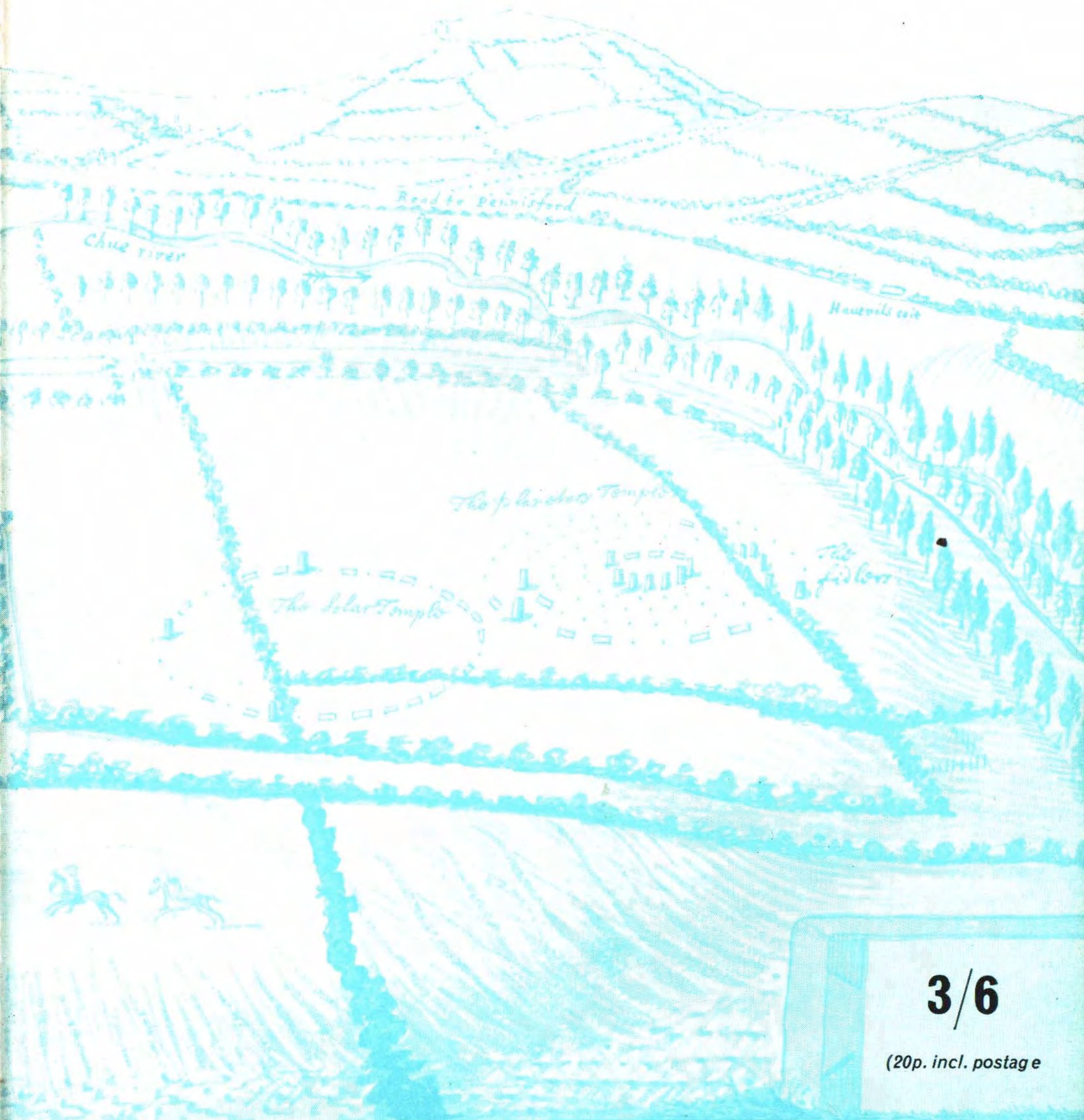


**PREHISTORIC SITES** *in the*  
**MENDIP, SOUTH COTSWOLD,**  
**WYE VALLEY** *and* **BRISTOL REGION**  
**Leslie Grinsell**



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*Weddings at Stanton Drew July 1723.*

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*Bristol Archaeological Research Group*

FIELD GUIDE No. 1a

PREHISTORIC SITES  
IN THE  
MENDIP, SOUTH COTSWOLD,  
WYE VALLEY  
AND  
BRISTOL REGION

by LESLIE GRINSELL

Bristol Archaeological Research Group  
c/o The City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL

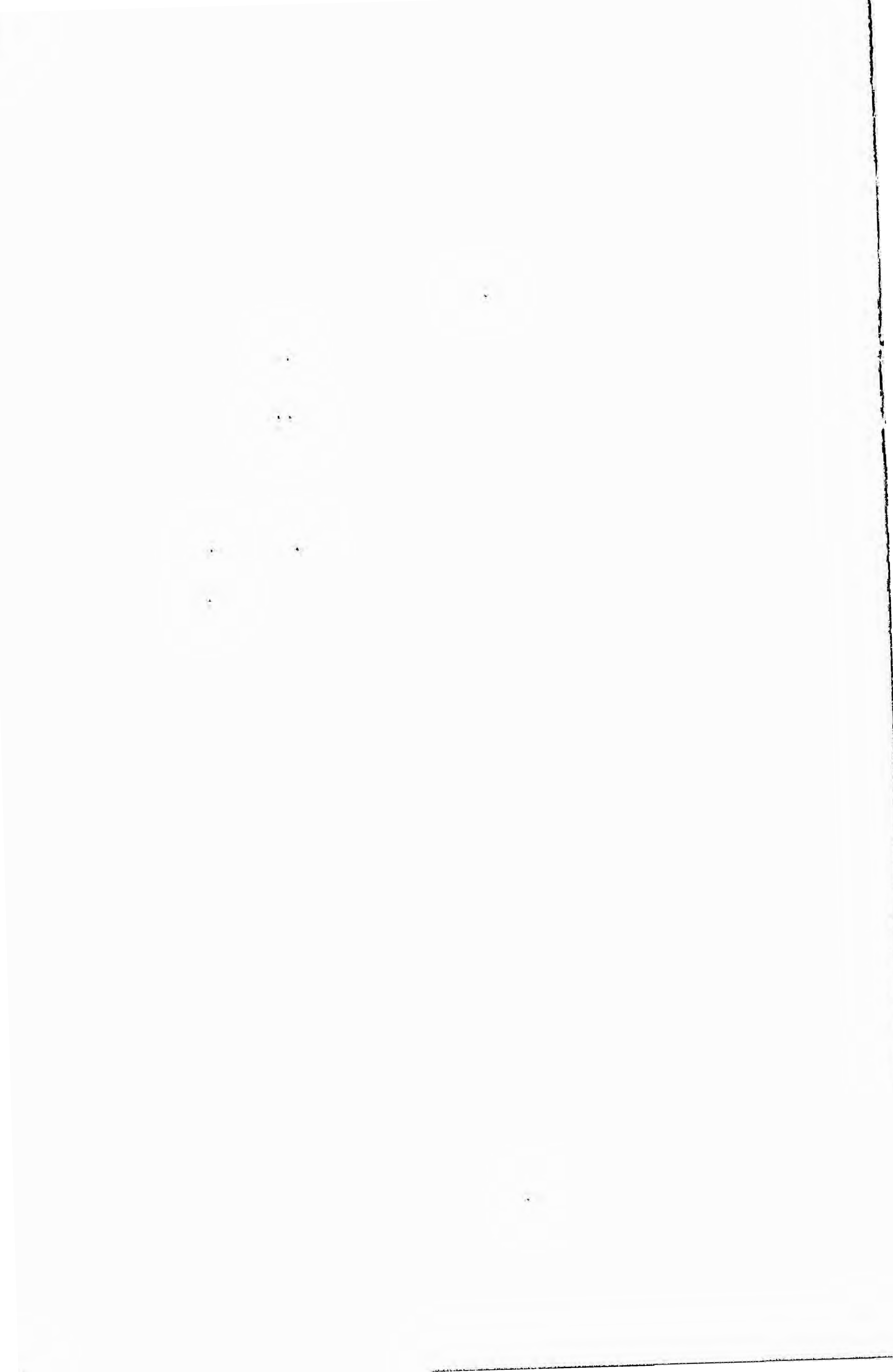
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## PREFACE

This work is a revised edition of Field Guide no. 1, issued in 1966 before the Severn Bridge was completed and its effects on archaeological travel had been understood.

