gravel overlying coarse unbedded gravel. At that time, the operator of the mechanical digger said that only two or three implements had been found, and he thought they came from near the base of the stratified gravel. In 1956, Mr. A. J. Miller informed the writer that one of the workmen had found a hand-axe 3-4 years previously. Mr. Miller had also questioned the workmen and ascertained that very few implements had been found in the nearby pit opposite Westford Farm (at ST 339044) but they had been found in quantity 'some years ago' in the pit (at ST 338046) closer to the River Axe. Most of these hand-axes must have gone into private collections for the C.B.A. Gazetteer (Roe, 1968) only lists three and one flake from the Junction Pits distributed between Bristol, Dorchester and Exeter Museums. Four more come from other sites in the parish, and twenty-one plus nine flakes, including two Levallois flakes, from Chard, but no specific location. In fact, Roe cautiously notes that some of the early finds from Broom were marked 'Chard'.

The Axe valley is famous for its chert palaeoliths, first recorded by d'Urban (1878). Evans (1897) noted four in the Blackmore Museum at Salisbury, found during the erection of telegraph posts between Chard and Axminster. Broom, in the parish of Hawkchurch, was the most prolific site, and the archaeological aspect is clearly described and assessed by Professor C. F. C. Hawkes (1943) in conjunction with Mr. T. T. Paterson. More recently, geologists have re-considered the problem of these extensive spreads of gravel in the Axe valley below Chard, especially in relation to the possibility of glacial ice having extended further into South West England than usually thought (Mitchell, 1965; Hawkins and Kellaway, 1971; Kellaway, 1971). Stephens (1971) has drawn attention to the 'Chard Gap' and suggested that glacial melt-waters may have been impounded by the Cretaceous escarpment at Chard, eventually breaking through to form the gap and deposit the gravels along what is now the Axe valley. He further suggests that palaeoliths made in the Hoxnian were picked up and incorporated within the gravels. Green (1974) has questioned this, and demonstrated that the foreign material in the gravel was not glacially derived but was from the tertiary rocks above the Chard Gap. However, this does not mean that the gravels were not the result of escaping melt-waters.

The contained palaeoliths can only give a very broad date for the gravels, but there are inferences which, in the absence of other means of dating, are worth considering. The few sites in Britain where hand-axes are found in any reasonably-dated

