

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP BULLETIN

Volume 2. No. 1.

Spring, 1965

This Bulletin is issued in Spring, Autumn, and December

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>Page</u>
Officers and Committee. Membership.	2
Editorial	3
News and Comment, by Charles Browne.	4
Reviews and Notices of Recent Publications	
B.A.R.G. <u>Survey and Policy</u> (Part II), by John F. Rhodes	5
Smith, A.H. <u>The Place-Names of Gloucestershire</u> , Part IV, 1965, by L.V. Grinsell	6
<u>Transactions of Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society</u> , vol. 83 (1965).	6
<u>Proceedings of Somerset Archaeological & Nat. Hist. Society</u> , vol. 108 (1964).	7
Forthcoming Publications	7
Request for Back Numbers of this <u>Bulletin</u>	7
Forthcoming Excavations and Summer Excavation Schools	8
Forthcoming Course and Conference	10
The Annual Meeting, 27th February 1965	10
Archaeological Research in and around Leicester, by Max Hebditch	11

The official address of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group is:
c/o The City Museum, Queen's Road, Bristol, 8.

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Officers and Committee for 1965/6

Chairman:

Professor J. M. Cook, M.A., F.S.A.

Hon. Secretary:

Charles Browne, 30 Walden Road, Keynsham, Bristol.

Hon. Secretarial Assistant:

Mrs. J. C. Gill, c/o The City Museum, Bristol, 8.

Hon. Treasurer:

Miss E. Adams, c/o The City Museum, Bristol, 8.

Hon. Secretary for Junior Affairs:

Mrs. J. L. Edwards, B.A., The City Museum, Bristol, 8.

Hon. Excavations Adviser:

P. A. Rahtz, M.A., F.S.A., School of History,
The University, Birmingham, 15.

Hon. Editor:

L. V. Grinsell, F.S.A., The City Museum, Bristol, 8.

Hon. Auditor:

B. M. Greenaway, B.Sc.Econ., 97 Falkner Street, Gloucester.

Committee

John H. Barrett, 15 Leicester Walk, St. Anne's, Bristol, 4.

Dr. J. W. Cowie, B.Sc., Dept. of Geology, The University, Bristol, 8.

B. Cunliffe, B.A., F.S.A., Dept. of Classics, The University, Bristol, 8.

M. G. Hebditch, B.A., Dept. of Archaeology and History, The City Museum,
Bristol, 8.

Kenneth Hudson, M.A., B.B.C., Whiteladies Road, Bristol, 8.

N. V. Quinnell, Archaeology Division, Ordnance Survey, Chessington, Surrey.

A. C. Selway, 15 St. Martin's Road, Knowle, Bristol, 4.

M. G. Smith, M.Sc., Dept. of Physics, The University, Bristol, 8.

Alan Warhurst, B.A., F.S.A., The City Museum, Bristol, 8.

Membership

The Annual Subscription (due 1st March) is ten shillings for those aged 18 and over, and five shillings for those under 18.

A BANKER'S ORDER FORM IS ENCLOSED: ADOPTION OF THIS METHOD OF PAYMENT SAVES MUCH TIME TO ALL CONCERNED. There is no entrance fee. Those wishing to apply for membership should communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

EDITORIAL

The first volume of this Bulletin was completed by the last issue, and has comprised nine parts extending over three years. Readers will appreciate that the editing of the Bulletin and other B.A.R.G. publications is only one of many tasks performed by the Hon. Editor, whose time for the Bulletin is therefore strictly limited. The funds of this recently formed Group have so far been used mainly for producing its extra-publications, which to date have comprised :

The Preparation of Archaeological Reports (1st edn., 1962; 2nd edn., 1963);

Survey and Policy, Part I (1964);

Survey and Policy, Part II (1965).

Work will soon start on our next extra-publication, A Guide to the Chief Antiquities of the Bristol Region, and it is hoped to have this ready by 1966 or 1967.

The functions of the Bulletin must necessarily be largely those of a news-letter keeping members up-to-date on matters such as forthcoming excavations, conferences, meetings, courses, and lectures; reviews and notices of recent publications bearing on the archaeology of the Bristol region; and accounts of the activities of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group in its corporate capacity.

So far the Bulletin has carried other features which should clearly be changed from time to time. Accounts of other archaeological research groups (of which seven have been included) are now to be followed by a probably smaller series on archaeological organisation in regions other than those covered by research groups of our type. The feature on unsolved problems in local archaeology was dropped on completion of the B.A.R.G. Survey and Policy, in which such problems have been more appropriately stated. The Younger Members' Section, having covered matters such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Archaeology), the Cambridge G.C.E. (archaeology), and the Trevelyan Scholarships (Archaeology), has recently been in abeyance; but it is intended in the near future to include articles on some school archaeological societies in the south-west, and on the highly successful Junior Branch of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society.