The main changes in this edition are therefore the inclusion of the more notable prehistoric sites in and around the lower parts of the Wye Valley, such as the Upper Palaeolithic settlement in Arthur's Cave at Symonds Yat; the Neolithic chamber tombs at Garn Lwyd and Portskewett; the Gray Hill stone circle and Harold's Stones near Trellech; a few notable Bronze Age round barrows on the west side of the Wye Valley; the Iron Age hill-fort at Lydney and the promontory fort at Sudbrook. In all instances excepting the deletion of the ruined long barrow at Holcombe, these additions have been made by using up the areas of blank page at the end of each chapter.

The section on Cheddar Caves (pp. 7-8) has been completely rewritten to accord with the recent reorganization of the Cheddar Caves Museum. A few minor corrections and additions have been made elsewhere, and the bibliography has been brought up to date.

## ABBREVIATIONS USED

B.A.R.G.	Bristol Archaeological Research Group.
B.C.M.	Bristol City Museum.
B.M.	British Museum.
M.P.B.W.	Ministry of Public Building and Works.
<i>Proc.B.N.S.</i>	<i>Proceedings of Bristol Naturalists' Society.</i>
<i>Proc.Clifton A.C.</i>	<i>Proceedings of Clifton Antiquarian Club.</i>
<i>Proc.P.S.</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.</i>
<i>Proc.Som.A.S.</i>	<i>Proceedings of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.</i>
<i>Proc.U.B.S.S.</i>	<i>Proceedings of University of Bristol Spelaeological Society.</i>
<i>Trans.B. &amp; G.A.S.</i>	<i>Transactions of Bristol &amp; Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.</i>
U.B.S.S.	University of Bristol Spelaeological Society.
<i>W.A.M.</i>	<i>Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine.</i>

## NOTE ON ACCESS TO SITES

Most of the monuments described in the following pages are on private property and access to them is by courtesy of the land-owners and tenants. In practice the visitor is unlikely to encounter opposition providing that he observes the Country Code. In particular, he should avoid trampling on growing crops, or disturbing game during the breeding seasons; and if he takes a dog he must keep it on a lead in the presence of sheep or cattle. He should close any gates that he opens. If he is bringing a party he should seek permission from the owner or tenant, or both, beforehand. Advantages of seeking permission are that (i) advance notice of any bulls in the area can be obtained; and (ii) the farmer will be reminded of the interest and importance of any ancient monuments on his land. Finally, the visitor must not dig! If he wishes to take part in scientific excavation he should consult the department of archaeology in Bristol City Museum or any other museum of standing.



# I

## THE PALAEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC PERIODS

(roughly 100,000 to 3500 B.C.)

### (a) *The Palaeolithic Period*

This was based on a hunting and food-gathering economy, before the introduction of agriculture and pasture.

It is not the purpose of this *Guide* to draw attention to the various sites where Lower Palaeolithic implements may be found, as that was done in Part I of the B.A.R.G. *Survey and Policy*, 1964.

With regard to Upper Palaeolithic sites, the Mendip Hills contain one of the most important groups of cave settlements of this period in southern England, but they suffered from incompetent exploration until modern techniques of cave archaeology were developed, and in this work the U.B.S.S. have played a leading rôle since the end of the first World War.

Good descriptions of Upper Palaeolithic sites on Mendip are given in *The Upper Palaeolithic Age in Britain*, by Miss D. A. E. Garrod (1926). Later references have been assembled by (Prof.) D. T. Donovan in 'A Bibliography of the Palaeolithic and Pleistocene Sites of the Mendip, Bath, and Bristol area', in *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 7, 23-34; 10, 89-97.

The most important accessible Upper Palaeolithic sites on Mendip are:

*Aveline's Hole* (ST 476586), in Burrington Combe and just beyond the Rock of Ages. This cave is easy of access from the road. It has yielded a Late Upper Palaeolithic harpoon, a good series of shouldered points and other flint implements, a probable human interment with perforated shells, and other possible human interments. Harpoon and flint implements in U.B.S.S. Museum.

*Cheddar: Gough's Cave* (ST 466539). The entrance to this cave was intensively occupied in Late Upper Palaeolithic times, more than 7,000 worked flints having been found there. A fine series of Creswellian flint implements, exhibited in the Cheddar Caves Museum (admission 6d in 1970), includes various forms of backed blade; and shouldered points, burins, end scrapers, borers and

awls, mostly on blades. Objects of other materials include two "bâtons-de-commandement" of bone or antler, bone piercers (one with tally-marks), part of the rib of a wild horse (?) with incised decoration and probably originally painted with red ochre, incised pebbles, and a block of Baltic-type amber. The chief exhibit however is the skeleton of "Cheddar Man", recently radiocarbon dated to c. 7130 B.C.

*Cheddar : Soldier's Hole* (ST 468539) NE of Gough's Cave. This cave is now difficult of access, but is here mentioned because it has yielded Early Upper Palaeolithic ("Proto-Solutrian") leaf-shaped flint points stratified beneath Late Upper Palaeolithic (Creswellian) material. The finds are in Cheddar Caves Museum.

*Wookey Hole : The Hyaena Den* (ST 533478), SE of the great cave open to the public. The Hyaena Den has yielded ovate flint implements worked on both faces, resembling Mousterian implements but perhaps Early Upper Palaeolithic ("Proto-Solutrian") in period. Finds in B. C. M., Manchester Museum, and Oxford University Museum.

*King Arthur's Cave, near Symonds Yat* (SO 545155). This cave contains two main chambers joined by a passage near the entrance. It was excavated in 1871 and 1925-30 and yielded evidence of Late Upper Palaeolithic (Creswellian) occupation with flint implements and contemporary animal remains.

#### (b) *The Mesolithic Period*

The only structural feature of this period so far known in the Bristol region is the plan of a mesolithic hut at Birdcombe Farm, Wraxall (Somerset), but there is now nothing to be seen on the site. Finds in Somerset County Museum, Taunton. Sykes, C. M., and Whittle, S. L. in *Proc. Som. A. S.* 104, 106-23.

## II

### THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD

(roughly 3500 to 1800 B.C.)

THIS PERIOD was based on a primitive agricultural and pastoral economy, and witnessed the introduction of the potter's art. Almost the only identifiable field antiquities in the region covered are the long barrows. These belong to the Cotswold-Severn group which may well have been introduced from western France. They are essentially communal burial-places of the more notable inhabitants. Interment was usually unburnt and with scanty grave-goods—an occasional leaf-shaped flint arrow-head, bone point, or round-based Neolithic pot or bowl.

#### (a) *South Cotswold Long Barrows*

For full details, see Crawford, O. G. S., *Long Barrows of the Cotswolds*, 1925, and Daniel, G. E., *Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of England and Wales*, 1950; both summarized and brought up to date in *Trans. B. & G.A.S.*, 79, Part I.

*Avening* (ST 879984), N of Nailsworth road NW of village. Three burial-chambers (one with two-piece porthole entrance hollowed vertically), removed to this spot in 1806 from a long barrow in the vicinity, possibly that E of Avening Court (ST 895978). At present this is the only visible porthole entrance chamber on the Cotswolds, those at Rodmarton having been covered up for protection about 1939.

