

PART II—PAPERS, ETC.

Excavations at Burrow Mump, Somerset, 1939

BY H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, F.S.A.

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

THE writer was first attracted to Burrow Mump from the standpoint of archæological excavation when the Somerset Archæological Society visited the site at the Bridgwater Meeting in 1920, on which occasion, including himself, the speakers were Mr. Albany F. Major, F.S.A., Mr. C. H. Bothamley, the Rev. D. J. Pring and Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A.

The opportunity, however, came in 1939 when the present owner, Major A. G. Barrett, had completed some repairs to the ruined chapel standing on the site. Without his financial help and that of others (acknowledged at the end of this paper), the excavations here described could not have taken place. Mrs. St. George Gray undertook some of the supervision of the work when able to be on the ground.

Our thanks are also due to the tenant, Mr. Samuel Gillard, of Samways Farm, especially for keeping his cattle off the land during the digging; to the Rev. E. F. Sherwood, the vicar, for his assistance in making some of the arrangements; and to Mr. and Mrs. C. Woodland, of King Alfred Hotel, who provided shelter for some of our tackle with garage accommodation. In addition to the working foreman, Mr. W. J. Wedlake, three other men were employed and proved to be interested workers.¹ Mr. Wedlake's experience in other excavations in Somerset (including Glastonbury Abbey), at Maiden Castle and elsewhere, greatly helped to make the enquiry a success.

In the compilation of this Report an attempt has been made

¹ Walter J. Boyland (Stoke St. Gregory), B. Nicholls (Burrowbridge) and Cuthbert Hurd (Middlezoy).

to obtain the most important information available in printed works, and in this department assistance has been given by Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal, F.S.A.

The 'finds' were on the whole of little intrinsic value, but the pottery and ridge-tiles afford valuable evidence of the centuries to which they definitely point, and in this branch the writer is glad to have had the benefit of the collaboration of Mr. G. S. Dunning, F.S.A., and Sir Cyril Fox, V-P.S.A.

In this place, also the writer takes the opportunity of thanking Dr. F. S. Wallis for his interesting report on the Geology of Burrow Mump.

II. ILLUSTRATIONS OF BURROW MUMP AND CHAPEL IN PRINTED WORKS AND ELSEWHERE

(1) Engraving of the Mump surmounted by the Chapel, the hamlet and the bridge, entitled 'Burrough Chapel² Somersetshire'.³ It measures $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. by $4\frac{1}{4}$ in., and was drawn in 1762. This is to be seen in *The Antiquities of England and Wales*, by Francis Grose, 1st edit., 4 vols., folio, 1773-87, and in the 2nd edit., 8 vols., 4to., 1783-97 (see vol. v, pp. 21-23). In the former the engraving is dated 1774, 'Sparrow sculp.', and in the 4to. edit., it is inscribed 'Published in 1785, by S. Hooper; Sparrow sculp'. It shows a church with a central tower, at the s.e. corner of which is a circular turret on the e. side of the s. chapel—and of these we found the foundations in the excavations.⁴

(2) Engraving of 'The Ruins of Burrough Chapple',³ looking n.w. at close quarters. It measures 9 in. by $5\frac{5}{16}$ in., is dated 1763, and signed 'C. W. Bampfylde fecit'.⁵ This view would show a north chapel had one existed at the time, but there is no building there in the position in which foundations were found. Illustrated in Plate IV.

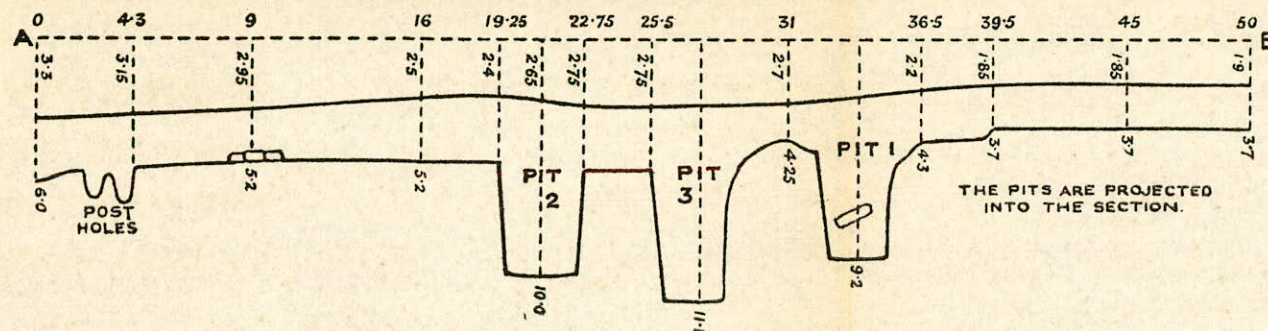
(3) A small woodcut (margin $3\frac{7}{8}$ in. by $3\frac{1}{8}$ in.), entitled 'Burrough Chapel, in Somersetsh'.³ This illustration of the cruciform chapel appears in *Historical Description of New and Elegant Picturesque Views of the Antiquities of England and Wales*, by Henry

² The same spelling, 'Burrough Chapel' is adopted by Richard Gough in his edition of Camden's *Britannia*, 1806, vol. i, 97.

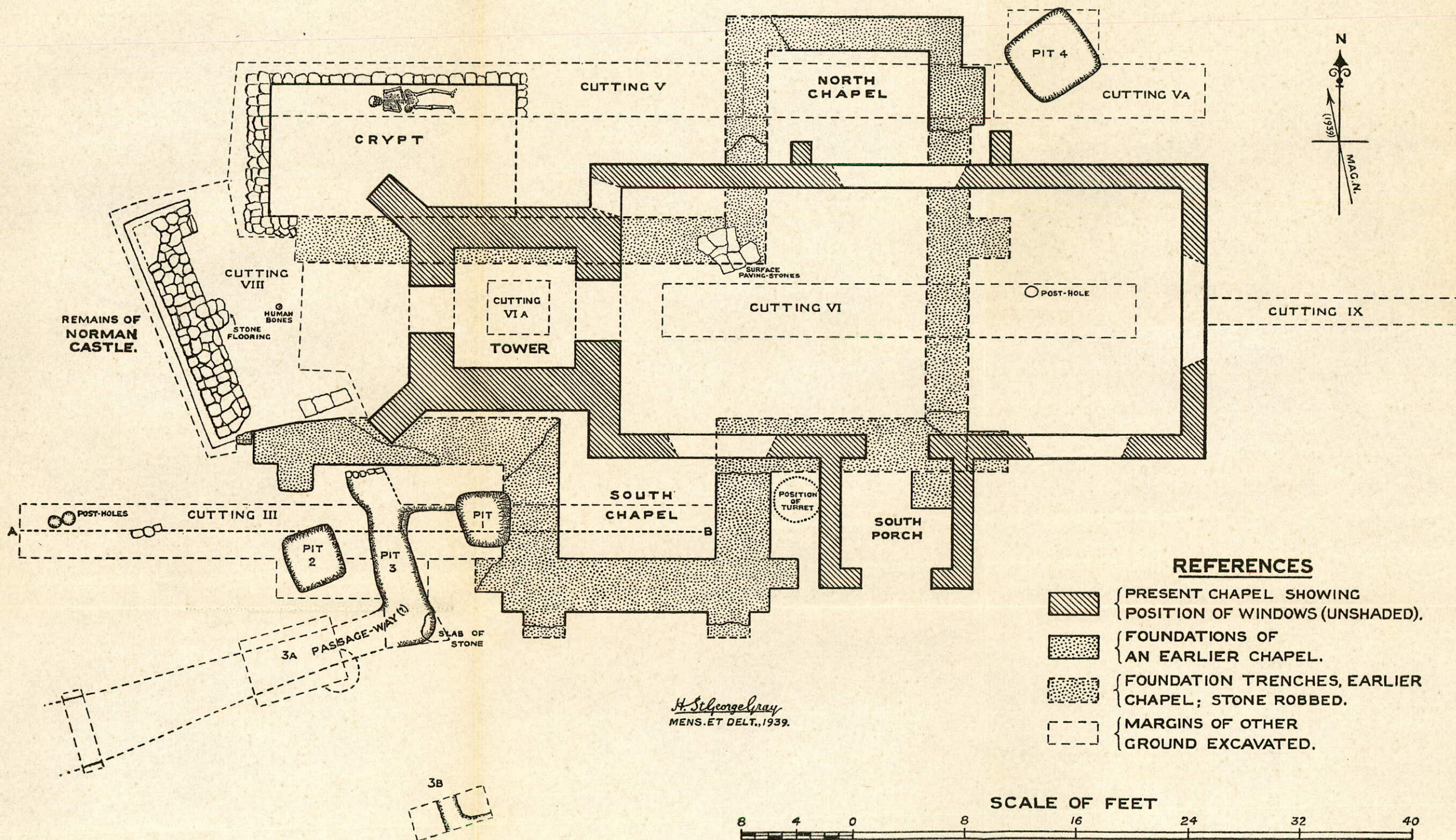
³ These illustrations may be seen in the Braikenridge and Tite Collections and in the Library at Taunton Castle.

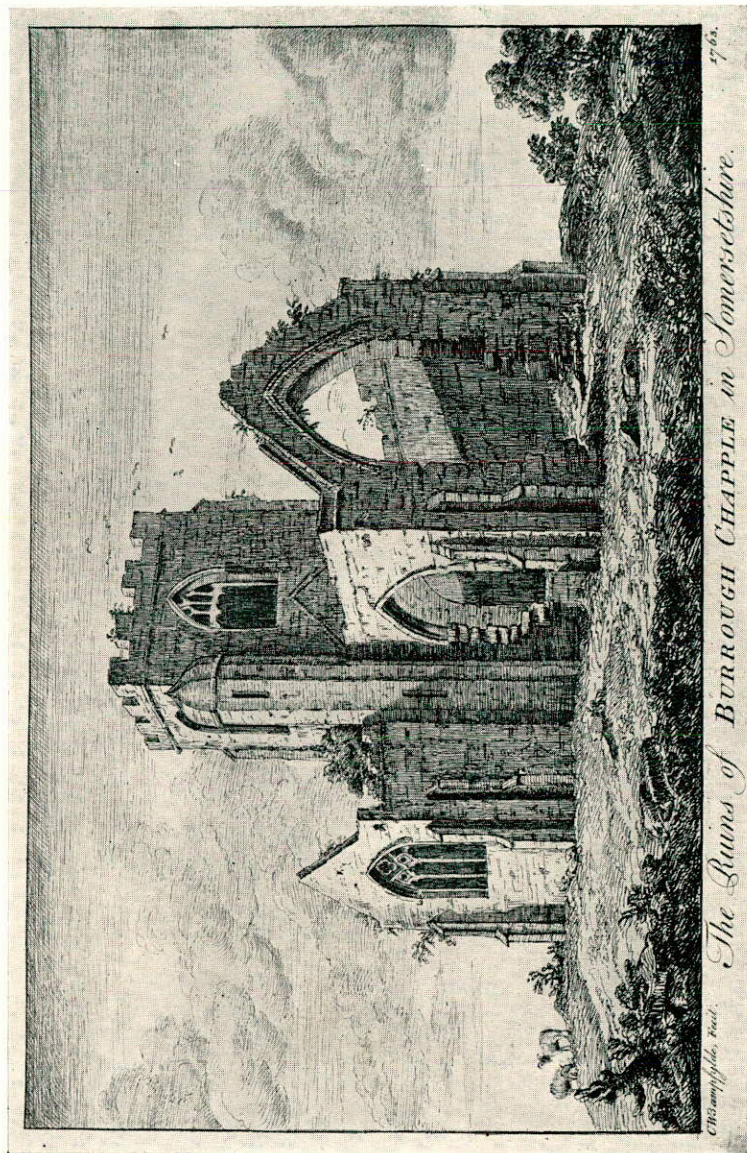
⁴ This illustration is reproduced on a small scale on the cover of a little pamphlet, "About Athelney and Burrowbridge", by the Rev. J. M. Chadwick, 1909.

