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Trial-Excavations at Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, Somerset, 1922.

BY H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

I. Bibliography.

1. Journal, British Archæological Association, Vol. XXXI, 68–75 (with plan and sections); "Cadbury Camp and similar works near Bristol," by J. W. Grover.

2. Victoria County History, Somerset, Vol. II, 500–501 (with plan and sections); "Ancient Earthworks," by C. H. Bothamley. See also Vol. I, 184, 192, 360, 367.

3. Collinson's History of Somerset, Vol. III, 164.

4. Phelps's Historical Introduction to the History of Somersetshire (1835), 98.

5. Collections for a Parochial History of Tickenham, by the Rev. J. Byrchmore (1895), 4–5.

6. Delineations of the N.W. Division of the County of Somerset, by John Rutter (1829), 233–234.

7. Proc. Som. Arch. and N.H. Society, VI, ii, 113; X, i, 13–14; XXVII, i, 53–54.

8. Memoirs of Bristol, by the Rev. S. Seyer (1821), Vol. I, 80–81.

9. History and Antiquities of Bristol, by William Barrett (1789), 19.

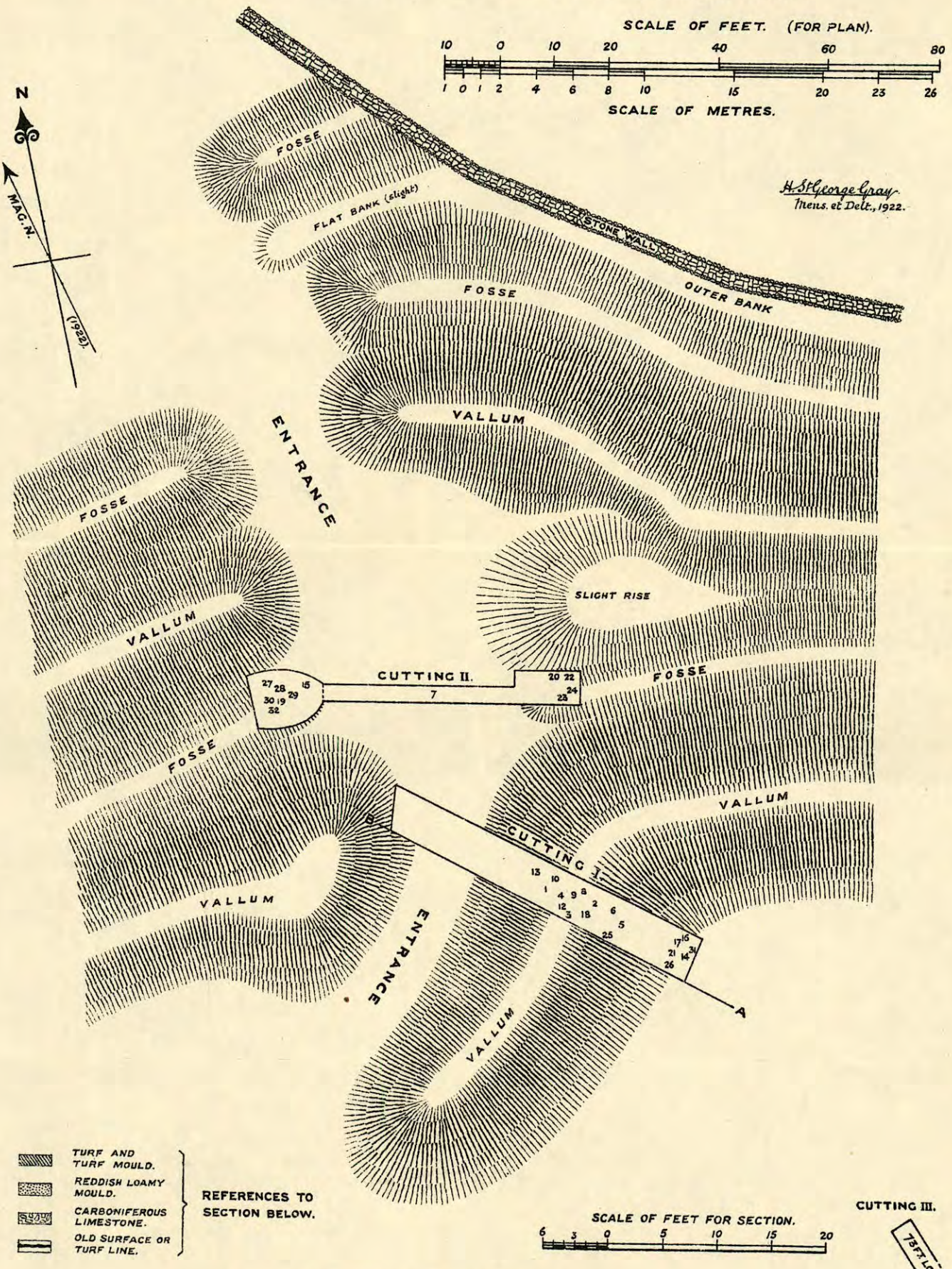
The following references may also be given: *Archæol. Journal*, V, 193 *et seq.*; *A Geological Handbook for the Bristol District* (1921), by S. H. Reynolds. 82.