*Avening: the Tingle Stone* (ST 882990), S of Gatcombe Park. Oriented (unusually) N/S. So-called from standing stone at N end. A fine mound, planted with beeches.

*Bristol: Druid Stoke* (ST 561761), near junction of Druid Hill and Druid Stoke Avenue. Possible burial-chamber in garden of house called Cromlech, 59 Druid Hill.

*Gatcombe Lodge* (ST 884997). A 'false-entrance' long barrow with one burial-chamber still accessible, and the possible roof-slab of another towards the SW end.

*Kingscote Wood* (ST 820976), just NW of wood. A good example about 170 feet long, S of the track to Horsley. No megalithic structure visible.

*Lanhill* (ST 877747), S of road A.420 between Ford and Chippenham. Remains of 'false-entrance' chambered long barrow, with S chamber restored by M.P.B.W. since 1960.

*Leighterton: West Barrow* (ST 819913), W of village. Among the largest long barrows on the Cotswolds, it is about 270 feet long and 20 feet high, covered with trees, and mostly enclosed by a modern stone wall. It is oriented E/W. Three burial-chambers were found in 1700 but are no longer visible.

*Luckington: the Giant's Cave* (ST 820830), Wiltshire part of the Cotswolds. A long barrow in which three (possibly four) chambers have been found, containing at least eleven human skeletons. To the S, at ST 821828, may be another long barrow, much spread by ploughing.

*Lugbury* (ST 830785), Wiltshire part of the Cotswolds, just W of the Fosse Way. Fine false portal still visible. Four chambers or cists contained at least twenty-six human skeletons.

*Minchinhampton: the Long Stone* (ST 884999). This, with another stone incorporated into the wall a few feet away, could well be the last vestige of an otherwise destroyed long barrow.

*Nymphsfield* (SO 794013), W of road B.4066 and just before it turns E towards Stroud. The covering mound is now removed, revealing the upright slabs of a gallery with one pair of side-chambers and an end-chamber. Excavation by Buckman (1862) and Mrs E. M. Clifford (1937) resulted in finding approx. twenty human skeletons (thirteen plus 'several'), Neolithic pottery, and a leaf-arrowhead. Finds in Stroud Museum.

*Rodmarton: Windmill Tump* (ST 932973). A notable example, nearly 200 feet long and about 9 feet high, with false entrance, and two opposed burial-chambers with three steps leading down into them (at present inaccessible) with porthole entrances, one of which has the original blocking still in place. Excavation by S. Lysons (1863) and Mrs E. M. Clifford (1939) produced thirteen skeletons and two leaf arrowheads in the N chamber, and fragments of 'several' skeletons in the S chamber. There was evidence of disturbance in the Roman period. Finds in B.M.

*Selsley Common: The Toots* (SO 827031). A good example about 200 feet long and 10 feet high. The plurality of the name has been caused by a gash made in the middle of the mound probably some centuries ago, giving it the appearance of two round barrows.

*Symonds' Hall Farm* (ST 797960), a mile W of the Hunters' Hall Inn. Probably a long barrow about 210 feet long, but possibly two round barrows joined together.

*Three Shire Stones* (ST 796700), on boundary of Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire. The large stones are a 'sham megalith' built in 1859, around an earlier group of much smaller stones bearing the date 1736 and the initial letter of the appropriate county. These are on the site of a yet earlier structure mentioned c.1670 by John Aubrey. *Trans. B. & G.A.S.*, 82, 210-11.

*Uley: Hetty Pegler's Tump* (SO 789000), W of road B.4066 and a mile N or Uleybury hill-fort. (Key obtainable from house near-by. It is advisable to take an electric torch.) An accessible 'true-entrance' long barrow with gallery, two pairs of side-chambers, and an end-chamber. The N side-chambers were blocked up probably in mid-19th century. Excavations, mostly by Thurnam (1854), revealed at least fifteen human skeletons, and a probable Romano-British intrusive burial near the top of the mound. M.P.B.W. leaflet guide (by L. V. Grinsell) available.

*Wick* (ST 706719). Remains of burial-chamber, probably of an otherwise destroyed long barrow.

#### (b) *Mendip and NE Somerset Long Barrows*

Most details are given in G. E. Daniel, *Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of England and Wales*, 1950, and N. Thomas, *A Guide to Prehistoric England*, 1960. A fresh list by L. V. Grinsell is nearly ready for publication.

*Beckington: the Devil's Bed and Bolster* (ST 815533). From the mound protrude large stones indicating a megalithic structure of uncertain type.

*Buckland Dinham: Murtry Hill* (ST 763507). Long barrow, with two standing stones at E end which may be connected with a 'restoration' of early 19th century. Excavated 1803/4, and by H. St. George Gray 1920 with not very conclusive results.

*Chewton Mendip: Chew Down* (ST 601533), among round barrows just W of road A.39 between Bristol and Wells. About 110 feet long and 10 feet high, with indications of megalithic work at E end.

*Fairy's Toot* (ST 520618). Gallery-grave long barrow which originally had at least three pairs of side-chambers. Pillaged at intervals from 1788 to mid-19th century, it has now completely

gone. Many skeletons found; cranium from Rev. J. Skinner's exploration (1820) in B.C.M.

*Felton Hill* (ST 516649), near windmill SE of Lulsgate Bottom. A small example with megalithic slabs which should indicate remains of chambering.

*Pen Hill* (ST 563488), W of road A.43 between Green Ore and Wells. A well preserved example with side-ditches.

*Priddy: SW of church* (ST 514509). A small example about 75 feet long and about 5½ feet high, excavated in 1928: report not yet published.

*Stoney Littleton* (ST 735572). Approached from SW by track from Stoney Littleton Farm where key can be obtained. Electric torch should be brought. Among the finest accessible long barrows, it consists of an entrance (note ammonite cast on SW door jamb), gallery with three pairs of side-chambers, and an end-chamber. It was opened in 1816 by Rev. J. Skinner for Sir Richard Colt Hoare; many human bones were found, and two crania and a jawbone are in B.C.M. The barrow was restored in 1858 by the Lord of the Hundred. M.P.B.W. Leaflet guide (by L. V. Grinsell) obtainable.

*The Water Stone* (ST 501644), W of Cornerpool Farm and S of Bristol Airport. Burial chamber, so-called because the cover-slab contains a hollow in which rain-water collects. The covering mound has almost gone.

(c) *South Monmouthshire Chamber Tombs*

*Portskewett, Heston Brake* (ST 505886). A small long barrow placed ESE/WNW, at E end of which is a bi-partite burial chamber in which human bones were found in 1888.

*Garn Llwyd* chamber tomb (ST 447968) also has a bi-partite burial chamber and is of imposing proportions.

(d) *Bank Barrow(?)*

*Pen Hill* (ST 565487). From near the Pen Hill long barrow there extends a long mound about 750 feet in length, about 2 feet high, and about 24 feet wide, with slight side-ditches. This appears to be a bank-barrow, of which the very few other known English examples are in south Dorset.

### III

## CEREMONIAL MONUMENTS OF THE NEOLITHIC AND BRONZE AGES

IT SEEMS BEST to group these sites together because some of them have produced no dating evidence, and their chronological position can as yet be assessed only by analogy with comparable monuments elsewhere which have been excavated.

*Stanton Drew* (ST 600634). This group of megalithic monuments comprises three stone circles, two stone avenues, a cove, and an originally standing (now recumbent) stone called Hautville's Quoit. The SW circle, the Great Circle, and Hautville's Quoit are in line, and so are the Cove, the Great Circle, and the NE circle. It is therefore likely that the monuments were planned together at one period. Admission to the circles and avenues is through Court Farm where a small fee is charged. At the present time there is no admission on Sundays. A small fee is payable at the Druids' Arms Inn for admission to the enclosure containing the Cove, but this can be seen very well from the churchyard. Hautville's Quoit is S of the road and just E of Hautville's Quoit Farm.

