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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

c/o City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol, 8.

BULLETIN

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This bulletin is issued in Spring, Autumn and December

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1972/3

Chairman: C. Browne, 30 Walden Road, Keynsham, Bristol BS18 1QW
Tel. Keynsham 3116

Hon. Secretary: M. C. Batt, 14 Waterdale Gardens, Westbury-on-Trym,
Bristol BS9 4QR. Tel. Bristol 622306

Hon. Membership Secretary: R. G. Jackson, 52 Cote Park, Bristol BS9 2AD.
Tel. Bristol 683165

Hon. Secretary for Associate Members: C. Brain, 53 Hillside Avenue,
Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2BP. Tel. Bristol 673848.

Hon. Treasurer: A. C. Selway, The City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL

Hon. Editor (Bulletin): Frances Neale, The Knoll, Winscombe Hill,
Winscombe, Somerset. BS25 1DG. Tel. Winscombe 2266.

Hon. Editor (Special Publications): N. Thomas, The City Museum,
Bristol BS8 1RL. Tel. Bristol 27256

Hon. Fieldwork Adviser: M. W. Ponsford, The City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL
Tel. Bristol 27256

Hon. Auditor: R. R. J. A. Nesbitt, 66 Kenilworth Road, Knowle, Solihull,
Warwickshire.

Committee:

Elected: D. Bromwich, The Vicarage, 3 East Street, Banwell,
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. BS24 6BN (1972).
L. Linton, 9 Crantock Drive, Almondsbury, Bristol BS12 4HG
(1972)

W. J. Wedlake, Meadgate, Camerton, Nr. Bath, Somerset (1972)

Ex Officio: P. J. Fowler, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University
of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1HR

Dr. J. Taylor, The City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL

Co-opted: Elizabeth Adams, 95A Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2NT
(Co-ordinator, Parish Survey Unit)

MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Subscription for the current year is:

£1.00 for members aged 18 or over

£1.50 for husband and wife

£0.25 for Associate Members (aged under 18)

The Subscription is payable on 1st January except for members paying by Bankers Standing Order, who pay on 1st March. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Bristol Archaeological Research Group. All subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Membership Secretary.

EDITORIAL

Dr. Chris Smith, author of the first article in this issue, is Secretary of the North Area of the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation. They have undertaken and completed a task which we are just starting: the naturalists' equivalent of our Parish Check Lists. Their map is concerned with broader outlines than its archaeological counterpart; but there are enough similarities to make their example an encouraging one to follow. But why are we the followers? These very similarities suggest that there is room for much more practical cooperation between naturalists and archaeologists, at local level, with such basic steps as comparing checklists for shared areas of interest, which might lead to concerted and more effective action. A short but competent (and anonymous) item in the Spring number of Conservation Review may be a straw in the wind; but awareness and action needs to come from both sides.

One of Dr. Smith's themes reappears, unprompted, in Mike Ponsford's review of the urban situation (pp. 123-125) and again from David Blackman (pp. 126-129) and John Drinkwater (pp. 134-5): that it is up to us to take action, to assemble and present the facts of our case to the rest of the world. The world may then cooperate; but it certainly won't sit and wait, or come to us of its own accord. Is this the positive, self-help reaction to the calls of RESCUE and the gloom of urban (or underwater) destruction over the past few years? And is it now starting to percolate through our attitudes to all our archaeological activities? David Blackman reminds us, in an important and highly topical article, that the situation for archaeology underwater is in as crucial a state as any above ground. He is a member of B. A. R. G. and a lecturer in Classics at the University of Bristol. A member of the Council for Nautical Archaeology, he has since 1971 served on the Wreck Law Review Committee about which he writes.

Personal Viewpoint, by pure coincidence, presents two highly contrasting opinions - not necessarily coming from the generations that one might have expected. As implicit in the title, Personal Viewpoints are entirely those of their writers. Having devoured both these, we would recommend a digestive dose from Archaeology & the Landscape, ch. IV. We are privileged to have this important landmark in field archaeology for the last decades of the century, reviewed for us by the author of one of the classic textbooks of modern fieldwork practice (p. 142).

As a move to make our new members known more promptly and easily to the rest of us, we are starting to include interim lists (p. 141) of those who have joined since the last full Members List. Do make the acquaintance of any new member whom you find lives nearby.

Finally, several enterprising B. A. R. G. activities, for Associates and the whole group, are planned for this autumn. Do give them your support. For a start, complete and return the enclosed forms, now, while they are to hand.

PUTTING NATURE CONSERVATION ON THE MAP

By Dr. Chris Smith

The County Planners are most anxious to know of anyone who is interested in any piece of land in their county. When an application for permission to develop a piece of land is received they like to consult everyone interested before a decision is reached. When the planners asked the Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation for a map showing all the areas it considered of interest, it seemed a sensible and a simple request, but it took at least three years to achieve. They wanted a map sufficiently precise and detailed for them to be able to say immediately whether a planning application was likely to be of interest to us or not. They did not need to know details of what we saw of interest in the area, but they did need the precise field boundaries. They now have our map, and they faithfully refer to us all applications affecting any site that we have marked. This is of immense value as it enables us to know of any threat at the very earliest moment. Such a map and such an arrangement with the County Planners is an essential conservation tool.

We made our map with much more detail than the planners required, so that it could serve several purposes. We gave a different colour to each of fifteen types of semi-natural habitat, so that we could look at the map and see at a glance the areas of marsh, or of sand-dune, or of calcareous woodland. Each site on the map was given a reference number and each number has a card-index card. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ " uncontroled map is the ideal one for presentation of such results. It is the smallest map to show field boundaries. In some areas, however, it was easier to use the 6" map in the field, subsequently transposing the data to the $2\frac{1}{2}$ " map. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ " map showing the Cheddar Gorge is ST45, so our sites on that map were numbered 4501 upwards. Although the County Planners need the map only, the index cards are useful to us as a vehicle for information about the site, owners, threats, who knows it well, and a host of other useful details.

The main problem in getting the work done in the field was not in finding the volunteers to take on the mapping - either one $2\frac{1}{2}$ " map, or in many cases just one 6" map, equal to a quarter of a $2\frac{1}{2}$ " map. The problem was that the volunteers felt that we needed full details of every site, whereas in fact we simply wanted to get each site onto the map and given a name or a number. We had a few problem volunteers who just could not read a map, but these were soon revealed when we noticed, for instance, a marsh marked where the map suggested there should be an orchard. The problem of getting people to use the same standards was

also difficult, and can only really be resolved by one person doing the lot - which may be the best way anyway! But even if each mapper's standards are different, the one person in charge of the project has his task cut to one tenth by the map that each produces. So many people know so much about their own locality that a complete map can only really be produced by calling on as many people as possible to help with small sections of the map. There must, however, be a master-mind to encourage, co-ordinate and cajole.

The problem of an archaeological map must be more complex in that some of the surface bumps can only be labelled "?". Nonetheless, it should be possible to decide on a coding system that distinguishes between, say, sites that must be preserved at all costs, and bumps that ought to be investigated should chance or necessity arise. In deciding what to map, you should ask yourself whether you would be upset if someone built a house here; or perhaps, whether you would want to be informed in advance if someone was going to build a house. Our wildlife map showed far more areas of interest than the County Planners expected, but some we would not consider worth fighting for, especially if the development proposed was part of an essentially long-term project.

Not every area that we mapped could be saved anyway. Some were already covered by long-standing planning permissions - notably quarrying permissions that could not be revoked without impossibly high compensation. Fields can of course be ploughed or planted to trees without planning permission, and our map is of no value in saving such areas or even in warning us of their forthcoming destruction. Some were in the line of a major roadway; but perhaps any alternative route might create a hazard to an even more valuable site.

The Somerset County Planning Department is divided into four areas. Most applications for planning permission go no further than the Area Planning Office. The Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation has divided itself into four areas to coincide with the planning areas. Each Area Planning Officer needs one contact to whom he can refer all planning applications, and obviously needs to build up confidence that his contact will be constructive and not obstructive. Provided they get the impression that we are reasonable people, this liaison with the planners can work well.

The Planners can surely be forgiven if they complain, when a plan for development on an apparently barren piece of country goes through all the motions of publication, months of consultation and then just as the bulldozer moves in, up springs someone to point out that a priceless orchid grows there, or a unique field system will be destroyed.

Conservation has got itself a bad name by such tactics, and a map such as I have described can avoid these problems. The County Planning people want to keep the county rich in interest just as we do; but unless we are sufficiently organised to tell them - in advance - what interests us, how can we expect them to help?