II. Introductory Remarks.

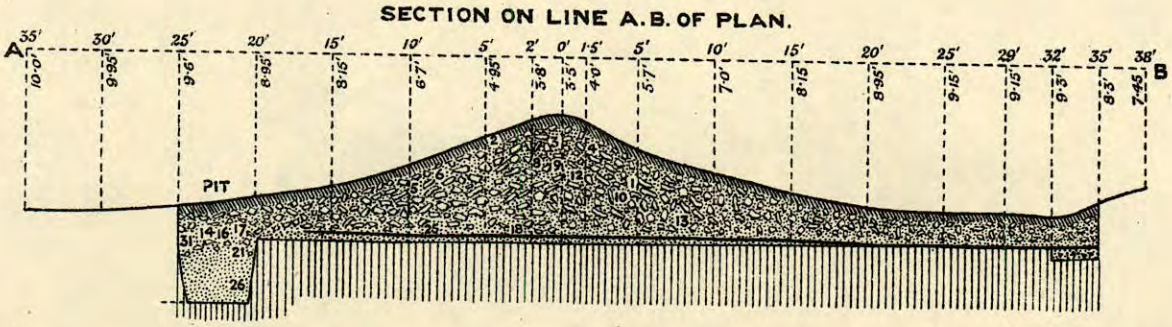
THE fame of Cadbury Camp, near Tickenham, is considerably lessened from the fact that a much larger Cadbury (Cadbury Castle, or Camelot) is situated in the heart of the county at South Cadbury, and the Arthurian legends connected with it naturally give it the premier place in the public mind.

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PLAN OF THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE OF CADBURY CAMP, NEAR CLEVEDON, SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE TRIAL-EXCAVATIONS MADE IN 1922.



SECTION ON LINE A.B. OF PLAN.



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But the Cadbury Camp we have now under consideration is a fine and impressive structure of its class and commands wonderful views both on the north and south. It is of greater strength and larger dimensions than the Cadbury Hill Camp in the parish of Congresbury, at a distance of 4½ miles southwards.[1]

It is seen, therefore, that there are three Cadbury camps in Somerset, besides others in adjacent counties.[2]

Owing to Clevedon having been selected as the place for the Society's Annual Meeting for 1922, an excellent opportunity was afforded the Somerset Earthworks Committee of making some investigations at Cadbury Camp (Tickenham), previous to the Society's visit to the site on July 5th. For reasons stated elsewhere (p. 11), I had hoped to carry out some excavations here.

III. Short Description of the Camp.

Cadbury Camp, which is about 390ft. above mean sea-level, is in the northern part of the parish of Tickenham, and very near the Clapton-in-Gordano boundary. The camp is only 5 furlongs in a bee line north of Tickenham Church. It is 3 miles east of Clevedon (Railway Station), and 2 miles S.E. from the nearest point of the sea at Walton Bay.

This camp falls under Class B of the scheme for recording Ancient Earthworks,—Fortresses on hill-tops with artificial defences. A general description of the earthwork has been given by Mr. C. H. Bothamley,[3] so that I do not purpose to repeat such details as he records,[4] except to say that the camp is roughly oval and is enclosed by double ramparts of stone (Carboniferous Limestone) mixed with earth, with a fosse between them and another outside. He also briefly described

1. *V.C.H. Som.*, II, 475–6.

2. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LIX, ii, 2 ; Ancient Map of Somerset, etc., Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, III, Plate clx.