The Great Circle is about 368 feet in diameter and may have originally had thirty or more stones of which twenty-seven remain, all but three being recumbent. The sites of two stones in the E sector have been located by probing. A stone avenue leads E from this towards the river Chew. The SW circle is about 145 feet in diameter and probably had about twelve stones, of which ten or eleven recumbent stones remain. The NE circle is the best preserved, and is about 97 feet in diameter and comprises eight stones of which four are still standing and four recumbent. A stone avenue leads E from this towards the river Chew, but joins the avenue from the Great Circle and is not visible beyond that point. It is impossible to state the precise number of stones in any circle because of the difficulty of deciding whether two adjoining stones are separate or part of a block which split. This has given rise to the local tradition that the stones cannot be counted correctly. The Cove comprises two widely-spaced standing stones and a recumbent stone (now

broken in two) between them. Structurally it may be compared with the Cove within the N inner circle at Avebury, and possibly also with the group known as the Whispering Knights, among the Rollright Stones in Oxfordshire.

No scientific excavation has ever been done at Stanton Drew; but comparison with Avebury, its nearest parallel, suggests that it most likely dates from the Late Neolithic or Beaker period, say between about 1800 and 1400 B.C. It is curious that there is very little other evidence of settlement during that period in the region: almost no barrows and very few chance finds, although a little evidence of occupation was revealed during the excavations for the Chew Valley Lake in the mid 1950's.

M.P.B.W. Leaflet Guide (by L. V. Grinsell) available.

*The Priddy Circles* (ST 539526 to 543535), near the Castle of Comfort Inn. These comprise four earthen circles (actually the banks have a stone core) each about 600 feet in diameter, and arranged in a line SSW/NNE. At least one and probably all have external ditches. The two circles at S have an entrance causeway in their NNE sector. The N circle may be incomplete. Excavation in 1956 in the S circle revealed post-holes on both sides of the stone core of the bank. There is nothing resembling these circles elsewhere in southern England, but they are comparable with the three circles at Thornborough in Yorkshire, and the two on Hutton Moor in the same county. In all three instances they are in country sprinkled fairly liberally with Bronze Age round barrows. The central Thornborough circle is later than a Neolithic 'cursus' on part of which it is superimposed.

*Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 8, 7-17; 11, 97-125.

*Gorse Bigbury* (ST 484558), S of road between Tynings Farm and Charterhouse-on-Mendip. Technically this is a single-entrance 'henge' monument comprising a circle about 200 feet in diameter formed of bank and inner ditch, with an entrance-causeway on N side. As a field monument it is unspectacular, but the finds from the excavations conducted by the UBSS between 1931 and 1934 are of much importance. They included Peterborough ware and flint petit-tranchet derivatives which may indicate the period of original construction; and a large number of sherds of type A (necked) beakers, representing more than a hundred vessels, as well as barbed-and-tanged flint arrowheads



and other flint implements, which seem to indicate a slightly later period of intensive settlement. Finds in U.B.S.S. Museum. *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 5, 3-56; 6, 186-99.

*Priddy (E of Hunters' Lodge Inn)* (ST 559498). South of the road between Hunters' Lodge Inn and Hill Grove is a circular earthwork about 150 feet in diameter with possible entrance-causeway on NNW. It is most likely either a disc-barrow, a saucer-barrow, or (if there really is an entrance-causeway) a single-entrance 'henge' monument similar to Gorsey Bigbury. *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 8, 124-5.

*Gray Hill Stone Circle, Mon.* (ST 438935), situated on top of Gray Hill E of Wentwood Reservoir. It is uncertain whether this is a free-standing stone circle (as suggested by the presence of a menhir a short distance away, which characterizes many stone circles) or the retaining circle of a round barrow (as suggested by the presence of one or two stones in the centre suggestive of a cist). It might have functioned as both.

*Harold's Stones, Trellech, Mon.* (SO 499052). This monument comprises three standing stones, each several feet high, in a straight line. On the S side of the middle stone are two probable cup-marks each  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. The monument is most likely Bronze Age.

## IV

### THE BRONZE AGE

(Roughly 1800 to 500 B.C.)

APART FROM the ceremonial monuments described in the last section, almost the only visible field antiquities of this period are the round barrows. These are somewhat rare on the Cotswolds between the Stroud valley and Bristol, but are comparatively numerous on and around Mendip. Only the more important groups and individual sites are here mentioned. A definitive list of those in Gloucestershire has recently been published (*Trans. B. & G.A.S.*, 79, Part I). A similar list of those in Somerset is in preparation and it is hoped that publication may not be long delayed. Some of the chief examples were described in *Proc. Som.A.S.*, 85, 151-66.

#### (a) *The Chief Round Barrows in the South Cotswolds*

*Bitton* (ST 678694), N of the river Avon. A large example in the meadow.

*Cold Aston* (ST 732704), E of the Granville Monument, just N of the county boundary: two well-formed examples excavated in 1909. In one was a cremation without grave-goods. In the material of both barrows were many worked flints.

*Hyde* (SO 890015). Two examples, one being oval and about 10 feet high. A cremation with a Roman bronze brooch, found by a farmer in this barrow in 1848, may have been an intrusive interment.

*Marshfield* (ST 795746), on Marshfield Down E of village. A group of seven or eight barrows now destroyed. One formerly known as St. Oswald's Tump may have been a bell-barrow; another known as St. Oswald's Ring might perhaps have been a disc-barrow. Some were opened 1947-9: finds (including a bronze dagger) in B.C.M.

*Nan Tow's Tump* (ST 803893). A large tree-covered conical mound on E side of road A.46 between Dunkirk and Nailsworth; among the largest round barrows on the Cotswolds, it is about 9 feet high.

*Park Wood group* (ST 822897). A group of three round barrows becoming levelled by cultivation. They are W of the road between Didmarton and Leighterton.

*Southmead* (ST 579779), in field formerly known as Milltut Field: probably a Bronze Age round barrow, perhaps later used as a steading for a windmill. The present mound is about 20 paces in diameter and 7 feet high.

*Starveall* (ST 796882). A large example about 8 feet high, W of road A.46 and about a mile SW of Nan Tow's Tump.

(b) *The Chief Round Barrows on Mendip and in NE Somerset*

*Ashen Hill Barrows*: see under Nine Barrows, NE group.

*Ashen Lane group, Priddy/Townsend* (ST 515516). A fine group of about eight examples, mostly opened by Rev. John Skinner with meagre results excepting cremations with few or no grave-goods.

*Beacon Batch* (ST 485572). A group of about ten examples, some badly damaged, on Blackdown S of Burrington.

*Beacon Hill, N of Shepton Mallet* (ST 638459). A fine group but several in E part are now lost in a dense fir plantation.

*Beech Barrow* (ST 570490), just E of road A.39 between Wells and Green Ore. A large barrow crowned with beeches.

*Brean Down* (ST 290590, approximate centre). A few examples, mostly small, not yet on the O.S. maps, apparently first noted by Rev. John Skinner around 1820.

*Cranmore, Old Down Field* (ST 659427). A notable group of six or seven examples (only three on O.S. maps), including two fine bell-barrows with outer bank, one or both of which were opened by Rev. John Skinner in 1827 and by J. W. Flower in 1869. Grooved bronze dagger from 1869 exploration in Museum of Society of Antiquaries of London.

*Four Barrows, W of Priddy* (ST 509517). Opened by Rev. John Skinner about 1820: no grave-goods found.

