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Shortened version : see Bulletin Vol 6 No. 1 for complete list

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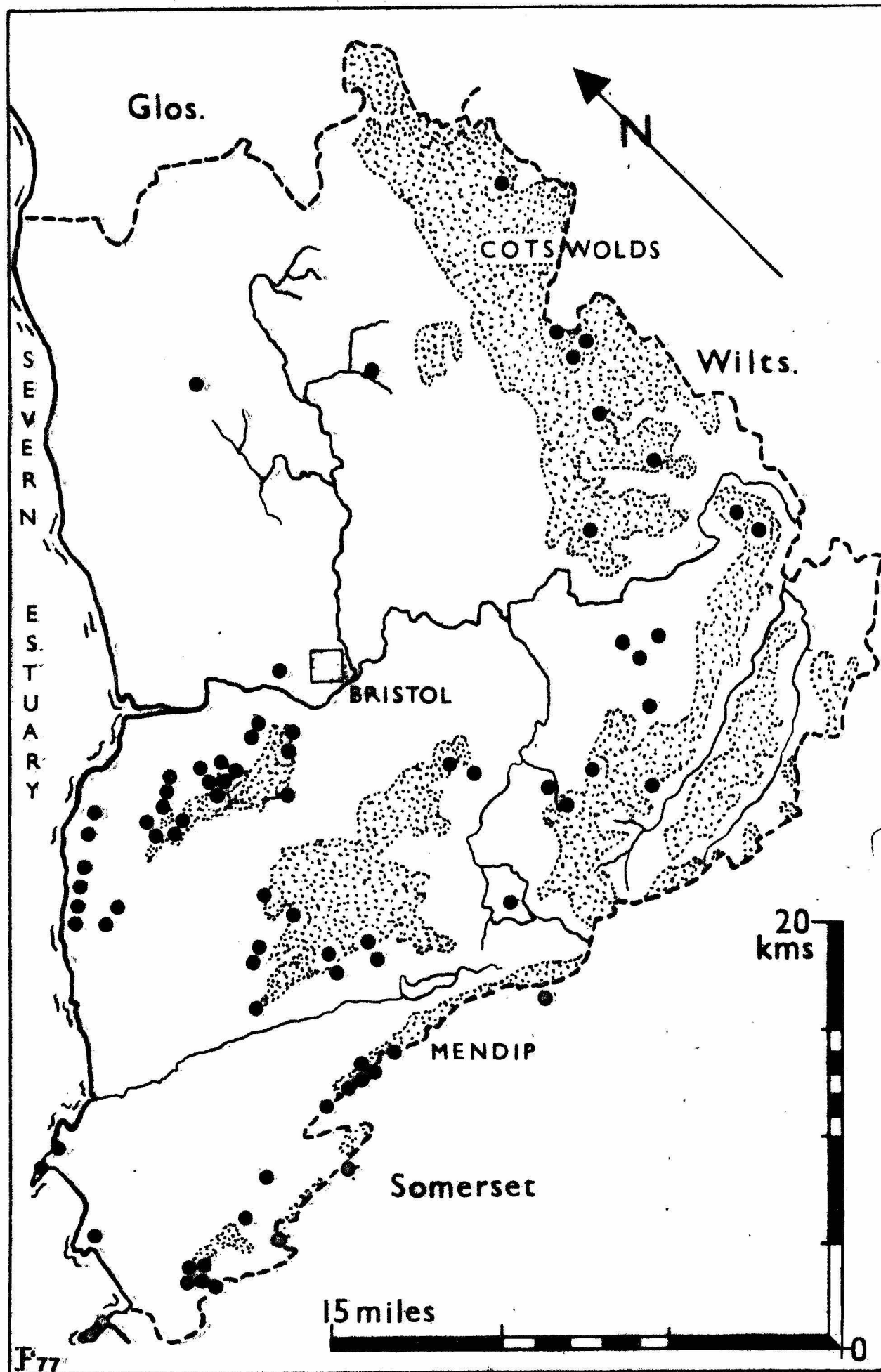
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EDITORIAL

Archaeology has suffered one of its most serious blows ever in the decision, taken this autumn, to curtail the archaeological work of the Ordnance Survey. What exactly has been decided, and by whom, is not easy for us to discern. The announcement seems to have been taken rashly and without consultation with the professional bodies concerned. It seems that within a year or two, no Field Survey archaeological surveyors will normally be deployed to record antiquities, and the Ordnance Survey record cards will be merely 'maintained'. Moreover, the Ordnance Survey archaeological library is to be frozen (and, possibly, dispersed); the OS have even cancelled their order for BARG Bulletin, and, though we hope they will reconsider this step, it appears to be in line with their other proposals.

The OS maintains that in future it will obtain archaeological information from local professional archaeological sources. Unfortunately, the whole of Britain is not evenly or adequately covered by such sources. Despite assertions to the contrary, the OS archaeology division is to be run down, and moreover, the hurried decision has been made apparently to forestall a DOE-backed study of national archaeological record services. In Bristol, no one who has consulted the OS records for Avon can fail to notice the immense amount of information gathered by the Survey, and generally available for research. The county of Avon, it is true, now maintains an archaeological sites and monuments record in the Planning Department; but it would not be disrespectful to that Department to point out that it does not have the field strength, experience, or the national viewpoint, which constitute the great value of the OS' work.



The location of early fields in the county of Avon (to Nov. 1977) shown by black circles. Open circles show other examples on or near the county boundary with Somerset. Stippled areas are 400 ft + above OD. Scale 1:250,000 (approx 4 miles to the inch).

EARLY FIELDS IN THE COUNTY OF AVON

by

P J Fowler

In May 1976, the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol, combined with the CBA's Ancient Agriculture Committee in organising a Symposium at Burwalls under the title 'Ancient Fields and Land Allotment'. In part our inspiration was the passing of 15 years since the publication of Collin Bowen's little classic, Ancient Fields. The occasion saw the presentation of an enormous amount of new evidence and much re-assessment of old records concerning the landscape of pre-medieval Britain. Among the 37 contributors were many of those involved in the current and remarkable revival of interest in the topic, characterised by a return to the field methods of the pioneers in the study of ancient landscapes such as the Curwens and O G S Crawford fifty and more years ago. Revised versions of most of the papers, plus a few more, are now in the press for publication in 1978 as one of the CBA's Research Reports. One of the paper discusses briefly but catalogues all of the 117 records of pre-medieval fields in the Bristol region known to this author. The following is an adaptation of that paper but including only those parts (minus the catalogue and the references) concerning the 74 recorded instances of early fields in the County of Avon.

The pre-medieval fields in what is now Avon have not been systematically or comprehensively studied. C W Phillips was, however, making useful records on Failand soon after the recognition in 1923 of 'Celtic' fields on the Chalk of Wessex and Sussex and indeed on the Oolite of Bathampton Down. Behind these first conscious attempts to recognise and study ancient fields as such lay, as there still does, a body of local topographical literature in which such fields had been recorded but not recognised, eg in W Phelps, History and Antiquities of Somersetshire, 1836, Pl V. Major & Burrows' 'record of research and investigation in the field' was still incidentally recording unrecognised fields nearly a century later, eg The Mystery of Wansdyke, 1926, lower fig. on p 54. Among even later wrong identifications was what we can now see as the Roman town of Charterhouse.

This early work was cartographically synthesised, albeit at a small scale, three times in four years in the 1950s. Tratman showed 20 'records' of Celtic Fields on his map illustrating the Iron Age in the Bristol region for the 1955 meeting of the British Association; the Ordnance Survey's Map of Roman Britain showed five 'areas of surviving "Celtic" fields' in 1956; and Piggott, in his chapter for the book called Roman and Native in North Britain edited by I A Richmond, showed on his 1958 map two generalised areas of 'Celtic field' systems west of Bristol, one of c. 200 square miles up the Vale of Berleley (!) and the other of c. 70 square miles south of the Bristol Avon. Finberg had meanwhile published Allen's air photograph of 'Celtic' fields on West Littleton Down in 1955, and 1960 saw the publication of Grimes' excellent war-time survey of the field archaeology of Charmy Down. In the 1960s survey and excavation again took place

on Bathampton Down and detailed work began in the Vale of Wrington. The contemporary survey of the Cotswolds by RCHM (Eng.) was published in 1976, bringing together (almost) all the records of early fields in the 'old' county of Gloucestershire, part of which is now NE Avon.

Building on these and similar records, the catalogue in the forthcoming CBA Research Report should provide the basis for the systematic and comprehensive study of early fields in both Avon and the region. Copies have already been deposited with the Sites & Monuments Records of Avon and Somerset County Councils and with the voluntary one so devotedly organised by Barbara Rawes for the Gloucester & District Archaeological Research Group in default of local authority effort.