3. *V.C.H. Som.*, II, 500–1.

4. I have not been able to undertake a complete survey or description of the camp.

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an earthwork of an unusual design about 150 yards west of the camp, which time did not permit me to investigate.

Mr. J. W. Grover surveyed the camp in 1868 and described it in 1874,[5] but his plan is not very accurate and the north point[6] is quite unreliable. Both on the plan and in the text he stated that the area enclosed by the inner vallum was 7 acres, 1 rood, 28 poles. The *Victoria County History, Somerset*, I, 192, gave 4 acres, so did Phelps in his *History of Somersetshire*. I have made a calculation of the size of the enclosed area based on the 6-inch map (Somerset V, N.W.) which gives about 6¼ acres.

Of the entrances to the camp (ancient and modern) that on the north is by far the most striking, and as I decided to excavate in this part,[7] I made a scale plan indicating the earthworks by hachures (Plate V), the cuttings by firm lines and the ' finds ' by figures. This entrance is not so intricate in design as many of the chief entrances into prehistoric camps, but the inflected ramparts (the northern bent outwards, the southern inwards) are arranged so as to flank the passage. On the east side of this entrance there is a third fosse of short length which does not appear to continue on the east beyond the modern stone wall ; there is no vallum worth mentioning between the second and third fosses. The width of the entrance-way in various places can be measured off on the Plan. It is 15ft. between the end of the outer vallum on the east side and the outer fosse on the west. The southern part of the entrance is disfigured by a few bushes.

IV. Antiquities found previously in and near the Camp.

Little appears to have been found in the camp or quite close to it, so far as record goes. Mr. A. Selley (Bristol) has from

5. *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, XXXI, 68–75.

6. The Director-General of the Ordnance Survey kindly gave information that the true magnetic variation, from Walker's tables of 1915 corrected to date, at Cadbury Camp on 14th June, 1922, was 15° 12′ west of true north.

7. J. Haskins, who lives in one of the cottages near and is 80 years of age, says that some excavations were made in this entrance-way some 70 years ago.

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time to time picked up a few flint implements of Neolithic *type* here, and a few fragments of Romano-British pottery thrown up by moles within the camp; also a 'third brass' coin of Claudius Gothicus, A.D. 268–270 ("Consecratio" type), and a stone spindlewhorl from just outside the camp.[8] There is a record of two flint implements having been found at Cadbury Camp.[9]

Far more interesting than the above is the bronze spearhead said to have been found at Cadbury Camp, and presented to the Society's Museum by the Rev. J. W. Ward in 1856 (*see accompanying illustration*). In *Proceedings*, VII, i, 26, only 'Cadbury Camp' is recorded, but I found an old paper ticket with the implement which said 'Cadbury Camp, near Tickenham.' So far as I am aware there is no other information now available.

The following particulars were given in the *Victoria County History*:—[10]"Out of the many (fortified towns) which exist in the county there is only one which can be proved to belong to the Bronze Age by the discoveries which have been made in it—the great camp at Cadbury near Clevedon, consisting of a triple rampart and two fosses, which include an area of 4 acres. A bronze spear, now in the Taunton Museum, found in it, marks the age. Many others (camps) as yet unclassified probably may be referred to the Bronze Age."

This statement was rather a bold one, for it is extremely uncertain whether the spearhead had been found within the area of the camp or only in its immediate neighbourhood. The spearhead alone, therefore, could not *date* the camp definitely; and after reading the above remarks I hoped that some day an opportunity might occur to help us to determine the date of construction of the camp by means of systematic excavation.

The spearhead is 4¼ins. in length, but it appears to have lost its

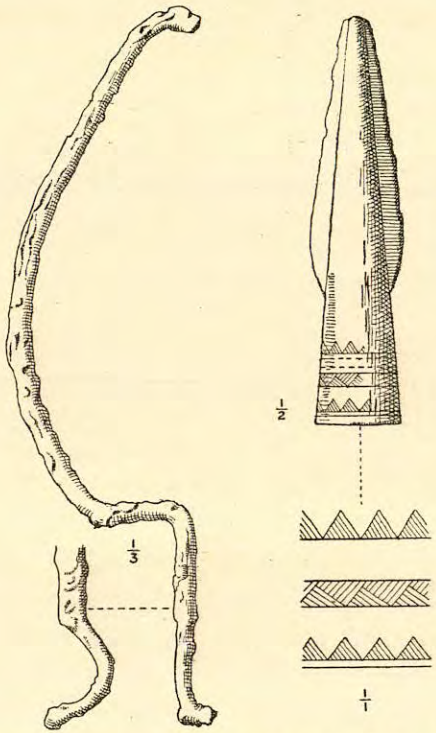
8. Mr. Selley has also collected a good number of flint implements on the hills between Cadbury Camp and Bristol, and particularly in the neighbourhood of Portbury and Failand. (Some of these specimens are now in the Taunton Museum).