*Green Barrow group, Priddy* (ST 507520). A group of five examples, of which the central member is covered with greener grass than the surroundings, probably because it has been truncated, exposing a turf-mound, or mound of rich humus, promoting luxuriant growth of grass. This barrow was opened by Rev. John Skinner in 1816; he found in it a cremation with bronze dagger and crutch-headed bone pin (in B.C.M.).

*Jubilee Field Barrow, Radstock* (ST 689544). A large round barrow, opened by Skinner in 1821: burnt bones and charcoal in a central stone cist. The barrow was edged round by a retaining circle (peristalith).

*Lansdown group* (ST 709690 to 726686). A group of round barrows, mostly small. One yielded the famous gold-covered bronze 'sun-disc', now in B.M.

*Nine Barrows, North group* (ST 539520), marked on most maps as Ashen Hill Barrows. A group of (at present) eight examples opened by Rev. John Skinner: grape-cup from one of them in Bristol City Museum. Burnt bones and barbed-and-tanged flint arrowhead, from one reopened 1894, in Wells Museum. For the revision of the name, see *Proc.Som.A.S.*, 97, 185-6.

*Nine Barrows, South group* (ST 538516), marked on most O.S. maps as Priddy Nine Barrows. Group of seven examples, but 'nine' are made by adding the two to N on North Hill. For the name, see *Proc.Som.A.S.*, 97, 185-6.

*Pool Farm stone cist* (ST 537541). This was originally covered by a round barrow excavated 1930 when a cremation was found. The S wall-slab, incised with 6 foot-carvings and ten cupmarks, is in B.C.M., and has been replaced on the site by a replica in reinforced concrete. *Proc.P.S.*, 23, 231-2.

*Round Hill Tump, Radstock* (ST 690562). A very large example, 18-20 feet high, opened without result by Rev. John Skinner in 1815. More recent excavation by W. J. Wedlake showed that advantage had been taken of a natural rise in the siting and construction of this barrow.

*Rowbarrow* (ST 449583). A fine large example, NW of the Swan Inn. It was opened in 1813 when a cremation (perhaps with a bronze dagger) was found.

*Stock Hill bell-barrow* (ST 559501). A fine example comprising central mound, berm, ditch, and outer bank; but damaged by trial shafts for lead prospecting. The group to the N is now mostly in a fir plantation.

*Ston Easton* (ST 622543). A large tree-covered example, N of the village and E of road A.37.

*Stone Barrow* (ST 511549), NE of King Down Farm, on boundary of Ubley and West Harptree. A very large barrow some 40 paces in diameter and 10 feet high, mentioned as one of the bounds of the medieval forest of Mendip.

*Stow Barrow* (ST 521535), among the largest on Mendip, but now normally inaccessible as it is in the line of fire of the Yoxter firing range. It was one of the bounds of the medieval forest of Mendip.

*Tynings Farm* (ST 470563). A group of five examples, thoroughly excavated by the U.B.S.S.; finds in the U.B.S.S. Museum.

*Westbury Beacon* (ST 500507). An atypical bell-barrow, the ditch dug irregularly in view of the rocky subsoil.

*Whitnell Corner* (ST 597488). There is a fine round barrow S of the road between here and Slab House; a small group E of the latter was explored by Skinner. There are two or three fine examples N of the crossroads, in the area known as Burnt Wood (the trees were cleared in 1964/5).

(c) *The Chief Round Barrows in and near The Wye Valley*

*Barbadoes Green, Tintern* (SO 521010). A small cairn near a track leading up the hill from Chapel Hill.

*Carrow Hill* (ST 433904), S of lane leading to Penhow. Either this or a neighbouring round barrow was excavated by Octavius Morgan in mid C19 who found in it an interment with grooved ogival bronze dagger of "Wessex" type. Not far from this barrow, a stone axe of Prescelly "blue-stone" was found a few years ago.

*Five Lanes End* (ST 451909). At least one and possibly traces of other round barrows.

*Wentwood* (ST 417946). Two fine round barrows in the beech wood near Wentwood Lodge.

## THE IRON AGE

(roughly 500 B.C. to A.D. 43)

THIS WAS A COOL and wet period in southern Britain. The chief field antiquities are the hill-forts. There are occasional linear ditches such as the Bulwarks on Minchinhampton Common. Settlements include the Lake Villages such as Glastonbury, and inhabited caves as at Wookey and Cheddar, almost all unsuitable for visiting except by 'cavers'. An almost complete list of Iron Age sites was given in the O.S. *Map of Southern Britain in the Iron Age*, 1962.

*The Hill-Forts*

Nearly all the sites were described by Edward J. Burrow in his *Ancient Entrenchments and Camps of Gloucestershire*, 1919, and *Ancient Earthworks and Camps of Somerset*, 1924; the illustrations are good but the texts are usually obsolete though not always yet superseded. The paper on 'Hill-Forts' by C. F. C. Hawkes in *Antiquity*, 5, 60-97, is still useful though in some respects outdated. There is a stimulating paper by A. L. F. Rivet on 'Some Problems of Hill-Forts' in *Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain* (ed. S. S. Frere), 1961.

The hill-forts between Bristol and Stroud were in the territory of the Cotswold tribe of the Dobunni. Those between Bristol and the southern fringe of Mendip were probably in disputed territory, coins of both the Dobunni and the Durotriges of Dorset and south Somerset occurring in the area.

Much fieldwork and excavation remain to be done on most of the hill-forts. There is scope for more detailed ground study, geophysical survey, and selective excavation. The positions of the original entrances of many of them are not certainly known. Some were most likely reconstituted once or more during the Iron Age; some were reoccupied in Roman or later times; each reconstitution or reoccupation may have resulted in the blocking of old entrances and the making of new ones.

In the following notes, the terms univallate, bivallate, and multivallate mean that the hill-fort has one, two, or more ramparts in at least one part.

(a) *The South Cotswold Area*

*Amberley* (SO 853012). A univallate promontory fort enclosing about 40 acres, on the W side of Minchinhampton Common. It is bisected from NE to SW by a bolder earthwork with ditch on SE. The earthwork bisecting the fort has yielded Belgic pottery. It is under grass but partly occupied by a golf course. *Trans.B. & G.A.S.*, 59, 291-5.

*Blaise Castle Hill-Fort* (ST 559784). This is on Blaise Castle Estate and is readily accessible. Its earlier name may have been Henbury, now borne by the village to NE. The earthwork is multivallate and encloses about 6 acres; it is largely wooded excepting for the top, but inspection is facilitated by Vista Walk and other paths laid out about 1800. Trial excavations in 1957 revealed Iron Age storage pits, Iron Age 'B' pottery, brooches, and other finds indicating permanent occupation during that period, as well as evidence of recurrence of occupation in Roman, Saxon, and Medieval times. Finds in *B.C.M. Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 8, 147-71.

*Brackenbury Ditches* (ST 747949). This earthwork is sited on a W spur of the Cotswolds and encloses about 6 acres. It is bivallate on E where it faces fairly level ground, and univallate elsewhere, the steep slopes providing good natural defence. The site is densely wooded. The original entrance is possibly near the middle of S side. Numerous pits in the vicinity are probably caused by solifluxion and other natural causes. *Trans. B. & G.A.S.*, 76, 150-6.

*Bury Hill Camp, Winterbourne* (ST 652791), encloses about 5 acres. It is bivallate but with only one ditch. The W side has been quarried away for pennant stone. Excavation in 1926 revealed abundant evidence of Romano-British occupation but very little of earlier periods. Finds in *U.B.S.S. Museum. Proc. U.B.S.S.*, 3, 8-24.

*Bury Wood Camp, Colerne* (ST 818740), encloses about 22 acres. It is bivallate on SW side, in which is an original entrance which may have been blocked later in the Iron Age. It is univallate on N and E sides where there are wooded scarps. In NE corner was an original entrance, inturned, containing a stoutly built wooden gateway which had been destroyed by fire. The small enclosure within the hill-fort, marked Tumulus on some maps, is also

Iron Age. The site is difficult of access excepting from SW. It has been excavated from 1959 onwards by D. Grant King. *WAM*, 47, 504-12; 58, 40-7, 185-205.