The Editor is always delighted to receive suggestions from readers concerning the contents of the Bulletin; but readers will understand that it is impossible to please everyone by adopting all the suggestions made, some of which would almost certainly be contradictory.

Congratulations are extended to our Hon. Excavations Adviser, Mr. Philip A. Rahtz, on obtaining his M.A. degree from Bristol University, and on being elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

NEWS AND COMMENT

This feature has been introduced in response to requests from members for more news of local archaeological happenings. It is proposed to range fairly widely, and members are invited to write to the Hon. Secretary about any item they think might be included.

Excavations

The excavation season is now beginning. Details of some not-too-distant excavations are published elsewhere in this Bulletin. During the coming months more will be made known through the C.B.A. Calendar of Excavations. Members who do not subscribe to this can obtain information about any excavation or training course in which they are interested either from the Dept. of Archaeology at the City Museum, or from the Hon. Secretary. Members will, of course, receive full details of excavations arranged by B.A.R.G. or the City Museum.

Max Hebditch's excavation on the site of the Port Wall, near St. Mary's Redcliffe, has been an object lesson in the difficulties and frustrations of excavation within the city. Our sympathies are extended to the workmen who have been toiling in the depths, digging into a revolting mass of glutinous clay. This is the kind of excavation that calls for as much mechanisation as possible. We hope that those of our members who would like to see a training excavation established in the city have observed and noted.

BARROW MEAD. In September 1964 an excavation by Philip Rahtz at Barrow Mead, near Bath, was sponsored by B.A.R.G. with a grant from the M.O.P.B.W. This was a small-scale rescue operation in advance of further building at Westhill Secondary Boys School.

When the school was built in 1954 a medieval house was located. This has now been excavated, and the sequence of occupation of the site determined. The earliest feature was an Iron Age B ditch, part of a complex found previously whose nature is uncertain. A dozen or two Iron Age sherds were found. The next occupation was in the later 12th century, when the upper silting of this ditch was recut, and a timber house of uncertain plan with a hearth and oven was built nearby. This was followed by a stone-footed house of good construction with two doorways, a hearth and a paved floor. This was modified twice, before being abandoned sometime in the 14th century. Small finds and pottery were again numerous.

Field Work

The B.A.R.G. survey of celtic fields in North Somerset is getting under way. A rapid survey to assess the extent of the work shows that a large number of sites will have to be recorded and planned. Offers of help should be sent to the Hon. Secretary.

An interesting feature of the field system at Redhill is that it is bisected by a parish boundary which is identical with a boundary described in the Saxon charter for Wrington, dated A.D. 904. Two settlements within the field system are situated on either side of this boundary, which seems to have been the boundary between two Iron Age or Romano-British farmsteads. It is also the boundary of the present Scars Farm. It is a tribute to the strength and continuity of the social forces governing land tenure that anything as intangible as a boundary should have such a long history.

Charles Browne

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Grinsell, L.V. (editor). A Survey and Policy concerning the Archaeology of the Bristol Region. Part II (1066 onwards). Bristol Archaeological Research Group. 1965. Price 6/- (6/8d. post free).

Here at last is the answer to the aspiring archaeologist's prayer. The sum of knowledge on seven branches of local archaeology is presented, with full documentation, in 57 easily-digested pages; subjects for research, and all the tools for research, are put right into our hands.

Work of many kinds, of course, is waiting to be done. Excavation of monastic, military, and urban sites must await the initiative of those who have skill and funds, but the duty of watching building-sites is impressed upon all of us. No detailed survey can be written of local industrial archaeology until the industrial monuments have been visited and listed. Fieldwork in search of pottery-kilns is another urgent task, and a thirteenth-century documentary reference to a potter at Didmarton should have been mentioned; wasters might be looked for in the field named 'Clay Pits' in the Didmarton Tithe Apportionment, or indeed at Pottershill near Bristol Aerodrome.