SECTION ON THE LINE A.B. OF PLAN.



PLAN OF THE TOP OF
BURROW MUMP, BURROWBRIDGE, SOM.
SHOWING THE SITE OF THE EXCAVATIONS AND
THE POSITION OF BUILDINGS WHICH EXIST AND
WHICH FORMERLY EXISTED. APRIL-MAY 1939.





The Ruins of Burrough Chapple in Somersetshire.

Boswell, (1785), plate facing the heading 'Ruins and Antient Buildings in England & Wales, &c.; Description of Burrough Chapel, in Somersetshire.' The account is divided into three paragraphs. The middle one should never have been inserted there, for it refers to Montacute and not to Burrow Mump.

(4) Engraving, 6 in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., of 'The Junction of the Parret & Thone at Athelney in Somersetshire', showing the chapel on Burrow Mump; 'painted by E. Garvey, R.A.; engraved by Wm. Bryne; published, March 1, 1801, by J. Hatchard, 173, Piccadilly'.³ The chapel is roofed, but it is a question if it was so protected at this date.

(5) Lithograph, $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. by 4 in., at the top of the Appeal, dated

⁵ Copleston Warre Bampfylde was the only son of John Bampfylde, who was of Hestercombe in right of his wife, Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Francis Warre, Bart. John Bampfylde died in 1750; he had represented the city of Exeter in Parliament and later had been a county member for Devon. For over forty years Copleston Warre Bampfylde made Hestercombe his home, and there he died in 1791 at the age of 71. He was an amateur artist of no mean ability both in oils and in water-colour; his pictures were shown at early exhibitions of the Royal Academy and elsewhere. Five humorous etchings from his drawings illustrated Christopher Anstey's poem, 'An Election Ball', published in 1776. Bampfylde was also successful as an amateur architect, and the market-house, which still dominates the Parade in Taunton, was erected in 1772 from his plans. He is described as having been 'an admirable landscape gardener', and it is clear that the gardens at Hestercombe were among the most beautiful under his supervision in the west of England. He took an active part in local administration and was Colonel of the Somerset Militia.

Bampfylde married Mary, daughter of Edward Knight of Wolverly, co. Worcester, but died childless, and Hestercombe passed to his nephew, John Tyndale of Bathford. Mrs. Bampfylde's skill as an embroideress was celebrated in verse by Richard Graves of Claverton in 'Euphrosyne'.

Obviously Bampfylde must have been a veritable 'Admirable Crichton'. An account of his personality, part of which may be quoted here, has been left by Thomas Hugo.

It might indeed be said of him that, whether in great things or small, on occasions or in pursuits where he could exhibit his rare and fascinating gifts, or among the multitude of common affairs which on every side called for his active oversight, 'nihil tetigit quod non ornavit'—so comprehensive was his knowledge, so full of charm his genius, and so refined and exquisite his taste.

The impression conveyed by a portrait of Copleston Warre Bampfylde, now in the possession of Major A. G. Barrett, fully bears out Hugo's character study of its subject. The portrait was purchased by the late Major Barrett of Moreton at the sale held at Hestercombe in October 1872, after the death of Bampfylde's great niece, Miss Elizabeth Maria Warre. (*D.N.B.*; *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xviii, ii, 163-166.)

14 April 1836, showing the ruined chapel and in the foreground the proposed new church and the 'King Alfred Inn'.³

(6) Sepia drawing of the s.e. view of the new church at Burrowbridge, by J. Buckler, 1839, in the Pigott Drawings, shows also the Chapel on the Mump in much the same condition as it is a hundred years later.³

(7) Two half-tone photographs of the Mump and two other views of the floods taken from the Mump—illustrations in *Dumnonia and the Valley of the Parret*, by Rev. W. H. P. Greswell, 1922.³

(8) Pen-and-ink and wash drawing (6½ in. by 3¾ in.) of the Mump taken from east side, by E. J. Burrow, is illustrated in *Ancient Earthworks and Camps of Somerset*, 1924, p. 71, where there is also a small plan of Burrowbridge; a similar plan, on a rather larger scale, occurs in *V.C.H. Som.*, ii, 499.³

III. ANTIQUITIES FOUND IN THE NEAR VICINITY

(1) Along the s. side of the causeway⁶ leading to Othery is the 'Burrow Wall Rhyne', and it was stated by the Rev. J. M. Chadwick and others, that many years ago (c. 1860), a large number of Roman coins were shovelled out in cleaning this watercourse (civil parish of Othery), at a point about 300 yards to the east of the house nearest to and on the N.N.E. side of Burrow Mump. All trace of these coins has been lost.

(2) In August 1920 several shards of Romano-British pottery⁷ were found in digging a grave in the N.E. extension of the churchyard⁸ at Burrowbridge (Map, Plate III). These shards were given to the Museum by the Rev. J. M. Chadwick.⁹

(3) A pottery handle of typical Norman ware, brick red and grey on the surface and of almost semicircular outline was found near the Romano-British pottery (2). There are comb-marks on the sides and the same tool was evidently used for the ornamental

⁶ This causeway, sometimes known as 'Burrow Wall', varies from 13 ft. to 14 ft. above O.D.

⁷ The pottery includes fragments of the commonest black ware of the period; and pieces of red pottery ornamented with demi-rosettes, similar to fragments found at Ashley Rails, New Forest (where there was a kiln for making such ware), and at several other places in the West, including Drayton Field and Stanchester, Curry Rivel; Bedmore Barn, Ham Hill; and Barrington.

⁸ The new burial ground is the lower part of the slope of Burrow Mump on this side.

⁹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxxv, p. lxxv. Other pieces of R.B. pottery were subsequently found.

lines on the edge. The handle may have come off the top flat surface of a pan. It is of twelfth-century date, and was given to the Museum by Mr. Chadwick.

IV. EARLY REFERENCES TO THE CHAPEL

One of the earliest references to Burrow Mump is that written by William of Worcester, c. 1480, in *Itinerarium* (edit. Nasmith, 1778, p. 91) :

‘Aqua quae currit per villam Lamport habet originem ultra Shyrbern villam per tria miliaria, et currit per villas Yeville Yeldchestre et Lamport usque *Myghell-borough*, et ibi currit in flumen villae Tanton, et insimul transit per pontem de Brygewater.’

This, according to the late Dr. J. Armitage Robinson, is not a very satisfactory account of the river's course ; but the name of the place is of interest for its early date.¹⁰

Another early reference (dated 17 August 1544) to this site is given by Thomas Hugo in *Athelney Abbey* : ‘Also all and singular the lands, tenements, meadows, etc., in the parish of Ling. Seynt Michellborowe (Seynt Michelles Borough), and elsewhere . . .’¹¹

Leland, c. 1545, mentions Michelboro, but no allusion is made to the chapel.¹²

Three years later in *Somerset Chantries*, A.D. 1548, under Lyng, it is stated that ‘The Free Chapel of St. Michael at Borowe (is) within the Parish there. The Chapel aforesaid with a close called Chapel haye containing an acre with a road leading to the same, per ann. . . . ijs.’¹³

In the next century Thomas Gerard in *The Particular Description of the County of Somerset* (1633), under ‘Michaell's Borow’, said : ‘On the topp of it now stands a chappell dedicated to S. Michaell, which gave it the forename’.¹⁴

A lieutenant in visiting Glastonbury in 1635, passed the ‘fertile grounds by Burgh Church, which stands mounted on a round hill like a Castle’.¹⁵

¹⁰ *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, xx, 5.

¹¹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xliii, 159 ff ; *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, xix, 273.

¹² *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxxiii, ii, 85, 90, 135.

¹³ *Som. Rec. Soc.*, ii, 226.

¹⁴ *Op. cit.*, xv, 219.

¹⁵ *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, xix, 269.

In 1645 in the Presbyterian Classis, 'Burrow St. Michael appears as a distinct church. On the question of its occupation by Goring's troops it is possible that this somewhat unscrupulous fighter held the church just as it was, whether in ruins or not'.¹⁶

Dr. Armitage Robinson reminded us of a reference which appeared in *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, iii, 23: '1663. Collections at Langton Church by breifes. . . . Rebuilding of Burrow Chappell, Somerset . . . 1. 0'.

'This is from a Churchwardens' Account at Langton Long Blandford in Dorset. The date is significant. If it be true that Goring's troops fortified the place against Fairfax in 1645—up to which time the Chapel had apparently been in use—a good claim could be made out, after the Restoration, for a King's Brief towards the repair of the damage done by the royalists'.¹⁷

In connection with this subject we find this entry among briefs at Corton Dinham in Somerset, under September 1663: 'For Repayre of Burrow Chapel . . . 2/4½d.'.¹⁸

In the eighteenth century there are various allusions to the site. In the *Proceedings* for 1877, the notes are of very slight interest; it is stated, however, that 'here are the ruins of a never-finished church; on the walls is the date of its building, 1724'.¹⁹

An uncompleted restoration of Burrow Chapel is said to have begun about 1730.²⁰

In the *List of Religious Houses in Somersetshire*, by John Strachey, of Sutton Court, 1731, we get this interesting entry: 'Site of Abbey with messuage in Ling and "Michael's Borow", sold 36 Hen. VIII to John Timborow by Clayton.'

Two years later we find this record in Browne Willis's *Parochiale Anglicanum*, 1733, p. 137: 'Borough Eccl. sive Capella in Ruins St. Michael.'

A tablet on the E. side of the tower of the present building is said to bear the date 1791 (see p. 120).

According to the Rev. W. H. P. Greswell it may be assumed

¹⁶ *Dumnonia*, by W. H. P. Greswell, 74.

¹⁷ *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, xx, 5.

¹⁸ *Op. cit.*, xv, 58.

¹⁹ *Op. cit.*, xxiii, i, 51-53.

²⁰ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xlvii, i, 80.

that it was a free chapel dedicated to St. Michael. 'A free chapel was presumably a chapel built on Royal Demesne and they were called "free" because they were exempt from episcopal jurisdiction, the incumbent being appointed as if he were a private chaplain and the bishop having no power to refuse institution. Borough Mump was undoubtedly part of Saxon royal demesne in King Alfred's time and part of the original dedication.'²¹

Collinson²² says that two bells lying on the floor of the clock-loft in the tower of East Lyng Church were 'brought from the tower of Borough Chapel; they are not ancient, bearing only the dates of 1607 and 1625'.²³ A third bell, removed to East Lyng, had been taken to Middlezoy Church and served as a treble, the churchwardens of that place undertaking to return it when required. Collinson does not give the exact date of this transaction.

'But if we suppose that, at the dissolution of Free Chapels, the bell-metal of St. Michael's Chapel, weighing 1800 lbs., was disposed of, as stated in the chantry accounts, the conclusion must be that at some date between 1548 and 1607 this chapel was disused. There must have been a new life to it to account for the presence of the above-mentioned three bells taking the place of the old ones.'²⁴

The late Dr. R. L. Meade-King informed the writer that, when he was shooting near Burrow Mump many years ago, he had been told by local people that the reason why the existing church had never been finished was that there had been a quarrel between the villages about the bells. The villages in possession of the old bells refused to return them. This seems hardly a sufficient reason for the rebuilding having been abandoned, but no doubt there was a local dispute which caused the scheme to be dropped.

V. BURROW MUMP IN THE CIVIL WAR

The literature on the part Burrow Mump played in the Civil War is slight, scattered and unsatisfactory.

²¹ *Dumnonia*, W. H. P. Greswell, 71.

²² *History of Somerset*, i, 89.

²³ As might be expected these dates do not tally with the list of East Lyng bells given in *Church Bells of Somerset*, H. T. Ellacombe, 1875, p. 63.

²⁴ *Dumnonia*, W. H. P. Greswell, 74.