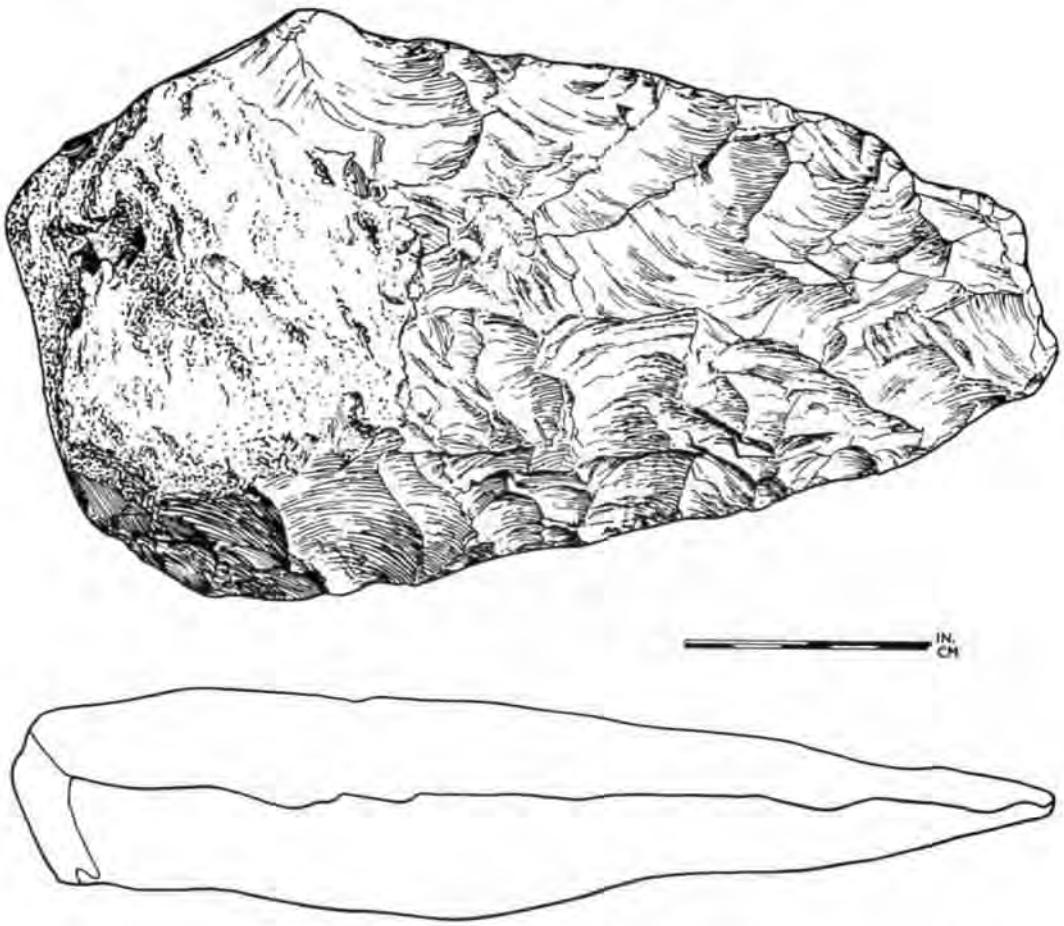

Fig. 1. Hand-axe from Chard.

geological context indicate that they were made during the Hoxnian Interglacial or the succeeding Wolstonian Stage, which comprised several episodes including glacial and interstadial phases. Conversely, hand-axes are not known in pre-Hoxnian deposits, unless the few from Kents Cavern really do belong with the 'Cromerian' fauna. Neither are they found in Ipswichian nor Devensian sediments, with the apparent exception of a small number of very distinctive forms not known from the sites in the Axe valley. Levalloisian flakes and cores first seem to appear in the later part of the Wolstonian Stage, and there are a few such pieces from Broom (Roe, 1968). Twisted ovate/cordate hand-axes are characteristic of Wolstonian sediments, and these are found at Chard and Broom. On present evidence it is most unlikely that these gravels were the result of Anglian melt-waters, for there would not have been palaeoliths around to become incorporated. Also, from geological and geomorphological considerations, a Devensian date would seem impossible. Everything points to a Wolstonian date, and probably the latter part of it.

The disparity between the fresh and the rolled palaeoliths is demonstrated by the two finds described above from Chard Junction Pit. Such differences were commented on by Evans (1897) and Hawkes (1943), and Paterson considered that the very

fresh ones came from a land surface subsequently buried by gravel. This needs corroboration, if possible. The rolled palaeoliths were, on the basis of their condition, considered to be earlier. Such conclusions are not shared by the writer. They may be true, but it seems more likely that the formation of the gravel took place in a series of events separated by no great time interval and, if the melt-water theory is correct, in somewhat catastrophic inundations and deposition. Palaeoliths on existing land surfaces were either covered immediately with the minimum of movement or, by chance, caught up in the floods and swept along among the other stones. They would not need to travel far in this manner to become in a rolled or very rolled condition. There is therefore no valid reason for considering that the rolled palaeoliths are of a different date from the fresh ones. In the opinion of the writer, the archaeological evidence is in accordance with Stephens' (1971) interpretation of it.

The two hand-axes have been placed in the Somerset County Museum.

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J. J. WYMER

LITTLE POUNDISFORD FARMHOUSE

During 1976 an application by the owner for 'listed building consent' to demolish the derelict farmhouse was approved by the Taunton Deane Borough Council. The house was surveyed by the writer as part of the work of the Society's Historic Buildings Committee in recording threatened buildings of historical and architectural interest.

Little Poundisford (ST 224210) is situated in the hamlet of Poundisford in Pitminster parish. It is constructed of rubble and cob, and the roof is thatched. The ground-plan is one that occurs frequently in vernacular buildings in Somerset, having an asymmetrical 3-cell layout with a cross-passage running between the 'service' room (at the north end of the building) and the rear of the 'hall' stack. The hall and service room do not extend to the full depth of the house, however, for in each case a narrow room or passage has been partitioned off at the rear, and there are signs (in the form of a half-beam and a distinct area of flooring) that such a room also existed at the rear of the 'parlour'. There is also a single-storeyed brick-built extension projecting from the rear of the building behind the service end, but this is a later addition.