The Distribution of Early Fields

The map (Fig. 1) presents an obviously patchy distribution, in part reflecting where individuals have worked. Clearly they have worked where earthworks have survived, with the result that the map is a classic illustration of how early fields have persisted as 'relict landscapes', often at the further ends of parishes, on mainly high land which has been marginal in arable terms during medieval and up to modern times. The map in no way represents the original extent of pre-medieval field systems; rather does it represent where arable has not been over the most recent thousand years. Good examples of such survival are on Failand, on Bleadon Hill and on the Gordano Ridge, though in all cases the preservation picture is rapidly changing at the moment. Nevertheless, we can see too the importance as a preserving agent of emparkment (Ashton Park, Norton Court), of woodland (Court Hill and Castle Hill near Clevedon), of golf courses (Bathampton Down, Walton-in-Gordano), of common land (Durdham Down) and of race courses (Wraxall, Lansdown).

Two recent developments underline the extent to which modern factors affect the present distribution and, conversely, what potential exists in apparently 'blank' areas. In the Vale of Berkeley at Lodge Farm, Alveston, rescue excavation on the M5 produced buried evidence of plough-marks, or more strictly ard-marks; while some of John White's superb air photographs show a crop-mark pattern in otherwise featureless fields near Yate looking very similar to complexes of settlement and enclosures better-known from the river valleys of the Midlands. Such examples imply an as yet barely recognised lowland extent of early arable in the county, complementary to the distribution on the high land semi-circling the basin of the Rivers Avon and Severn.

The Morphology of Early Fields

In only one or two cases do we know much about the pattern and extent of field systems in the county and good plans are very few. Personal observation, on the ground and from the air, tentatively suggests the following as an initial and interim typology:

Type I : fields with a length/width ratio of at least 3:1

(Ia : long parallel fields divided by stone rows on high ground
The single known example, above Cheddar Gorge, is a few metres on the Somerset side of the county boundary).

- Ib : elongated fields in parallel with direct Roman associations eg, west of the Lye Hole villa.
- Ic : blocks of thin parallel fields occurring within 'Celtic' field systems of Type IIa below, eg, the Swainswick Down group on Charmy Down.

Type II: field with a length/width ratio of about 1:1

- IIa : irregular blocks of c. 50 m square but often somewhat irregular fields, characteristically associated with trackways and sometimes circular and/or lobate shaped settlements, superficially of Roman date, eg, Butcombe and the Horse Race, Wraxall.
- (IIb : small fields of similar pattern eg Brean Down West, just over the county boundary with Somerset).

Early fields in the County are demarcated by stone walls, stone banks, earth baulks, ditches and, as we see them now, lynchets of unknown original structure. Four pit alignments have also been recorded in the region - three in Gloucestershire and one in Somerset, - but none so far in Avon. Another form of early land division, dating to the Roman period and arguably represented by Saxon estates, has been suggested by the arrangement of parishes in the Vale of Wrington.

The Dating of Early Fields

The evidence for dating the early fields in the County is also poor. The Lodge Farm ard-marks are certainly pre-Roman and could be late Neolithic. The long fields above Cheddar Gorge are probably 2nd millennium BC. Some of the fields on Bathampton Down appear to be earlier than the 'early' hillfort there but others are clearly later than it (and probably Roman). Some fields on Charmy Down, and possibly others near Pitcher's Enclosure, W Harptree, could be of Early Iron Age date by association, and some at least of the other systems probably began in later prehistoric times. At Butcombe, for example, a late prehistoric settlement underlies the Romano-British settlement earthworks which are associated superficially with 'Celtic' fields. Fields in Ashton Park, at Lye Hole and beneath Chew Valley Lake, for example, were certainly cultivated during Roman times and many other examples almost certainly were too. Keith Gardner, reviewing the evidence from the Failand Ridge in the forthcoming Gatcombe report, suggests that there the arable fields might have given way to pastoral farming after the 2nd century AD. The Vale of Wrington has produced hints that woodland might have been increasing at the expense of arable in the 5th-7th centuries, while at Newton St. Loe the bank and ditch of West Wansdyke cut across part of an earlier field system. Medieval strip cultivation impinges on Roman or earlier fields at many places, eg, in Ashton Park, at Bleadon and Butcombe, at Loxton and Tormarton. Fragments of the Roman field layout at Lye Hole and, more grandly in relation to the Wiltshire county boundary, on West Littleton Down, however, survive into the living landscape of 1977. This phenomenon is possibly more widespread than we realise.

The fact is, nevertheless, that most of the earthwork evidence for early fields in the County of Avon has now been badly damaged or destroyed, much of it in the last decade. This has happened, and is happening daily, before we have even recorded the evidence, let alone understood it. Yet, by chance, the new county contains some outstanding survivals of early fields, at least three of them of national importance (Ashton Park, Bathampton Down and South Hill, Bleadon). Recognising that even these are at risk, that even these have not been subjected to accurate archaeological survey, and that the case for preservation is severely handicapped without a plan, a small beginning was made recently when students taking the University's Certificate in Field Archaeology and Landscape History through the Department of Extra-Mural Studies spent three days of their 'field week' grappling with the start of an instrumental survey of Ashton Park; but what is really needed is several teams working systematically and urgently throughout the county now. That is a familiar cry of course, not least from this author, but though such survey may lack the glamour of M5, the need is as great and the potential arguably greater.

Acknowledgements

Many people have assisted with the work lying behind this brief article. I would thank especially Keith Gardner and Rob Iles (Conservation Section, Planning Dept., Avon County Council) for specific help during its preparation.

* * * * *

APPENDIX 1

The Conservation of Early Fields

The following, highly select list is of the seven (out of 74) areas of early fields in the County of Avon which constitute outstanding field monuments. They are most worthy of preservation and therefore warrant land-management with their conservation as the primary objective.

Bathampton, Bathampton Down
Bleadon, South Hill
 Hellenge and Hutton Hills
Clevedon, The Warren
Long Ashton, Ashton Park
Walton-in-Gordano, Castle Hill
 Walton Common Down

APPENDIX 2

Parishes in which Early Fields have been recorded

Abbott's Leigh	Clevedon	Portbury
Alveston	Cold Ashton	Portishead
Badminton	Congresbury	Priston
Backwell	Corston	Stanton Drew
Banwell	Farmborough	St. Catherine
Bathampton	Hawkesbury	Swainswick
Batheaston	Hutton	Tickenham
Bishop Sutton	Kewstoke	Timsbury
Bleadon	Long Ashton	Tormarton
Bristol	Loxton	Walton-in-Gordano
Brockley	Marksbury	Weston-in-Gordano
Burrington	Marshfield	Weston-super-Mare
Butcombe	Menpnett Thrubwell	Wraxall
Chelwood	Newton St. Loe	Wrington
Churchill	North Stoke	Yate
Clapton-in-Gordano	Norton Malreward	
Cleeve	Oldmixen	

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CRAAGS

The varied activities of CRAAGS always create interest, and the Director, Warwick Rodwell, has kindly written the following brief resumé to bring readers up to date with the Committee's work:

Principal field projects undertaken by CRAAGS April - November 1977

General : Peter Ellis (Developments Fieldworker) watched major pipeline and housing schemes in all 3 counties.

Dr Ann Ellison undertook sample surveys of the archaeological problems relating to medieval churches (1) on the Avon/Somerset border and (2) in central Gloucestershire.

Avon : Roger Leech and P Ellis have surveyed the well preserved DMV at Long Ashton, preparatory to a major excavation programme next March onwards (to be destroyed by housing development).

Gloucestershire: Alan Saville - Excavations on the scheduled site of Norbury hillfort and Condicote henge monument, both in conjunction with developments (total 4 months).

A. Saville - Cotswold Plough Damage Survey is just completed. 906 monuments visited and reported upon.

Dr Ellison - Roman temple complex at Uley. Major excavation lasting 2 months.

Roger Leech - 10 day excavation of part of the Norman church at Stoke Orchard, in conjunction with the underpinning of the structure.

Somerset : Peter Leach - Taunton - section across the defences near the east gate.

P Leach - Taunton - work just beginning on the excavation and fabric recording of the standing medieval gatehouse of the Augustinian Priory. To continue until Christmas.

P Leach - Hurscombe - 1 month excavation of the medieval and post-medieval farmstead on Exmoor which is to be destroyed in the construction of a reservoir.

R Leech - Glastonbury Abbey Precinct wall - partial demolition for road widening. The wall was drawn and 11 tons of medieval mouldings saved during demolition. Excavation will take place in January-February.