In a paper the late Dr. R. L. Meade-King gave to the Taunton Literary Society a few years ago he wrote, 'Retribution was now (1645) to fall on the cavalier generals. Langport had been fortified to strengthen the line between the cavalier strongholds of Bridgwater and Sherborne, Boroughbridge being the other fortress on this line. Sir Francis Mackworth was in command at Langport, and Goring and Windham were unfriendly or jealous of him; hence Mackworth had been systematically starved both of men and supplies, and Langport was not the stronghold which it ought to have been.'²⁵

'After the Battle of Langport, 10 July 1645', he continued, 'the larger part of Goring's army fled along the north bank of the Parret. They attempted a stand at Aller but were quickly put to flight again and pursued by Fairfax to within a mile or two of Bridgwater. A few turned aside and took refuge on Borough Mump, where the ruined church was a fortified post which surrendered to the Roundheads three days later.'

The rest of the army retreated through Langport to which they set fire, hotly pursued by Cromwell and Massey, trying to reach Bridgwater on the south bank of the Parret.²⁶

Collinson's record of the same incidents states that 'it (Burrow Mump) sustained much damage in the great rebellion of last century, when Goring garrisoned this place with 120 men (cavaliers), who fortified themselves in the ruins and made a most resolute defence against their assailants. But after the Battle of Langport, General Fairfax sending General Okey with a detachment to reduce them, they were so intimidated with the summons, and the rout which they had seen given to their fellows on Aller Moor . . . that they immediately surrendered'.²⁷

²⁵ See Hugh Norris in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xl, 132.

²⁶ Bethel and Desborough pursued the routed forces to within a few miles of Bridgwater. (*Langport*, D. M. Ross, p. 299; *From Leicester to Langport, 1645*, by Maj. G. F. Browne, D.S.O., Ryl. Unit. Serv. Inst. publication, p. 14.) In this pamphlet, 'the little fort at Borough Bridge' is mentioned, p. 8; see also his Map of the Battle of Langport.

²⁷ *History of Somerset*, i, 86. He added that 'the bridge at Burrow Bridge had three high arches, which gives the additional name to the place'. See also *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxiii, ii, 13.

Dr. Hugh Norris recorded the same event in other words in the *Proceedings* of the Society :²⁸

‘ Most of the Royalist soldiers fled to Aller ; a little stand was made in Aller Drove ; a few sought shelter in the church on “ Borough Hump ”, and were taken three days later, but with these exceptions the fugitives never drew rein until they found themselves safe within the walls of Bridgwater.’

And elsewhere we read that :

‘ Goring at this time held a very strong position on the north banks of the Parrett and Yeo : he had thus a free line of communication with Charles, while, if he were forced to retire, the fortifications of Langport and Boroughbridge would protect him in a retreat on Bridgwater, where the fortifications were very strong.’²⁹

‘ The attack on the town (Bridgwater) was simplified for Fairfax by his agreement with the Clubmen and by the capture of Boroughbridge with 150 prisoners on the 13th ’ (July 1645).³⁰

Previous to this Sir John Culpepper sent the following message to the King, 11 May 1645 :

‘ On Thursday morning, upon certain advice of Fairfax’s advance to Blandford, they drew off their great pieces of battery (ordnance) to Bridgwater, and prepared everything else ready for their retreat to Langport, Burrow, and Bridgwater the next day, with resolution in those fresh quarters to refresh themselves, and attend Lord Goring’s advance, of which as then they had not heard one word.’³¹

Another allusion to Burrowbridge occurs three years earlier (1642) when, in connection with the affair of Marshall’s Elm,

‘ Clarendon regrets that Hertford did not at once attack them (the Parliamentarians, when assembled at Chewton), for he thinks that they could then have been dispersed, since 80 horse and 14 dragoons under Sir John Stowell, which have been sent to Boroughbridge to secure the passage of the western trained bands to Wells, had charged and routed a greater body of horse and above 600 foot, inflicting considerable loss on them.’³²

²⁸ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xl, 137 ; reprinted in the *Langport and Somerton Herald*, 1 Sept. 1894.

²⁹ *V.C.H. Som.*, ii, 213.

³⁰ *Op. cit.*, 215.

³¹ *State Papers, Domestic*, 1644–45, pp. 478–9.

³² *V.C.H. Som.*, ii, 205 ; *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xviii, 7.

VI. POSITION

Burrowbridge, or Boroughbridge, is an ecclesiastical parish formed in 1840 from the civil parishes of Bridgwater, Lyng, Middlezoy, North Petherton, Othery, Stoke St. Gregory and Weston Zoyland,³³ and is situated on the main road about half-way between Taunton and Glastonbury,³⁴ and near the confluence of the rivers Parret³⁵ and Tone; the mouth of the old Cary river³⁶ joins the Parret 100 yards below the bridge. The nearest railway station is Athelney, 1½ m. s.w., and the Isle of Athelney, on which the monument erected in memory of King Alfred now stands, is just a mile s.w. of the Burrow-bridge toll-gate.³⁷

It is important to record that Thomas Gerard of Trent (1633) regarded Burrow Mump as 'standing within the precincts of Athelney Abbey, whilst that stood here';³⁸ and William Greswell wrote that 'Athelney Abbey and St. Michael's Borough were part and parcel of King Alfred's first bequest to the Thanksgiving Abbey, and also part and parcel of his original defences'.³⁹

From the Mump on a clear day Glastonbury (St. Michael's)

³³ Collinson (i, 85) records that in his day (end of the eighteenth century) the hamlet of Burrowbridge was partly in East Lyng and partly in the parishes of Othery, Middlezoy and Weston Zoyland.

³⁴ See Milestone on Map, Plate III.

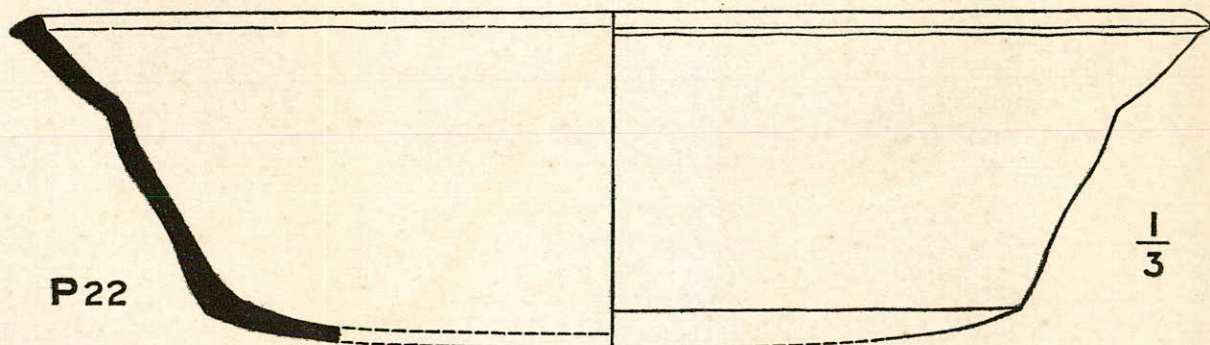
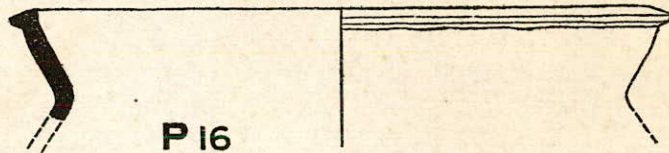
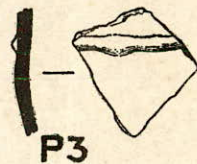
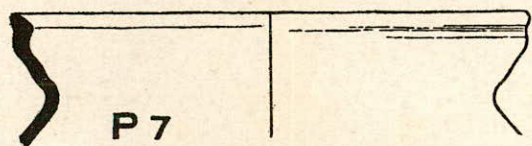
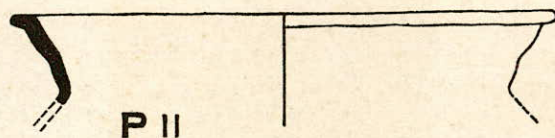
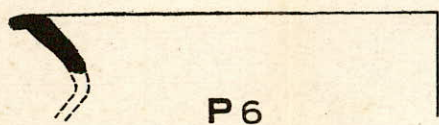
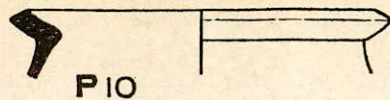
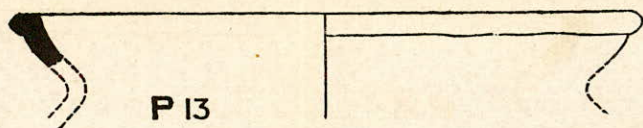
³⁵ Most local topographical works spell 'Parret' with one 't', but the O.S. maps adopt the longer word 'Parrett'.

³⁶ This river has been diverted in recent times for drainage purposes and its present course is that of the 'King's Sedgemoor Drain'.

³⁷ The present bridge bears the inscription 'John Stone—Yarcombe, 1826'. The Society has in its possession a sheet of drawings—Elevation, Plan and Section—of the bridge dated May 1824. The roadway was 9 ft. wide, and there were three arches (those on the sides 16 ft. and 17 ft. 1 in. respectively in width, and the central arch 21 ft.). The two piers of the bridge had cutwaters on either side. The height of the bridge above low-water was about 17 ft.

³⁸ *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, 219.

³⁹ 'The best authority on what Athelney Island and Borough Mump both were in the time of King Alfred is Bishop Asser, the king's biographer. . . . Asser says that in the scheme of King Alfred's defence there were two forts.' One of them is supposed to be Burrow Mump. (*Dumnonia and the Valley of the Parret*, by the Rev. W. H. P. Greswell, 1922, pp. 75–76.)



$\frac{1}{3}$

MEDIEVAL POTTERY
BURROW MUMP, SOMERSET. 1939

Tor may be seen; also the Wellington Monument on the Blackdown Hills. Much nearer is the column at Burton Pynsent, erected to the memory of Sir William Pynsent by a much greater man, William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and under the shadow of which William Pitt the younger was brought up.

St. Michael's Church⁴⁰ is on the s.w. side of 'the Mump' and between it and the e. bank of the river and bridge. This church was built by subscription and was completed in 1838;⁴¹ Dr. Underhill, Bishop of Bath and Wells, conducted the centenary service there in 1938.

Whereas the top of 'the Mump' is approximately 101 ft. above O.D., and the average level of the surrounding ground at the base of the hillock is 24 ft. above O.D., the actual height of Burrow Mump is about 77 ft. The enclosure in which the Mump is situated and the ruined chapel belong to Major A. G. Barrett (Eastbrook House, Taunton);⁴² it covers an area of 9.342 acres, and is tenanted by Mr. S. Gillard, of Samways Farm.

The position must have naturally been very strong;⁴³ the

⁴⁰ This church has taken the place of the old foundation of what must have been, for centuries, a chantry chapel in honour of St. Michael, perhaps since the days of King Alfred.

⁴¹ A printed list of subscribers (dated 14 April 1836) is preserved in the Braikenridge Collection at Taunton Castle. The land was given by Mr. William Kinglake, of Taunton.

⁴² The Mump had been owned by the Chard family for several generations, and, except for a short period, remained in their possession, finally becoming the property of Mrs. Barrett (née Chard) of Moredon in 1912, and on her death it descended to her son, Major A. G. Barrett.

⁴³ Marked in large letters on the Ordnance Survey maps as 'King Alfred's Fort'.

Mr. Edwin Sloper in *Athelney* 1901, privately printed, says: 'I regret the late Bishop of Clifton (Clifford) should have made such a mistake as he did in his paper published in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.* in 1875, whereby he puts the fortress constructed by Alfred on the top of a conical hill, the Michael Borough at Borough Bridge. Unfortunately the O.S. officials have followed his view.'