ARCHAEOLOGY & PLANNING IN TOWNS

By Mike Ponsford

When the C. B. A. meeting on "Archaeology and Planning in Towns" was held at the Royal Town Planning Institute on 12th May 1972, the occasion was marked by the simultaneous publication of The Erosion of History, ed. C. M. Heighway (C. B. A. £1. 25) which presents most effectively all the points made at the day's conference. A planner at the meeting made the valid point that, although the hall was full, there were many absentees among the planners and archaeologists would be talking to a converted minority. If this book is well-circulated, this situation might be changed.

In the meeting aimed at introducing planners to the problems of town archaeology, Peter Addyman opened their eyes with a review of the paradoxical York situation, where although only one listed building was to be demolished, in fact most of the stratified history of this ancient capital of the north would be destroyed by its redevelopment. Maurice Barley pleaded for more consideration for buildings and sites alike in the light of present half-hearted legislation. Martin Biddle admirably summarised the book; he stressed the inadequacy of present archaeological and architectural recording arrangements, particularly in Wales and Scotland, and emphasised how much we still simply do not know about "historic" towns. Summaries of excavation work in Oxford, Tamworth, Norwich and London were optimistic; but in general, archaeological arrangements are obviously and woefully inadequate. The thanks expressed by Charles Thomas to Carolyn Heighway, research assistant to the C. B. A.'s Urban Research Committee, for the important book which she has edited and largely compiled, were thoroughly deserved and willingly applauded by a thoughtful and, I think, impressed audience.

Miss Heighway has done a remarkable job within the bounds set by the study. The stastical presentation successfully emphasises points that make an old campaigner blanch: the sheer quantity of "historic towns" (i. e. those founded pre-1750) - 906 out of 1511 towns in England, Wales and Scotland.

Apparently 127, or one fifth, of English historic towns are due to be almost totally relieved of their archaeology by the bulldozer in the next twenty years. Four separate lists define a town's relative historical importance and the extent to which it is threatened; a reasonable system, provided that one always remembers that every town is a different case. Eighteen Gloucestershire and thirty Somerset towns rank as "historic" (and mostly much earlier than 1750) - and not a county archaeologist in sight.

Despite previous castigation by archaeological bodies for their disinterest, local authorities cooperated to a man in returning data for these statistics. The book emphasised the importance of providing archaeological information for local authorities, instead of blaming them for not providing facilities. Local authorities have also appointed most of the twenty field archaeologists on p. 22; yet in only thirty towns is there a constant local authority grant for excavation.

Section 7 emphasises the faults in present legislation, with suggestions for improvement, and recommends the establishment of Committees for promoting documentary, cartographic and full archaeological research. The compilation of estimates of archaeological priorities and potential on development sites was an important practical suggestion. More time, easier access and finance follow closely behind. The Tewkesbury report (see p. 146) by D. Miles and P. J. Fowler, published by Rescue, demonstrates this approach already in action. The suggestion that the cost might be borne by the developer seems a reasonable recommendation; even more so, I think, if rewarded with compensatory tax relief. Of particular interest to me was the part that museums might play, whether they are (on one page) inadequate as a centre for rescue archaeology, or (on another) act as the mainspring for a programme of watching briefs. Excavation Committees have often been stimulated by museums, but rarely on anything like a permanent basis. Again, every situation is different, and requires different arrangements.

Other sections of the book (there are seven in all) explain "The Importance of a Town's Archaeology", the methods used in compiling the statistics, and a statement of the present position in planning and urban archaeology. A series of dot distribution maps (on the Roman Towns map the dots seem to have slipped eastwards), pie diagrams and histograms serve to emphasise the work needing to be done. The section on individual towns illustrated other specific points, and includes Gloucester: where a terrifying destruction rate is matched by the complexity of the sites (50 buildings and 12 feet of stratification on the Post Office site) and lack of funds (£11,000 for 1968-71, of which £750 was provided by the city). Building pressures in the hearts of our cities, and the impact of ring-roads, are fully considered.

In Bristol, where much of the earlier archaeology may have been destroyed by 15th century cellar-building, a bizarre situation has arisen. Buildings above ground are not listed but scheduled like barrows, while the Castle Keep, wholly underground, is listed like a building; while this gives us a high proportion of protected buildings, it has offered no protection to, and can never replace, the vital stratification below pavement level.

In conclusion, it is gratifying to note the vastly increased DOE help for excavations; that York is to have a ten-year, £500,000 research unit; and that field archaeologists have recently been appointed in Hull, Abingdon, Essex, Wiltshire and Dundee (while at Nottingham a temporary post has been made permanent) - all hinted at in this invaluable report. Every member of the Group should make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the contents of this book, which surveys and summarises the present situation very well indeed, in easily followed "White Paper" sections. Let no-one doubt its importance, or fail to take heed of its implications.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some subscriptions are still due; please pay promptly! Please note that all subscriptions should now be sent to the Hon. Membership Secretary, Reg Jackson, 52 Cote Park, Bristol BS9 2AD, and not to the Treasurer.

SAVE SMITHAM STACK

An appeal has been launched to raise £1400 urgently needed to restore the Smitham Chimney at East Harptree, the last standing monument of lead mining on Mendip, now in a dangerously dilapidated condition. £800 has already been donated, all from local sources. Can you make a small contribution to help? Send to the Secretary of the Mendip Society, Mrs. A. Bodley, Downfield, New Road, Cheddar, Somerset.

THE GLACIATION OF THE SEVERN ESTUARY REGION

The evidence and its archaeological implications will form the subject of an evening meeting at the Geology Lecture Theatre, Queens Building, University of Bristol on 15th December at 7.00 p.m. Speakers: P. J. Fowler, A. B. Hawkins, E. K. Tratman.

UNDERWATER ANARCHY: THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION

by David Blackman

In July 1967 an expedition of Naval divers found a treasure wreck off the Gilstone Ledges in the Scilly Isles; it was later identified from finds as that of the Association, flagship of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, wrecked on her return voyage from the Mediterranean in October 1707. Within weeks the wreck area had been ransacked and stripped by marauding groups of divers in a general free-for-all; dynamite was used a number of times. No means of protecting the wreck were available. The situation was made worse because the Admiralty, as 'owner', had granted to three different applicants non-exclusive and open-ended contracts to work the wreck. If one responsible applicant had been granted an exclusive salvage contract, there would have been a better chance of reconstructing the disposition of the finds on the sea bed, and of preventing the dispersal of the finds after recovery. One fine bronze cannon from the ship has been seen in Bristol, at the Marine Archaeology exhibition in the City Museum, 1971.

This disastrous affair was widely publicised, which aided the Committee for Nautical Archaeology (CNA) in launching a campaign for a review of wreck law. This is now still based on the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, which is mainly concerned with protecting new wrecks and encouraging salvage operations. Nobody in 1894 could foresee the great advances in deep diving techniques of the last two decades, which have made so many important historic wrecks accessible to Britain's 15,000 or more divers.

The present legal situation, in very simplified terms, is this: Ancient Monument Acts do not apply under water, though the Board has just asked for them to be amended to cover 'land-based wrecks'. Thus no underwater site can at present be scheduled and protected as an 'ancient monument'. Whoever wishes to 'work' a wreck must first establish his claim as 'salvor in possession' and then obtain a salvage contract from the wreck's present owner; the contract will specify the percentage of the diver's reward. A salvor with such a contract can defend his exclusive right to work the wreck by serving an injunction in the civil court on anyone who interferes with it or his operations - an expensive and time-consuming procedure, but the only form of protection at present. Finds lifted are sold at auction, and part of the proceeds used to reward the salvor.

If the wreck cannot be identified or the owner traced, objects lifted are deposited with the Receiver of Wreck, and after a year's wait the Department of Trade and Industry, whose Marine Division is responsible for wreck law, must auction off the finds.

A number of objections to the present situation are obvious:

- (1) If the owner of a wreck grants a salvage contract, the licensed looting of a wreck, however important, cannot be prevented.
- (2) Under these conditions it is equally impossible to force a salvor to keep any record of what he finds and where, or to lift materials which may be valuable to the archaeologist but are of little commercial value, e. g. timber and other organic remains.
- (3) The salvor is not obliged to give finds adequate conservation. He will obviously - but often unsuccessfully - try to protect salable items. For non-salable or difficult materials he will probably do nothing. Thus much valuable material disintegrates after lifting.
- (4) The dispersal of finds from a wreck cannot at present be prevented, even though they were originally a closed group of unique importance, a complete and often closely datable assemblage sealed at the time of shipwreck. Often groups can never be studied properly as a whole. In many cases there is no complete record of finds at all.