*Clifton Down Camp* (ST 566733). The observatory is placed within one of three promontory forts controlling the passage up the Bristol Avon—the others being Burwalls and Stokeleigh on the SW side of the river. Clifton Down camp encloses about 3 acres; the precipitous cliff forms the boundary on W; elsewhere the defences are mostly multivallate but obscured by vegetation and old quarrying; paths follow the ditches between the wooded ramparts on the N side. The interior is under grass and accessible at all times. In NW corner is a rectangular earthwork, possibly Roman but probably much later in date. *Proc. Clifton A.C.*, 5, 8-24.

*Hinton Hill Camp, Dyrham and Hinton* (ST 741766), divided by road B.4465 between Bristol and the Tolldown Inn. A univallate earthwork enclosing about 10 acres. The rampart and ditch are particularly well preserved on E side, S of the road. To S is a fine group of medieval or later strip-lynchets. The site is traditionally that of the battle of Deorham (A.D. 577).

*Horton Camp* (ST 765845). A univallate earthwork enclosing about 5 acres. The NE side, crowned with firs, is particularly well preserved. The interior is usually under grass.

*Kings Weston Hill* (ST 557782). At E end of this hill is a small univallate earthwork under grass. It was excavated by P. A. Rahtz in 1956, who concluded that its occupants may have been wiped out by a group from Blaise Castle hill-fort using sling-stones. To W is a roughly circular earthwork so slight as to suggest a pastoral purpose; excavation showed that it was in use at the same time as the camp. *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, 8, 30-8.

*Little Down, North Stoke* (ST 709689). A univallate hill-fort enclosing about 15 acres; the shape is triangular with rounded corners. The land usage is normally grass and the site is easy of access.

*Sodbury* (ST 760826). In many ways this is the second best of the hill-forts on the South Cotswolds (Uleybury being the best). It is normally under grass and is accessible either from road A.46 on the E or from the Portway Lane from Chipping Sodbury. It encloses about 13 acres. The W side is univallate and naturally



defended by the scarp; the other three sides are bivallate, with a wide berm between the ramparts. The earthwork is roughly rectangular with rounded corners, a fact which has led many to regard it as Roman; and it is marked ROMAN CAMP on many maps. Yet there seems no reasonable doubt that it was constructed in the pre-Roman Iron Age. It falls into line with the distribution pattern of hill-forts with widely-spaced ramparts, which is predominantly south-western, although it is near the NE limit of the distribution area. The site has never been excavated. It is in superb condition. *Trans. B. & G.A.S.*, 8, 74-8. *Solsbury near Bath* (ST 769680). A univallate example enclosing about 20 acres, owned by the National Trust. The name may derive from Sol or Sul, a pre-Roman sun-god, from whom Bath (Aquae Sulis) was named in the Roman period. The original entrance may be at NW corner. Excavation has shown that the ramparts (now badly damaged by quarrying) are faced both inside and out with dry-stone-walling. The interior contains evidence of permanent occupation in the form of hut-sites and storage pits. The site has yielded many finds including potsherds, carbonized grain, and weaving combs, and a ring-headed bronze pin. Finds from recent excavations in U.B.S.S. Museum; earlier finds were in the Museum of Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, now merged with Bath Public Library. *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, 4, 183-222; 8, 18-29; 9, 177-82.

*Uleybury* (ST 785990). The finest of the Cotswold hill-forts, it covers about 32 acres. It is bivallate on all four sides, and there is a path between the two ramparts, in a ditch that is largely filled. Farther down the hill-slope on all sides there is scarping or terracing which appears to have been constructed as an extra defence. For part of the SW side this develops into a third rampart. For the whole circuit this terrace runs parallel with the other ramparts, and it is well seen in the beech wood on the NW side. North of the N angle there are three extra defences to meet the risk of attack from the high ground on that side. The approach from road B.4066 is from this end, where one of the original entrances may have been. Another may have been where the present footpath from Crawley breaches the outer rampart. The most convincing original entrance appears to be at the S corner where the outer ramparts on SW and SE sides end in a bulge on each side of an entrance which could well occupy

the site of an original gateway. Each of these three possible entrances has, however, been damaged by quarrying. The interior is at present (1965) arable. The ramparts appear to be stone-built. The site has never been excavated, and the only recorded find is an Ancient British uninscribed gold stater of the Dobunni, now in Gloucester City Museum.

There is a somewhat neglected group of hill-forts between the Cotswolds and the river Severn, perhaps the best being that known at *Bloody Acre* in Tortworth Park (ST 689915). Among the others are *The Toots* at Oldbury-upon-Severn (ST 612927), *Camp Hill* near Rockhampton (ST 658927), *Abbey Camp* at Alveston (ST 650888), and Tytherington Castle (ST 664883). This group merits further study.

(b) *Mendip and NE Somerset*

*Bathampton Down* (ST 775650). This site comprises a slight univallate earthwork enclosing about 80 acres. A well preserved rectilinear field-system extends across the ramparts on the N side. Excavation in 1965, by G. J. Wainwright, showed the hill-fort to be Iron Age and at least part of the field-system to be later—not earlier than Roman, and parts may be medieval. The area is occupied by a golf course. Crawford, O. G. S. and Keiller, A., *Wessex from the Air*, 1928, 144-7; Wainwright, G. J. in *Trans. B. & G.A.S.* 86, 42-59.

*Burledge Camp* (ST 583585), E of road A.368 between Bishop Sutton and West Harptree. This site, which is omitted from most maps, is on the W spur of Burledge Hill. It encloses about 7 acres and is bivallate on E side. The N side and NE corner have suffered damage by quarrying. *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 6, 52-4; 7, 39.

*Burrington Camp* (ST 478588), on heathland just E of Burrington Combe. A small and fairly slight earthwork enclosing about 2 acres, with rampart extensions beyond SW and NE corners. It may never have been finished or occupied. *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 10, 16-21.

*Burwalls Camp*. See under *Stokeleigh Camp*.

*Cadbury, Congresbury* (ST 440651). This hill-fort encloses about 9 acres. It is mainly univallate but has added defences on E side. The interior is rough pasture, and the ramparts are mostly obscured by dense woodland. The best approach is by the path W of Rhodyate Hill at 446651.

*Cadbury, Tickenham* (ST 454725), on hill N of village. A multivallate stone-built hill-fort enclosing about 7 acres, with a well preserved and elaborate entrance on N side. The site is rough pasture, and easy of access from the footpath to N. Trial excavations by H. St. George Gray in 1922 revealed evidence of Iron Age occupation and Romano-British continuation or recurrence of settlement. *Proc.Som.A.S.*, 68, 8-20.

*Dolebury* (ST 450590), S of Churchill Gate and E of road A.38 to Bridgwater. With the now destroyed small hill-fort of *Dinghurst* (ST 445593) it controlled the Churchill Gap through the Mendip Hills. It is the finest of all the Mendip hill-forts, and is accessible at all times. It is essentially univallate with slight counterscarp, and encloses about 18 acres. The ramparts are built of the local carboniferous limestone. The entrance at W is certainly original, and that at E might be so. There are slight extra defences beyond the E end. Within the hill-fort is a rectilinear arrangement of banks which look comparatively recent and may be rabbit warrens of 17th or 18th century. The circular enclosure within NE corner contains the foundations of a hut, believed to have been that of the custodian of the rabbit warren. John Leland (c. 1540) quoted the local saying,

If Dolebury digged were,  
Of gold should be the share.

Allcroft, A. H., *Earthwork of England*, 1908, 683-97; Dobson, D. P., *Archaeology of Somerset*, 1931, 196-7 and plate viii (air-photograph).