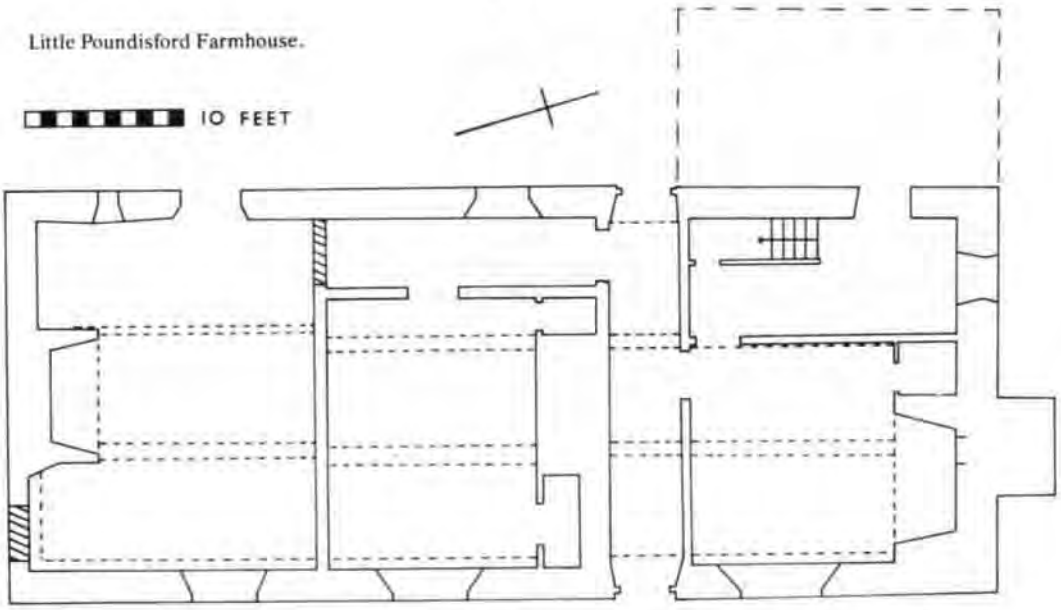
There are fireplaces in all three of the main ground-floor rooms: that in the hall has been completely blocked by a modern fireplace, but the fireplace in the parlour has a depressed 4-centred wooden lintel with a narrow chamfer along the lower edge. The fireplace in the service room has been partially blocked by a later inserted fireplace, but it is possible to see the entrance to a bread-oven which projects beyond the line of the gable-end wall. The ceiling beams are chamfered, and stopped with simple run-out stops; and certain of the windows (on both floors) may be original, having flat-splayed heavy wooden surrounds and a single mullion.

The upper floor, which is almost wholly within the roof-space and lit by dormer windows, is reached by an L-shaped stairway contained within the narrow room at the rear of the service end, but there are indications that there was formerly a stairway which rose from the passage behind the hall into the room behind the parlour, where it turned at right-angles onto the upper floor: the ceiling of the hall passage rises at its southern end, there is a small stair-window in the rear wall of the room behind the parlour, and the outline of a flight of stairs can be detected on the wall which separates the parlour from the hall. The southern end of the hall passage is now blocked.

There are two fireplaces on the upper floor: one is situated immediately above the parlour fireplace (and would appear to be of contemporary build), but the other is positioned rather awkwardly to one side of the main stack at the service end and has a separate brick-built chimney. Both fireplaces have simple wooden lintels. The upper floor was at one time ceiled at collar-level, for there is a longitudinal ceiling beam from which half-collars are linked to the purlins by bird-mouth joints. The partition walls which separate the rooms over the hall and service end, both from each other and from narrow rear rooms (similar to those on the ground floor), are constructed of vertical studs supporting horizontal rods which are covered with daub: this may also be the construction of the equivalent partition walls on the ground floor.

The roof over the service end is in a state of collapse, but two of the remaining trusses have straight principals resting on the walls and linked by collars with halved dovetail joints. A third truss, set in the partition wall between the rooms over the hall and parlour, has lost its collar (the joints remain) but it has two lengths of what may have been a tie-beam running inwards from the feet of the principals. The scantling of the roof timbers is thin in relation to their length, the quality of the carpentry is rather mediocre, and there is no smoke-blackening.

Little Poundisford Farmhouse.



The ground-plan of the farmhouse indicates that it was probably built before the 18th century, and this is confirmed by the shape of the lintel of the parlour fireplace and the fact that the upper floor is contained within the roof-space. On the other hand, the absence of smoke-blackening in the roof, and the presence of halved dovetail joints (as opposed to tenons) in a roof of indifferent workmanship, indicates that the roof itself is post-medieval (although it is possible that the shell of the building is older). The narrow rear rooms or passages seem to represent an early version of the 'double-pile' plan, moreover, for their dimensions are reminiscent of an outshut and yet they are an integral part of the building. Such features suggest a 17th-century date for the house in its present form.