It might be recorded here that Mr. H. G. Wedd in *Som. & Dor. N. & Queries*, xvii, 244, in a note on Saxon 'burhs', mentions Burrow Mump and also One Tree Hill, near Kingsbury Episcopi, which overshadows the farms called Higher and Lower Burrow. (See also *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, 129.)

Thomas Gerard of Trent (1633) under *Kingsbury* wrote, 'Here is adjoining unto it a Beorghe or Burghe, for soe our ancestors called rownd heapes or hills of Earthe, called at this day Borowhill of an eminent height and which its probable enoughe was an hold or fort. It hath now on the topp a Beacon.' (*Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, 129.)

River Parret forms a moat on the south side, and the old course of the River Cary was situated on the w. and n. sides (*see* Map, Plate III).⁴⁴

It is now fully realized that the hillock had always been a vantage point, for it is known both from the evidence afforded by the excavations on the summit and across the terraces, and from geological observations, that the whole of the hill is a natural formation which in the upper part may have been scarped to some extent (*see* Dr. Wallis' report).

In bringing this chapter to an end it will be interesting to recall Collinson's description in his *History of Somerset*, published in 1791 (i, 85). This note may have been written, however, by Edmund Rack, died 1787,—Collinson's predecessor as historian of the county :

Boroughbridge had its name from a large borough or mount, very high and steep, which, though generally reckoned natural, seems to have been thrown up by hands for the purpose of a sepulchral tumulus.⁴⁵ This opinion is corroborated by the many battles which are known to have been fought in these parts in very early times, the tradition of the inhabitants, and the instruments of war which have been found in the vicinity unsimilar to those of modern ages. . . . This mount stands on the E. side of the river Parret, and has on it the ruins of an ancient chapel, built in the form of a cross : part of the tower and most of the main walls are still standing, and form a very singular and picturesque object.

VII. THE EXCAVATIONS

The excavations were begun on Easter Tuesday, 11 April, and continued till 4 May.

⁴⁴ A similar but smaller map of this area is given in Major's *Early Wars of Wessex*, 155, but the particulars accompanying it are of little value.

It should be noted that Bishop Clifford, in his map of the district given in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxiii, pt. 1, shows the old River Cary as joining the Parret at some distance s.e. of the junction of the Parret and Tone. Clifford's map is also interesting in showing the now destroyed fort at Othery connected with Burrow Mump by a causeway following the line of the Burrow Wall Rhyne of to-day.

⁴⁵ As late as 1907 the term 'tumulus' for the Mump was used by Rev. Dr. A. H. Powell in *The Ancient Borough of Bridgwater*. On p. 9 he writes : 'The most conspicuous feature of the moors and levels at the junction of the Parret and Tone is the Borough, or tumulus, near Athelney.'

(a) Terrace Cuttings⁴⁶

Our attention was at first concentrated on the terraces which encircled the Mump in a somewhat irregular fashion, as may be seen on reference to the Map, Plate III, where the position of Cuttings I, II, IV and VII are indicated. Mr. C. H. Bothamley⁴⁷ had expressed the opinion that the hill and its terraces were mainly natural, though the escarpments may have been made steeper artificially. Whether these breaks in the slope represented fosses that had become completely silted up or whether they were of geological origin due to strata of different degrees of hardness could only be decided by digging.⁴⁸

On the other hand, Mr. A. F. Major, O.B.E., said at the Society's Bridgwater meeting in 1920, 'they saw the whole scene of King Alfred's campaign in 878' . . . 'Borough Mump was no doubt the work which Alfred and his little band of followers in Athelney threw up, when the victory over Hubba encouraged him to disclose his place of refuge, but it was uncertain how far the Mump and the lines upon it were artificial'.⁴⁹ And elsewhere he said, 'The fortress itself, now known as Borough Mump and crowned with a ruined church, is defended by a triple line of earthworks'.⁵⁰

CUTTING I was pegged out on the N.W. side of the upper terrace, and measured 22 ft. by 6 ft. The surface soil consisted of a reddish loam, but no human artifacts were found deeper than 1.7 ft. In this material an iron knife, of little importance, was taken from a depth of 1.2 ft., and scattered here and there sherds of late medieval and modern pottery and a portion of an encaustic tile (much worn), small pieces of cut Ham Hill stone and of glazed ridge-tiles and fragments of roofing-slates.^{50a}

⁴⁶ See also Dr. Wallis' geological report.

⁴⁷ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxvi, p. xxxvii; *V.C.H. Som.*, ii, 499.

⁴⁸ In this place it will be appropriate to quote E. J. Burrow, in *Ancient Earthworks and Camps of Somerset*, p. 71: 'It (Burrow Mump) dominates the whole surrounding area for many miles and although it is now crowned by the ruins of a church, has undoubtedly been scarped and the natural formation of the hill accentuated, thus forming an important stronghold which, according to tradition, was occupied by King Alfred during his strenuous conflict with the Danish invaders.'

⁴⁹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxvi, p. xxxvi.

⁵⁰ *Early Wars of Wessex* (1913), p. 155.

^{50a} This was the first evidence we got to confirm the existence of an earlier church.

To test the soil, a maximum depth of 3·9 ft. was reached in the N.W. half of the cutting and at this depth we had considerably penetrated the natural material. In places, especially at the S.E. end of the cutting, narrow seams of grey clay, or a slimy decayed stone, occurred at intervals. No trace of a cut fosse was found, but some scarping had evidently taken place to form the irregular terrace, and surface-creep, here as elsewhere, had assisted in producing the general effect of fortification. The same remarks apply to Cuttings II, IV and VII.

CUTTING II.—A similar cutting, measuring 15 ft. by 5 ft., was made on the S. side (Plate III). Here the minimum depth to the natural red marl was only 1 ft. ; maximum depth 1·5 ft. At 1·4 ft. a piece of glazed ridge-tile, T 11, was found, and in the upper foot pieces of roofing-slate and some fragments of glazed pottery and tile, all of modern date. The tile is medieval, Class I (*see* p. 125 ff).

CUTTING IV.—A similar cutting, measuring 20 ft. by 4 ft., was made on the E. side (Plate III). Here, again, the minimum depth to the red marl was only 1 ft., with a maximum depth of 2 ft. at the W. end. The grey material was noted here on the surface of the natural marl. No objects of any value were found, except a piece of medieval ridge-tile, Class IV (*see* p. 126 ff).

CUTTING VII.—A similar cutting, not on the upper terrace, as in Cuttings I, II and IV, but on the second one, on the south and in line with Cutting II. Cutting VII measured 18 ft. by 3·5 ft. This was a comparatively deep digging to the terrace cuttings at the higher level. It was found very difficult to distinguish the softer top red loam from the natural marl below. In the S. half of the cutting the material was examined to a maximum depth of 5 ft., and at the N. end the digging extended to a depth of 3·9 ft. where the natural marl was reached at 3·1 ft. There was again no sign of a cut ditch, but the artificial origin of the terrace was clearly revealed. Nothing but some modern pottery sherds were found in the upper foot, and nothing below.

(b) Cuttings on Summit of Hill

On the second day of the excavation period a start was made in examining certain parts of the flat platform on which the

ruined chapel stands, particular attention being paid to the ground nearest to the present building.

CUTTING III

In the first place a cutting, 4 ft. wide, was marked out extending from the w.s.w. aspect of the hill-top for a distance of 55 ft., to a point close to the w. side of the south porch of the chapel. This cutting ran due w. to E., parallel therefore to the orientation of the chapel.⁵¹

In this cutting the natural red marl was reached at depths varying from 1.75 to 2.75 ft. Near the west end two post-holes adjacent to each other were uncovered; they had tapering sides, and were 1.1 ft. in diameter at the top; below the solid marl the w. hole was 1 ft. deep, and the other 1.4 ft. They contained no relics, nor was there any sign of decayed wood (*see* section on the line A.B. of Plan, in Plate VIII). At about 9 ft. from the w. margin of the cutting a trace of lias walling or pavement (three stones, 4-5 in. thick, lying on the marl), was traced, but it appeared to have no special significance (*see* Plan and Section).

At 20 ft. from the w. margin a large hole was found on the s. side of the cutting, and this represents Pit 2 to be described later. A little further east another hole in the solid ground was observed to extend right across the cutting and beyond; this was named Pit 3. When a position opposite the centre of the tower of the chapel was reached another pit was discovered—Pit 1. In the upper eighteen inches no objects of importance were found in the cutting, but a good deal of modern glazed earthenware turned up, intermingled with Georgian and Victorian pence, a few small leaden bullets (chiefly about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter), some clay tobacco-pipes and fragments of window-glass.

PIT 1.—When this pit had been cleared out it was found that

⁵¹ The marginal lines of the Plan, Plate VIII, are directed to the points of the compass.

The Director-General of the Ordnance Survey kindly informed me that the magnetic variation for Burrowbridge on 1 May 1939 was 11° 59' West of True North.

The working-plan was started by mapping the present chapel at a scale of 5 ft. to an inch, and round this the various cuttings, etc., were delineated as the excavations proceeded.

the solid red marl margins formed a four-sided figure with round corners, measuring approximately 4 ft. by 4 ft. at the top of the marl. It shelved considerably on the E. side, but the other sides were comparatively steep (*see* Plan and Section, Plate VIII). The central depth from the surface was 6.75 ft.—from the average level of the solid marl, 4.9 ft. The sides had been cut to a fairly even surface and the bottom was practically flat. The filling consisted of loose material including builder's rubbish, and at an average depth of 4.7 ft. below the turf substantial moulded remains of an embattled parapet of Ham Hill stone (broken up), presumably from the tower of a former chapel, were found (shown in the Section, Plate VIII). They have been set up temporarily along the churchyard wall at Burrowbridge. These remains are apparently of the late Perpendicular period.

Among the other contents of this pit were many pieces of window glass and leading for the same (doubtless from a former church), other pieces of lead, a few much corroded objects of iron (including nails), a seventeenth-century key, some clay tobacco-pipes, sherds of earthenware mostly glazed, a much worn token, and some pieces of roofing slate.

PIT 2.—This pit, situated to the west of Pits 1 and 3, proved to be the most interesting of the series, and gave better evidence of date of construction than any other. An extension, 6 ft. by 3 ft., had to be made on the S. side of Cutting III for its proper examination.

On reference to the Plan and Section it will be seen that this pit is practically square, but the corners are rounded. The margin at the surface of the red marl measured 4.3 ft. N. and S. by 4 ft. E. and W. The sides were fairly steeply cut and smoother than any of the others. The bottom was slightly concave and reached at a depth of 7.5 ft. below the turf and 4.7 ft. below the surface of the solid marl.

The stratification was all that could be desired, and there had been no recent disturbance. In the upper part of the pit a good deal of medieval pottery was found; also a flint 'strike-a-light'.⁵² Two or three dozen iron nails (much corroded) were

⁵² A certain amount of what appeared to be wall plaster was observed.

collected at various depths in the sealed filling; all had large heads. The average length was $2\frac{1}{4}$ in., but several were $1\frac{3}{4}$ in.; the longest, however, was $4\frac{1}{4}$ in., with a head $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. across.

• The pottery found in this pit included those fragments marked P 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (P 5, 6, 7, 9 figured in Plate VII). These fragments (all rim-pieces)⁵³ were found in the lower half of the compact filling of the pit, with the exception of P 4—portions of a jug ornamented with finely combed wavy lines and bearing traces of glaze—which was found at the bottom of the pit. The jug and the other numbered pieces have been described by Mr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., on pp. 122–24. Other fragments of similar twelfth-century ware, unglazed, were also found deep in the filling; and at the mouth of the pit one fragment of green glazed ware (like P 1, p. 124) dated c. 1275–1300.

Six of the ridge-tiles (T 4, 5, 14, 15, 17, 18) of the total of twenty-two collected from the site were found in Pit 2—near the top but *in* the pit. All these have been classified by Sir Cyril Fox (*see* p. 125 ff) as of Class II, except T 14 which is the only specimen of Class III found on the Mump (p. 126).^{53a} These fragments can be dated to the middle of the twelfth century. The great interest in the series of ridge-tiles found on Burrow Mump is the wide range of paste, glaze, form and craftsmanship.⁵⁴

⁵³ P 7 and 8 probably belong to the same vessel.