Apart from these, many smaller subjects are suggested for study. A topographical survey of turnpikes would benefit among others the Roman archaeologist, who at present is in danger of attributing a 19th century diversion to Ostorius Scapula or even to centuriating agrimensores (TEGAS, 68, 1949, p.14). The student of mottes should perhaps have been referred to the annotated list of twelfth-century castles in English Historical Review, 74, 1959, p. 249, and the article on quarries might have included Leland's "Quarre of Tophe Stone by Drislege"; surely Dursley tufa was exported for other buildings besides the outer gate-house of Berkeley Castle and the choir vault of Gloucester Cathedral? Medieval decorated tiles are only casually mentioned, though it is difficult to imagine a more promising field. The publication of thirteenth-century tiles from Taunton (PSANHS, 95, 1950, p. 63) and fifteenth-century tiles from Canynges' House (JBNA, 3rd ser., 14, 1951, p. 33) has laid the foundations for a regional survey as systematic and fruitful as those already accomplished in Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

The completion of the local one-inch Ordnance Survey is dated 1820 instead of 1830; otherwise this publication is as accurate, concise and helpful as anyone could wish, an indispensable guide to the present and future of local archaeology.

John F. Rhodes.

Smith, A.H. The Place-Names of Gloucestershire. Part IV, 1965.
The English Place-Name Society. Pp. 274 and 8 Maps. C.U.P. Price 42s.

The first three parts of this work were reviewed in the Editorial of the Autumn 1964 number of this Bulletin. This final part of an outstanding achievement includes the Introduction (pages 1-61), on almost every page of which there are important archaeological observations, supported where necessary by references to the most recent archaeological literature. It contains much other matter, including a section on the elements in Gloucestershire place-names arranged alphabetically (pages 97-190), a key to the references in Anglo-Saxon charters, and a comprehensive Index which covers all four parts. At the end is a pocket containing 8 maps, which comprise a large scale map of the Hundreds, a small scale geological map, and a set of 6 maps of various place-name elements superimposed on a base-map showing land over 600 feet high, rivers, Roman roads, and Salt-ways.

L. V. Grinsell

Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.
Vol. 83 (1965), edited by H. S. Gracie, C.B., M.A., F.S.A.

This volume follows the admirable policy of its immediate predecessors in having the various papers arranged as far as possible in chronological order. The first is on "The Royce Collection at Stow-on-the-Wold", by L. V. Grinsell; this includes a black-on-green distribution-map of finds of flint arrowheads, related to a base-map which shows the field-names. This is followed by two short papers by Mrs. E. M. Clifford: "Two Finds of Beaker Pottery from Gloucestershire" (Barnwood and Dymock), and "An Enclosure on Crickley Hill" (probably a post-Roman estate boundary). Next comes a comprehensive paper on "Deerhurst Priory Church and its First String Course", by E. Gilbert. Four papers of mainly historical interest follow; and the final paper, by Christopher Cox, on "Milestones of the Stroud District", brings the reader down to the 18th and 19th centuries and "Industrial Archaeology".

The Notes include one on a gold stater from Kingswood near Bristol, now in Bristol City Museum. The Reviews include one by Mr. R. D. Abbott, of Gloucester City Museum, on Part I of the B.A.R.G. Survey and Policy.

Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society.
Vol. 108 (1964), edited by I. I. Jeffries, B.A.

This volume includes a long paper by K. J. Barton on "Star Roman Villa, Shipham", and papers by P. A. Rahtz on "The Saxon and Medieval Palaces at Cheddar" (reprinted from Medieval Archaeology) and "Excavations at Chalice Well, Glastonbury". Among the Notes is one by G. Usher and D. Lilly on "A Romano-British Pottery Kiln at Venus Street, Congresbury".

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The next issue of Proceedings of the University of Bristol Spelaeological Society, expected about the end of October, will contain a 70-page paper on "the Roman Temple on Brean Down, Somerset", by A. M. ApSimon, and a paper on "A Romano-British Site at St. Mary's Lane, Portishead, Somerset", by J. Clevedon Brown. The paper on Third Century Coin-Counterfeiting at Whitchurch, south of Bristol, by P. A. Rahtz and G. C. Boon, has been completed and arrangements for publication are under way. Mr. L. V. Grinsell's lecture at Wells on 31 October last, on "A Generation of Somerset Archaeology", is now being prepared for publication in the next volume of Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and N.H. Society.

REQUEST FOR BACK NUMBERS OF THIS BULLETIN

We are receiving requests from Institutional Libraries for back numbers of this Bulletin which are out of print, particularly Nos. 6, 7, and 8. We should be glad to receive copies of any of these which members can spare.

FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS AND SUMMER EXCAVATION SCHOOLS

within easy distance of Bristol

Prehistoric

- 2/31 Aug. DORSET. Eggardun Hill-fort. Excavations directed by Mr. G.V.D. Rybot, F.S.A., Brook Villa, Beaminster, Dorset.
- 5/12 June DORSET. Weymouth. Trial excavation of mesolithic site near Fleet, directed by Mrs. S. Palmer, 56 Brookville Road, London S. W. 6.
- July/Aug. HEREFORDSHIRE. Croft Ambry Iron Age hill-fort. Final season of excavation will be directed by Mr. S. C. Stanford, M.A., F.S.A., Ashfield Cottage, Luston, Leominster, Herefordshire.
- 12 April/
3 May WORCESTERSHIRE. Beckford. Rescue excavations on Iron Age and Roman sites discovered from the air. Apply to Mr. G. S. Taylor, F.S.A., Wychbury, 5 Greenside Road, Birmingham, 24.

Romano-British

- 5/19 June DORSET. Beaminster (Waddon Hill, near). Excavation of Claudian fort continues under direction of Dr. Graham Webster, M.A., F.S.A., 30 Portland Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
- 10/31 July GLOUCESTERSHIRE. Barnsley near Cirencester. Excavation of Roman villa site continuing under direction of Dr. Graham Webster, address as above.
- 12 July/
21 Aug. GLOUCESTERSHIRE. Cirencester. Excavations on Roman town, and on church of St. Mary's Abbey, directed by Mr. J. S. Wachter, M.A., F.S.A., Dept. of History, The University, Leicester.
- 29 March/
15 Apr. HAMPSHIRE. Portchester. Excavation of military buildings of Roman fort, and later structures, directed by Mr. B. W. Cunliffe, B.A., F.S.A., Dept. of Classics, The University, Bristol, 8.

- 29 March
for 6 weeks
- MONMOUTHSHIRE. Caerleon. Excavations directed by Mr. G.C. Boon, B.A., F.S.A., Dept. of Archaeology, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.
- 25 July/
4 Sept.
- SUSSEX. Fishbourne near Chichester. Excavation of early Roman timber buildings and other structures, to be directed by Mr. B. W. Cunliffe, B.A., F.S.A., Dept. of Classics, The University, Bristol, 8. Apply to Mrs. M. H. Rule, Mill House, Westbourne, Emsworth, Hants.
- 1 March/
30 Sept.
- WARWICKSHIRE. Alcester. Excavations at Roman town, directed by Miss C. M. Mahany, c/o G.P.O., Alcester, Warwickshire.

Medieval and Later.

- Late June/
July
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE. Upton, near Blockley, (N.G.R. SP 152344). Deserted medieval village site, being excavated under direction of Prof. R. H. Hilton and Mr. P. A. Rahtz. Details from Mr. P. A. Rahtz, School of History, The University, Birmingham, 15.
- 26 April/
15 May
- MONMOUTHSHIRE. Chepstow. Site of St. Kynemark's Priory, to be excavated under direction of Dr. L. A. S. Butler, R.C.A.M. (Wales), 17 Queens Road, Aberystwyth, Cards.
- March/April
- BRISTOL. 13th century Port Wall near St. Mary Redcliffe Church.
- Sept./Oct.
- BRISTOL. Medieval site(s) in city area.
- Excavations for Bristol City Museum, directed by Mr. M. G. Hebditch, City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol, 8.
- 27 March
onwards
- SOMERSET. Cheddar. Excavation directed by Mr. P. A. Rahtz, M.A., F.S.A., 27 Cotham Road, Bristol, 6.

Prehistoric

- 21 June/
10 July
- SOMERSET. Neolithic and Bronze Age trackways on the Somerset Levels will be investigated under direction of Dr. J.M. Coles, M.A., Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Downing Street, Cambridge.

FORTHCOMING COURSE AND CONFERENCE

- 12/19 July Course in Dorset Field Archaeology, directed by Mr. P. J. Fowler, M.A., F.S.A. Apply to the Warden, Portland Bird Observatory and Field Centre, Old Lower Light, Portland, Dorset.
- 4/7 May The Industrial Past and the Industrial Present. A four-day conference at Rodney Lodge, Bristol. Speakers will include Mr. Kenneth Hudson, Mr. Rex Wailes, Dr. R. A. Buchanan, Mr. N. R. Collins, Mr. A. E. Owen, and Mr. E. G. Sterland. Details from Mr. F. Walthew, M.A., Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Bristol, 8.

THE ANNUAL MEETING, 27th February, 1965.