In Spring 1970, the MP for the Scillies raised the issue in the Commons, and amendments were tabled to a Merchant Shipping Act then in progress. The then Board of Trade agreed to set up a Wreck Law Review Committee, containing representatives of the six (!) government departments involved, and of shipping, salvage, marine insurance, archaeological and diving interests. For over a year the Committee was dormant; it was said that it would take five years to prepare and pass long-term comprehensive legislation (in Denmark, it took a fortnight).

Only a second disaster, again affecting a naval wreck, brought about the chance to press for more rapid action. In July 1971 divers from Merseyside found the wreck of the royal yacht Mary (the first yacht in Britain, presented by the City of Amsterdam to Charles II on his Restoration) which sank off Anglesey in 1675. Soon after the discovery local divers began to lift cannon, and only declared them under pressure; soon five groups were fighting above the site, and explosives were used. The Merseyside divers obtained the backing

of the CNA and Liverpool City Museum for a properly conducted archaeological exploration of the wreck, and on this basis, and as 'salvors in possession', they applied to the Ministry of Defence (Navy), as 'owners', for an exclusive salvage contract for the Mary. This the Minister has repeatedly refused to grant hiding behind the current wreck law review and maintaining that it is not MOD policy to grant exclusive salvage contracts: one glaring lesson of the Association affair has still not been learned. Thus the Mary remains totally unprotected; if she survives into 1973 it will be thanks to the weather.

The one bright spot in the Mary affair was that it gave a sense of urgency to the now expanded Wreck Law Review Committee. Under pressure the Department of Trade and Industry agreed to consider interim legislation: a holding operation while long-term legislation is prepared. By December 1971 the Committee had agreed the general lines of an interim measure to protect designated historic wrecks, which could only be worked by salvors operating under archaeological supervision and making full provision for survey, recording and conservation. Only designated wrecks would be protected, which gives divers an incentive not to report finds, and leaves open the possibility of damage to a wreck after discovery and before it can be designated. These are weighty objections, but it was accepted that to ensure speedy passage (by this summer, we hoped) the legislation must be non-controversial. Thus the alternative proposal, for blanket prohibition of working of historic wrecks, with the onus on the finder to show that a wreck was not 'historic' (defined as pre-1870), was not pressed. Though much more satisfactory to the archaeologist, this would meet strong opposition from the 'freedom of the seas' (freedom to plunder?) lobby.

In March 1972 it was learnt that Ministers had approved the preparation of a short bill, which had gone for drafting and would be introduced by a government back-bencher; progress at last, it seemed. But strong commercial interests have no desire for a change in the situation, and the sort of profit sometimes accruing to a salvor was highlighted by the sale in April of some of the coins from the Hollandia, a Dutch East Indiaman wrecked in the Scillies in 1743. These finds had been lifted quite legally, since the salvor holds a contract from the Dutch Government, but without adequate records or any plans. It is the treasure-hunters who are hostile to legislation, not the professional salvors, who are mainly interested in wrecks of more recent date than 1870. Treasure-hunters have shown their influence by blocking progress on the bill since the spring.

So it goes on. One begins to wonder whether we shall have interim legislation to protect wrecks in 1973; or ever; though the latest signs are more hopeful. How many wrecks of great historical importance do

we have to lose before the problem is taken seriously? A number of them are known which now have only very tenuous protection: sea-bed leases, whose strength in law may not stand a rigorous test; or the threat of civil action. What is needed is the threat of criminal proceedings, which a law would provide.

Recent official moves merely illustrate the flaws in the present situation. The cannon from the Mary, property of the Crown, are apparently to be distributed among a number of museums, with meagre reward to the one museum involved in conserving them at considerable expense and trouble: Liverpool City Museum. It sounds like the distribution of loot from a 19th century barrow-robbing houseparty. All archaeologists, web-footed or not, must use every opportunity to make the public aware of what we think important: reporting finds; survey before excavation; recording during excavation; conservation of finds; and prevention of the dispersal of finds after excavation. The only wreck whose finds have not been dispersed is the Armada wreck Girona, all the material from which is now being superbly displayed in Ulster Museum.

In conclusion, there are two problems which cause worry for the future, even if a law is passed to protect wreck. If finds from wrecks have to go for auction, the prices will be beyond the reach of museums - at the Hollandia sale, only one item was bought by a museum. One hopes that museums would be enabled to acquire complete groups of material before auction at a more modest valuation, but this would be another limitation of the rights of ownership jealously guarded by salvage law - the right to maximise salvage proceeds. Are museums only going to be able to acquire the material that nobody else wants, like organic materials difficult to conserve? This would be better than nothing, but - the second worry - how many museums have adequate facilities or funds for conservation? One hopes that salvors of historic wrecks would be obliged in their contract to provide for and finance conservation; this should be specified in the law we still hope to see.

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY

A new-style course announced in the Archaeology & Local History Courses booklet of the University of Bristol Extra-Mural Department this autumn seems ideally designed to meet a felt want in this region and in our present stage of archaeological self-development. As we understand it, Peter Fowler is offering an intensive, short practical

course intended specifically for those involved in parish checklist and other archaeological surveys. The lectures will include the history, techniques and purposes of field archaeology, with special emphasis on the identification and recording of the evidence for and in the manmade landscape, including towns. This short course will start in Bristol at 32 Tyndall's Park Road, for 6 Mondays from 2nd October at 7.30 p.m., and it will be repeated at other centres (enquire at the Department for details in due course) so that the short time-commitment and a convenient centre should bring this preliminary course within the reach of everyone concerned in such work. Then, we understand, there will be various follow-up courses on specific aspects of field archaeology. Each of these will bring together in one centre, just those people particularly interested in that one aspect, who can pursue it to a more advanced level. By combining the short preliminary course at a convenient centre, with a selection of follow-up courses elsewhere, field archaeologists have the opportunity to receive a practical training tailored to individual needs.

RESCUE

B. A. R. G.'s RESCUE Liaison Officer is Bill Solley, 7 Downfield Close, Alveston, Bristol BS12 2NJ

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Hon. Secretary: Christopher Brain

Programme of Events, September - December 1972

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| September 19 | Pre-trip talk (Schools Room, Museum. 7.30 p.m.). |
| September 23/ | Weekend trip to the Dorchester area of Dorset. |
| 24 | Details already circulated. |
| September 30 | Last date for return of form for Associates' trip on November 5th (enclosed) |
| October 6 | Talk and discussion on Flints to be given by Mrs. Anne Everton (Schools Room, Museum. 7.30 p.m.) |
| November 3 | Pre-trip talk |
| November 5 | Trip to the Somerset Levels, led by Colin Clements and Michael Batt: visiting prehistoric trackway excavations, and the derelict buildings & settlement site at Marchey Farm, Wookey (<u>see form enclosed</u>). |
| December 8 | Talk and slides on Gloucestershire Barrows by John Drinkwater (Schools Room, Museum. 7.30 p.m.) |

The three field trips organised this year have been particularly well-attended, and in the opinion of most, very successful. I thank everyone concerned in helping to make them a success, and look forward to continued support in future Associate events.

For the coming six months two trips have been finalised and one is in the 'thinking' stage. Four talks have been planned, to which all members of B. A. R. G. are welcome; introductory articles to the first two talks and one trip are included below. First, though, a review of various aspects of 1972 from the Associate point of view:

B. A. R. G. Associates' Trip to the Berkshire Downs, May, 1972

On the morning of May 21st two minibuses, carrying 23 Associate members, left Bristol. Making use of the M4 it was not long before we arrived on the Berkshire Ridgeway. On leaving the minibuses our route first took us past Wayland's Smithy. This Neolithic long barrow, our leader, Mr. Grinsell, informed us, contained at least twenty-two bodies. The facade, unfortunately only a reconstruction, was formed by large sarsen slabs. Next we went eastwards along the Ridgeway until we were confronted by the ramparts of Uffington Castle. This Iron Age hillfort is essentially univallate, but also has counterscarping. After entering by the well-preserved west entrance, we arrived at the White Horse, Brilliantly placed upon the side of the Ridgeway, this hill-figure is thought to have been cut by the Dobunni or Atrabates, who constructed the hillfort. Returning to the minibuses, we continued to the 'White Horse' at Woolstone for lunch and refreshments.

Afterwards we moved on to the Blowing Stone. This sarsen block has a forked hole which emits a horn-like noise when blown. Our next stop was the Lambourn Seven Barrows - a Bronze Age cemetery comprising in fact well over thirty examples! There were fine examples of most types of barrow, some larger than others, while south of the road were several more. One partly damaged long barrow $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the north was also seen, before proceeding through the 'Sarsen Valley', so named because large sarsen slabs occur there naturally. We finished at Uffington, where the Vicar very kindly provided us with a fine tea, and we saw the interesting parish church before returning to Bristol.