A further feature which merits attention is the fact that during at least the later history of the house the 'parlour' was isolated from the rest of the building, for the southern end of the hall passage only provided access to the stairway which ran up to the room over the parlour: the room behind the parlour had its own external door in the rear wall of the building, and there was also another external doorway (now blocked) in the gable-end wall alongside the parlour fireplace. Little Poundisford is probably the house which Sir Robert Hall once visited and described as having a 'two-unit' plan (i.e. with structurally separate accommodation for two households),[1] but it seems unlikely that the building was constructed with this purpose in mind, for it has a typical vernacular ground-plan. Moreover, the internal wall which separates the hall from the parlour is a brick-built replacement of an earlier wall which may have had a communicating doorway. Alternatively, the stairway (which duplicates that at the northern end of the building) could have been a later insertion which blocked the original access to the parlour through the hall passage. The former parlour may, moreover, have been used for storage purposes rather than as separate living accommodation; and it is clear that in the final phase of the history of this house the whole of the southern end of the building was no longer in residential use—for access to the hall passage had been blocked off, the stairway had been removed, and on both floors the flooring and wall-plaster had largely disappeared.

1. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc., 118* (1974), 33.

The writer would like to thank the owner of Little Poundisford for permitting this survey to be made.

MARK McDERMOTT

BROOM'S COTTAGE: A COB BUILDING AT LATCHAM, NEAR WEDMORE, SOMERSET (ST449471)

In 1971 an opportunity arose to record and photograph a cob building known as Broom's Cottage. It lies on the northern side of the B3139 road from Wells to Wedmore and forms part of the hamlet of Latcham. Broom's Cottage is considered to be the last standing example of a cob building on the Isle of Wedmore, and was recorded because of its rapidly deteriorating condition (Pl. 1). Local information established that a group of cottages of similar construction existed within living memory along a droveway running northwards from nearby Theale on to Yeo Moor.

Buildings of cob, pisé-de-terre and rammed earth are fast disappearing in the British Isles. They occur in areas where suitable materials are available or where it is the only cheap alternative to importing stone. This latter point is well illustrated in Cumberland, where the distribution of stone buildings contrasts with that of cob.[1]

Structure and function

The technique of construction illustrated in Broom's Cottage is such that the cheapest material available and a minimum of manpower was used. The building is of two bays, measuring 4.30 metres (14 feet) east-west by 2.65 metres (9 feet) north-south internally. The walls are 40 centimetres (1′ 4″) thick at their base. The essential feature of this building is that all walls supporting the roof are of cob. The first 75 centimetres (2′ 6″) comprise a low mortared rubble wall on top of which the cob walling is built up. At one corner of the building layering in the cob is visible (Pl. 2): this probably results from the cob mixture being rammed between shuttering with alternate layers of straw, in order to consolidate it. The techniques used to raise cob walling vary throughout the country. The use of shuttering to hold the cob together seems most likely, but such walls can be raised without any shuttering at all.[2] When the desired height was reached floor joists of untrimmed pine logs were put in position; the wall then continued upwards, reduced in width to lessen weight. The chimney stack, also of cob, was probably modelled around a timber or wattle framework, but there is no evidence for either to be seen. When roofed, the interior and exterior were given several coats of limewash as protection against the weather.

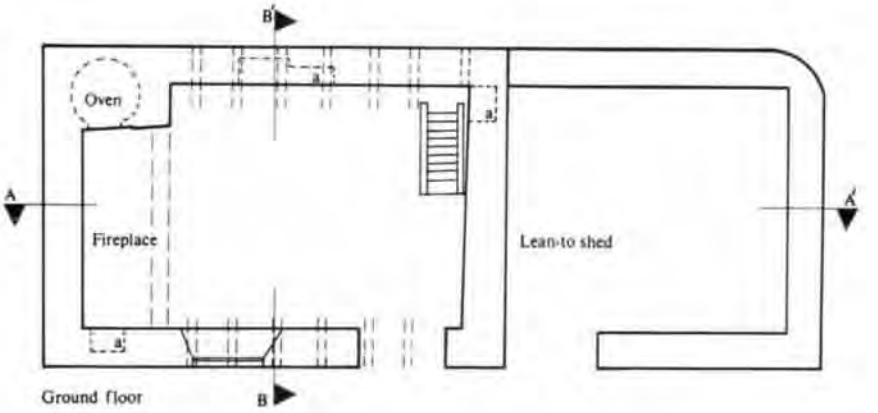
The function of Broom's Cottage seems fairly clear. Initially there was probably a single living room at ground level, with a hay loft above entered from the outside. Later, when a stone lean-to was added on the east side, the loft was converted into a bedroom, and a rough ladder added which made it possible to reach this upper room from the inside. The tie-beam was removed from the principal roof truss, which was of squared sawn timber, to allow more freedom of movement. Meanwhile, the lower part of the original loft door was blocked, the aperture being heightened and a mass-produced wooden window frame inserted in place of the upper part.