9. *Proc. Clifton Antiq. Club*, IV, 160.

10. *V.C.H. Som.*, I, 192.

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tip ; it is also broken on one side at the mouth of the socket. The implement is of Class V of Greenwell and Parker Brewis's classification,[11] and is of the ' leaf-shaped ' type ; the socket is provided with a pair of holes for a pin or peg to fasten the head to the wooden



Iron Key of Late-Celtic type found in the vallum of the Camp, 1922 ; and Bronze Spearhead found in the vicinity of the Camp, *c.* 1856 (also drawing of the bands of ornamentation, full size).

From a Drawing by Mr. H. C. Charlewood.

shaft. The socket extends along the well pronounced midrib of the spear.[12] Encircling the socket there are three parallel bands of typical incised ornament (separated by plain bands) of the

11. *Archæologia*, LXI, 439–473.

12. It is of similar form to the spearhead found at Scunthorpe, Lincs. (*Archæologia*, LXI, Plate lxvii, fig. 33) ; and to that from Reach Fen, Cambs. (Evans's *Bronze Implements*, 317).

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Bronze Age; but unfortunately, this faint line-work has become much worn down. The ornament of the upper and lower bands consists of a row of chevrons hatched with straight lines parallel to one of the faces of the chevron. The middle band is filled with a 'straight line diaper pattern.'[13] (*See full-size drawing of the ornamentation*).

In England, at least two bronze spearheads have been found ornamented with the first-named design along both margins of the blade, and in one case (Bilton, Yorks) round the socket also.[14] The other design is rare on spearheads, but may be seen on the socket (upper band) of a spearhead from Athenry, Ireland.[15]

Quern stones, pottery and Roman coins were found many years ago by Mr. George Lee in grubbing up rough growth on the southern slope of Tickenham Hill and to the west of Cadbury Camp, on land belonging to the late Sir Arthur Elton, Bart. Some at least of the objects were given by Mr. Lee to the Taunton Museum, but I have not been able to identify the pottery and coins (tickets probably lost); one of the beehive-shaped querns of Late-Celtic type, however, is clearly marked.[16]

One of the finest specimens of Late-Celtic art found in Somerset was discovered at a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Cadbury Camp, namely, the finely ornamented flat-jointed bronze torque found 50 yards north of 'Birdcombe Court,' Wraxall, in 1837. It weighs 3lbs. 10ozs. (avoirdupois). The collar was presented to the Bristol Museum in 1894, and has been figured several times.[17]

At least two hoards of Roman bronze coins have been found near Cadbury Camp. Thirty-five 'third brass' coins, Gallienus to Constantius Chlorus, A.D. 253–305, were found on Tickenham Hill, but in the parish of Clapton-in-Gordano,

13. Pitt-Rivers's *Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, IV, 216–236.

14. *Ibid.*, IV, 220.

15. Evans's *Bronze Implements*, 320.

16. *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XXVI, i, 85; XXVII, i, 76; *The Glastonbury Lake Village*, II, 610.

17. Romilly Allen's *Celtic Art*, 111; *Proc. Clifton Antiq. Club*, III, Plate viii, 89–94; *Archæologia*, XXX, 521; *Arch. Cambr.*, 6th ser., I, 83; *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LXV, lxxii.

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about ⅓-mile west of the camp, *circa* 1891. They came into the hands of Mr. J. E. Pritchard, F.S.A., who kindly presented them to the Society's Museum in 1908.[18]

A hoard, dating from A.D. 253 to 286, was found in the parish of Tickenham, on the hill near Limebrook Lane (? Lime Ridge), ½-mile east of the camp, in the year 1821.[19]

V. The Trial-Excavations.

On Tuesday afternoon, June 13th, 1922, the writer left Taunton for Clevedon ; the excavations began next day, and were continued till Tuesday, June 20th.[20]

The owner of the camp, Sir Ambrose Elton, Bart., readily gave his permission, and the tenant, Mr. T. Limond, and the sub-tenant, Mr. J. J. Williams, also gave their consent. I wish to acknowledge Mr. William Hill, the contractor, for the manner in which he served me in the matter of labour[21] and tackle for the work.