The Third Annual Meeting of the Group was held in the Lecture Theatre of Bristol City Museum on Saturday 27th February 1965 from 2.30 p.m. onwards, and was attended (like the second) by more than fifty members. The business meeting ended with an informative, if somewhat extended, discussion on the provision of training in archaeological excavation. After tea the Guest Speaker, Mr. R. A. H. Ferrar, M.A., F.S.A., Secretary of the recently formed National Monuments Record, gave a comprehensive address on the documentary sources available to the archaeologist, and the methods that are being devised to improve facilities for their consultation. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mrs. F. A. Neale, was carried with acclamation.

Part II of the Group's Survey and Policy was issued in time for this meeting, and copies were on sale. A review by John F. Rhodes will be found on page 5 of this number of the Bulletin.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN LEICESTERSHIRE

by Max Hebditch

This description of the archaeological set-up in Leicestershire is very much as I saw it during the 3½ years that I worked in the county. Those who did not work in the City Museums in Leicester may have seen things differently. In any event it is offered to B.A.R.G. members for them to make their own comparisons with their own area.

Geography and its problems

Leicestershire as a county is geographically centred on the largest town, Leicester, although the two areas are governed by separate local authorities. The main feature of the county is the valley of the River Soar with its tributary the Wreake. With the exception of limestone uplands in the north-east of the county, the only light soils amid the all-enveloping boulder-clay are those on the gravels of the river valleys. The largest areas of these gravels occur at the confluence of the two rivers mentioned and it is just above this confluence that Leicester lies.

The earliest settlement of the town was in the first half of the first century A.D. Under Roman occupation the town became the capital of the tribe of the Coritani and has been continuously occupied to the present day. The town has been the natural focus of archaeological activity and the county forms a good natural area for the activity of the Museum and the County Archaeological Society. Because of the prosperity of the town (it was rated the second most prosperous in Europe a few years back), the Museum has been given considerable support by the City Corporation and is now one of the finest in the provinces.

Generally speaking the prehistoric occupation of the county was small and research has concentrated on Iron Age, Roman, and Medieval problems. The dominant monuments of the landscape are the rolling fields of ridge and furrow and the remains of deserted medieval villages.

The Organisation of Research

There are three main bodies engaged in research into Leicestershire's past: the Museum, the University of Leicester, and the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society. There are various other bodies such as the smaller archaeological societies and the Ministry of Public Building and Works who are also active from time to time, together with research students from other areas.

Leicester Museums were started in 1849 when the collections of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society were presented to the Corporation.

Even at this time the collections included much material from Roman Leicester; a fragment of mosaic discovered in the 17th century was included. In recent years there has been realised the importance of research if the collections are to be properly understood and interpreted to the public. In 1936 major excavations were undertaken on the Jewry Wall site in Leicester by Dr. Kathleen Kenyon. The programme has been continued since then and in 1961 a Field Archaeologist was attached to the Museum staff specifically to undertake research and excavation. The Department of Antiquities, with the Archives and Technology Departments of the Museum has now become something of an institute for Leicestershire research. It aims to have as complete a collection as possible of all the antiquities found in the county available for study by its own staff and students. No effort is spared in endeavouring by good public relations to ensure that all material found in the county is deposited in its Museum. The material ranges from stone axes to 4 19th century beam engines in one frame. The material remains are supported by photographs and paintings of topographical interest together with the records of buildings being demolished. The air-photographic cover of the county is kept as up to date as possible and there is a topographical index available for consultation, giving details of as many antiquities and published references as can be found.

The University of Leicester is active in the county through two agencies. Its Department of English Local History has been in the forefront of Leicestershire studies, notably through the work of W. G. Hoskins. The archaeological staff of the Department of History have been engaged on excavations in the county. Up to now their interests have been in the Iron Age hill-forts of Burrough and Breedon-on-the-Hill.

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society has been the publishing body for much of the work of the University and the Museum. Its Transactions rightly regard archaeological and historical research as working to the same end. Apart from the Transactions the Society aims to create a favourable environment for archaeology through lectures and excursions and to help finance and encourage research, especially by amateurs in the county. As with many counties there has been a slight tendency to drift away from archaeological interests. It is hoped that this will be corrected by a special committee of the Society which is aiming to formulate a policy for the county and to promote excavation. The Museum's own excavation effort has tended to be concentrated on Leicester itself, to the exclusion of important sites in the county which need examination.

Other bodies exist; all the other towns in the county have their own archaeological societies offering cut-price archaeology. Much of the useful work being done by these small bodies is at present ill-coordinated. It is hoped that either the C.B.A. Group 6, now being re-vitalised, or the field research sub-committee of the county society may succeed in steering the efforts of all these bodies to some common good.