Historical context and dating

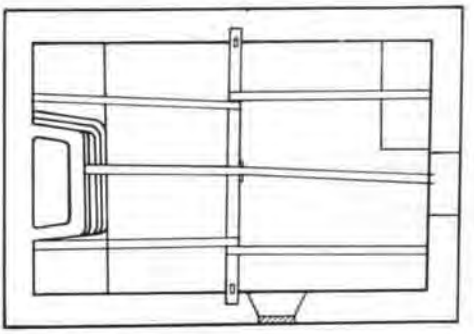
Broom's Cottage is one of a number of small, simple cottages built on roadside waste at Latcham. They are comparable with the small roadside cottages built in rural Monmouthshire to provide housing for the unmarried labourer or landless family, especially at a time of increasing population in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.[3] Precisely because they were deliberately cheap and 'unfashionable', constructed from the most easily obtainable material, such cottages may perpetuate older 'period' building techniques long beyond the date with which they tend to be associated.[4] Thus, Broom's Cottage remains a solitary example of a cob building tradition in an area where stone had been the universal building material ever since the 16th-17th centuries.

Plate 1. Broom's Cottage, view from south.

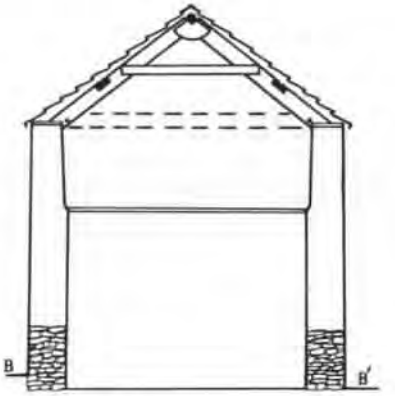
Plate 2. Broom's Cottage, layering in cob walling *(scale in feet)*.



Ground floor



First floor

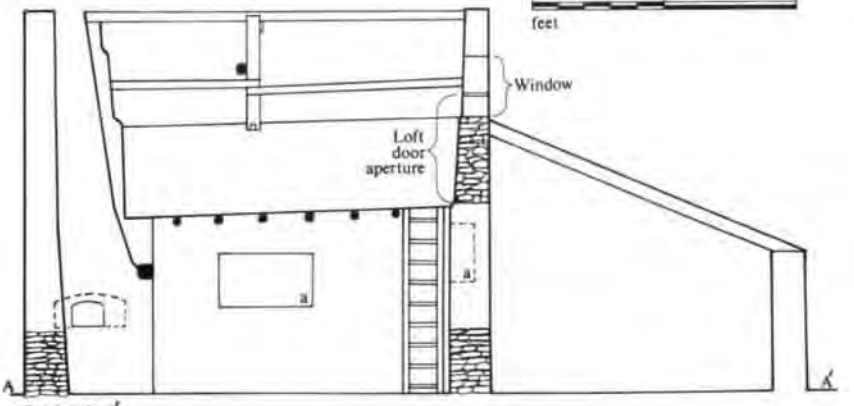


Section B – B'

Scales:

metres

feet



Section A – A'

The map evidence[5] lends support to such an interpretation. Neither Broom's Cottage nor its neighbours on either side, nor the roadside enclosures in which they stand, appear at all on any of the three early, large-scale maps of Wedmore in 1791 (Parish Map, Parish Records), 1805 (Parish Map, SRO, DD/X/MRD) or 1838 (Tithe Map, Parish Records and Somerset Record Office). Small-scale maps (the drawing for the 1st edition OS 1809x1811, the *c.* 1817 1st edition OS itself, and Greenwood's Map of Somerset, 1824) show one or more dots representing buildings in approximately the correct positions; but their small scale and stylised representation of building development make their evidence less satisfactory than that of the 1838 Tithe Map. West along the road, the equally modest Brick Cottage and a neighbouring building now demolished both appear on all three early maps of 1791, 1805 and 1838; their presence reinforces the case for the accuracy of these large-scale maps, and for the suggestion that Broom's Cottage, despite its building material, must be dated later than 1838.

This negative map evidence is supported by the general use of pine throughout the building, together with mass-produced window and door frames. Taken together the physical and documentary evidence suggests that a date of 1840/50 would not be inappropriate for Broom's Cottage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank the late owner of Broom's Cottage, the late Mr. E. J. Banwell of Wedmore, for granting permission to record the building; Mrs. F. A. Neale for carrying out research into evidence from documents and maps; and Doctor and Mrs. R. F. Everton for assistance during the recording of the building.

Detailed plans and photographs of Broom's Cottage are filed in the Somerset Record Office.

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3. Fox, C. and Raglan, Lord, *Monmouthshire Houses.* Part III (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, 1954), 120-123.
4. Taylor, C. C., *Making of the English Landscape—The Cambridgeshire Landscape* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1973), 171.
5. Neale, F. A., report submitted to the author in 1971.