Stephen Cogbill

B. A. R. G. Associates' Trip to the Blandford area of Dorset, July 1972

Thirty-one of us, led by Mr. Grinsell and including two French and one German teenagers who were staying with members, left Bristol en route for Blandford. We journeyed via Shepton Mallet and Castle Cary to Hambledon Hill Fort. After a walk up the steep side of the hill, we reached this magnificent multivallate Iron Age hillfort, probably built

in several phases. We drove on past Pimperne Long Barrow to Ackling Dyke, and went for a walk along this good Roman road until we reached the Oakley Down Barrows. This very interesting group included three disc-barrows with two mounds inside instead of the usual one. We continued past Knowlton Circles to Badbury Rings. This impressive Iron Age hillfort has two massive ramparts and ditches with a third, later and smaller, outside. In Roman times Vindocladia, as it was then known, was the meeting point of several Roman roads.

We set off for home, passing Hod Hill Iron Age hillfort and Roman fort on the way, and after stopping in Warminster for tea we arrived back in Bristol at about 8.00 p. m.

Richard Burrige

Trip to Greece, March 1972

Most secondary schools organise annual trips abroad, and Cotham Grammar School is no exception. This year a group of thirty, including two B. A. R. G. members, went on a cruise around the Adriatic and Greece, visiting Delphi, Athens, Olympia and Dubrovnik.

The enormous site at Olympia (first excavated in 1829) was destroyed by earthquakes in 522 and 551 A. D. and the pillars of the famous Temple of Zeus (where Pheidias' statue of Zeus stood) have fallen like dominoes, each segment lying on the next. In contrast to the flat Olympian site, the religious centre at Delphi is built on the side of a steep valley with rocky cliffs beside the site. This was the site of the Temple of Apollo from which the Oracle broadcast its prophècies. Above the temple, a theatre and a large stadium are cut into the hillside, while below dozens of minor buildings frost the slopes. Below this lies what is perhaps Delphi's finest monument, the Tholos (routunda) of the Temple of Athena Pronaia, a circular building of uncertain use.

We arrived in Athens and after touring the city by coach, finally reached the Acropolis. It is difficult to say what one feels seeing the Parthenon for the first time. It is much bigger than one expects, and very imposing, making even the other buildings on the Acropolis seem insignificant, let alone the busy city below. Before arriving and after leaving Athens we had to pass through the Corinthian Canal which joins the Gulf of Corinth to the Aegean. Although built in the late 19th century the idea had been under consideration since classical times. The canal is cut about 120 ft. into solid rock.

The modern city of Dubrovnik is much like any other, but with one special improvement. In the centre the entire walled 16th century town is preserved much as it was, except for a few Baroque churches. On a

slight promontory, the town is heavily fortified with massive walls, incorporating towers and fortresses. The tiny harbour is defended by two of these enormous fortresses and was used by the crusaders. Richard the Lion Heart hid on an island offshore during his flight from the Holy Land.

Oliver Kent:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO ASSOCIATES' EVENTS, AUTUMN 1972'

Talk and Discussion on Flints. Friday 6th October

The aim of the talk will be to stimulate an interest in flints at a practical level without becoming too involved in the typologies of cultures, so that members will have an idea how to deal with flint artefacts. In order to do this a wide variety of implements, utilised flakes and waste material will be available for examination. Methods of sorting flint assemblages will be suggested and the terminology of flint, met in publications, will be discussed. Particular attention will be given to the evidence for utilisation of flint, the detailed study of which has been carried out in laboratories. Traces of use can often be seen with the aid of a pocket magnifier. To demonstrate the effects of using flint on different materials, flakes will be available for use on bone and wood, etc., so that the resulting signs of wear can be seen. It would be advisable to bring a pocket magnifier.

Anne Everton

Trip to the Somerset Levels. Sunday 5th November

The prehistoric trackways of the Somerset levels were laid down in the third millennium B. C. as firm paths across the boggy and often flooded moorland. They have been located between the 'islands' of high, dry land: Meare, Westhay and Burtle; but possibly also run to the Polden Hills. Because of the brackish peat and damp conditions, the wood has been preserved. Although parts have been exposed and destroyed in the peat-diggings of the 19th and early 20th centuries, it is only in the last five years that any deliberate search has been instigated for the network of tracks.

In 1968 work began in an orchard behind farm buildings southwest of Burtle, and in an abandoned cottage garden on the banks of the old Glastonbury Canal. By July a longitudinal brushwood track, one metre wide, with vertical pegs, had been exposed. Further discoveries during the earth-movements of the Brue Valley Drainage Scheme resulted in a total of seven major trackways and six minor ones by the early spring of 1969. In 1969 four trackways and a trackway junction were excavated on Chilton Moor, and new bores were devised for tracing their routes elsewhere. Recently the associated neolithic settlements have been

investigated, notably at Westhay and on Shapwick Heath. Construction method, building materials and radiocarbon dates vary from site to site. The often irregular course of the tracks may be explained by evidence of peat stratigraphy and pollen which suggests the presence of expanses of open water. The interesting wooden figure of an hermaphrodite: the 'God-Dolly' (c. 2300 - 2100 B. C.): found at Westhay in 1967 is now in the University Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology at Cambridge. The trackways are being excavated under the direction of Dr. J. M. Coles of Cambridge. Fuller accounts of the excavations, by J. M. Coles, F. A. Hibbert and C. F. Clements, can be found in Proc. Prehistoric Society vols. 34 and 36.

Christopher Brain

Marchey Farm, Wookey (ST 478463) occupies a 25 acre hillock in the Axe valley south of Mendip. Fieldwork has produced sufficient evidence to suggest settlement from Roman times. An early Christian dedication to St. Martin is related to the site. Early medieval sherds have been found, and 13th century sherds would perhaps relate to the Fishery connected with the Abbey at Glastonbury at that time. The derelict farmhouse is, in its earliest part, not later than 1500. The roof is of cruck construction, and the plan of the building follows the medieval longhouse layout. A crescent-shaped earthwork around the southeast part of the site is undated, but is unlikely to be prehistoric.

Mike Batt

Talk and Discussion on Gloucestershire Barrows. Friday 8th December

It is a sad commentary on local interest in prehistory that the particular class of field monument for which our region is perhaps most famous, the Severn Cotswold Long Barrows, have during this century been wilfully neglected. No overall or regional policy of conservation-excavation for this most important group of monuments has been, or is now, contemplated. Yet of the 100-odd long barrows originally present in Gloucestershire, horrifyingly little now remains. From the most recent survey it is estimated that less than 10 sites are at present unploughed or free from heavy afforestation; and only a single example survives apparently intact. With the complete lack of response or responsibility by any national organisation, we must look for action at the local level. Will this action be forthcoming? Within 15 miles of Bristol city centre at least five long barrows are under continual ploughing and will be completely obliterated by the end of the century. These and a host of round barrows all lie within an area supposedly 'covered' by B. A. R. G. and the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. As Peter Fowler explicitly said in B. A. R. G. Bulletin Dec. 1970,

"no-one else is going to do the job for us." It is up to us to take action. The extent of the problem will be shown in the form of a pictorial complement to my survey of the Barrows of Gloucestershire, in Archaeology and the Landscape, ed. P. J. Fowler.

John Drinkwater

B. A. R. G. EXCURSION TO AVONCROFT MUSEUM OF BUILDINGS,
BROMSGROVE, WORCS.

Sunday 1st October, 1972

Meet the coach at 12.30 p. m. in University Road, Bristol 8.

Avoncroft is an open-air Museum where visitors can see a number of historic buildings which have been saved from destruction and have been or are in the process of being restored in the museum. There is, for instance, a 15th century timber-framed house; the roof of Gnesten Hall, which originally stood adjacent to Worcester Cathedral; and a reconstructed nailmaker's workshop. Of particular interest is a reconstruction of an Iron Age stone hut which was excavated by Nicholas Thomas, Director of the City Museum. It is hoped that Peter Reynolds will be available to explain to us the experiments in archaeology which he is carrying out at Avoncroft.

The fare is 60p (30p for children). Places on the coach are limited, so please fill in the enclosed form and send it with the appropriate remittance and a s. a. e. to the Hon. Secretary, M. C. Batt, 14 Waterdale Gardens, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 4QR by September 23rd.