^{53a} Since this report was set up in type five pieces of medieval ridges-tile, found many years ago on the site of St. Nicholas' Chapel, Stoke-under-Ham, Somerset, have turned up in the stores at Taunton Castle. Three of the specimens are of Class II; the other three are of Class III (p. 126) with steeply-cut serrations and triple stab decoration on one side only; the paste is coarse, pink and grey in colour, light green and greenish-brown glazes, somewhat transparent. They date apparently from the middle of the twelfth century. (*See Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxxv, 127-137; xlviii, ii, 49-50).

⁵⁴ Those interested in this subject may like to look up references to similar ridge-tiles found at Kidwelly Castle, Carmarthenshire (*Archaeologia*, lxxxiii, Pl. xxviii); Ogmores Castle, Glamorgan (*Antiq. Journ.*, xv (1935), Plates 1, li); and Barry Island (*Proc. Cardiff Nat. Soc.*, lxix, Pl. iv, p. 34).

In any intensified study of medieval ridge-tiles, the following reference should not be lost sight of. It occurs in *History of Part of West Somerset*, by C. E. H. Chadwyck-Healey, 1901, p. 320, under the Manor of Bossington:—

'There was at one time, how long ago it is not possible to fix, a small

Pit 3.—This 'pit' came midway between Pits 1 and 2 (*see* Plan, Plate VIII). At first it was excavated only in the width of Cutting III, but later it was found to extend both N. and S. There seemed to have been disturbance here near the surface, where window-glass and leading was uncovered, down to a depth of 2.7 ft., but below that to the solid bottom, at 8.2 ft. below the present surface in most places,⁵⁵ the filling was exceedingly compact. A little twelfth-century pottery was found at about 4.3 ft. from the surface, including P 2 and 3, both of which are figured in Plate VII (pp. 123–24); also at a slightly higher level, P 1, a piece of green glazed pottery of the late thirteenth century, described on p. 124.⁵⁶

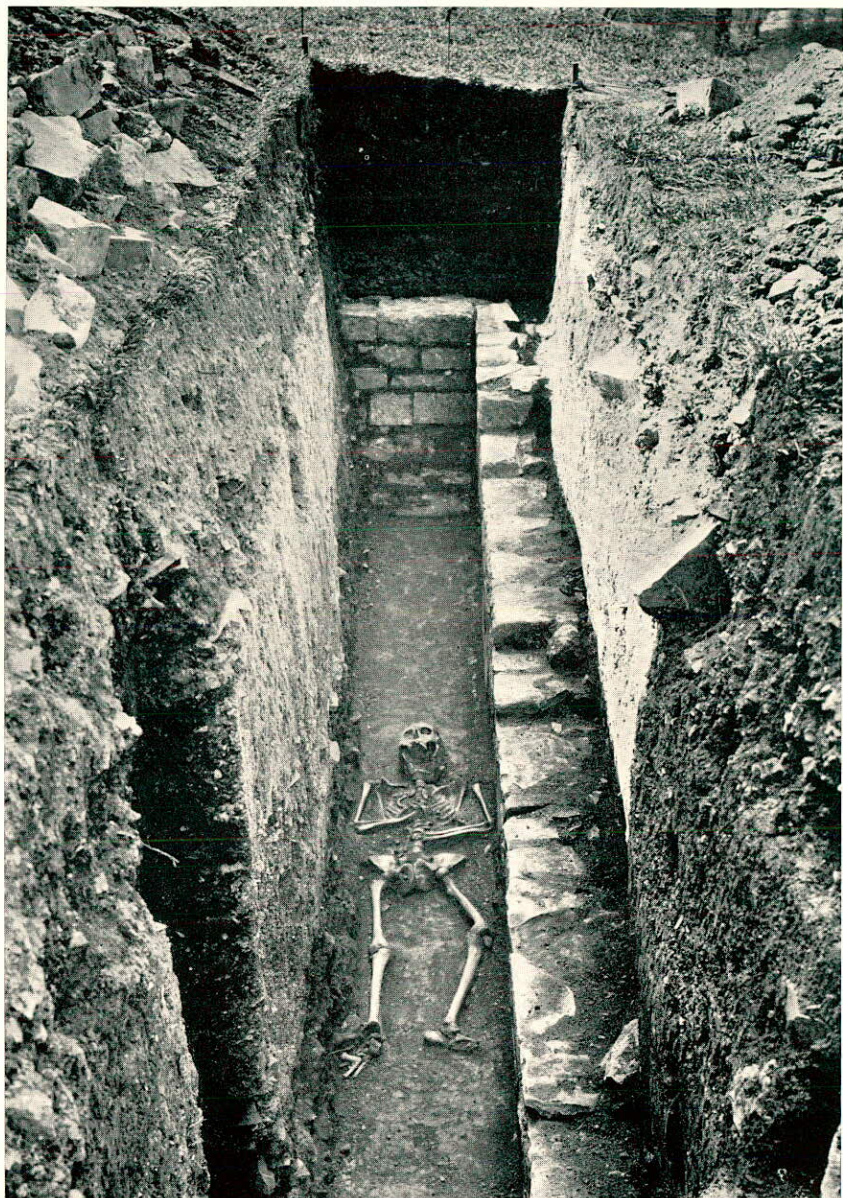
Mixed in the filling earth here four fragments of pottery of Roman date were discovered: P 23, part of the base of a bowl of imitation Samian pottery, with well-made foot-stand, the inner surface studded with grains of quartz, found at a depth of 4.3 ft. below the present surface;⁵⁷ P 24, a small piece of a similar bowl, depth 3.6 ft.; P 25, a small fragment of Romano-British pottery, depth 3.6 ft.; and P 26, piece of a scored flue-tile at the same depth. Their occurrence in this formerly disturbed material is probably fortuitous, and it must be remembered that pottery of the Roman period has been found in the churchyard at the foot of the Mump (p. 98).

pottery upon the manor. It was known to a few by tradition and some years ago a man was traced who as a boy had helped to fill in what then remained of an old kiln. He was brought to the orchard near Poole's Wood; he pointed out as nearly as he could the spot, and excavations were made. The foundations of walls and of two kilns, with a quantity of broken pottery and lumps of clay, white and red, were discovered. Amongst the pottery were pieces of ridge tiling precisely similar to that found in the roof of the old house in Doverhay, to which reference has already been made.'

⁵⁵ On the S. margin of Cutting III, the 'pit' reached a maximum depth of 9.3 ft. On this margin the width at the bottom was 2.85 ft. diminishing to 2.45 ft. on the N. margin.

⁵⁶ In studying this early medieval pottery reference might be made to 'The Archaeology of the Bodleian Extension', by R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, in *Oxoniensia*, iv (1939), p. 142, etc.

⁵⁷ Dr. Davies Pryce describes P 23 thus: 'Imitation of Drag. 45, or 38 which occasionally was converted to mortarium uses; possibly an imitation of a rare type of sigillata-mortarium as occurring at Margidunum. I am disposed to place this bowl in the late 3rd or early 4th century.'



BURROW MUMP, BURROWBRIDGE, SOM., 1939

View, looking due W., showing the northern part of the Crypt of a former chapel; on the floor level a human skeleton close to the wall

From a Photograph by Mr. H. St. George Gray, F.S.A.

Of P 23 and 24 Dr. T. Davies Pryce, F.S.A., wrote :

The two pieces evidently belong to the late category of bowls, chiefly in imitation of the Samian types 38 and 45. Chronologically most of these bowls may be placed in the late 3rd or 4th century. At Richborough they appear, for the most part, to belong to the 4th century.⁵⁸

In extending this cutting northwards it was found that the floor of the elongated 'pit' rose somewhat and at a distance of about 3 ft. beyond the line of Cutting III was crossed by walling which ultimately proved to be the s.w. foundation of a former chapel.⁵⁹ In the medieval deposits in this digging a rim of pottery, P 10, was found and has been figured in Plate VII (see p. 122).

CUTTING 3A.—The 'pit' cutting was also extended in a s. direction and later the medieval excavation into the solid marl was found to make an almost right-angle turn in a w.s.w. direction. This passage-way (?), called Cutting 3A, shown on the Plan, Plate VIII, widened from a width of about 2·7 ft. to 5·1 ft. at the s.w. end, where it was tested just at the edge of the flat top of the Mump. It seemed probable that this was one of the entrances to the buildings which stood here in early medieval times. Shards of pottery of this period were found in no great quantity at depths varying from 3 ft. to 4 ft. below the surface, chiefly at the bend in the passage-way, where at a depth of 3·7 ft. there was an occupation-floor, on the E. side of which a large thick slab of stone was found bearing signs of fire; its E. limit was not cleared; its upper surface was 3·1 ft. deep below the surface. Here, again, some medieval pottery was found; also an iron nail and a little charcoal.

At the bend of the passage-way the digging extended to a depth of 5 ft. without reaching the bottom. Further s.w. in the area measuring 7 ft. by 5 ft. (dotted on the Plan) the solid marl was reached at a depth of 4 ft. At the extreme s.w. end another small cutting, 6 ft. by 1·5 ft., was made; the natural

⁵⁸ Cf. *Richborough*, Report i, 107, 109–112; Report ii, 170–171; also Report i, 89–92.

⁵⁹ Before reaching the chapel building a narrow wall of small stones was revealed at a depth of 2·25 ft., the meaning of which was not clear (Plan, Plate VIII).

marl, N. and S., was reached at an average depth of 2·8 ft., but the hollowed-out passage extended to a depth of 3·5 ft. It is seen, therefore, that the level of the passage dropped from the s.w. end to the extent of about 4·7 ft. before it reached the middle of the so-called Pit 3.

Just to the south of the word 'Passage' on the Plan the dotted circular area indicated represents the position in which a large part of a shallow pan or bowl, P 22, was found at an average depth of 3·5 ft. It is estimated that the diameter of this vessel was $18\frac{1}{4}$ in. and its height $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. The significance of this bowl, as Mr. Dunning points out (p. 123), 'demonstrates not only the influence of late Saxon pottery types in the Norman period, but also their modification in spreading from East Anglia as far west as Somerset'.

CUTTING 3B.—To the south of Cutting III the position of a small detached excavation, marked 3B, measuring 6 ft. by 3 ft., will be seen on reference to the Plan. Its purpose was to ascertain if the passage-way extended in this direction (later it was found to turn towards the s.w., *see* p. 113). The cutting, however, revealed a small trench about 1·6 ft. wide. On the w. side the natural marl was reached at a depth of 3·3 ft.; on the east the depth was 3·1 ft. The depth of the bottom of the little trench was 4·1 ft. below the surface. Here, on the level of the solid marl and over the trench two iron nails and a number of fragments of medieval pottery were found, including P 13 and 14 figured in Plate VII, both of which are mentioned in Mr. Dunning's report.

CUTTING V

This cutting was marked out along the N. and N.W. side of the chapel, and extended for a length of 55 ft., joining up at the E. end with Cutting VA; its width was 4 ft., and it ran parallel to the chapel walls (Plan, Plate VIII). At first only 37 ft. of the w. end was excavated, and on the E. (where the digging began) the solid marl was reached at an average depth of 2 ft. At about 12 ft. from the E. end the marl was found to fall gradually to 2·6 ft., and at 16·5 ft. the inner face of a vertical stone wall was revealed. It was soon ascertained that this walling extended both w. and s., and that the corner of the

foundations of a building had been reached. This was followed in a westerly direction. Whereas the inner surface of the wall, which consisted of blue lias with a few pieces of Ham Hill stone, was vertical and dressed, the outside was left rough and abutted on the solid marl, which had been cut away to receive the walling. In one place the stone wall was only 0.6 ft. wide, but at the w. end (where the return w. wall was met with) some of the stones were 1.75 ft. across. The remains of this wall were reached at a minimum depth of 2.8 ft. below the surface, and the minimum height of the walling along the n. side was 2.6 ft. to the solid floor of the chamber.