All the above projects have relied heavily on Job Creation Programme staff.

Future programme until 1 April 1978

1. Taunton Priory (see above) P Leach
2. Recording of Taunton Castle keep (December)
3. Glastonbury precinct excavation (January-February) R Leech
4. Taunton - excavation of Westgate area (February-April)
P Leach
5. Wells - cathedral close (March-May) W Rodwell

BOUNDARY MARKS OF WESTBURY-ON-TRYM PARISH

by

J Bryant

The following list is the first part of the Westbury-on-Trym Parish Survey to be published, and concerns boundary marks associated with the parish. All those within the parish have been listed, plus relevant marks along the parish boundaries. It will be noticed that this survey does not include the Shirehampton tything of Westbury parish.

Four categories of boundary mark are listed below. Boundary marks proper, as found in central Bristol, were rare, the last destroyed as recently as 1974. Boundary posts were little more common, since suitable stone was freely available for the most common type of mark, the boundary stone. The fourth category comprises stones of a more general nature, of many could be boundary stones, but it is difficult to be certain since these do not coincide with known boundaries of any importance.

This list gives only basic information about each mark. Some boundary stones are marked with date and number, in addition to their parish or City mark. Other stones are now no longer legible, but their inscriptions were recorded in earlier times. All marks are listed with NGR and approximate location, and for most it is noted if they survive (Yes) or are removed (No). The fourth column indicates which particular area is defined by the boundary mark.

Abbreviations used in the fourth column:-

C.B. City of Bristol
 C.P. Clifton Parish
 D.D. Durdham Down (these stones marked C.B.)
 F.P. Filton Parish
 H.P. Henbury Parish
 Ho.P. Horfield Parish
 J.S.H. John Scandrett Harford's estate at Blaise Castle
 M.C. Manor of Clifton
 St.J. St. James Outparish
 St.P. St. Paul Outparish
 W.P. Westbury Parish

BOUNDARY MARKS

	Location	NGR	Extant	Type
1.	Tyndall's park Rd, Tyndalls Park	57877361	No	W.P. or C.P.
2.	Whiteladies Rd, Redland	57457465	No	W.P.

BOUNDARY POSTS

Location	NGR	Extant	Type
1. Berkeley Rd, Westbury Park	57547573	Yes	W.P.
2. " " "	57547575	Yes	W.P.
3. Brentry Hill, Brentry	57397855	No	
4. Charlton Rd, Brentry	57777874	No	
5. Cotham Brow/Cheltenham Rd	58897461	No	
6. North View, Westbury Park	57547579	Yes	W.P.

BOUNDARY STONES

1. Back of Kingsdown Parade	58627384	No	W.P.
2. Beehive Rd, Southmead	58677715	No	W.P. or Ho.P.
3. Beehive Rd, Henleaze	58687713	No	W.P. or Ho.P.
4. Brentry Farm, Brentry	57947890	Yes	C.B.
5. " "	57957891	Yes	W.P.
6. Brentry Hill, Brentry	57337880	No	? C.B.
7. " "	57397855	Yes	C.B.
8. " "	57417856	No	W.P. or H.P.
9. Brentry House, Brentry	57607872		W.P. or H.P.
10. " "	57697868		W.P. or H.P.
11. " "	57697868	Yes	C.B.
12. Brentry Lane, Brentry	57377879	No	W.P.
13. " "	57407879	Yes	C.B.
14. Charlton Rd, Brentry	57787873	No	? W.P.
15. " "	57787873	Yes	C.B.
16. " "	58277921	No	W.P. or H.P.
17. Charlton Rd, Pen Park	58567942		W.P. or H.P.
18. Clack Mill, Sea Mills	55407693	No	W.P.
19. " "	55417693	No	? C.B.
20. Clarence Place, Kingsdown	58277375	No	C.B. or W.P.
21. Coombe Hill	56087818	Yes	C.B.
22. " "	56147812	Yes	C.B.
23. " "	55897805	Yes	J.S.H.
24. Cote House, Cote	57147599	No	D.D.
25. Cote Lodge, Cote	57097585	No	D.D.
26. " "	57117585	No	D.D.
27. " "	57137582	No	D.D.
28. " "	57157582	No	D.D.

	Location	NGR	Extant	Type
29.	Cote Lodge, Cote	57167582	No	D.D.
30.	" "	57177587	No	D.D.
31.	Cotham Brow, Cotham	58717425	Yes	St.P. or W.P.
32.	Cotham Brow/Cheltenham Rd	58897461	No	W.P. or St.P.
33.	Cotham Rd, Cotham	58677412	Yes	W.P.
34.	Cotham Side, Cotham	58707411		W.P.
35.	Devonshire Rd, Westbury Park	57617572	No	
36.	The Dingle, Coombe Dingle	55777729	Yes	C.B.
37.	Downend, Durdham Down	56167502	Yes	D.D.
38.	Durdham Down	56477460	Yes	W.P./C.P.
39.	"	56537463	No	W.P. or C.P.
40.	"	56607467	Yes	W.P./C.P.
41.	"	56707476	Yes	? M.C.
42.	"	56717475	Yes	W.P.
43.	"	56717475	No	
44.	"	56807484	Yes	? M.C.
45.	"	56817482	Yes	W.P. or C.P.
46.	"	56907492	Yes	? M.C.
47.	"	57057523	No	C.B.
48.	"	57067543	No	C.B.
49.	"	57297614	No	D.D.
50.	"	57337601	No	D.D.
51.	"	57367590	No	D.D.
52.	Durdham Lodge, Durdham Down	56657519	No	D.D.
53.	" "	56677515	No	D.D.
54.	Gloucester Rd, Bishopston	58877475	No	W.P.
55.	Hampton Rd, Cotham	58057399		
56.	" "	58157389	Yes	W.P.
57.	" "	58157394	Yes	W.P.
58.	Hazel Brook, Blaise Estate	55767799	Yes	C.B.
59.	" "	55847810	No	W.P.
60.	" "	55887822	Yes	C.B.
61.	" "	55907822	No	W.P.
62.	Henbury Hill	56697819	No	? W.P.
63.	"	56717822	Yes	C.B.
64.	"	56737822	No	W.P.
65.	"	56737822	Yes	C.B.
66.	Henburyhill House, Henbury Hill	56767823		W.P. or H.P.
67.	Henleaze	58617690		W.P.

Location	NGR	Extant	Type
68. Henleaze	58347629	No	W.P.
69. "	58227633	No	
70. "	58167624		? W.P. or Ho.P.
71. "	58107621		C.B.
72. "	58037627	No	C.B.
73. "	58057630	No	C.B.
74. "	58037631	No	
75. "	57987635		C.B.
76. "	57817620		C.B.
77. "	57917615		C.B.
78. "	58267616		W.P. or Ho.P.
79. Highbury Chapel, Cotham	58237384		C.B. or W.P.
80. Hollybush Lane, Stoke Bishop	56747551	No	D.D.
81. " "	56747553	No	D.D.
82. " "	56757551	No	D.D.
83. Ivywell Rd, Durdham Down	56187506	Yes	D.D.
84. " "	56187506	Yes	D.D.
85. Ivywell House, Ivywell Rd	56227503	Yes	D.D.
86. Ivywell Rd/Rockleaze	56357493	No	D.D.
87. Julian Rd/Downleaze	56557502	No	D.D.
88. Ladies' Mile, Durdham Down	56927490	Yes	W.P.
89. Lovers' Walk, Cotham	58537438	Yes	
90. North View, Henleaze	57537580	No	C.B.
91. Parry's Lane, Durdham Down	57047579	No	D.D.
92. " "	57047580	No	D.D.
93. " "	57077572	No	D.D.
94. " "	57077574	No	C.B.
95. Pen Park	58347911	Yes	C.B.
96. "	59507944		? W.P.
97. "	59507944		? C.B.
98. "	59607998		? C.B.
99. "	59767989		W.P.
100. "	59767989		? C.B.
101. Home Farm, Pen Park	58837959	No	W.P. or H.P.
102. " "	58887962	No	W.P. or H.P.
103. " "	58897962	No	W.P. or H.P.
104. Pen Park Manor House, Pen Park	59077914		F.P. or W.P.