MICHAEL BATT

AN IMPORTED BRONZE COLLAR FROM SOMERSET

Among the collections of the Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology is a damaged cast bronze penannular collar (Accession No. 35.306).[1] The piece is said to have been found at Worlebury Camp, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset (ST 314625), although it was acquired from an antique dealer.

The collar is crescentic in shape, having a minimum diameter of 10 cms. The face has a maximum height of 5.1 cms. at the centre, but tapers to 1.7 cms. at the plain flat parallel-sided terminals. Only one terminal survives and though incomplete is 2.5 cms long. The inner face of the collar is plain but the outer face is decorated with a series of cast ribs. Two ribs follow the upper edge and a further four follow the curving line of the lower edge. A plain border is left between the lowest rib and the lower edge. A plain crescentic field is thus left in the centre of the face. The ribs do not extend on to the terminals. Each rib is decorated intermittently with groups of between twenty and thirty-five short vertical incisions. This decoration is obscured in some places by corrosion.

The collar, possibly unique in Britain, is of a type found in women's graves in North Germany during the Middle Bronze Age and must surely have been imported into England. Variation in the decoration of these collars allows typological division and Bergmann (1970, 146) would place this example in his Form 7, confining all groups to Period II. The eight quoted examples of this form are restricted in distribution to mid-Ilmenau, Nordheide and Südheide. This area has been studied more recently by Laux (1971) who has produced his own typological schemes and chronology based on the association of types in graves and barrows. Laux makes no cross reference to the work of Bergmann and little to other standard works as he considers the Lüneberg material sufficiently distinct as to merit independent assessment. The Worlebury collar would be placed in Variant B by Laux. This variety is divided into the Toppenstedt form, to which this example belongs, having no plain border at the upper edge, and the Uetzingen form with a plain border above the uppermost rib. Laux divides his material into four chronological units though none is given absolute dates. Each unit is said to have a different duration in each different geographical region and context. Hence, although *Zeitgruppen I* to *IV* span the Early to Middle Bronze Age, *Zeitgruppe* IV is only identified in the late MBA male graves of Ilmenau-Tal. The Toppenstedt collar belongs to *Zeitgruppe* II, i.e. probably to the fourteenth century B.C., contemporary with the middle of Period II in the *nordischer Kreis*.

If this article is a genuine Somerset find it represents contact with North Germany at a very early stage of the British Taunton Phase (Burgess 1974, 203) and an early start to the tradition of importing ornaments and the copying of ornamental techniques (Lawson 1977) previously recognised as the 'Ornament Horizon' (Smith 1959).

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Footnote

1. I am grateful to this museum for allowing me to study this object for publication.

ANDREW J. LAWSON, M.Sc.

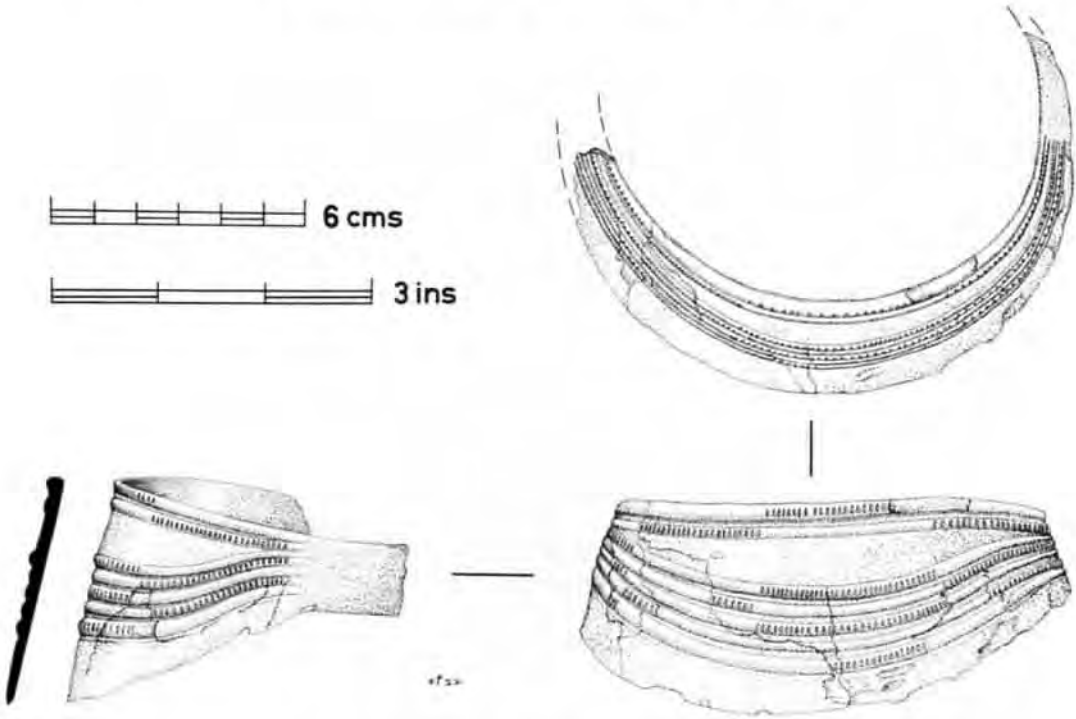


Fig. 1. An imported bronze collar from Somerset.