PARISH SURVEY UNIT

Progress on the Parish Check Lists has been reported in each Bulletin throughout the year, and the Unit is now definitely working towards publication of lists for some of the 37 parishes currently under review. A round-table meeting of P. S. U. members on 22nd May was a valuable opportunity to compare progress and to discuss some practical problems and their solution. Two of the main points now coming to the fore are the need for practical training in recognising archaeological features in the field, and for a further autumn's work on most parishes. A new-style course on "Field Archaeology" to be taken by P. J. Fowler this autumn, seems ideally designed to meet these two needs, with its

"tailor to your requirements" potential for combining a short general course with follow-up courses in more specialised aspects (see p. 129-130). We strongly urge as many PSU members as can to attend the initial short course in Bristol, or one of its subsequent repeats at some more convenient centre.

The first article in this issue of the Bulletin provides an interesting comparison with our own undertaking. One feels it must be simpler to plot the general habitat of the lesser-spotted black-eyed-pippit, than it is to pinpoint and identify individual archaeological features; but it is encouraging to read of similar aims, undertakings and problems carried to such a successful conclusion.

One of the B. A. R. G. evening meetings this winter is going to be a P. S. U. OPEN MEETING. Members of the Unit would like to invite all local BARG members to join them in the Schools Room at the City Museum, at 7.30 p. m. on Thursday 14th December, for a programme which, it is hoped, will include reports, displays and discussion.

Elizabeth Adams, with Frances Neale.

THE NEW CURATOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY AT BRISTOL CITY MUSEUM

B. A. R. G. would like to take this opportunity to extend a welcome to Dr. Joan Taylor, who has succeeded Leslie Grinsell as Curator of Archaeology and History at Bristol City Museum. She studied Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania (U. S. A.) for a first degree and obtained her Ph. D. at Cambridge University with a study of prehistoric gold-working in the British Isles and western Europe. She has published papers in this field and has also taught and excavated widely. Dr. Taylor was previously Assistant Keeper at Birmingham City Museum. She is ex officio a member of the B. A. R. G. Committee.

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT (1)

ARCHAEOLOGY OR HISTORY?

For many years I have been strongly concerned at the way in which our local "Archaeological" societies have been sailing under false colours, as exemplified in their published annual Transactions or Proceedings. These carry the cover title of " Archaeological Society", but when one analyses their contents one finds that about 40% deal with historical subjects dating from about the Tudors even up to the present day. The last ten Presidential Addresses of one well-known local

"Archaeological" Society contain no archaeological matter at all, except references in one of them to the discoveries of some true archaeologists of the past. Another Society does better with four out of eleven.

I have made an analysis of the contributions accepted by the editorial committees of these publications over the past ten years; this analysis can only be approximate as some articles extend over many centuries. Yet even though one Archaeological Society has a clause in its original rules that historical matter may be included in its ambit, what have papers or articles on political figures and events of the 18th and 19th centuries to do with Archaeology? Or on ecclesiastical or domestic architecture; church fonts; chandeliers; pulpits; gargoyles? Or lists of county sheriffs, bishops, local incumbents, mayors, famous families - even up as far as 1967? Or clay pipes, milestones and turnpikes? And then of course there are the archives and other records. History, yes, certainly; but in my view these, however fascinating to study, are not Archaeology. My contention is that these societies should publish under the honest title of _____ Historical Society. This would of course also cover the small proportion of truly archaeological matter, (less than 15% of which according to my analysis dates from B. C., and about 40% up to 400 A. D.) including the brief "Notes" which usually contain some of the most important archaeological items. Our true archaeological members may not like this idea; but at a guess they represent less than 50% of the membership. Altogether it appears that there has been a "take-over" of our publications by local historians.

My indignation bubbles over when I hear that contradiction in terms, "Industrial Archaeology". When I heard it first, I imagined it had to do with the Iron, Bronze and Stone Age industries. But no! I found it referred to the relics of the discoveries and inventions of James Watt, George Stephenson, Hargreaves, Arkwright and Crompton; and of course the makers of the first Vat 69. To call the discovery of the remains of old machinery of the past 200 years "Archaeology", is sheer prostitution of a good word. It would be as well if members of Archaeological Societies halted in their tracks and started to think out the true meanings of archaeology and history, and consulted a standard dictionary.

A paper was read, last year, at a local Archaeological symposium - on Victorian lamp-posts! I used to go around with "Alan the Lamplighter" when I was a boy in the '90's, watching him placing his ladder on the arm jutting out and then climbing up to light the lamp before going on to the next lamp-post. May I warn members of my age to beware on entering museums - they may find themselves being hung from a lamp-post with a label round their necks, "Contemporary Archaeological Exhibits".

H. W. W. Ashworth

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT (2)

SPECIALISATION & THE COUNTY SOCIETIES

Recent issues of the B. A. R. G. Bulletin (Dec. 1970 and Autumn 1971) have contained articles on the future of archaeology and the pros and cons of joining the local county societies. It has long been a sorrow to me that archaeology is so fragmented in this area. It would seem that the first thing each generation of archaeologists does is to rush off and form themselves into a little group devoted to their own particular interest. This might well be all right, but it can lead to each group looking inward to its own interests, and the great danger of this is that it is only a very small step to becoming intolerant of the other chap's point of view. It can also lead to ignorance of what other people are trying to do, and archaeologically this is worse. I have heard 'orthodox' archaeologists roundly condemn industrial archaeologists, and I have heard industrial archaeologists dismiss the members of the county societies as a load of old aunties (of both genders) who delight in genteel tours round stately homes followed by a nice tea. These hidebound attitudes, while preserving the status quo for those who hold them, do nothing for archaeology as a whole.

All of us, whatever our speciality, are interested in the past and should, I feel, try to gain an all round view of the history and antiquities of the area in which we live. Without this all-round view there is the terrible danger of the ignorance caused by over-specialisation - a pitiful state in which to get. The more archaeologists gather in close-knit little groups, all tending to specialise in more and more inward-looking aspects of the subject, the less chance there is of the different groups being able to meet on common ground.

What should one do about this? May I suggest that anyone who thinks seriously about archaeology, and where it is going, and perhaps more important, where they are going in archaeology, should join one or all of the local county societies, and attend the meetings. He will find a welcome and friendliness which might well surprise him. He will begin to acquire the education he probably needs in learning where his particular speciality fits in, and perhaps he will gain perspective about it all. It is unfortunate that the county societies lack younger members; I recently attended the AGM of one such and was rather horrified to notice that of the attendance of around 60 members, only three appeared to be younger than the mid-forties. At this rate the county societies might well contract to such an extent as to be almost extinct by the end of the century - the very time we are being told is to be the testing time for British archaeology.

The other thing which would do much to overcome the problem of fragmentation would be to federate the more specialised societies in some way, and perhaps organise the whole lot under the aegis of the county societies. Bristol is particularly unfortunate in being on the boundary between two counties, and there is also a host of local history societies based on the small towns nearby which would also need representation of some sort; so how this could all be worked out presents something of a problem. Certainly to do nothing can, in the long run, only worsen the situation; but to do something requires an act of will on the part of the members of the societies concerned, and one wonders if that will exists.

A. P. Woolrich

DISCOVERIES NEAR WELLS

At the beginning of April 1972, while digging the foundation trench for a sun-parlour extension to the house of Mrs. C. P. Winter, Sunningdale, Worth, nr. Wookey, human remains were encountered. The skeleton had been greatly disturbed by the building operations, but from the relative position of skull and femur, there is little doubt that they had formed part of a crouched burial of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date. The teeth were worn very smooth in a manner typical of early skeletons. The remains were found in a stiff red clay which contained small patches of a pale greenish-blue mineral, and were about two feet below the present ground level. No trace of a grave could be seen in the sides of the builders' trench despite a very careful search, and there were no associated finds.

A number of abraded sherds of late 15th and 16th century pottery were picked up at Park Farm, West Horrington. Nearby was a concentration of flint flakes and scrapers, unworn and unpatinated, of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age types.

N. Cook, Hon. Curator
Wells Museum

B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 18th November at 2.30 p. m.

Once again, the occasion to show we are an active research group. What have you been doing in local archaeology this season? Can you spare just 10-15 minutes to tell the rest of us about it? Mike Batt would be glad to have your name and details as soon as possible. Applications from anyone attending for tea-tickets must reach him by Saturday 11th November at the latest. For details see Programme.