	Location	NGR	Extant	Type
105.	Redland (Cran Brook)	58177580		? C.B.
106.	Redland Grove, Cotham	58507437	Yes	
107.	River Avon, Avon Gorge	56007459	No	
108.	" "	56017458	No	
109.	River Avon, Sea Mills	54917584	No	
110.	" "	54987584	Yes	W.P.
111.	" "	54987584	Yes	
112.	River Avon, Sneyd Park	55007542		
113.	" "	55147509		
114.	St. Alban's Rd, Westbury Park	57717576	No	C.B.
115.	St. Helena Rd, Westbury Park	57557569	No	C.B.
116.	St. Matthew's Rd, Kingsdown	58717402	Yes	St.J. or W.P.
117.	St. Michael's Hill, Kingsdown	58257379		C.B. or W.P.
118.	Sambourne, Durdham Down	56017487		D.D.
119.	Saville Rd, Durdham Down	56827544		
120.	" "	56827543		
121.	" "	56837543		D.D.
122.	" "	56847544		
123.	" "	56857544		
124.	" "	56877545		
125.	" "	56877546		
126.	" "	56927549		
127.	" "	56957522		D.D.
128.	" "	56957552		
129.	" "	57007559		
130.	" "	57017560		
131.	" "	57027562		
132.	" "	57047564		
133.	" "	57057566		D.D.
134.	Sheep Wood, Brentry	57087842		W.P. or H.P.
135.	" "	57117843		W.P. or H.P.
136.	Southmead	58937758		W.P.
137.	" "	59277819		W.P., Ho.P. or F.P.
138.	" "	59317843	Yes	C.B.
139.	Southmead Rd, Southmead	59307844		? C.B.
140.	" "	59307845		? C.B.
141.	Springfort, Durdham Down	56807543	No	D.D.
142.	Stoke Hill, Durdham Down	56577531	No	D.D.
143.	" "	56597530	No	D.D.
144.	" "	56597529	No	D.D.
145.	" "	56607530	No	D.D.

Location	NGR	Extant	Type
146. Stoke Hill, Durdham Down	56627531	No	D.D.
147. Stoke Rd, Durdham Down	57047503	Yes	W.P.
148. " "	57147496	No	C.P. or W.P.
149. " "	57317483	No	C.P. or W.P.
150. Tower Hirst, Durdham Down	55947479	No	D.D.
151. " "	55967475	Yes	D.D.
152. Tyndall's Park	57887358		W.P.
153. Tyndall's Park Rd, Cotham	57867362	Yes	W.P. or C.P.
154. Upper Cranbrook Rd, Westbury Pk	57677585	No	C.B.
155. Walcombe Slade, Avon Gorge	56147445	No	W.P.
156. Westbury Rd, Henleaze	57277625	No	D.D.
157. " "	57297625	No	D.D.
158. Whiteladies Gate	57767411	Yes	W.P.
159. Whiteladies Rd, Clifton	57407471	No	W.P. or C.P.
160. " "	57407472	No	W.P. or C.P.
161. Whiteladies Rd, Redland	57577444	No	W.P.
162. Whiteladies Rd, Cotham	57837376		C.P. or W.P.
163. " "	57857366		C.P. or W.P.
164. " "	57857369		C.P. or W.P.
165. White Tree, Durdham Down	57267578	No	C.B.
166. Zetland Rd/Elton Rd, Redland	58847477	No	W.P. or Ho.P.

STONES

1. The Avenue, Sneyd Park	56217517	No	
2. Ellinthorp, Stoke Park Rd	56627545	No	
3. Elm Lane, Redland	57597488	No	
4. The Glen, Durdham Down	57367501		
5. " "	57417503		
6. Hampton Rd, Cotham	58057399	?No	
7. " "	58057399	?No	
8. " "	58067405	No	
9. Hazelwood Rd, Sneyd Park	56087511	No	
10. Julian Rd, Sneyd Park	56107532	No	
11. " "	56157525	No	
12. " "	56217520	No	
13. Knoll Hill, Sneyd Park	55777505	No	
14. " "	55627513	No	
15. " "	55707512	No	

Location	NGR	Extant	Type
16. Mariners Path, Stoke Bishop	56127541	No	
17. Redland Green	57947492	Yes	
18. Redland Green 57957494 to	57957496	Yes	8 stones
19. Redland Rd, Westbury Park	57627510	No	
20. Southmead Rd, Southmead	58957836	No	

* * * * *

DEVELOPMENT OBSERVATION GROUP

Since the last report from D.O.G. nothing very spectacular has happened.

We have nearly 50 keen (and not so keen!) volunteers keeping watch over nearly 500 building sites in and around the city. There have been mostly negative reports but these in themselves are important. Some 18th century tanks have been reported in Clifton, a fish pond in Stoke Bishop and some medieval pottery at Stockwood. The same volunteer at Stockwood, although not following a D.O.G. site, found a late Roman military buckle on one of Professor Tratman's identified earthworks. This buckle, typical of equipment associated with German mercenaries (known as Foederati), is similar to one found at Sea Mills and although each had one half missing they were opposite halves and so one can now see how the original looked.

Some of our keenest volunteers have had to leave the group because they have left Bristol for college or university or because they have moved their place of work. We would like to thank the following for all that they have done - Stephen Cogbill, Paul Golding, Michael Lidgley and James Milton. Mr Geoffrey White has also had to retire and we miss not only his detailed reports but also the amusing drawings which came with them!

We would be most grateful if we could hear from any other members of BARG who would be willing to help us. There are large areas of Bristol which remain partly unwatched, for example we need more watchers for Bedminster, Bishopsworth, Hartcliffe, Knowle, Brislington, Fishponds, Soundwell, Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle; the volunteers in other places are rather overworked and would be grateful for some relief. If you can help, please write to Michael Ponsford or to me at the City Museum.

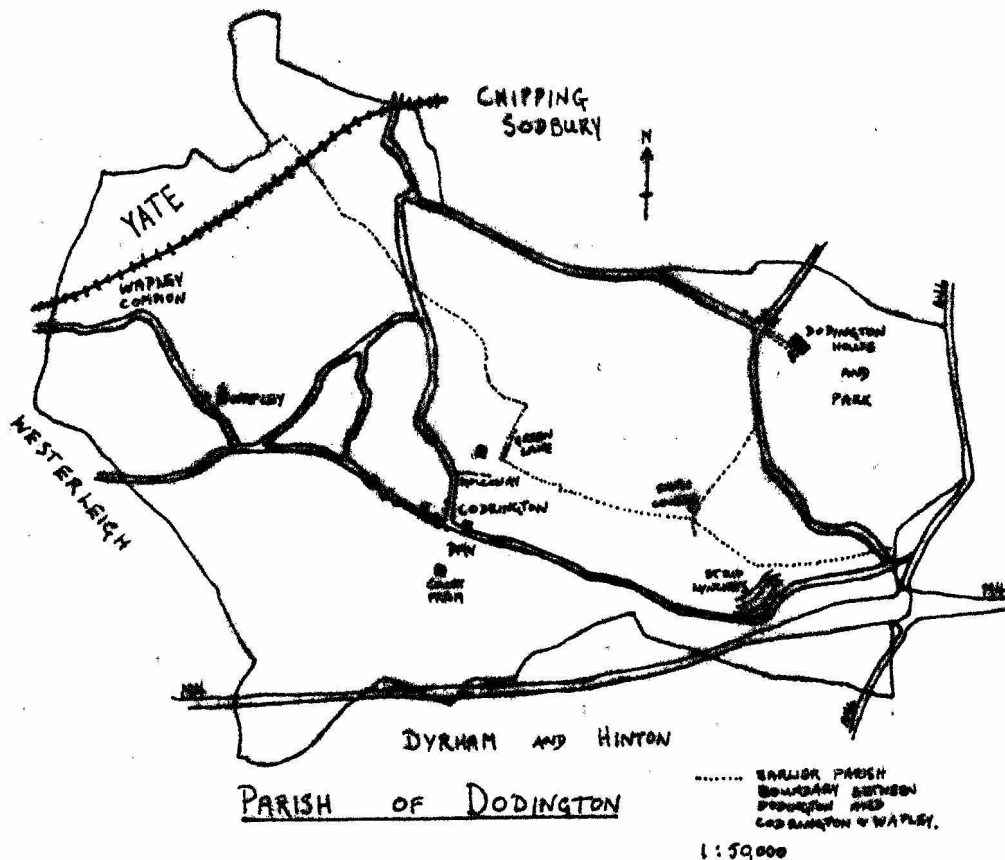
Mary Campbell

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MALTWOOD FUND FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN SOMERSET

Applications are invited for grants-in-aid of archaeological research to be carried out in the county of Somerset (as formerly constituted) during 1978. Applications need not be limited to excavation projects. The grants amount to £1,000. Applications should be submitted by 31 January 1978, and addressed to J S Skidmore Royal Society of Arts, John Adam St, Adelphi, London WC2N 6EZ

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DODINGTON PARISH SURVEY

by
Cynthia Poole

The parish survey is being undertaken by the University Archaeological Society in conjunction with the PSU of BARG. It was decided to conduct the survey to give students an opportunity of taking an active part in local archaeology. The parish of Dodington was chosen as the proposed expansion of the new town of Yate will cover 1,220 acres of the parish and so housing developments will threaten any archaeology in the area. The developers, Ronson Trust and Heron Homesteads Ltd., have kindly given us permission to field walk all land owned by them.