A MEDIEVAL SITE AT SHEPTON MONTAGUE

Early in January 1976 the South East Somerset Archaeologocal Society learned that 'Top Bedfields', Shepton Montague (ST 680314) was to be ploughed. This field, at that time down to permanent pasture, contained an enclosure, banks, hollow-ways and platforms (Fig. 1).

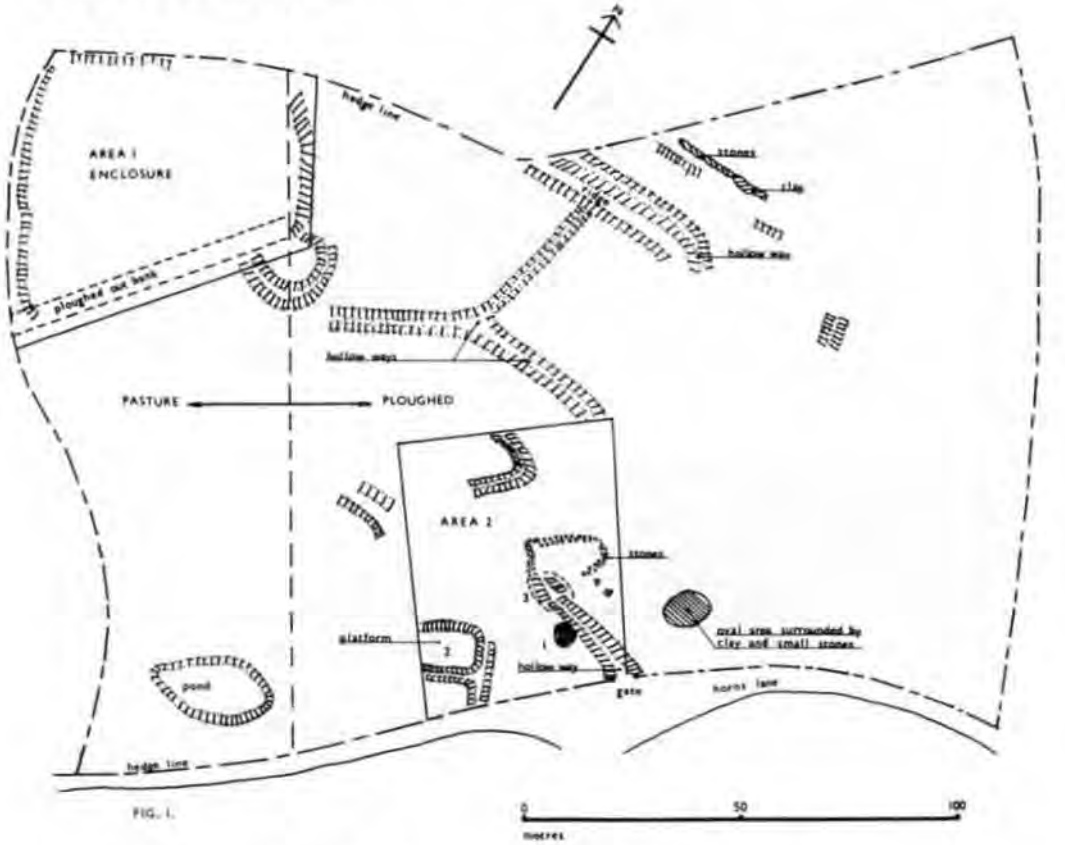


FIG. 1.

BEDFIELDS, SHEPTON MONTAGUE. Jan 11th 1976 PLAN SHOWING SALIENT FEATURES

To the N.W. the field included a hilltop plateau, the fields beyond falling away, but the general natural slope of the field was N.W. to S.E. over the area, the land being cornbrash over clay. There was a pond in the southern corner. A footpath ran from the gate leading from Horn's Lane to the N.W. corner.

On the advice of M. Aston, the County Archaeologist, it was decided to survey the field on 11th January. It was found that already the greater part had been ploughed, but many prominent features were still apparent, showing considerable variation in contour and soil composition and colour. In particular, to the N. and N.E. of the gate from Horn's Lane, areas of stone were revealed by the plough, indicating the foundations of walls.