SEA MILLS 1972

Julian Bennett for the City Museum has recently completed the excavation of an eight-acre site at the former Nazareth House orphanage, Sea Mills, and south of the known Roman settlement there. The initial work was carried out by Keith Branigan and a party of University students, later with volunteers and some B. A. R. G. members. It was disappointing that neither the defences of the town nor those of the 1st century fort were discovered, but other finds fully compensated for this. Several human burials were found, including some in a cremation cemetery with grave goods, and others in early Roman quarry pits. Perhaps of most importance is the curious small Flavian (60-70's A. D.) fortlet or 'police post' on the northeast side of the site. Demolished by 100 A. D. , it is tempting to associate this with the Boudiccan revolt and its aftermath. The eight acres were fairly extensively covered by trenching. It is hoped that the publication will not be long delayed, because this is an important Roman site on which little of value has yet appeared in print.

Mike Ponsford

UPHEAVAL AT THE CITY MUSEUM

The Museum warns us that rewiring and reorganisation is bound to cause some temporary delays and disruptions - your favourite showcase unexpectedly blacked out, or delay in obtaining reserve material - and asks for understanding cooperation. We are assured it will all be well worthwhile in the end! One result of this grand un-spring-clean is that the archaeological books are being properly catalogued; both these and the reorganised reserve collections should in due course be far more usefully available to members of the Group.

TOO MANY MEETINGS ?

Peter Fowler contacted secretaries of local societies in the Spring with an idea for using his office at the Extra-Mural Department (Mrs. Camp, 9.00-3.30, Bristol 24161 Ext. 777) as a centre for the exchange of advance information when arranging dates for special meetings, so as to avoid clashes. This problem, on national and local scales, affected several of our functions last year. By the time the Calendar appears in the Bulletin showing three desirable meetings on one day, it is too late! The success of this simple idea and generous offer depends on making use of it, well in advance. By the time this appears, it will be too late for pre-Christmas fixtures: but high time to check if any of your proposed Spring and Summer dates for 1973 are liable to be double-booked.

NEW MEMBERS

Starting with this issue, our new Hon. Membership Secretary is going to produce interim lists of newly elected members in the Autumn and December Bulletins as a supplement to the full list which appears in the Spring issue, and as a more prompt introduction to other members of the Group. Reg Jackson has undertaken an overhaul of membership records, procedure and mailing system which should ensure some recent omissions and difficulties do not recur. This list covers members elected since he took office in March. To minimise delays in the future, the Hon. Membership Secretary has also been empowered by the Committee to accept applications for membership as they are received, subject to the approval of the next committee at its next meeting. The appearance of the names of new members in the Bulletin signifies that approval has been given.

- BARKER, Miss S. , 30-31 Richmond Terrace, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1AD
* BISHOP, Miss S. , 14 Stoneleigh Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2RJ
* BROCK, Miss J. E. , 86 Nibley Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9XW
* CLOTHIER, G. J. , 8 Whitefield Avenue, St. George, Bristol BS5 7TR
COOK, Miss L. , 37 Bredon, Rodfordway, Yate, Bristol BS17 4TB
DEXTER, R. J. , 9 Weetwood Road, Congresbury, Bristol BS19 5BN
* FREKE, J. E. , Loverace Cottage, Henstridge, Somerset
* GOULD, P. , 18 Hampton Park, Redland, Bristol.
* HAILE, A. , 56 Walnut Crescent, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4HZ
IRWIN, W. B. , 15 Wyatts Close, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 2JH
JOHNSON, G. R. , Misty Moor, 21 Tor View Road, Glastonbury, Somerset
KEENE, Mrs. M. , 16a Brook Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3 SQ
* KING, A. , 35 Walnut Crescent, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4HX
* LANG, Miss H. , 54 St. John's Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2HG
MART, Miss M. , 14 Church Lane, Coalpit Heath, Bristol BS17 2SP
NICHOLS, L. H. , 40 Osborne Road, Southville, Bristol BS3 1PW
* PHILLPOTTS, C. , 4a Frenchay Park Road, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1EB
RAWES, Mrs. B. , 11 Trowscoed Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7BP
* SAUNDERS, Miss R. , 140 Broomhill Road, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4RX
* SEIL, Miss A. M. , 408 Speedwell Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1ES
SKUSE, R. W. , 65 Furber Road, St. George, Bristol BS5 8PX
* SMITH, C. R. , 10a Gilda Close, Wells Road, Bristol BS14 9JU
SPRY, N. P. , 38 Wimborne Close, Up Hatherley, Cheltenham, Glos. GL51 5QP
* STONE, Miss L. , 69 Niblett's Hill, St. George, Bristol BS5 8TP
* TANNER, Miss D. , 14 Chatsworth Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3QR
* THOMAS, D. A. , 14 Chestnut Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4TT
TUCKER, N. , Flat 16, 15 Wellington Park, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2UR
WEE, Miss E. , 25 Beaufort Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2JX

* denotes Associate Member

REVIEWS

P. J. Fowler, ed., Archaeology and the Landscape: Essays for L. V. Grinsell (John Baker, 1972), pp. 258, 25 pls., 35 figs. £3. 50

The essays in this volume are a graceful and worthy tribute to Leslie Grinsell's lifelong devotion to fieldwork and to his abiding influence on British archaeological practice, here admirably chronicled by Nicholas Thomas and bibliographically documented by him and the editor. Paul Ashbee contributes a useful and characteristically orotund review of the origins of field archaeology and its development to the middle of the present century; and the achievements and implications of 'total' fieldwork, developed mainly in the last two decades in a context of ever-growing destruction of sites, are lucidly and forcibly presented by Charles Thomas, for Cornwall, and by Peter Fowler in a wider setting.

The later chapters illustrate in detail some of the main points made in the earlier ones. John Drinkwater gives a picture of the progressive destruction of Gloucestershire barrows, all the more gloomy for being so fully documented and mapped; and for the east and central parts of the same county Isobel Smith's record of some 150 ring-ditches, discovered from air-photographs, shows that ground survey, however thorough, is never enough. Desmond Bonney, in a fascinating study of early boundaries in Wessex, demonstrates beyond all doubt that fieldwork combined with the record of maps can yield historical information of the greatest value, without any resort to excavation.

The absence of any contribution relating to Roman Britain is unfortunate but not surprising, for it must be admitted that in this field the example of Grinsell, Fox and Crawford has never been sufficiently heeded, in spite of their growing influence upon post-Roman studies, as the last three chapters show. Philip Rahtz and Peter Fowler survey the archaeological evidence from Somerset from the period A. D. 400-700; James Dyer identifies, describes and illustrates the earthworks of the Danelaw frontier; and Christopher Taylor provides, for Cambridgeshire, one of the very few surveys of medieval moats. None of these subjects would have been thought worthwhile, or even possible, when Grinsell began his work on barrows.

Future historians of archaeology will almost certainly see this book as a landmark, signifying the resurgence of fieldwork after a period of undeserved decline (and, let it be said, only just in time). It is a pity, therefore, that the standard of the half-tone plates and of the proof-reading is so poor - failings for which these publishers are making for themselves an unenviable reputation. The most glaring error (in the caption to pl. VII) implies that in 1880 General Pitt-Rivers changed not only his name, but his sex as well.

R. J. C. Atkinson

M. Jesson and D. Hill, eds., The Iron Age and its Hill-Forts: papers presented to Sir Mortimer Wheeler (University of Southampton Monograph Series vol. 1, 1971), pp. 220, 6 pls., 39 figs., £2. 50.

(I) This monograph, a pot-pourri of excavation results, fieldwork theories and reference papers on artefacts, would be more explicitly titled "The Iron Age and its Hill-Forts in Southern Britain". With prehistoric dating and chronology in a state of flux, and the hillforts in our region currently subjected to a spate of excavation, any account will be subject to considerable revision in the short term. Within this limitation, the volume has fairly successfully accomplished its intention of "reviewing the work of the last decade . . . and indicating the direction of current research." A series of chapters by acknowledged authorities on the Iron Age, and seven pages of bibliographical references, will make this a reference volume that will stand until a further decade of excavation and interpretation makes a rewrite necessary. It is marred, however, by the totally inadequate index.

Its coverage, and relevance to our region, is uneven. The chapters by Hawkes, Feacham and Stanford, effectively updating the record on the construction and chronology of hillforts, cover the Hereford-Wye sites such as Croft Ambrey thoroughly, but give barely two sentences to Crickley Hill and Leckhampton Camp. Other recently-excavated sites from our region, such as Budbury, Norton Fitzwarren and Bury Camp (Colerne) do not merit a word. More surprising is the apparently glaring omission of any detailed report on South Cadbury. Apart from a consideration of its house constructions by Musson in his "settlement pattern" chapter, and a review of sub-Roman features by Peter Fowler, the site is virtually unmentioned. Our region is again excluded from the chapters dealing with extra-mural hillfort activity (Cunliffe, Ritchie) and hillfort precursors (Bradley), in which these features are placed in their geographical and historical context, and some explanation offered of the "where and why" of hillforts to complement the "how and when".