*Kingsdown Camp, Mells* (ST 719517), approached by the path from Buckland Down on road A.362 at 724520. A very small Iron Age earthwork re-fortified in the early Roman period. It was partly excavated by H. St. George Gray in 1927/9, and the finds included two iron currency bars and an Ancient British coin of the Dobunni (in Somerset County Museum, Taunton). *Archaeologia*, 80, 59-98.

*Maesbury* (ST 610472), about 2½ miles NNW of Shepton Mallet. A bivallate hill-fort with traces in parts of a counterscarp enclosing about 7 acres. The present entrances are at NW and SE, but opinion differs as to whether both are original. The interior is usually under cultivation. The local pronunciation is

Mazbury. *Proc.Som.A.S.*, 53 (ii), 73-81; *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 8, 172-8.

*Maes Knoll Camp* (ST 600660), a mile W of road A.37 SW of Whitchurch, on E spur of oolitic outcrop of Dundry Hill. An essentially univallate earthwork enclosing about 26 acres. It is best approached from the road between Whitchurch and Dundry where it is joined by a track at 594665. The cross-ridge rampart with outer ditch at NW corner, known as Maes Knoll Tump, has been used to form W end of West Wansdyke. An interesting feature is that the NE corner of the hill-fort was cut across by Wansdyke. The land usage is normally pasture. *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 10, 9-15, with plan.

*Stantonbury* (ST 673637), E of road A.39 between Bath and Marksbury. It is univallate and encloses about 9 acres. Its N side has been incorporated into Wansdyke. The interior is normally rough pasture, but the ramparts are in dense woodland and difficult to trace. A visit in summer is not advisable.

*Stokeleigh Camp* (ST 560733), in Leigh Woods NW of Clifton Suspension Bridge. A promontory fort, bivallate on W, multi-vallate on NW side, and bounded by cliff on NE side, the area enclosed being about 6 acres. The entrance near SW corner is probably original. The stone core of two parts of the N end of the inner rampart was uncovered in 1898 and is still visible within fenced enclosures. The site is always accessible and in a beech wood. [*Burwalls Camp*, at ST 563729, is nearly destroyed; what remains is in the grounds of Burwalls Hall of Residence of Bristol University]. *Proc. Clifton A.C.*, 5, 8-24.

*Tedbury* (ST 744488), 2 miles W of Frome. A promontory fort at the confluence of the Mells stream and Fordbury Water, the steep valleys of which provide natural defences on all sides excepting the W, which is defended by two ramparts. The area enclosed is about 65 acres. The interior is scrub and rough pasture. The dense vegetation renders a visit in summer undesirable.

*Wadbury* (ST 735489), N of Wadbury valley and opposite Tedbury. It is univallate and encloses about 9 acres. The S side is defended naturally by the steep wooded slope in the valley of the Mells stream. The ramparts have been damaged by various causes within the last century.

*Wain's Hill Camp, Clevedon* (ST 391707), SW of St. Andrew's church. A small univallate promontory fort, bounded by the cliff on NW, and enclosing about 4 acres. There is a double rampart at NE, and the outer rampart appears to continue as a scarped terrace along most of the rest of the E side. The site is easy of access and the land usage is rough grazing.

*Worlebury* (ST 313625), N of Weston-super-Mare. This is one of the great hill-forts in the county. It occupies the W part of Worlebury Hill and encloses about 10 acres. It is multivallate on E, naturally defended by a scarp on N and W, and has a single rampart and ditch along the S, where the ground falls nearly as steeply as on the N. The ramparts are stone-built, of a core with rough masonry faced with well-built courses both inside and out, and buttressed in similar manner with rubble cores faced with dry stone walling. Dymond believed that the stones had been gathered superficially and not quarried. Remains of about eighteen skeletons were found, the owners of at least half of which had come to a violent end. Other evidence that the hill-fort was taken by assault, either by Belgic invaders or during the Roman conquest, is that the stone-built ramparts had been systematically dismantled and much of their material thrown into the ditches, often filling them to a depth of 3 feet or more. Dymond considered that there were original entrances in the sharp angle about 130 yards W of the SE corner, at the NE corner, and in the W side about 170 feet from the NW corner. Excavations in 1851/2 by Rev. F. Warre, and field investigations by C. W. Dymond around 1880, showed that the hill-fort was permanently and intensively occupied, and at least ninety-three storage pits were found, mostly in the E half. Finds were abundant and included charred grain, pottery of Iron Age B type similar to that from Meare and Glastonbury, and iron spearheads. Shore pebbles had probably been used as sling-stones, and there were probably slinging platforms. Finds mostly in the Weston-super-Mare Museum, but some in the Somerset County Museum at Taunton. Dymond, C. W., *Worlebury*, 2nd edn., 1902.

Among the minor hill-forts are those at *Banwell* (ST 410590), *Blacker's Hill* (ST 583585), *King's Castle* east of Wells (ST 568456, in dense woodland), *Merehead* near Leighton (ST

695437), *Newbury* (ST 740498, doubtful), and *Tunley Hill* (ST 684592).

(c) *The Wye Valley and Surroundings*

*Lydney Camp* (SO 616027). This hill-fort, which is univallate and has its entrance at S, was built early in the 1st century A.D. It is thought that it was occupied until the end of the Roman period by those engaged largely in iron-mining and metalworking. Indeed the rampart of the hill-fort was in one place pierced by the shaft of a Roman iron mine which is still accessible. For the Roman settlement and temple, see Field Guide no. 2 in this series, pages 21 and 25.

*Sudbrook Camp* (ST 506873). This is a bold multivallate promontory camp on the edge of the cliff overlooking the Severn. There are three ramparts and ditches on the NW and two on the NE side. The present area enclosed is 5 acres but there has been some loss by cliff erosion. Excavation in 1934-6 revealed the foundations of two huts and other evidence of occupation by Iron Age B people from 1st century B.C. until the end of the 1st century A.D. when the inhabitants may have moved into Caerwent. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 94 (1939), 42-79.

*Defensive Linear Earthworks*

*The Bulwarks, Minchinhampton Common* (SO 857004 to SO 869012). This earthwork extends from just N of the Half Way House Inn as far as the present NW part of Minchinhampton Park. The ditch forming the N boundary of the Park is the medieval park ditch, and begins about 40 yards N of where the Bulwarks ends. The rampart of the Bulwarks is fairly bold and the ditch is on the SE side. Inspection of the earthworks is in parts often hindered by the use of the ground as a golf course. Mrs E. M. Clifford cut a section in the Bulwarks about 1936 and concluded that it was built in the Iron Age. There are several other linear earthworks to the west, and further study of this area is needed. *Trans. B. & G.A.S.*, 59, 287-307.

*Ponter's Ball* (ST 532377). This is a fine bold rampart with ditch on E side, at Havyatts rather more than a mile ESE of Glastonbury Tor. The land usage is normally pasture. Excavation by H. St. George Gray showed that the earthwork was probably built in the Iron Age. *Proc.Som.A.S.*, 72, lvii.

### *Lake Villages*

*Glastonbury* (ST 493409). East of the byroad to Godney are numerous circular mounds in a grass field to which access is obtained through a gate marked BRITISH LAKE VILLAGE. There is nothing to see of the Lake Village at Meare. Finds from both in Somerset County Museum, Taunton; some of the finds from Glastonbury are in the Tribunal Museum at Glastonbury.

### *Other Settlement sites, and Field-Systems*

The following sites appear to be native in tradition but some may be Romano-British in date. It has been thought advisable to include them in this publication if only to encourage further study without which their dating must continue a matter for conjecture. The national grid references are focused on the approximate centre of each site, which normally covers a considerable area.