Cutting I, Vallum (Plate VI).—This cutting was made through the inner vallum at the point where it curved inwards on the east side of the Northern Entrance, and extended across the entrance-way as far as the foot of the inner vallum on the west side of the entrance. The cutting was 60ft. in length (along the S. margin) and 8ft. in width (*see* Plan and Section, Plate V). The turf and surface mould were about 0·5ft. in thickness, and below this were rough pieces of limestone mixed with rather reddish loamy mould probably thrown up in digging the fosse ; some of the blocks measured up to 1·8ft. in length, and a few of them weighed apparently about 1½ cwt. Occasionally some fragments of Pennant stone were found mixed with the other material. The length of the large blocks

18. *Numis. Chron.*, 3rd ser. (1896), XVI, 238–245 ; *Proc. Clifton Antiq. Club*, III, 117–120 ; *V.C.H. Som.*, I, 360 ; *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, LIV, i, 114.

19. *V.C.H. Som.*, I, 367.

20. I am greatly indebted to Dr. Charles Visger, O.B.E., for his kind hospitality during the excavations and for general help. Dr. A. Bulleid (Secretary, Somerset Earthworks Committee) made two visits from Midsomer Norton and assisted me as far as time permitted.

21. Six men from Clevedon were employed, as follows :—C. Fortune, G. Hayle, E. Miles, T. J. Coles, H. Coombes and W. Gibson.

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of stone more or less followed the slope of the vallum both ways (as shown in the sectional diagram).

The old surface line which was reached at a maximum depth of 7·3ft. below the crest of the vallum was not very clearly defined ; below it the upper material, apparently undisturbed, was a yellowish loamy clay mixed with small stones.

At the S.E. end of the cutting, the old surface line was found to be missing, and on excavating to a greater depth the existence of a pit became clear, the rock bottom being reached at a depth of 5·9ft. (measured at the far end of the cutting). The rock exposed at the bottom was about 4ft. square. Time did not permit us to trace the margin of the pit, except on the N.W. side. It was filled with brown, yellow and red mould in streaks.

The following are the " finds " from the Vallum Cutting (No. I) :—

Iron.

Key, or latch-lifter (no. 2),[22] sickle-shaped, length 11⅛ins., of typical form and of a kind found both with Roman and Late-Celtic remains, but more frequently with the latter than with the former.[23] The bar is of round, and the handle of oblong section. The ring at the end of the handle has apparently been broken. It was found near the crest of the vallum at a depth of 0·35ft. below the surface. (*See illustration on p.* 12).

In *The Glastonbury Lake Village*, II, 375–378, I gave a list of all the iron keys of this type then known to me, which had been found in England and Wales, including those found in Somerset at Charterhouse-on-Mendip (2), Combe Down (Bath), Ham Hill (4), Pitney, Wookey Hole and the Glastonbury Lake Village. To these must now be added two specimens found by the Spelæological Society in the Keltic Cavern—now Read's Cavern—on Mendip[24] ;

22. These numbers have reference to the position of the 'finds'—see Plan and Section, Plate V.

23. The manner in which these keys were actually used has been suggested by the late Mr. John Ward, *Roman Era in Britain*, 238.

24. For the first found see *Proc. Spel. Soc.*, I, no. 1, Plate xi. The second was found in the summer of 1922.

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a perfect specimen, 11¾ins. in length, found in a pit with other Late-Celtic remains in Battlesbury Camp, Wilts[25]; and another found at Strand-on-the-Green, Kew, in 1862, and now in the Layton Collection at Brentford.[26]

The only other ' finds ' of iron in the vallum were a flat piece perhaps part of a small knife (no. 5), depth 1·6ft.; part of a tool of uncertain use (no. 10), depth 3·5ft.; piece of slag, deep in the vallum; and another piece (no. 26) found in the pit at a depth of 5·5ft. This suggests the working of iron on the spot.