A pioneering chapter by A. H. A. Hogg attempts to answer some of the more pertinent questions of hillfort occupation and territorial areas; but the application of sophisticated techniques to the very incomplete basic information available, makes the value of the results debatable. The Iron Age settlements of Brittany and Britain are effectively contrasted by Giot, and the Roman influence is considered by Rivet and Peacock. Peter Fowler provides the final chapter, on hillforts A. D. 400-700, which is directly concerned with our region. Starting from the two late Roman temples discovered inside the hillforts at Lydney and Maiden Castle and long regarded as anomalous, he shows how a substantial corpus of

information has been built up, mainly from the spades of Alcock, Fowler, Rahtz and Thomas. It is from our region and from the efforts of local archaeologists that the evidence for a considerable re-use of these Iron Age earthworks has arisen to become one of the brightest sources of reillumination of the former 'dark ages'.

(II) The paper by D. F. Allen on "British Potin Coins: A Review" displays the scholarship and judgment that we have learned to expect from our foremost authority on the Ancient British coinage and its origins. These coins, hitherto usually described as of "tin" or "speculum", are derived from a Gaulish original. They were introduced into Kent about 100 B. C. or just after, and all the hoards found can probably be dated to Caesar's campaigns of 55-54 B. C., or less likely to a threat of invasion around 30 B. C.

They can be divided into Class I (types A-L, c. 100 - c. 30 B. C. or later), and Class II (types M-P, early to mid-1st century A. D.). These coins were all cast in clay moulds, as were the Durotrigian cast bronze coins from the mint on Hengistbury Head in Dorset, and both groups were the only Ancient British coins to have constituted the small change of the market place. As such, they provide evidence of urban centres where they circulated. The potin coins were made in strips of five or six, each coin retaining one or usually two "tangs" where the joins occurred. The diameter of Class I coins starts at 18 mm. and progressively reduces to 16 mm. The diameter of Class II coins starts at 16 mm. and progressively reduces to 11 mm. Coins of Class II can also be distinguished from those of Class I in that the compass point of the circle on the obverse profile of Class I becomes a large blob on that of Class II.

A detail of local interest is that occasional coins of Class II found in the west country (e. g. at Glastonbury, and on Ham Hill and Hod Hill) are believed to have been brought from Kent by those fleeing from the Claudian invasion.

(I) J. H. Drinkwater
(II) L. V. Grinsell

Brian Smith & Elizabeth Ralph, A History of Bristol & Gloucestershire (Darwen Finlayson, 1972), pp. 112, 35 pls., 20 maps. £3.20.

In this age of specialists and technicians, it is particularly useful that two distinguished antiquaries and local historians should have prepared a comprehensive summary of the history and development of Bristol and Gloucestershire. A broad account such as this is not easy to achieve,

and the authors are to be commended on the scope of their cover and the manner in which they have kept the tale alive by illustrative extracts from the County and City archives under their respective guardianship.

The account is but a broad outline, and nothing more is possible within the size of the book. It is assisted by twenty maps which prove useful in communicating detailed information on specific topics. The book is well produced, and a series of delightful sketches in the margins also help to illustrate and expand the text. Persons whose primary interests may be specialised will find this work helpful in that it provides a frame within which their specific interests can be orientated and their specialist subject the better understood. It is also an enjoyable and interesting book to read.

Bristol and Gloucestershire, as is so often the case in the history of an area, have been deeply affected by their special geographic position - as a base in early times behind the frontier of Wales and later for North America. Bristol escaped the worst excesses of 19th century expansion and its subsequent problems. Gloucestershire was prosperous in the late Middle Ages and following centuries, leaving behind a series of delightful towns, churches and houses. Its historic traditions and historic commercial background most certainly affect the life and outlook of the area. Its geographic position as a centre of good communications is still important. There is every sign that Bristol and Gloucestershire will prove in the immediate future a key area in the development and prosperity of the country, as it has done so often in the past.

H. G. M. Leighton

NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society vol. 90 (1971) includes the first of the major reports, "Archaeology & the M5 Motorway" ed. P. J. Fowler and C. V. Walthew (pp. 22-63); one or possibly two further reports will be needed for Gloucestershire, and at least two more for Somerset. Other articles include "Roman Building Materials" by J. H. Williams (pp. 95-119), "Deerhurst Church: Excavations 1971" by P. Rahtz (pp. 129-135) and a note on a gold stater from Kingswood by L. V. Grinsell (p. 220) in addition to several other articles on Roman sites.

Somerset Archaeology & Natural History vol. 115 (1971) was a virtual "Leslie Grinsell volume", opening with his important Presidential address on "The Past and Future of Archaeology in Somerset" (pp. 29-38) and finishing with the massive "Somerset Barrows Part II: North and East" (Supplement, pp. 1-137). This provides the definitive basis for all future work on barrows, within our area of Somerset, chiefly on Mendip, correlating all past discoveries and making many new ones. In between are articles on vernacular architecture by Sir R. de Z. Hall and L. J. Walrond, and short excavation reports on Cadcong, Crandon Bridge, Gatcombe, Catsgore and elsewhere.

Two fat, duplicated booklets newly available from the University of Bristol Department of Extra-Mural Studies are Notes on Bristol History No. 9 (1971) at 50p. inc. postage, and Studies in Somerset History No. 2 (1971), at 35 p. inc. postage. They present the results of work by members of evening classes held at Bristol and Somerset Archives Offices, and include studies of a wide range of 17-18th century records. These classes are renewed during the coming session: details from the Extra-Mural Department.

Archaeological Review 6 (45p from the Extra-Mural Dept., post free) provides its usual up-to-date mine of information on archaeological discoveries over the whole of the southwest.

Tewkesbury: The Archaeological Implications of Development by D. Miles and P. J. Fowler (30p from Rescue, 25a The Tything, Worcester) may well prove one of the most important archaeological publications in our region for a very long time - not just in itself but, one hopes, in its influence. Short, lucid, eminently readable, it sets out the problems, potential, achievements, failures and future of local archaeology in action in one place, as a working document for archaeologists and planners alike. This is surely what we ought to be doing for everywhere else, town and country alike. Tewkesbury provides a model that every B. A. R. G. member should read and digest.

Rescue again: their Publication No. 1 is First Aid for Finds, compiled by David Leigh (50p from Rescue, as above): practical advice, clear explanations and diagrams, useful addresses, workable second-bests all brought together in a practical, portable on-the-spot booklet that is a 'must' for every excavation.

B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM ON IRON AGE POTTERY

This will be held at the City Museum, Bristol on 27th January. Details in the next issue. Limited to 40 places, by ticket only. Apply to Hon. Secretary.

CALENDAR OF
FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS AND LECTURES

September - December 1972

Abbreviations:

A. G. , A. S.	Archaeological Group, Archaeological Society
B. G. A. S.	Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
G. A. D. A. R. G. (P)	Gloucester & District Archaeological Research Group Numbers limited: prior application essential
S. A. N. H. S. University	Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society University of Bristol Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR. Details in booklet, <u>Courses in Archaeology, History & Local History 1972-3.</u>
W. E. A.	<u>Workers Educational Assoc.</u> , 7 St. Nicholas Street, Bristol.

September

23/24

B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: TRIP TO
DORCHESTER AREA

- 25 Fieldwork, Planning & Records: Mrs. F. Neale,
P. Fountain and panel. G. A. D. A. R. G. , Old Crypt
Schoolroom, Southgate Street, GLOUCESTER. 7.30 p. m.
- 25 Fact or Fiction: an Archaeological Enquiry, by E. J.
Mason. Course of 20 meetings at the Further Education
Centre, BACKWELL, 7.30 p. m. W. E. A.
- 26 Prehistory of the Bristol Region, by C. Browne. Course
of 20 meetings, Folk Centre, High Street, HANHAM,
7.30 p. m. W. E. A.
- 27 History of Gloucestershire by H. F. Towner. Course
of 10 meetings at the Community Centre, Station Road,
YATE, 7.30 p. m. W. E. A.
- 28 Archaeology of a Gravel Area, by M. W. Ponsford.
Lunchtime lecture, City Museum BRISTOL, 1.15-2.00 p. m.
- 28 Annual General Meeting; and The Measurement of Time,
by C. Routley. Clevedon & District A. S. , Sunhill
Community Centre, CLEVEDON, 7.30 p. m.