Only a short length of the return wall at the e. end could be uncovered⁶⁰ owing to the superincumbent earth thrown out against the ruined tower; but the whole of the w. end was followed (Plan, Plate VIII), and the internal dimensions of the chamber proved to be 18.25 ft. by 10 ft.

At the E. end—in the N.E. corner of this crypt—a large stone, part of a bevelled slab, measuring 23 in. by 15 in. by 9 in., was found on edge leaning against the wall; it may have been the remains of an altar slab. Dr. Wallis identified it as Triassic sandstone.

In clearing the N. part of the crypt (the S. part was not excavated, being too near the ruined tower for safety) an interesting discovery was made, for lying on the floor an extended human skeleton was found, the heels at a distance of about 4.5 ft. from the E. end (Plates V and VIII). The bottom of the skull was at a depth of 6.6 ft. below the present surface.

The head was to the west; the skull broken by the pick-axe. The r. arm was bent, hand on thorax; l. arm less bent, hand on abdomen; r. leg fully extended, l. leg drawn up, the max. measurement from knee to knee being 1.25 ft. The long-bones were slender and not well developed. The edge of the ilium was not fully attached, nor the epiphyses of some of the long-bones, which indi-

⁶⁰ As a matter of fact only an internal length of 2.6 ft. could be uncovered, and the width of the stonework was 0.75 ft. The wall here was only 1.6 ft. (max.) above the marl floor.

At the N.W. corner of the building the stone wall was reached at 3.1 ft. below the surface, and the walling was 3.2 ft. high at this point. Towards the W. there was less of the wall remaining, the depth from the surface varying from 3.7 ft. to 5 ft.

cated that the individual was not fully adult. This is supported by the fact that the wisdom teeth were just coming through. Length from top of skull to os calcis 5.7 ft.

Close to the right hip of this youth was a small leaden bullet, which can be seen in the photograph, Plate V. This may be a Civil War burial or perhaps the remains of a fugitive from the Battle of Sedgemoor.

Little else was found in this cutting, and the pottery was for the most part modern; but there were three 'finds' of ridge-tile, T 2, 13 and 22.⁶¹ T 13 is of Class I, and T 2 and 22 of Class IV. The depth of T 12 is unknown; T 2 was in mixed material near the surface; and T 22 was found 0.5 ft. above the human skeleton. T 13 probably dates from the thirteenth century, and the others are c. 1500 (*see* Sir C. Fox's report on the tiles).

In a small cutting made near Cutting V, against the middle of the N. wall of the tower (not marked on Plan), a German jetton, or casting-counter, was found at a depth of 2.5 ft.⁶²

CUTTING VA

PIT 4.—The excavation of this cutting, 15 ft. by 4 ft., on the N.E. side of the ruined chapel was undertaken towards the end of the period of excavation. In the western half of the cutting and not far from the foundations of walls of a former chapel (*see* Plan, Plate VIII), the outline of the S. side of a large pit was revealed; the average depth to the solid marl round it proved to be 1.6 ft. at the E. end of the cutting, increasing to 3.5 ft. at the mouth of the pit. To get the true outline of the N. side of this pit it was necessary to extend the cutting northward at this particular point to the extent of 4 ft. It proved, like the much smaller Pit 2, to be nearly square with the corners rounded off; the angles were set almost due N.

⁶¹ This was the most complete of the ridge-tiles found on the Mump; length about 11 in. (p. 126).

⁶² German jetton of the XVI–XVII Century. *Obv.*: HANNS. KRAVWINCKEL. *IN. NVR.* = Three open crowns and three lys arranged alternately round a rose. *Rev.*: GOTES. SEGEN. MACHT. REICH. (The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, *Prov.* x. 22). Figured in *The Casting-Counter and the Counting-Board*, by F. P. Barnard, 1916, Plate xxxiii, 84.

and s. and e. and w. ; the width from N.E. to S.W. was 5.3 ft., and from N.W. to S.E. 5.5 ft.

It soon became evident that this was a large undertaking and after reaching a depth of 10 ft. it was found necessary to work with a ladder, bucket and rope, as there was no better tackle available. In this way the re-excavation of this shaft was continued to 2.5 ft. deeper in the N. part and to a depth of 21.5 ft. on the W. side. At that point the work ceased, except that the filling was probed with an iron bar a further 2.5 ft. without touching bottom. Tackle, funds and time were the chief factors for the discontinuance, and the matter of insurance had also to be taken into account. Perhaps at some future time this shaft may be opened to the bottom ; so far the secret of its purpose has not been revealed.⁶³

As far as the excavation continued the hard red marl sides of the shaft were practically vertical. At a depth of 7-8 ft. greenish-grey Triassic sandstone, mentioned in Dr. Wallis' geological report, was observed in the sides of the pit (*see* p. 128).

There were no notable 'finds', but the pottery was interesting. On a level with the mouth of the shaft a large piece of iron slag was uncovered.⁶⁴ At about 7 ft. deep an iron nail and the shaft of a human humerus were found. Charcoal was met with at a depth of 17.5 ft. The shards of medieval pottery were collected from various depths below 4 ft. from the surface, but none was found at a greater depth than 10 ft. They included the rim-type P 16,⁶⁵ described by Mr. Dunning and figured in Plate VII. Among other places the same form occurs at Castle Neroche.

CUTTING VI

Within the chapel a longitudinal cutting, measuring 34 by 4 ft., was made to test the level of the solid marl and to ascertain if any prehistoric remains were by any chance to be discovered in the middle of the flat top of the Mump. Negative evidence was obtained.

⁶³ The shaft was filled in without delay after the depth of 21.5 ft. had been reached. The filling included very little stone.

⁶⁴ Iron slag is commonly met with at Castle Neroche.

⁶⁵ All the medieval pottery from this shaft has been numbered P 16.

A trench cut into the marl crossed this excavation a little E. of the middle, but in other places the solid marl was reached at depths varying from 0.1 ft. (at the E. end) to 1.3 ft. In the E. half close to the N. margin a hole, diameter 0.85 ft., was cleared out; it reached a depth of only 1 ft. below the surface, and may have been intended for a small scaffold-pole. The trench extended to a depth of 2 ft. and was filled with builder's rubbish, small stones, mortar, etc. A wall formerly standing in this position marked the E. limit of a former chapel (*see* p. 120). No pottery nor other specimens of any interest were found here. Near the W. end, on the N. side, the lias slabs resting on the surface may be the remains of flooring of the existing or of a former chapel.

Cutting VIA was a rectangular excavation made under the tower, measuring 4 ft. N. and S. by 4.5 ft. E. and W. Only rough loose stones were met with, and the solid marl was reached at a depth of 1.2 ft.

CUTTING VIII

This important cutting includes all the ground excavated to the west of the tower of the ruined chapel, bounded, except on the S. side, by a dotted line on the Plan, Plate VIII.

Working from the north and extending the cutting westwards, walling of a different character and of considerable interest was uncovered, a good view of which is given in the photograph, Plate VI. This wall, including the offset, proved to be 18 ft. in length, and 3.13 ft. wide (excluding offset). The highest stone remaining of this wall was 0.9 ft. deep below the present surface, and the offset level averaged 1.2 ft. deep, so that the difference in level between the top stones of the wall and the top of the offset was only 0.3 ft. The average height of the remaining stone wall above the solid red marl was 0.75 ft. The wall was excellently built, of blue lias stone with very little mortar.⁶⁶ The blocks were up to 0.75 ft. in thickness, and on the outer face some of the stones showed marks of oblique tooling. On the inner side a trace of thin stone flooring (2.15 by 1.25 ft.) was revealed.

⁶⁶ Some of the stones in the core of the wall were quite small.



BURROW MUMP, BURROWBRIDGE, SOM., 1939

View, looking N.W., showing the foundations of a Norman building, and, in the foreground, remains of the S.W. corner of a chapel of earlier date than the present chapel

From a Photograph by Mr. H. St. George Gray, F.S.A.

Judging from the character of this much mutilated building there are reasons for regarding it as of Norman date, and presumably the remains of portion of a small Norman castle (*see* p. 129).

To the E. and N.E. of this wall another floor or wall-level was observed at a depth of 3.9 ft. below the present surface, which on the N.E. covered the W. end of the remaining wall of the crypt building. Much of the stone had been robbed and what remained was only one stone thick. There had evidently been much disturbance here. Just to the S. of the area in question, scattered human bones (parts of femora and tibiae) were found, the top of which were at a depth of 1.25 ft.⁶⁷

Few small 'finds' were uncovered here, but there was one piece of ridge-tile, T 21, of Class I (not earlier than the thirteenth century), and a fragment of glazed pottery-rim, P 19, probably fourteenth century (*see* p. 124).

(c) The Chapels

It will have been noted that little allusion has been made to the present and former churches⁶⁸ which have been built on the Mump. In Chapter II a list of illustrations of Burrow Mump and the Chapel(s) is given, and the engraving signed 'C. W. Bampfylde' (1763) is figured in Plate IV. In Chapter IV early references to a former church (or churches) have been given, but for the most part they are scrappy and disjointed; in this chapter on the Excavations, however, mention of such buildings has only been made when the description of the various cuttings includes the foundations of ecclesiastical buildings (*see* pp. 110, 113, 114-5 and 117).

It was Mr. Bligh Bond's opinion in 1920 that the present church was 'nothing more than a "folly"—an attempt to make a picturesque sham ruin. . . . What was standing exhibited the usual eighteenth-century notions of "Gothic"'.⁶⁹ In the *Proceedings*⁷⁰ it is stated that 'on the walls is the date

⁶⁷ As in the case of the skeleton in the crypt, these human bones were re-buried at the close of the excavations.

⁶⁸ In this chapter, to avoid confusion, the word 'church' is being used for the main building, as the former church had N. and S. chapels.

⁶⁹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, lxvi, p. xxxix.

⁷⁰ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xxiii, i, 51.

of its building, 1724'.⁷¹ According to the Rev. J. M. Chadwick's pamphlet, *About Athelney and Burrowbridge*, 1909, there is a stone over the w. arch 'bearing the inscription, E. House. 1791'.⁷² However there appears to be no definite record as to when the present church was built, nor whether any services were conducted in the building. But one has only to refer to Plate IV to learn that a cruciform church once stood here, and that it was in a ruinous condition in 1763.^{72a} The illustration used by Grose (p. 96) was drawn only one year earlier. The same cruciform building still stood on the site in 1785, as may be seen by Boswell's illustration referred to on p. 96.

In carrying out these investigations considerable traces of the foundations of a former church were revealed, as may be seen at a glance at the Plan, Plate VIII. The former building was apparently not nearly so long as the present ruin; in fact the E. wall was almost in the same line as the E. wall of the present S. porch.

Cutting IX was a narrow excavation, 25 ft. by 2 ft., made at the E. end of the present church to ascertain if any walling had ever existed beyond the E. wall. No trace of walling was found, and the solid marl was reached at a maximum depth of 2.25 ft.

The nave and chancel of the cruciform church were only 11.5 ft. wide internally, and the total length was about 46 ft. (the w. limit could not be exactly determined). On reference to Plate IV it is seen that the central tower extended to the full external width of the nave, viz. 18.5 ft. The average thickness of the walls was 3.5 ft.

The south chapel is shown in a ruinous condition in Plate IV;

⁷¹ See also p. 100.

⁷² Mr. Chadwick records the position of this tablet wrongly, for it is on the eastern face of the tower originally touching the apex of the roof; the inscription is now indecipherable from the ground level, but according to him it is 'E. House, 1791'; in a letter he wrote to Major W. Barrett in 1912 he gave 'E. H. 1791'. The tablet appears to be surmounted by a corn-sheaf in high relief.