Dodington lies about 12 miles to the NE of Bristol and is bounded by the M4 on the S side, the A46 to the E and Chipping Sodbury and Yate to the N. Most of the parish is underlain by Lias limestone and Lias clays and so a lot of the fields are under permanent pasture. Only at the eastern edge of the parish does it rise up the Cotswold escarpment onto the higher ground of the Oolitic limestone, reflected in the lighter soils and arable agriculture.

Dodington was originally divided into two parishes of Dodington, and Codrington and Wapley; each parish also having a manor. Though no Saxon Charter survives for the parish, that of Dyrham does, and the southern boundary of Codrington and Wapley shared with Dyrham appears to be the same as in the Saxon period.

The parish consists of scattered farms and three hamlets of Codrington, Wapley and Dodington. The largest today is Codrington, where a number of houses, including the old smithy, line the main road (originally a turnpike road). Most of the houses appear to be 18th or 19th century, but Dean and Chapter Farm is an early Tudor stone house and was once part of the lands belonging to St. Augustine's Abbey in Bristol, later granted to the Dean and Chapter of the city. Codrington Court, of medieval origin, was the manor house and was moated until the construction of the M4; there are also fishponds associated as well as a small chapel attached to Codrington Court. However, the parish church is situated at Wapley and dates to the 12th century. Nearby is the 19th century school house, built in Victorian Gothic style.

At Dodington, part of the manorial estate was emparked in the 18th century and landscaped by Capability Brown. About 1800 the old manor house built in 1557 was rebuilt as a classical mansion by James Wyatt, who also redesigned the church on the plan of a Greek Cross.

Most work has so far concentrated on the documentary evidence, and the study of early records has revealed several possible sites. Leland writing in the 16th century records 'A glasse with bones yn a sepulchre found by Dodington church yn the highway. Pottes florishide in the Romanes tymes diggid out of the ground in the fildes of Dodington. A yerthen pott with Romyne coins found in Dodington Felde'. In the 19th century Witts recorded a Roman villa or settlement near Sands Court and Crawford suggested 2 fields to the W of Sands Court may represent the site due to the field names of Blacklands and Chescomb. But when the fields were examined, during ploughing, all evidence was negative, and the villa is probably within Dodington Park. Instead, at the bottom of the field we found the foundations of a building, that had possibly been some sort of mill, as a stream runs over the foundations of one side of the building. Also in the same field was found a squared stone, unworked on the lower side, but on the top it had a crisscross pattern carved on it.

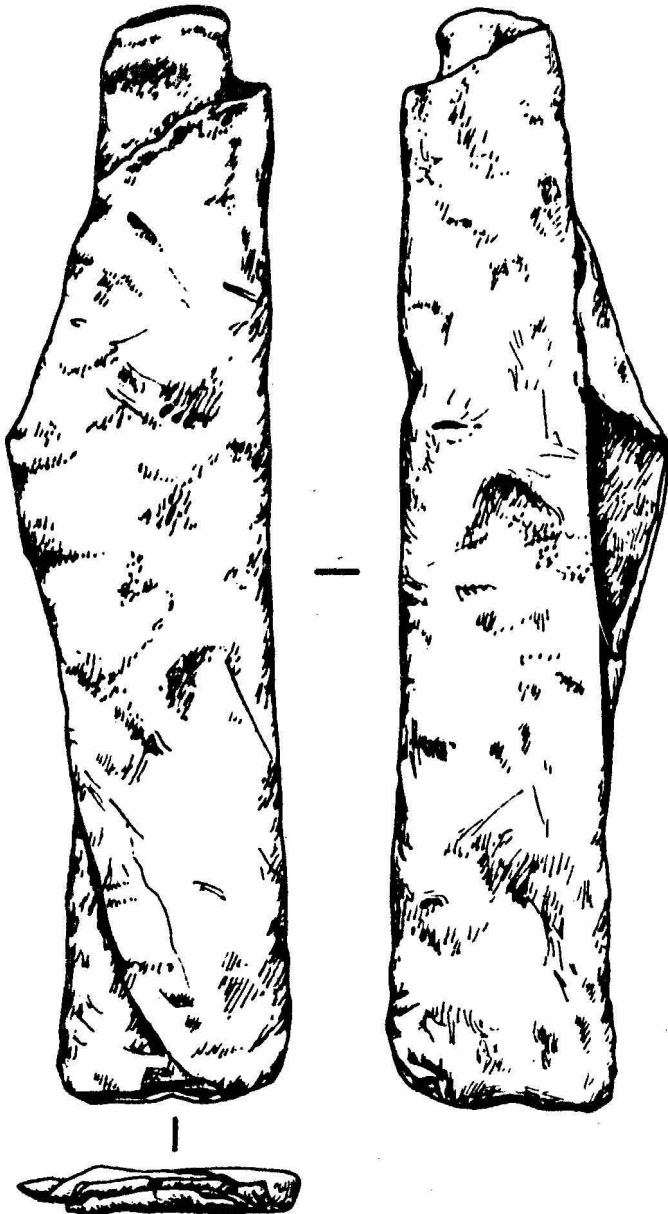
Various medieval earthworks are still visible including some strip lynchets in the SE of the parish on the Cotswold escarpment. At Codrington between the manor and main road is a complex of earthworks, some of the earliest perhaps being associated with a Deserted Medieval Village. The remains of holloways, platforms and pillow mounds may still be seen and during fieldwalking scatters of building stone was noted, though little was found in the way of pottery.

On the northern edge of the village, the earliest map of Codrington (made in 1762) shows a number of houses which have since disappeared. A road, however, is still visible as a holloway and it may also be possible to trace some of the house platforms. A map of 1814 also records a 'green lane' along part of the old parish boundary between Codrington and Dodington; green lanes normally marked out estate boundaries, and in this case is probably the original boundary between the two manors.

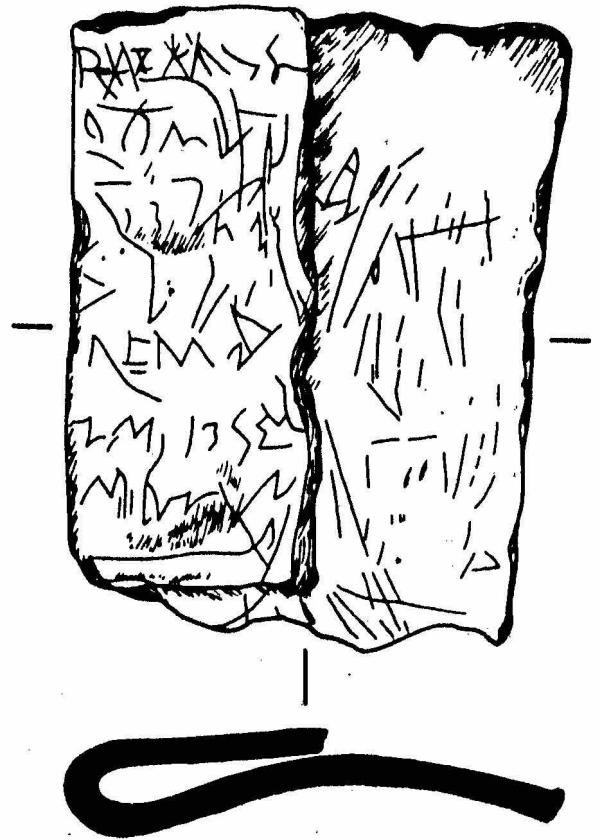
There are also a number of industrial remains, such as quarries and mines; Several of the disused stone quarries are still visible, but some are only recorded as field names, such as 'Gravel Pits' and 'Upper and Lower Clay Hill'; sometimes this evidence is supported by early maps, showing quarries on these sites. A coal mine was also being worked in the 1830s on Wapley Common, and in 1903 there is a record of the right to dig for strontium.