Pottery.

The pottery from the vallum is all of Late-Celtic type, having a smooth, slightly burnished outer surface; the inner surface in several of the fragments is pitted with little holes caused apparently by weathering. The colour of the pottery is dark brown, sometimes approaching black. All the lip pieces have straight rims, but one fragment has a slight bead. Beyond this there is no indication of ornament. The fragments are mostly small, and it is difficult to give the number, as some of the pieces were broken in removing from the ground and in cleaning. The largest fragment remaining measures 3¾ins. in length.

The pottery was found at nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, 21 and 31; and at 18 and 25, on or quite close to the old surface line. (The Section shows the depth of the pottery as well as the other objects).

Stone.

Two whetstones (very much of the type of those found in the Lake Villages) were found in this cutting,—no. 16 at a depth of 1·8ft., no. 31 at the top of the pit, depth 2·2ft. The latter shows indications of having been used for sharpening purposes.

25. *The Antiq. Journ.* (Oct., 1922), II, 378.

26. *Archæologia*, LXIX, 21.



View of the N. Entrance of the Camp, taken from the N. Two men stand in Cutting I (Vallum); the other man stands in the Fosse excavation (Cutting II).

CADBURY CAMP, PARISH OF TICKENHAM.

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Natural History.

Two specimens of charcoal were examined and proved to be Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).[27]

A piece of stone which appeared to be a small part of a quernstone was examined at the Geological Survey and Museum,[28] and proved to be Dolomitic Conglomerate of the Trias. Specimens of Keuper Marl were also collected here and in the fosse which made a decided red mark on being rubbed.

Cutting II, Inner Fosse (Plates V, VI).—In the first instance this was a narrow cutting running east and west, made across the widest part of the entrance-way ; Cuttings I and II were about 15ft. apart at the nearest points. Across the entrance we dug to a depth of 1·4ft., but very little was found. After this had been done the cutting was enlarged at the ends to ascertain exactly where the inner fosse terminated on both sides, and in this way we found that the original entrance was about 37ft. wide in this part. The ditch on the east was dug to a depth of 5·3ft., at which level pottery was found (*see* below). The end ' wall ' of the ditch, which sloped off considerably, did not consist of rock here, but of a yellowish-brown loam.

More attention was given to the western fosse cutting, where a length of 14ft. of silting was cleared out. The silting was high here and the surface before excavation showed a very slight concavity. The rock bottom was reached at a maximum depth of 6·3ft. (minimum 5·7ft.), and pottery fragments were found within 3ins. of the bottom. The solid rock end of the fosse was very clearly defined and rounded off. Owing to lack of time we had to leave some of the south portion of the cutting undug. The highest part of the rock showed in the N.N.W. corner of the cutting. The silting consisted of stone for the most part (some pieces being very large), with ' pockets ' of mould between ; there was a fair amount of mixed mould

27. The samples of charcoal were kindly examined by Mr. Arthur H. Lyell, F.S.A.

28. Information through the Curator, Mr. W. F. P. McLintock.

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and fine silting at the bottom. (Photographs of this part of the fosse were taken for record, but are not reproduced here).

The following are the ' finds ' from Cutting II, Inner Fosse :—

Iron.

Small piece of iron (no. 28), depth 4ft.

Pottery.

The fragments of pottery found in the fosse at 15, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, 30 and 32 correspond in general type with those found in the vallum. All the pieces were found between 3·75ft. and 6·1ft. below the surface, that is in the lower half of the silting. No. 32 is the only piece of curved rim found. Among the small fragments of pottery found at 30 (depth 5·4ft.) are a few bits of coarse fabric which are earlier in *type*, but much of this ware was made in the Prehistoric Iron Age besides the finer qualities. Here again no ornamented pottery was found.

Cut Bone.

No. 29 (depth 4·3ft.) appears to be a small piece of cut scapula, which rather recalls the worked shoulder-blades found in the Meare Lake Village.

Human Remains.

A molar tooth was found at a depth of 1·2ft. in the entrance-way at 7 (also two sling-stones near by).[29]

At 20 the greater part of a left ulna was found at a depth of 2ft. mixed with the small stone of the upper silting.

At 19, at a depth of 5·75ft. with small pieces of pottery, we found a lower jaw and teeth much broken up by the weight of the stony silting above.