^{72a} *The Field*, 30 March, 1940, p. 502, gives an illustration of 'The Mump', the title of which leads one to suppose that the *present* building is fourteenth century damaged in the Civil War! It is stated, moreover, that the Mump is artificial.

its foundations were clearly traced by the foreman, W. J. Wedlake, and in the angle formed by the E. wall of the S. chapel and the chancel the foundations of the circular turret, exterior diameter 3.25 ft., were found.

In line with the E. limit of the cruciform church and in proximity to Pit 4 the E. wall of a north chapel was discovered, and its outline is clearly defined on the Plan. This is all the more interesting from the fact that in Bampfylde's engraving (1763), Plate IV, there is no indication of a north chapel, nor any opening in the N. wall of the chancel indicating the existence of a chapel at the time the drawing was made. It should be noted that the internal width of the nave, the chancel and the north and south chapels are exactly the same, viz. 11.5 ft.

The evidence of the W. limit of this earlier church was not satisfactory, but at the S.W. corner of the building the foundation of a buttress was found on the S. side, and a small portion of another on the W. side close to the remains of the Norman building previously described—both about 1 ft. below the surface.

The crypt, the base of the walls of which were at a lower level than the foundation of the cruciform church, has been described on pp. 114–15. It is not definitely known if this crypt existed in the middle of the eighteenth century when the drawing, Plate IV, was made, but it may probably be of much earlier date. Its S.E. part has been destroyed by the N.W. part of the present tower.

Very few 'finds' were made in tracing the foundations of the earlier church; but they included part of a seventeenth-century spur against the N.W. wall of the N. chapel; and a farthing of Charles I, and two lead bullets, depth 0.7 ft., were found near the S.W. buttress of the present ruin.

VIII. NOTES ON THE POTTERY FROM BURROW MUMP

BY G. C. DUNNING, F.S.A.

The pottery from Burrow Mump consists largely of fragments of cooking-pots with everted rims, and although there is insufficient for a type to be reconstructed, no doubt they were of the usual globular shape with sagging base. It is fortunate that Mr. H. St. George Gray has previously excavated an early

medieval castle in Somerset—Castle Neroche,⁷³ near Taunton—which with another at Downend,⁷⁴ near Bridgwater, and other sites in the county, provide a quantity of pottery dated to the early or middle of the twelfth century.

It may be stated at once that the pottery from Burrow Mump agrees precisely with that from these sites, and there can be no doubt that it is of the same date. Not only are the main types of rim-section exactly matched at Castle Neroche, but the agreement is further emphasized by the close similarity of the composition of the pots. The ware of the Burrow Mump cooking-pots is usually grey or black, freely mixed with pounded flint-grit or stone particles which give the surface a slightly lumpy texture. The pots have thin walls and are fired very hard; the surface colour of grey with light reddish tones is typical of pottery from many twelfth-century sites.

One of the leading rim-sections has an internal bevel and slight inner thickening or beading (P 7,⁷⁵ 9 and 14, Plate VII); it is well represented at Castle Neroche, and is one of the characteristic local forms of rim in south-west England in the Norman period.

Another type of rim that is frequent on twelfth-century sites and is widely distributed in southern England is represented by P 16 (Plate VII). This has an outward bevel or slope and a well-marked flange on the outer side. It occurs, for instance, at Castle Neroche, Lydney Castle (Glos.),⁷⁶ several sites in the Isle of Wight,⁷⁷ and at Rayleigh Castle (Essex).⁷⁸ P 10 (Plate VII) also has an outward slope but no flange; it is more regularly wheel-turned than the other cooking-pots and made of finer and thinner ware.⁷⁹

P 13 (Plate VII), a rim flat on top and flanged outside, is exactly matched at Old Sarum.⁸⁰ Two other rims (P 6 and 11,

⁷³ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xlix, ii, 23–53.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, lv, 162–174; appendix on the Pottery by H. St. George Gray.

⁷⁵ Rim-fragment P 8, found in the same place as P 7, appears to be a piece of the same vessel as P 7, but does not join.

⁷⁶ *Antiq. Journ.*, xi, 258, fig. 7, no. 15.

⁷⁷ *Proc. I. Wight Nat. Hist. and Arch. Soc.*, ii, 674, figs. 1–4.

⁷⁸ *Trans. Essex Arch. Soc.*, n.s., xii, 182, fig. 7, nos. 6 and 8.

⁷⁹ This was found close to the Norman wall at the west end of the Mump.

⁸⁰ *Antiq. Journ.*, xv, 187, fig. 4, no. 13.

Plate VII) may be classed with it, but are pinched thinner outside. Finally, a rim with small internal beading rising above the flange (P 5, Plate VII), also occurs at Castle Neroche, and appears to be a local form in Somerset.

The only novel form of vessel from Burrow Mump is P 22, Plate VII). This is a large shallow pan or bowl with rim sloping outwards and flanged externally, as on the cooking-pot, P 16. The rim is markedly everted from the sloping side of the bowl, and the base is sagging. The bowl is $18\frac{1}{4}$ in. rim diameter and $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. in height. The ware is coarser than the majority of the cooking-pots and fired very hard; it is grey with large stone-grits, brownish-black outside and light red inside. The inner surface shows traces of a white deposit ('fur'), due to water being boiled in the vessel.

A rim fragment of another bowl (P 2, Plate VII), about 15 in. rim diameter, belongs to the same type as P 22.

Large bowls of this kind are frequent in East Anglia in the late Saxon period and usually have the rim heavily flanged. At the type-site, St. Neots (Huntingdon), the bowls are dated about the ninth century.⁸¹ In eastern England these bowls lasted without much change into the Norman period,⁸² but elsewhere dated examples are very scarce and they do not appear in the western counties until towards the close of the Norman period. Large flanged bowls clearly derived from the St. Neots types have been found at Hampstead Marshall (Berks.),⁸³ and a coin of Henry II from the site confirms their late date. The Burrow Mump bowl is a further derivative in this series, in which the rim has lost the broad flange of the originals and assumed the form typical of many twelfth-century cooking-pots. The significance of the Burrow Mump bowl is, therefore, twofold. It demonstrated not only the influence of late Saxon pottery types in the Norman period, but also their modification in spreading from East Anglia as far west as Somerset.

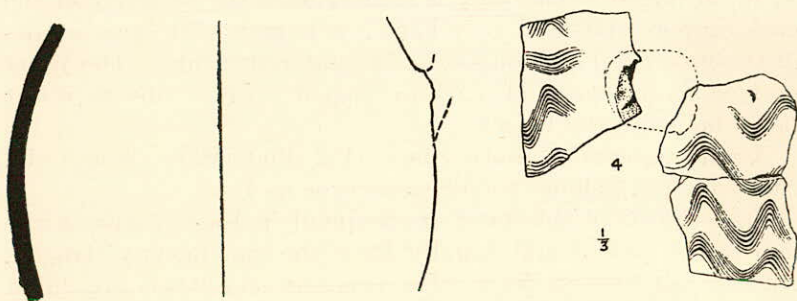
Jugs are represented at Burrow Mump by only four shards (P 4, see accompanying illustration) from the same vessel,

⁸¹ *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Soc.*, xxxiii, 148, Plate ii, fig. 1.

⁸² *Antiq. Journ.*, xvi, 396 ff.

⁸³ Unpublished; in the Newbury Museum.

found at the bottom of Pit 2. They are of grey ware with buff surface, finer and closer in texture than the cooking-pots, and have more sand than grit in the paste. The fragments are decorated with finely combed wavy lines, which are interrupted by the place of attachment of a handle. The jug appears to have been of rather globular shape, but the sherds are too small for certainty. Glaze is present on all the sherds; it is pale green, thin, and occurs only in patches. In quality it is very similar to the glaze on pitchers and jugs from Castle Neroche, Downend



Part of a glazed jug (P 4), twelfth century, Burrow Mump, Somerset

and Lydney Castle, and at all these sites the vessels have incised or combed decoration more or less closely analogous with that of the Burrow Mump sherds.

A small sherd (P 3, Plate VII) with narrow applied strip, although not glazed, is probably from a jug.

LATER MATERIAL

P 1. Sherd of remarkably hard and fine pinky-buff ware, extremely thin, about 2.5 mm. thick. It has a vertical applied strip with long slash-marks, and is covered with a good, thick, sub-lustrous mottled dark green glaze. In character this sherd is exactly comparable with the finest quality of green glazed jugs (class 'b') at Kidwelly Castle;⁸⁴ it may therefore be dated c. 1275-1300.

P 19. Rim fragment of hard close-textured bluish-grey sandy ware, brown surfaces. The rim is thin and everted, and on the neck is an applied finger-pointed band. The whole of

⁸⁴ *Archaeologia*, lxxxiii, 111.

the outside has a good, thick, dark green glaze with brownish tone. The sherd belongs to a wide-mouthed vessel about 8 in. rim diameter. Probably fourteenth century. It was found in mixed material at no great depth on the east side of the Norman wall at the west end of the Mump.

IX. REPORT ON MEDIEVAL RIDGE-TILES FROM BURROW MUMP

BY SIR CYRIL FOX, PH.D., V-P.S.A.

Twenty-two fragments of ridge-tiles were submitted by Mr. St. George Gray, all being portions of cresting. Of these two showed two serrations the rest only one or a portion of one.

Basing the primary analysis on form, four classes are distinguishable :—

Class	I,—T 1, ⁸⁵ 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21	= 9
„	II,—T 3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19	= 8
„	III,—T 14	= 1
„	IV,—T 2, 8, 10, 22	= 4
		—
		22
		—

CLASS I. In this series the serrations are partly moulded by hand, partly with a tool (drag technique). The workmanship is rough; the serrations are erratic in form, in one (T 6) steeply peaked and twisted. Additional ornament is provided by a deep stab on each side of each serration.

The paste of the class is hard and close-textured, free from grit, and varying in tone (in each specimen) from grey-blue to pink.

The glaze on all is rich and lustrous. That of T 6, 11, and 20 is mottled green shading to orange on the margins; T 7 shows a streaky light-green, and T 21 a brownish-green glaze.

CLASS II, (a) and (b). This series has clean-cut serrations presenting in silhouette an angle of about 100°. There are two types of paste and glaze. Type (a), best represented by T 17 and 18, presents coarsely textured wares, irregularly-surfaced

⁸⁵ All Tile numbers bear the prefix, T=tile.

on the broken faces, grey-blue to pink in colour. The glaze a finely-mottled brownish-green of fair quality. The other type (b), represented by T 4, 15 and 19, is made of coarse pink wares containing some grit, with traces of a transparent greenish-yellow glaze.

In contra-distinction to Class I the stab decoration is on one side only of each serration ; and the stabs are triple.⁸⁶

CLASS III. This single specimen, T 14, is related to Class II (b) typologically. The fragment shows one broad serration, the sides of which are steeply cut with a sharp tool ; the upper part is unfortunately broken off. The triple stab decoration is on one side only. The paste is coarse, pink in colour, the glaze yellow, thin, almost transparent.^{86a}

CLASS IV is distinguished by a wave-like outline, which must have been produced with a tool used like a spoke-shave.

They show a finished, well-defined, assured technique ; note that the internal finish is superior to any of the other specimens. The decoration is on one side only of the serrations, when there is any at all. There are two sub-types : (a) T 2, 10, and 22⁸⁷ are of a hard blue-grey ware, with a pink band on the internal face. They are the best-baked specimens submitted. The glaze is greenish-brown of medium quality. The triple stabs are faint, hardly visible (on T 2 and 10 only) ; the interest in this form of decoration is nearly 'dead', and does not appear on T 22 at all. (b) T 8 has a flatter 'wave crest' than T 10 and 22. The ware is mottled pink in colour : the glaze is a rich reddish-brown ; the decoration is a stab made with a pointed stick so deep as to show on the opposite side of the tile.

CONCLUSIONS.