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WEST HILL, ULEY



Rolled lead sheet
scale 1:1



Inscribed lead sheet
scale 1:1

WHP
of 188

Drawings by Helen Humphreys

WEST HILL, ULEY 1977

by

Ann Ellison

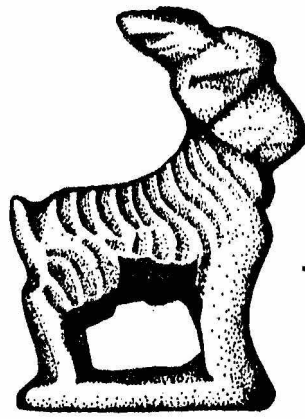
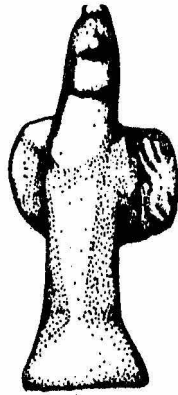
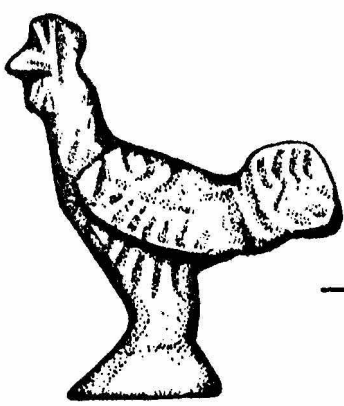
During the summer of 1976, the Severn Trent Water Authority laid a water main in a pipe trench along the western limit of a field on West Hill. This revealed traces of Roman occupation including pits, quarries, a culvert, stone walls and a single late Roman coffin burial. These features were recorded and drawn by a small team from CRAAGS. The stone walls were concentrated halfway down the field and a series of finds suggested the presence of a religious Roman building, probably a temple. These finds included miniature votive pots, coins, rolled lead sheets bearing inscriptions which would have been presented to the gods at the temple, and a fragment of a Winged Victory statuette in bronze.

Owing to the continued damage of the site during agricultural operations and the danger of destruction of the archaeological layers by treasure hunters, it was decided that a major rescue excavation should be mounted in 1977 in order to excavate and record the complex of buildings.

During the nine-week season, three main ranges of Roman buildings were partially excavated: a square Romano-Celtic temple and two sets of multi-roomed massive stone-walled structures.

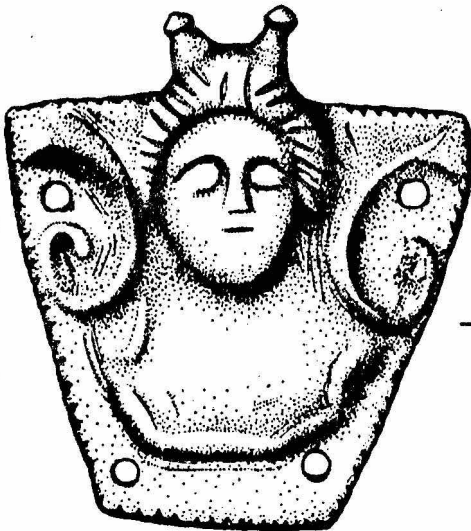
The Temple (Structure II)

The temple plan was of standard Romano-Celtic type consisting of a square within a square, the side of the outer square measuring 14 metres. The slight mortared stone footings would probably have supported a superstructure mainly in timber. The ambulatory had a worn cobbled floor and had been faced internally with plain wall plaster. No flooring had survived in the cella, but in its centre lay a large hole which may originally have held a sacred tree, a large post or a container for water. This hole contained about 500 bronze coins. Coin evidence suggests that the temple was built in the second quarter of the 4th century and was demolished towards AD 400. Around the temple were the traces of a layer of rubbish containing votive objects and many animal bones which seem to have been cleared out of the temple at the time of demolition. The votive objects include two small bronze figures of Mercury, a bucket mount of the stag-horned deity Cernunnos, miniature bronzes of a goat and a cockerel, and a caduceus in silver wire. A small defaced altar bearing a representation in relief of Mercury with a goat and cockerel was also recovered. Analysis of the animal bones (by Bruce Levitan) is demonstrating that the bones are probably the remains of sacrifices, the species represented being 90% goat and 2% male Gallus i.e. cockerel. The most important find has been the recovery of 162 rolled sheets (83 in fair condition), some of which definitely bear inscriptions in cursive Latin. These can be paralleled by the well-known 'curses' from Lydney, Bath and elsewhere, and the find will undoubtedly represent a major contribution to the study of Roman epigraphy in Britain. The northern ambulatory was not excavated owing to the complexity of the post-temple stratigraphy.

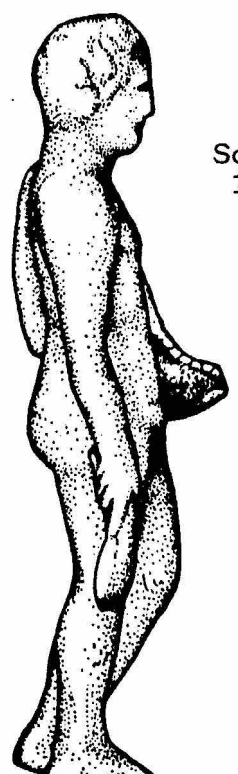
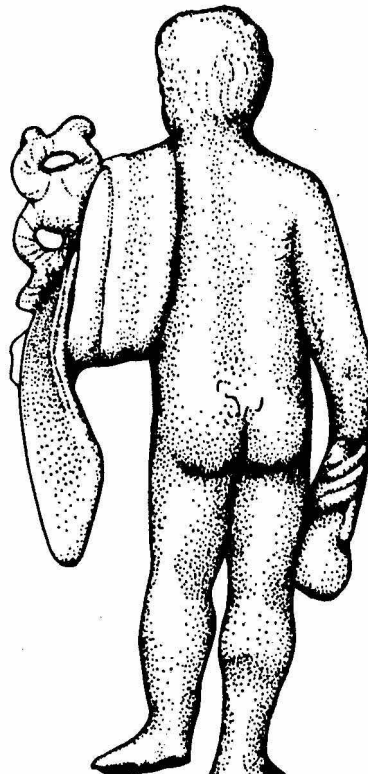
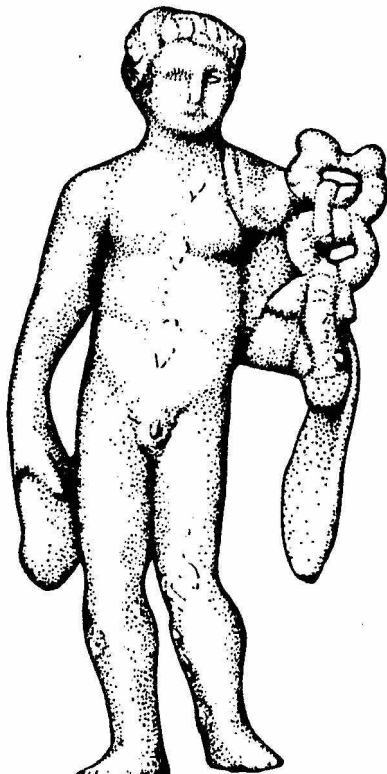
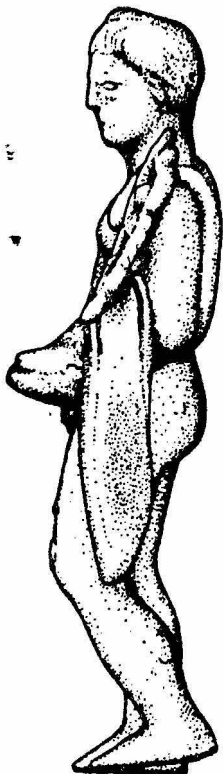


Bronze cockerel Scale 2:1

Bronze goat or ram Scale 2:1



Bronze bucket mount of the Celtic stag-horned deity Cernunnos
Scale 1:1



Scale
1:1

Bronze statuette of Mercury holding his emblem, the caduceus & a purse

Structure I : W of the temple and partly lying under the modern road stood a range of stone-built rooms. These were of several building phases but the whole range was roughly contemporary with Structure II but demolished before it. The building possessed cobbled floors throughout, several hearths, some painted wall plaster and was roofed with Old Red Sandstone tiles. It may have functioned as a range of shops supplying votive objects to the worshippers or as part of a guest house.

Structure III : E of the temple stood the foundations of four sides of a small hexagonal structure which may have formed a surround for a statue or other ritual focus. The nature of the footings and the associated finds (pottery) suggest however that this structure may have been connected with the post-temple Structure VII and not with the temple itself.

Structures IV & V : SE of the temple lay an earlier range of rooms, possibly shops or domestic premises occupied during the 3rd century and possibly demolished at the time the temple was built. The buildings extend S and E beyond the limits of the 1977 excavation, and are characterised by cobbled floors, hearths and fire-places and some painted wall plaster.

Structures VI & VII : On the N side of the cutting, topsoil cover is greater and the post-temple deposits have survived intact. These contain evidence of at least three phases of post-temple timber structures. Associated finds comprise worn Theodosian coinage and various categories of hand-made pottery, including grass-tempered ware. Owing to the complexity of the stratigraphy and the relatively small areas of post-temple deposits uncovered these areas were not fully excavated but the plans of two buildings were recorded.