A fragment of fibula, bearing teeth-marks, was also found, but the position was not recorded.

Natural History.

Specimens of Dolomitic Conglomerate from the Trias were collected from the silting of the fosse ; also a piece of calcareous grit which had evidently been in the fire, as it bears

29. They are the only ' finds ' in Cutting II *not* found in the inner fosse.

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a vitreous glaze in places. A specimen of charcoal from the fosse proved to be Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), depth 4ft. ; and another piece, Oak (*Quercus robur*), depth 5·4ft. On the bottom of the fosse part of a jaw of a young pig was found.

Cutting III, Interior Space.—Within the camp some trenching covering an area 73ft. long by 4ft. wide was done, the N.N.W. end of which is shown in the bottom right-hand corner of the Plan, Plate V. This was shallow digging, and in places rock reached to within 3ins. of the surface.

The following artifacts, all apparently Romano-British, were collected in this shallow trenching :—

Pottery.

A number of fragments of coarse black and brown pottery, including pieces of vessels exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$-inch in thickness. A rim-piece of a very large vessel measured $\frac{3}{4}$-inch in thickness at the neck. Some of the shards were weathered ; none was ornamented. Half of a circular disc of pottery, diameter $1\frac{1}{16}$in. was also found.

Stone, etc.

A muller showing signs of wear ; a flat disc roughly shaped, diameter $3\frac{1}{8}$ins. ; two small pointed fragments of iron ; canine tooth of dog.

VI. Concluding Remarks.

In connection with the Castle Cary Meeting of the Society in 1913, I had the opportunity, thanks to the interest taken by the owner, Major A. L. Langman, C.M.G., of conducting some trial-excavations at Cadbury Castle, South Cadbury. The work is described, with several illustrations, in the *Proceedings*, lix, ii, 1–24. This great earthwork produced conclusive evidence of Late-Celtic and, later, of Roman occupation, and in the fosse cutting made nothing of earlier date than the Prehistoric Iron Age was found on the bottom.

Exactly the same evidence has resulted from the trial-excavations at the Tickenham Cadbury, where objects of Late-Celtic type have been found in the vallum (down to the

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old surface line) and in the fosse (down to the bottom). Objects of the Roman period have been turned up by rabbits and moles inside the camp and in my Cutting III, but no remains of the Bronze Age have been identified.

While bearing in mind that these are only trial-excavations covering but a small area of these camps, yet negative evidence has its value ; and from recent research, not only in Somerset but elsewhere, we are beginning to realize that a great proportion of these round and oval hill-top camps are not of earlier construction than the Prehistoric Iron Age, *i.e.* the period of the Somerset Lake Villages. This remark, perhaps, requires more practical support, and the excavation of half-a-dozen of our Somerset camps would probably throw light of a very definite kind upon this interesting subject.

In venturing upon these remarks and in support of them it will be well to point out that the stone-built fortresses of Worlebury, Cannington and Dolebury have produced no antiquities of the Bronze Age ; little in the way of excavation has yet been done, however, at the two latter sites.

A report made to me by a cottager near the camp has sufficient significance to be recorded here. It appears that an old man named Havard, who died *c.* May, 1922, is said to have known where a lot of 'iron bars' were buried on the west side of the camp, but my informant did not know whether they were to be found inside or outside the camp. It is not improbable that the bars referred to might be currency-bars (*taleae ferreae*) ! In fact it is just in such a place that one might expect to find a hoard of the kind.

Donations to the Excavation Fund (incorporated in the Accounts of the Somerset Earthworks Committee) :—Grant from the Society of Antiquaries of London, £5 ; Prof. Sir W. Boyd Dawkins and the Taunton Field Club, £2 2*s.* 0*d.* each ; Dr. C. Visger, £2 ; Sir Ambrose Elton and Dr. W. M. Tapp, £1 1*s.* 0*d.* each ; Miss A. C. Breton and Mr. C. E. Evans, £1 each ; Mr. J. E. Skuce, 19*s.* ; Major E. Herapath, Mr. J. E. Pritchard, Mr. C. Wells and Miss R. Clatworthy, 10*s.* 6*d.* each ; Lady Francis Cecil, the Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse, Mr. T. W. Cowan and Mr. W. O. Beament, 10*s.* each ; fifteen subscriptions at 5*s.* each ; and 11*s.* in smaller amounts.