The quality of paste and glaze in Classes II and III show these to be the earliest, and six examples, T 4, 5, 14, 15, 17 and 18, were 'associated with pottery of c. 1150', in the upper half of the stratified Pit, No. 2.

⁸⁶ T 4, with two stabs, is an 'end' tile.

^{86a} Other specimens of Class III have been found in South Somerset. (See Footnote 53a).

⁸⁷ This specimen, T 22, is complete as to one side, with much missing on the other side ; the ridge is nearly perfect and we are able to give the length of the tile as 11 in. A certain amount of mortar adheres to the edges.

Class I should be the next in date; the character of the glaze suggests a date not earlier than the thirteenth century, while the forms are too crude to permit a later dating.

Class IV is the latest. Fifteenth century is suggested for the green-glazed specimens, T 2 and 10, and *c.* 1500 for the brown-glazed example, T 8.

COMPARISON WITH SOUTH WALES TILE SERIES, so far as these are published.

Class I is represented, in a much cruder form, at Kidwelly.⁸⁸ Here the tiles were found on the site of the Hall, *c.* 1300, and were accordingly assigned to that date; but the Burrow Mump evidence suggests either that they are post-dated, or (as is more likely) that south-west Wales lagged behind Somerset in technique.

Class II is represented in South Wales,⁸⁹ but the paste and glaze of our examples is of better quality, and a fourteenth-century date has been suggested for local examples of the type.

Class IV is represented at Kidwelly and elsewhere in South Wales. Brown-glazed examples have been dated *c.* 1500.⁹⁰

Summing up, we note that similarities exist in ridge-tile development on either side of the Bristol Channel; but the material for comparison is very limited, and there are divergencies and inconsistencies which can only be cleared up by future work on well-stratified sites in both areas.

X. REPORT ON THE GEOLOGY OF BURROW MUMP

BY F. S. WALLIS, Ph.D., D.Sc.

Through the courtesy of Mr. H. St. George Gray, I was privileged on 20 April 1939 to examine the cuttings made at Burrow Hill.

The geological evidence may be summarised as follows:—

CUTTING No. I. Trias (Keuper) red marl with a band of a fine-grained, de-calcified conglomerate. The strata here show a slight dip to the east.

The surface soil, approximately 18 in. thick, contains loose blocks of Trias sandstone and gives evidence of a certain amount of hill-creep.

⁸⁸ *Archaeologia*, lxxxiii, 119, and Pl. xxviii, fig. 1.

⁸⁹ *Loc. cit.*, 119, fig. 2.

⁹⁰ *Loc. cit.*, 119, and fig. 3.

CUTTINGS Nos. II (upper terrace, s. side) and III. Show cuboidally-splitting red Keuper marl with green reduction bands.

CUTTING No. IV (upper terrace, E. side). The surface soil in this cutting is remarkably thin, and the Keuper red marls which exhibit the usual cuboidal splitting are generally within a few inches of the surface. The marls appear to be hard and indurated.

CUTTING V (east end). Exhibits slightly indurated red Keuper marls which weather to approximately cuboidal shapes. Green reduction streaks are present.

CUTTING VII (lower terrace, s. side). This cutting which is made through one of the terraces indicates that the latter are essentially of artificial origin. This is shown by a maximum thickness of surface soil, etc., on the outer side and a minimum thickness on the inner margin. It would also appear that surface-creep has in some cases accentuated the rather irregular terraces.

On the north-eastern flank of the hill and approximately 7-8 feet from the summit, it was noticed that a greenish-grey Triassic sandstone outcropped on the hillside.⁹¹ A small excavation proved that this rock was *in situ*.

It would thus appear that the whole of this hill is composed of strata of Triassic (Keuper) age. The beds are approximately horizontal but minor rolls occur. There is little doubt that originally the strata of Burrow Mump were continuous with the beds seen in the neighbouring elevations and that isolation is due to weathering.

The Keuper rocks of the hill are composed of red or reddish-brown marls, generally weathering into cuboidal shapes and often streaked with green reduction bands. Near the summit these marls are harder and more indurated than the lower beds. The upper beds also include an intercalated band of greenish-grey sandstone which is naturally harder than the marls. The sandstone, which resists denudation to a greater extent than the marls, is thus apparently responsible for the steeper slope of the upper third of the hill as compared with the lower two-thirds.

It would thus appear that the whole of the hill is a natural formation, isolated by denudation, and that the irregular terraces are chiefly artificial but have been modified by hill-creep. The steeper slope of the upper portion of the hill is due to the presence of a relatively resistant sandstone band of no great thickness; some scarping here may have increased the steepness to some extent.

⁹¹ With regard to the sandstone rock it is often found that these are lenticular, and this particular bed might die out near the pit (Pit 4); the evidence on the hillside was good. Such thin sandstone beds are well known in the marls of the Bristol district.

XI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Although the excavations undertaken in 1939 have revealed no evidence of Saxon occupation, it must be pointed out that only a portion of the summit has as yet been examined scientifically, and therefore no definite conclusions as to the way in which it was utilized at different periods can be drawn. The Roman remains, discovered in the past near the base, indicate that the natural strategic advantages of the Mump were appreciated before the Saxon period, and it would be surprising if further exploration did not show that the Saxons used the site, even if nothing was found to prove that King Alfred built there one of the two forts mentioned by Asser.⁹²

That the Mump is a natural hillock, and not an artificial earth-work, has now been established conclusively.

If the Norman building, some of the foundations of the western end of which have been discovered on Burrow Mump, was indeed an adulterine castle of the earlier half of the twelfth century, it may have been one of those dismantled by order of Henry II. Probably, however, it survived to a later period when the central government had become strong, and law and order had been established locally. A fortress on the Mump would then have ceased to be of value to the monastery, and one of the abbots, perhaps in the middle of the fourteenth century, may have caused it to be demolished.

The castle no doubt possessed an oratory or chapel, but the first building on the site erected for purely devotional purposes may have been constructed at this period.⁹³ There can be little doubt that the Mump was the property of the Abbey in the later middle ages,⁹⁴ although the chaplaincy seems to have been in the gift of the Crown.

It is believed, however, that a castle was still standing here in the second decade of the fourteenth century. In *Nomina Villarum*, 9 Edward II, 1315-16 (*Som. Rec. Soc.*, iii, 73), the following entry is made :

Under 'Hundred : de Andresdesffeld—
Dominus rex (Andersfield)
Castello . . . (Boroughbridge ?).'

⁹² See footnote, no. 39, p. 104.

⁹³ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xliii, 159.

⁹⁴ See also p. 99.

The same information is published in *Feudal Aids*, 1284-1431, vol. iv, 1906, p. 332.

The site had its importance as a position for a watch-tower to guard the approach to Athelney from the east. It would also be of some defensive value in commanding the waters of the Parret and its junction with the Tone—only a quarter-of-a-mile s. of the summit of the Mump. At certain times of year these rivers must have been important as waterways for the transport of merchandize. The control exercised by the Abbey of Glastonbury on traffic on the Tone where it flowed by 'Creechbury Hill' may be compared.⁹⁵ In peaceable times the tower or roof of the chapel on the Mump might well have served the purposes of a watch-tower.

The powerful family of Beauchamp of Hatch were patrons and protectors of the Abbey of Athelney. It is not known which side was taken in the struggle between Stephen and the future Henry II by Robert de Beauchamp, but it may be inferred that he supported the Plantagenets as he later owed much to their favour. He was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset in 1162 and from 1175 to 1182. In 1166 he certified that he held of the king in chief seventeen knights' fees, all of the old feoffment,—that is, made before the death of Henry I.⁹⁶ The agreement made by charter between Robert de Beauchamp and Benedict, Abbot of Athelney, does not suggest a new alliance, but rather the confirmation of an ancient tie. The development in the powers of the *curia regis* at this time had altered the circumstances of such alliances. To the abbey, the advantages of the agreement were that it ensured the temporal protection of powerful neighbours, and to the Beauchamps, that they became entitled to the spiritual benefits which the monks were able to bestow and to such comforts in old age or sickness as the monastery could provide.

The following is a translation of a portion of the charter. It seems to illustrate in its terms the settled form of government introduced by Henry II, and clearly dates from very early in his reign; on the other hand it may be quite late in

⁹⁵ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, ix, ii, 48.

⁹⁶ *Op. cit.*, xxxvi, ii, 22; see also *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xiv, 152.

Stephen's reign.⁹⁷ Already the necessity for protection by armed force had virtually ceased, and legal aid to enable the abbey to hold its own in the new courts of law had become of paramount importance.

Benedict by the Grace of God Abbat of Athelingnye and also the convent of the same church to all men both their friends and neighbours, French and English, as well present as future health. Be it known unto all those who now are and unto those who are about to come, that we with common assent have granted to Robert de Beauchamp and his heirs in fee and heirship all that land which is called Frogenemera,⁹⁸ so that nevertheless the said Robert shall give every year one mark of silver to us and our church, and shall acquit that land for half a hide in the common county assizes. Also to the said Robert, and his ancestors and his heirs, we grant the benefit and fraternity of our church in our common chapter. This grant the aforesaid Robert has strengthened by joining right hands with the Abbat, and to the aforesaid church he has promised that he will in all things be faithfully attentive, and that he will go to the pleas and business of our church whenever he shall be called; as the friend and faithful brother of the same. And for this grant the aforesaid Robert de Beauchamp has given to Abbat Benedict of his recognizances half a mark of silver, and to the convent he has given two sextarii of honey.⁹⁹

On the whole, it seems not improbable that the stronghold on the Mump was erected before 1153 and during the anarchy of Stephen's reign, and one is led to make the suggestion that it was garrisoned by Robert de Beauchamp on behalf of the Abbot of Athelney. If so, it dates from the same period as 'the Beacon' at Castle Neroche, and the Castle at Castle Cary, held against Stephen by William Luvel in 1138.¹⁰⁰ And these conclusions are fully borne out by the detailed examination of the pottery and the ridge-tiles¹⁰¹ found in the pits and elsewhere.

The dating of the ecclesiastical remains, the foundations of

⁹⁷ *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xiv, 152.

⁹⁸ In the s.e. corner of Shepton Beauchamp, where a lane called 'Frogmary' leads towards South Petherton (*Som. Rec. Soc.*, xiv, 152).

⁹⁹ *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, xliii, ii, 111; *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xiv, 152.

¹⁰⁰ Matth. Paris, *Chronica Majora*, ii, 1067-1217, p. 167; *Som. Rec. Soc.*, xv, 220.

¹⁰¹ See Chapters VIII and IX.

which lie hidden near the surface of the Mump, is not so easy a matter, and even if there was only one chapel of earlier date than the present structure, alterations and additions were no doubt made from time to time during the centuries.

We have made a record of all the walling that was revealed during this rather considerable trial exploration. It is evident that more remains to be done before the complete story of this conspicuous landmark will be fully known ; but to trace all the ancient walling would probably endanger the stability of the present ruin.

XII. LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE BURROW MUMP EXCAVATION FUND

	£	s.	d.
Alston, Mrs. G. R.	1	1	0
Anonymous	10	6	
Barrett, Major A. G.	10	0	0
Bath Branch, Som. Arch. Soc.	2	2	0
Chater, Arthur G.	1	1	0
Dowling, Dr. E. A. G.	10	6	
Gray, Mrs. St. George	1	1	0
Lewis, Evan P.	1	1	0
Little, Prof. C. E.	10	6	
Moysey, C. F.	10	0	
Northern Branch, Som. Arch. Soc.	4	4	0
Sturdy, Philip	5	0	
Taunton Field Club	2	2	0
Vivian-Neal, A. W. (two donations)	6	1	0
Wansbrough, Miss I. R.	10	6	
Willock, Dr. E. H.	10	6	
Box Collections	1	8	0
Interest at Bank	1	7	
Somerset Excavation Fund (formerly the Ham Hill Excavation Fund)	6	10	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£40	0	3