Structure VII lies directly over the demolished remains of the temple and comprises a rectangular, possibly aisled, core supported in post-pits. At the NW end there is a small apsidal extension with pitched stone foundations (incorporating re-used Roman mortar and plaster) and a worn paved stone floor which incorporated the inverted defaced Roman altar, at its apex. Immediately SE of the main structure is a further room (6 x 4m) with massive unmortared pitched stone foundations. These may have supported a tower or stair turret, either attached to Structure VII or free-standing. Although no firm evidence is available, the siting of the building immediately over the remains of the temple and the apparently deliberate re-use of the defaced altar suggest that Structure VII may have fulfilled a religious function.

Earlier phases : The cobbled floors in all three major Roman structures had subsided into the fill of earlier features. Beneath the temple itself were the remains of a 3rd century timber structure, which was probably associated with two long ditches or palisade trenches which underlay Structures I and IV/V respectively. A large Iron Age pit and part of a circular feature were also located beneath the temple.

Ann Ellison
Field Officer
CRAAGS

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EXCAVATIONS AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, BRISTOL

by

Roger Price

At the time of writing one trench has been totally excavated and backfilled and two more are very close to completion. All three lie towards the S end of the hospital precinct, ie at the end nearest the River Frome.

A major focus of attention has been a very substantial building, some 15 x 16 m in area, probably built in the late Norman period and incorporating two standing pillars within its structure. This has been interpreted as the chapel of the hospital because of the standing arcade and the numerous human burials (of 14th-15th century date) found within its confines. Excavation has revealed about 10 freestone pillar bases of very substantial build which would have supported other pillars.

The building, was, in all likelihood, erected before the supposed foundation date of the hospital (c. 1240) and suggestions as to its original function change as the excavation progresses. At the time of writing the provisional interpretation (which may be completely altered at any time) is that there was originally a domestic building with undercroft floor level some 3m below present ground level which had been taken over and rebuilt as the hospital chapel. Such a building may have belonged to the la Warre family, the founders of the institution, but the elucidation of this point requires much more research. If it was such, it is Bristol's only surviving example of Norman domestic architecture. Alternatively, the building may have originally been built to serve a religious function, as indicated by William Worcester in c. 1480. Further excavation, particularly outside the present site, below Narrow Lewins Mead, is crucial for the clarification of this issue.

Be that as it may, it seems that this early building was in a perilous state by the 13th century and liable to have collapsed - perhaps this was a factor in the foundation of the hospital and it may have been caused by the cutting of the River Frome. The internal freestone pillar bases were thus braced by walls inserted between them; probably the E wall was demolished and the building extended in that direction. The whole structure was then backfilled with debris to bring the ground level to approximately what it is today. The southern porch would then have been built to lead into the south aisle (this could not be excavated owing to the presence of modern cellars), and this same survives as the main gateway to the site. This concept is confirmed by human burials, probably of 14th or 15th century date, which lay only about a metre below modern floor levels, some of them over the old eastern wall.

It is of interest to note that the W end of the N aisle seems to have served a domestic rather than religious function from the 14th century onwards. A hearth with associated charcoal spread, fishbones and general debris were found and dated to the early 14th century by coin and pottery evidence.

This indicates that the presumed arcade between the nave and north aisle must have been blocked in by this date. It may well be that this part of the building never served a religious function and became a domestic range, perhaps the guest-house or refectory, when the hospital took over from the previous occupiers.

The trench to the N of the chapel, which was the first to be excavated, showed a jetty built in oak and leading towards the Frome. The tentative date of this structure is 13th century and it is particularly interesting when seen in conjunction with a contemporary reference to a 'broad ford' across the river discovered by Elizabeth Ralph and communicated to the writer verbally. The jetty may have represented a landing-stage or the beginnings of some such crossing-point. The level of the jetty is comparable with the ground level of the Norman building to the S and confirms the view that, despite apparent river levels, the 12/13th ground level was some 2-3m below what it is today.

This raises a whole series of questions as to the topography of Bristol during the early Middle Ages and it is hoped that continued excavation on and around the present site will help to answer some of these crucial points.

Roger Price
Director of Excavations
City Museum, Bristol

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BARG ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

by

Peter Maggs

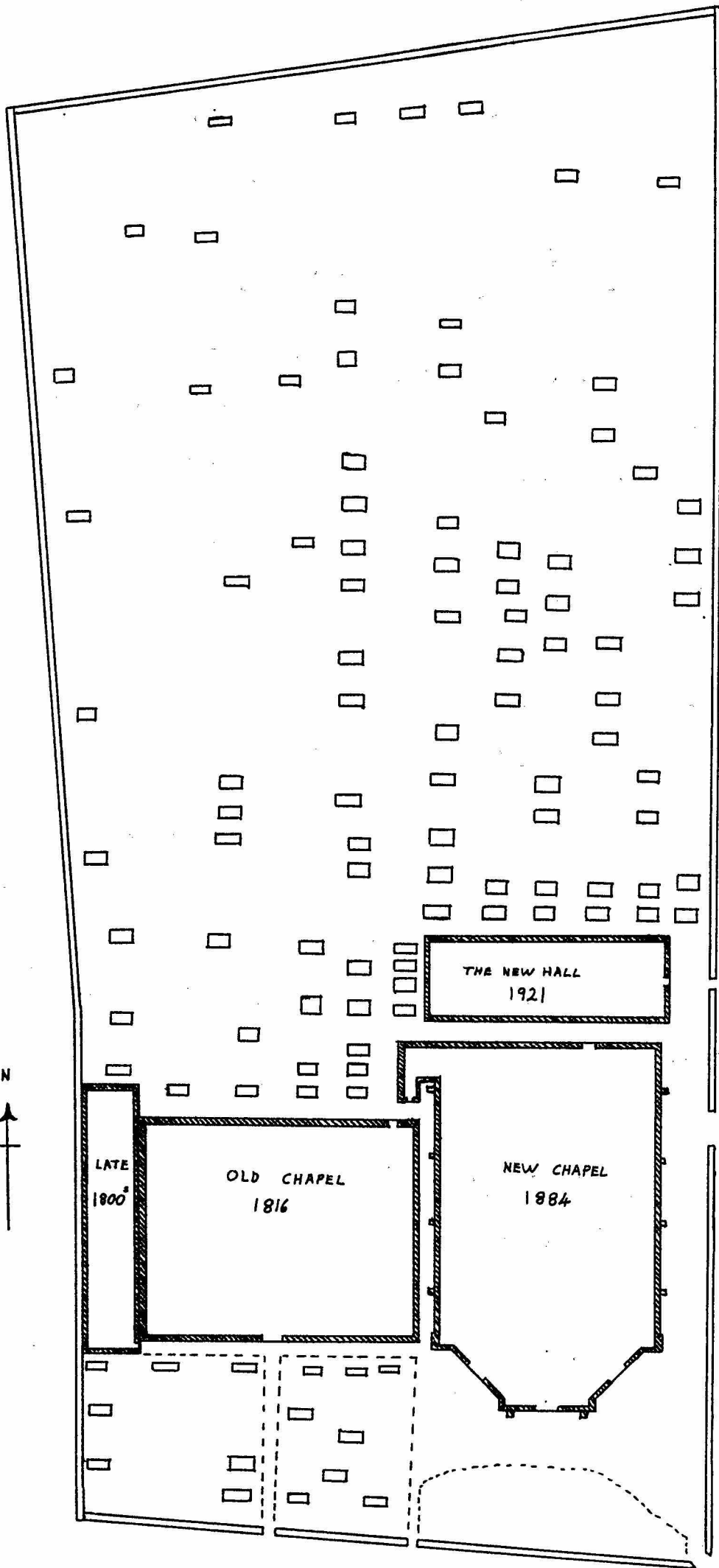
Associate members are reminded to check regularly the winter lecture programme to avoid missing any of the planned talks. Those aged under 18 are welcome at all BARG events - not just those of the Associate section. Conversely no adult members of BARG should be put-off coming to any of our talks or summer trips for fear of feeling out of place - normally adults form a substantial proportion of those attending the events of the section.

I am grateful to those who have assisted on the 1977 summer trips; in particular B Macfarlane and Angela Sandalls for driving the sometimes temperamental minibuses, and to D Dawson, Jo Harrison and others who have imparted some of their knowledge and opinions on the sites we have visited. My thanks are also due to those who have agreed to give lectures, and to the writers of accounts of our excursions for the Bulletin.