September

- 28 Local History Sources & Methods by R. Ashley. Course of six meetings, fortnightly, at the Museum, Boulevard, WESTON-SUPER-MARE. 7.30 p. m. University, in association with S. A. N. H. S. Weston Branch Local History Group.

October

- 1 B. A. R. G. EXCURSION: AVONCROFT MUSEUM, BROMSGROVE, WORCS. Travel by coach. Guided tour of Avoncroft Museum of Buildings. By ticket only (P). Details, see p.135.
- 2 Field Archaeology, by P. J. Fowler. Course of 6 meetings at Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m. University. See p. 129
- 2 Livestock Husbandry from Prehistoric Times, by Miss B. Noddle, B. G. A. S., City Museum, BRISTOL, 5.45 p. m.
- 2 Industrial Archaeology in the Bath Area, by Mrs. J. Day. Course of 10 meetings at the Technical College, BATH, 7.30 p. m. University.
- 2 Sources for Local History, by B. J. S. Moore. Course of 10 meetings, at the Church of England School, ALMONDSBURY, 7.30 p. m. University.
- 3 Medieval Bristol, by M. W. Ponsford. Bath & Camerton A. S., Lecture Theatre, Technical College (New Building), BATH, 7.15 p. m. Visitors 15p
- 3 Sources for Local History, by Mrs. J. Simpson. Course of 8 meetings, at the Primary School, BANWELL, 7.30 p. m. University
- 4 Egyptian Civilisation, by Mrs. A. Burton. Course of 20 meetings, at Technical College, Avon Street, BATH, 7.00 p. m. University
- 4 History in a Town: Tewkesbury, by P. J. Fowler and R. Machin. 2 evening lectures on 4th & 11th Oct. at Fitzhamon Arts Centre, Mill Street, Tewkesbury, 7.30 p. m.; and one-day fieldmeeting 15th Oct. University
- 4 Local History Research Group, led by R. J. S. Moore. Course of 24 meetings at Highcroft School, FRAMPTON COTTERELL, 7.30 p. m. (P) University

October

- 4 History of Wells, by Dr. R. D. Reid. Course of 10 meetings at The Museum, WELLS, 7. 30 p. m. University
- 5 Archaeology for Publication by M. W. Ponsford and D. P. Dawson. Course of 20 meetings at The Chantry, Castle Street, THORNBURY, 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 5 Local History Research Group, ed by J. H. Bettey. Course of 6 meetings, fortnightly, at the Vicarage, CHEW MAGNA, 7. 30 p. m. (7. 30 p. m. (P). University
- 5 Somerset & the Industrial Revolution 1700-1850, by C. Buchanan. Course of 12 meetings fortnightly at the Museum, FROME, 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 5 Britons & Romans, by C. Browne. Course of 20 meetings at Teachers' Centre, Castle Street, STROUD, 7. 30 p. m. University
- 5 Prehistory of the Bristol Region by J. H. Drinkwater. Course of 20 meetings at Bradfords House, FRENCHAY Common, 7. 30 p. m. University
- 6 Early Man & his Environment in the West, by E. J. Mason. Course of 20 meetings at the Folk House, Park Street, BRISTOL, 7. 40 p. m. W. E. A.
- 6 Romans in Somerset, by R. H. Leech. Course of 20 meetings at St. Dunstan's School, Wells Road, GLASTONBURY, 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 6 B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: TALK & DISCUSSION ON FLINTS by Mrs. A. Everton, City Museum, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m.
- 9 Egyptian and Mediterranean Archaeology, by L. V. Grinsell and Dr. Joan Taylor. Course of 22 meetings, City Museum BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m. University
- 9 Archaeological Illustration by Mrs. J. Gill. Course of 18 meetings at The Arts Centre, 11 Castle Street, BRIDGWATER, 7. 30 p. m. University
- 10 Ancient Civilisations of the Near East, by K. Branigan, J. G. MacQueen, and D. J. Waite. Course of 20 meetings. Monks Park School, Filton Road, BRISTOL, 7. 30 p. m. University.

October

- 10 Celtic Art, Archaeology and Religion, by Mrs. E. Fowler. Course of 20 meetings at Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Clifton, BRISTOL, 9.45 - 11.45 a. m. (P), University.
- 10 Ancient Egypt, by L. V. Grinsell. Course of 12 meetings, Twyford House, SHIREHAMPTON, 7.30 p. m. University.
- 11 Local History: Westbury-on-Trym, by D. Jones. Course of 10 meetings. Wills Memorial Building, University of BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m. University
- 11 Vernacular Architecture, by M. C. Batt. Thornbury A. G., The Chantry, Castle Street, THORNBURY. 7.45 p. m.
- 12 English Churches, Farmhouses and Cottages, by J. H. Bettey and R. Machin. Course of 20 meetings at Rodney Lodge, Grange Rd., Clifton, BRISTOL, 9.45 - 11.45 a. m. (P), University
- 13 Stepping Stones into Local History, by H. Coward. Banwell Society of Archaeology. Village Hall, BANWELL, 7.30 p. m.
- 14 Rescue Archaeology. Conference at Argyll Hall, Grove Street, BATH. 11.00 a. m. - 6.00 p. m. 50p inc. coffee and tea. (P) by 9.10.72, University
- 14/15 Laboratory Conservation of Archaeological Material (I), by Miss J. Escritt. Non-res. w/e, Dept. of Veterinary Anatomy, Park Row, University of BRISTOL. Part II on 24/25 Feb. 1973. (P). Details on application.
- 19 NETTLETON EXCAVATIONS: B. A. R. G. LECTURE by W. J. Wedlake. City Museum, BRISTOL. 7.30 p. m.
- 23 Gloucester Cathedral, by R. W. Paterson. G. A. D. A. R. G., Old Crypt Schoolroom, Southgate Street, GLOUCESTER, 7.30 p. m.
- 26 Archaeology from the Air, by J. Hancock. Clevedon & District A. S., Sunhill Community Centre, CLEVEDON, 7.30 p. m.
- 28 C. B. A. Group 13 Autumn Meeting: A Tribute to Lady Fox; speakers to inc. Martin Biddle, Desmond Bonney, Peter Fowler, Charles Thomas. To be held at the University, EXETER. Details from Hon. Sec. Group 13, Elstow, Yealm Road, Newton Ferrers, Devon.

November

- 3 B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: PRE-TRIP TALK. City Museum, BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m.
- 4 The Topographical Development of Bristol, by Mrs. M. D. Lobel and Col. W. H. Johns. Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, BRISTOL, 11.00 a. m. - 5.30 p. m. (P).
- 5 B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' TRIP TO THE SOMERSET LEVELS
- 7 Historical Development of FROME by R. Goodall. Bath & Camerton A. S., Lecture Theatre, Technical College (New Building), BATH, 7.15 p. m. Visitors 15p.
- 18 B. A. R. G. : MEMBERS' SYMPOSIUM, City Museum, BRISTOL. 2.30 p. m. See p. 139. Tea tickets from Hon. Secretary.
- 18 4th Annual M5 Symposium, by P. J. Fowler and others. Wyndham Hall, TAUNTON CASTLE, 2.15 p. m.
- 23 Bristol Clay Pipes, by R. Price. Clevedon and District A. S. Sunhill Community Centre, CLEVEDON, 7.30 p. m.
- 25 S. A. N. H. S. Affiliated Societies Meeting at Assembly Hall, Technical College, Lower Church Road, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, 2.00 p. m.
- 28 Annual General Meeting of Bath & Camerton A. S. at 2 Gay Street, BATH, 7.30 p. m.

December

- 4 Bristol Mint, by L. V. Grinsell. B. G. A. S., City Museum, BRISTOL, 5.45 p. m.
- 5 Excavations at Catsgore, Somerset by R. Leech, Bath & Camerton A. S., Lecture Theatre, Technical College (New Building), BATH, 7.15 p. m. Visitors 15p.
- 8 B. A. R. G. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: GLOUCESTERSHIRE BARROWS by J. Drinkwater
- 11 Romano-British sites in Somerset, by R. Leech. G. A. D. A. R. G., Old Crypt Schoolroom; Southgate Street, GLOUCESTER, 7.30 p. m.
- 13 Lundy, by K. S. Gardner, Thornbury A. G., The Chantry, Castle Street, THORNBURY, 7.45 p. m.
- 14 B. A. R. G. : P. S. U. OPEN MEETING at City Museum, BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m. See p. 136.

Advance Notice

- Jan. 27: B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM ON IRON AGE POTTERY at the City Museum, BRISTOL. Limited to 40 places: by ticket only. Details from Hon. Secretary.