*Ashton Park* (ST 555725). Settlements and field-system which, having been preserved in what was until recently a Deer Park, are in exceptionally fine condition. This park is now open to the public. The earthworks could well be contemporary with the hill-forts of Stokeleigh and Burwalls to NE. They are almost entirely under grass. *Proc.U.B.S.S.*, 4, 145-9.

*Bleadon Hill* (ST 337576). Field-system and probable settlement, being levelled by cultivation.

*Bradley Cross* (ST 475530). This field-system, S of Cheddar Cliffs, owes its good condition to its situation on fairly steep and rocky ground which has been largely avoided by later cultivators.

*Brean Down* (ST 285590). A small field-system under grass and easy of access.

*Charmy Down* (ST 765700). Field-system largely destroyed when the airfield was constructed about 1940. Prof. W. F. Grimes considers that it was Iron Age in origin. Grimes, W. F., *Excavations on Defence Sites*, 1, 1960, 223-32.

*Clifton and Durdham Downs* (ST 567743 and 571753). Field-systems. The proximity of lead-workings may indicate a Romano-British date as the most likely. It *ought* to be possible to establish a chronological relationship between the field-system on Durdham Down and the Roman road crossing it between Sea Mills and Bath. *Proc. B.N.S.*, n.s., 7, 101-3.

*Court Hill, Clevedon* (ST 424720). A field-system with associated earthworks in ground known as the Warren, N of Clevedon Court.

*Dolebury Warren* (ST 462587). A rectilinear field-system, which might be contemporary with either the hill-fort or the Romano-British settlements on Mendip.

*Moat House Farm, Wraxall* (ST 482730). The earthworks W of this farm comprise a field-system and associated earthworks, and may be Iron Age in origin, but their occupation extended into the Roman period. They are partly under cultivation. *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, 4, 45-52.

*Redhill* (ST 504633). An extensive field-system N of Scars Wood and E of Scars Farm, probably with associated settlements, mostly under grass (1965). At the time of writing this layout is very well preserved.

*Walton Common Down* (ST 429738 and 425735). Field-systems with evidences of settlement, probably Iron Age or Romano-British. The area is mostly rough pasture (1965). *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, 4, 34-42.

*West Littleton Down* (ST 773773). On both sides of the Gloucestershire-Wiltshire border is a field-system which is vanishing under modern cultivation. The writer now believes that the two round barrows in line with one of the baulks are Bronze Age barrows incorporated into an Iron Age or Romano-British field boundary. *V.C.H. Wiltshire*, I (i), 277 (no. 116), where another view was expressed.

*Weston Lodge, Weston-in-Gordano* (ST 441745). A field-system of uncertain period, under grass (1965).

#### *Round Barrows*

*Kings Weston Hill* (ST 547777 to ST 551779). Three small round barrows, excavated about 1924 by E. K. Tratman for the U.B.S.S., seem to have contained primary cremations with Iron Age A pottery similar to that found just previously at All Cannings Cross in Wiltshire. Finds in U.B.S.S. Museum. *Proc. U.B.S.S.*, 2, 77-81, 238-42.

#### MUSEUMS WITH LOCAL PREHISTORIC COLLECTIONS

*Bristol City Museum.* The local collections include implements of stone, flint, and bronze from the Mendip-Cotswold areas;



the foot-carved cist-slab from the round barrow at Pool Farm, West Harptree, and objects from the hill-forts on Blaise Castle Hill and Kings Weston Hill.

*Bristol: University Spelaeological Society's Museum.* This contains important material arising from excavations carried out, mostly on Mendip, since about 1920. Upper Palaeolithic and later finds from Mendip caves, material from the Tynings Farm and other Bronze Age round barrows, finds from the excavations at Gorse Bigbury, and material from the Iron Age hill-forts of Bury Hill Camp (Winterbourne) and Solisbury, are among their most important items.

*Axbridge Museum* has a collection of Mendip material from its excavations carried out since about 1950.

*Bath.* The Museum of the Royal Literary and Scientific Society has been absorbed in the Bath Public Library. It contained finds from Solsbury Hill and from other local sites including round barrows on Lansdown.

*Bath.* The Roman Baths Museum, in the Pump Room, comprises mainly Roman remains from Bath; but there is also the hoard of Bronze Age bronze implements from Monkswood.

*Cardiff.* The National Museum of Wales houses finds from round barrows in SE Monmouthshire, and from Sudbrook promontory fort.

*Glastonbury.* The Museum in the Tribunal contains a selection of objects from the Glastonbury Lake village.

*Gloucester.* The Gloucester City Museum has important prehistoric material but mainly from the area north of Stroud.

*Stroud.* The Cowle Museum contains local prehistoric material.

*Taunton.* The Somerset County Museum houses the most important collection of prehistoric finds from Somerset, including all the objects from the excavations undertaken by H. St. George Gray. However, most of their material comes from south of Mendip. It includes the main collections from the Lake Villages of Meare and Glastonbury, and from the Somerset Levels. Material from Iron Age hill-forts includes that from Ham Hill, Cadbury (Tickenham), and Cadbury (Sparkford).

*Wells.* Wells Museum has a good collection of flint implements from Mendip, and some Iron Age material from Wookey.

*Weston-super-Mare Museum* contains the main collection from Worlebury.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The most useful general works dealing particularly with the field antiquities of Britain are:

Ordnance Survey. *Field Archaeology: Some Notes for Beginners* (1963). A revision by C. W. Phillips of a book originally written by the late O. G. S. Crawford. It has fairly full bibliographies.

Crawford, O. G. S. *Archaeology in the Field*. 1st edn. 1953, and later editions. This work sums up the experiences of a great field archaeologist mainly in Britain.

Wood, E. S. *Collins Field Guide to Archaeology* (1968). This book considers many out-of-the-way minor sites on which it is otherwise difficult to get information.

Hawkes, J. *A Guide to the Prehistoric and Roman Monuments in England and Wales* (1951). An excellent though rather gossipy handbook in which the monuments are treated on a regional basis.

Thomas, N. *A Guide to Prehistoric England* (1960). A more factual handbook, arranged under counties. The national grid reference of each site is given with directions on how to get to it.

Grinsell, L. V. *The Archaeology of Wessex* (1958). A work which shows promise. The emphasis is on field antiquities, and it includes descriptions of those on Eastern Mendip and on the southern fringe of the Cotswolds.

For general surveys of the prehistory of the Bristol region see:

Tratman, E. K. 'The Prehistoric Archaeology of the Bristol Region' in *Bristol and its Adjoining Counties* (British Association, Bristol, 1955), edited by C. M. MacInnes and W. F. Whittard, pp. 147-62.

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## THE BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

This Group was founded on 7th March 1962 in response to the changing archaeological needs of the region, and to give better direction to local archaeological research. For administrative reasons it is based on Bristol City Museum, which has a Department of Archaeology and History, one of the chief functions of which is to stimulate interest in the archaeology of the region.

The Committee of the Group includes members from the appropriate departments of the University and the City Museum, and from other walks of life, and includes both amateurs and professional archaeologists.

To date the Group has organized one-day or weekend courses on Elementary Archaeological Surveying, Air-Photography and the Past, An Introduction to Ancient Fields, Flint Implements, Romano-British Coarse Pottery, Roman and later Lead and Silver Mining on Mendip, Archaeology and Urban History, and Medieval Pottery. Further courses are planned. The Group organizes a programme of winter lectures in the City Museum, and reviews work done during the year by its members in an Annual Symposium, normally on a Saturday in each November. It has issued various publications, details of which are given on the inner front cover. In association with the Ministry of Public Building and Works, The University of Bristol Extra-Mural Department, and the City Museum, Bristol, it has undertaken various excavations in and around Bristol.

For details of membership, application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, B.A.R.G., c/o the City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL.

# Bristol Archaeological Research Group

## FIELD GUIDE No. 1a



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A View of the Celtic Temple called