Two main areas were surveyed on that date and other features noted: these it was hoped to survey in detail later. In fact this has so far proved impossible, the field being worked and sown to corn.

AREA 1: an enclosure at the N.W. corner with an entrance to the N.E. The area inside the enclosure remained unploughed but most of the banks had been ploughed

out as part of a levelling process. Those remaining were a maximum of 75 cm. high. No finds were made here.

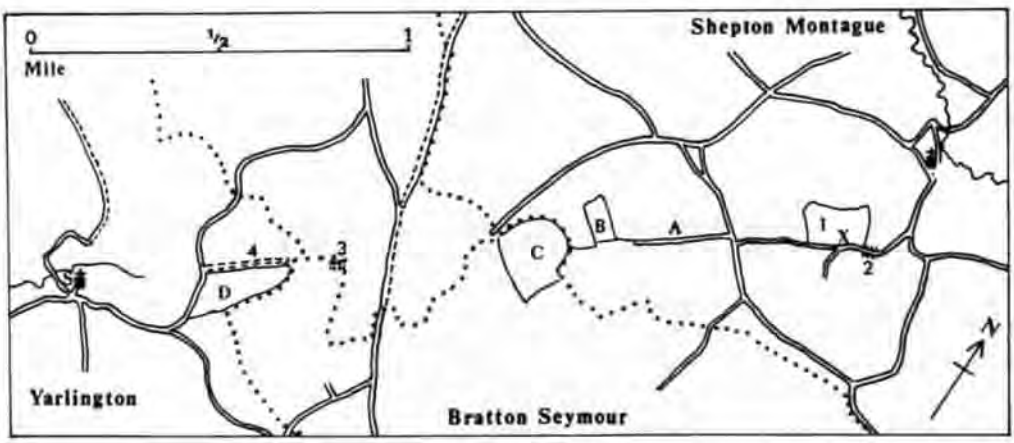
AREA 2: this lies from the N.W. to the S.W. of the gate leading from Horn's Lane. A quantity of sherds was picked up over a wide area but in particular at (1), a circular feature with dark soil, possibly a pit, at (2), a raised platform of very dark soil, and at (3) where a hollow-way from the field gate led to stone rubble suggesting the foundations of a building about 20 m. long and with an apsidal end to the east. The sherds appear to date from the 11th to the 14th centuries.

THE TRACK FROM SHEPTON TO YARLINGTON (Fig. 2)

There appears to have been a direct track leading from Shepton to Yarlington. Francombe Lane passes fields called Francombe in Shepton and Farncombe Seart in Bratton Seymour, and it must have led to Franscombe in Yarlington (the names, variously spelled, are clearly medieval). It starts as a hollow-way which comes from Shepton church past Bedfields, continues along Francombe Lane, gets lost when it reaches the Bratton boundary, but reappears as a slight hollow where it forms the furthest western stretch of the Bratton parish bounds. After that it continues as a terrace way above Franscombe and looks as though it was earlier than the medieval plough terraces that butt on it. Finally, though it is impossible to trace, it must have joined the road along the valley to Yarlington.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Montacute family had a manor house in Shepton from the time of the Domesday survey until the 14th century when the 1344 inquisition into the manors held by William de Monte Acuto says that in Shepton he had 'certain buildings which are worth nothing because they are destroyed and ruinous. There is there one garden whose fruits are worth by the year 6d. and herbage 6s. 8d.'[1] The pottery found at Bedfields covers that period and there was no pottery which could not be contained in that span. The Bedfields site with its direct links with Shepton church (which the



PRESUMED MEDIEVAL TRACK FROM SHEPTON MONTAGUE TO YARLINGTON
(Roads made later than Greenwood's 1822 map omitted)

1. Top Bedfields
2. Hollow-way
3. Hollow-way
4. Terrace track

A. Francombe Lane (O.S. 6")
B. Francombe (Shepton tithe map)
C. Farncombe Seart (Bratton tithe map)
D. Franscombe (Yarlington tithe map)

S. Site of Yarlington Manor House
X. ? Site of Shepton Manor House

Montacutes granted to Bruton Priory[2]) and the manor house at Yarlington (also held by the Montacutes[3]) appears to be in the most likely position for their Shepton manor house.

REFERENCES

1. Inquisition post mortem, P.R.O., E. 149/9/24.
2. Bruton Cartulary, Som. Rec. Soc., *8*, nos. 105, 107, 112.
3. See n. 1.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writers wish to thank M. Aston for his early visit to the site, T. Pearson for examining and dating the pottery and C. Dowding, Esq., the owner of Top Bedfields, for allowing the work to be undertaken.

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