Have you any ideas for future activities? Already a number of suggestions have been made for sites to visit. These range from central Bristol to a week in the Irish Republic, either camping or in inexpensive accommodation. Obviously the success and viability of such a project depend on YOUR SUPPORT. Please inform the Associate Secretary or any member of the Committee if you wish to participate.

(Unfortunately, through lack of space, an account of the Associates tour of sites in Hampshire is held over for a future issue. Ed).

Plan of
Redfield
Methodist
Churchyard



REDFIELD METHODIST CHURCH, BRISTOL

by

John Saysell

Redfield churchyard comprises three buildings: the first is the old chapel which was a fine place in its time, the foundation stone was laid in 1815 and the chapel was opened in 1816.

The second was the new chapel, erected in 1884 at a cost of £3,000, and built in a Gothic style of architecture of Pennant stone and freestone dressings. It was quite a beautiful chapel inside, and I am sorry to see it closed.

The third building was the new hall, erected in 1921 at the cost of £1,000, and is now used as a scouts hall.

There is another building associated with the churchyard, the old Sunday schoolroom which was erected in about 1846 and still stands today.

* * * * *

MUSEUM NEWS & ROUNDUP

(1) Wantok Bilong Mi (Bristol City Museum) 19 November - 24 Dec.

This is the title of an exhibition showing aspects of life in Papua New Guinea. The objects on display come from Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery's ethnography collections, and include such items as articles of dress and jewellery, weapons for war and for hunting, bags and fishing nets knitted out of string, ceremonial and religious objects - masks, charms, drums and bull roarers, and tools used in the manufacture of other objects (pump drills, boar tusk planes and a shark skin file). All the exhibits are made from natural materials, such as bone, shell, wood and vegetable fibres. Metals only came into common use with the colonial era in the 19th century and the traditional way of life in Papua New Guinea has, in the main, lasted until the last few decades of this century when Papua New Guinea began its emergence from its 'stone age'. In remoter areas this emergence is only beginning now. Despite modernisation, grass skirts and mud masks, among others of the exhibits, are still made and used today. The value of the exhibition to the archaeologist is that it helps to show what is lost from the early history of this country (eg Britain) and others, where most of the wood and vegetable products of earlier civilisations do not survive.

Sue Giles (BCM)

(2) Say When Victoria & Albert Museum, London until 12 Feb.

This is the intriguing title of an exhibition which

exhibits 94 pieces of pottery, without clues, labels, words or even a scrap of velvet or hint of pomp in a showcase, to enable you, the spectator, to decide for yourself the date, provenance and worth of each piece. The pots are, we are informed, from the last 600 years. At the end of the exhibition you are presented with a catalogue describing each piece. A valuable fresh approach to looking at museum objects.

(3) The Bible in British Art (V & A) until 8 January

The exhibition includes medieval manuscripts, oil paintings, drawings, gravings, designs for stained glass and some supporting representation of embroidery and sculpture. The work shown traces the changes and developments of thought and expression from the tenth to the twentieth century, beginning with the vividness of Anglo-Saxon outline in the 'Caedmon' Genesis of c. AD 1000.

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Except where there are good reasons to the contrary, these notes are limited to general works with a local bearing and publications covering the counties of Avon, S Gloucestershire, N Somerset and W Wiltshire.

L V Grinsell

Periodicals

Antiquity 51 (3), November 1977 includes (236-7) a note by Prof D T Donovan on 'Stony Littleton Long Barrow', in which he identifies the principal slabs as of Blue Lias, the nearest known source being at Newton St Loe, 8 km to the NNW.

Antiquity Index to volumes 26-50 is about to be published at £8 (paper bound) including postage.

Avon Archaeological Council Newsletter No. 4 Autumn 1977

'A seventh foot on the Pool Farm cist slab?' (Michael Pitts); 'the County of Avon and the Druids' (L V Grinsell); 'Charterhouse-on-Mendip: a suburban sprawl?' (P J Fowler & Barri Jones); 'Early Montpelier, Part II' (Jo Harrison); 'Alfred Selley: A Bristol Antiquary' (C M Sykes); 'A system for marking finds' (Tom Crowe). Review: Search the journal of the Banwell Society for Archaeology. Society profiles: 1, The Northavon Society for Archaeology & Associated Field Studies; 2, Woodspring Museum. 'Avon field notes' (R Iles & P Ellis). List of constituent societies of the Avon Archaeological Council.

Current Archaeology 58, September 1977. 'Causewayed camps' by the editor (335-40) includes a précis of the excavation of the neolithic causewayed enclosure on Crickley Hill (Glos.) during the seasons of 1975-7; two structural phases have been provisionally distinguished.

History (Journal of the Historical Association) vol 62 (no. 205), June 1977. 'Sub-Roman Britain: History and Legend' (David N Dumville), a scholarly and well documented attempt to 'relate the traditionally-employed historical, or pseudo-historical, sources to the new evidence offered by archaeology'. He considers that the writers of recent books on Arthurian matters have failed to achieve this satisfactorily.

Proc. University of Bristol Spelaeological Society 14 (3), 1977
'The quaternary deposits of the Mendips, Bath and Bristol areas ...' (A B Hawkins & E K Tratman); 'The Uphill quarry caves, Weston-super-Mare: a reassessment of the evidence' (R A Harrison).

Books and Pamphlets

Barker, P A Techniques of Archaeological Excavation. 1977. Batsford, London. 279 pp, 86 figs. £8.95 cloth; £4.75 paper covers.

Grinsell, L V. The Rollright Stones and their Folklore. 1977 The Toucan Press, St Peter Port, Guernsey. 16 pp, 30p

Hoyle, Sir Fred. On Stonehenge. 1977. Heinemann, London. £4.50 Deals with the monument from the astronomical angles.

Musty, John. The Ancient Monuments Laboratory (of the Dept of the Environment). HMSO 27pp 30p.

Toller Hugh. Roman Lead Coffins and Ossuaries in Britain. 1977 (British Archaeological Reports No. 38). Oxford. 87pp. £1.90 A valuable survey describing 243 lead coffins and related objects, including 8 in old Gloucestershire, 13 in old Somerset, and 8 in Wiltshire.

In the press; Grinsell, LV The Druids and Stonehenge: The Story of a Myth. 1978. The Toucan Press. St Peter Port, Guernsey.

STOP PRESS : FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

April 1978

RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE BRISTOL AREA I: Roman, Medieval and Later excavations and research originated by Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery Bristol City Museum Monograph No. 2

1. A Romano-British Relief from Cadbury Camp, Tickenham, Avon by Ian Burrow & Julian Bennett.
2. Human Remains from a sub-Roman Cemetery at Station Rd, Portishead, Avon by Juliet Rogers, with an introduction by M W Ponsford.
3. Excavations at Bristol Bridge, 1975 by Roger Price.
4. Excavations of the Town Wall, Baldwin Street, 1974, by Roger Price, with pottery analysis by M W Ponsford & R Price.
5. Survey and Excavation near St Peter's Churchyard, Bristol, 1972 by Roger Price, with pottery analysis by M W Ponsford & R Price.
6. Some Notes Concerning Medieval Bristol Potters by Roger Price.
7. A Bearded Jug from Wedmore, Somerset, and Anthropomorphic Medieval Vessels from Bristol by M W Ponsford.
8. Some Late Medieval Floor Tiles from Acton Court, Iron Acton, Avon, 1974 by Bruce Williams.
9. A Survey of the Churchyard of St John Baptist, Bedminster, Bristol by D P Dawson.

REVIEWS

Bristol Castle and the Old Market Area: Historic Development and Buildings within a Town Trail. 1977 24pp. by Dorothy Brown

It was all too obvious to those of us who attended the BARG PSU field seminar last October that Old Market is a very sad neglected area. At last it has found a champion in the indefatigable Dorothy Brown who has obviously put an enormous amount of her own energy and resources into this attractive booklet.

The publication is a brief history of an area which is wider than the title suggests, including the extension of the medieval suburb into West Street, Broad Plain and the Dings. (The digressions into Broadmead and Temple Fee could have perhaps been better left to later publications concerned with these areas which are quite distinct in their development from the Castle and Old Market). Through a large number of plates and line drawings, the author refers us to the buildings which survive in an excellent attempt to put them back into their historical context, and it is clear from these pages that an amazing wealth of buildings are still standing. Inevitably, some of my personal favourites have been omitted (Kingsland (1836) and Anvil Street (1834) Chapels, rare survivals in the city of severely Classical design of Non-Conformist chapels of the early 19th century), but most are included. I am sure anyone who walks round the area with this booklet will see most of the buildings worth seeing.

It is unfortunate that final production seems to have been a little rushed as a number of simple slips have crept in (eg St. Jame's Priory Church nave p.4) but sadly in a few places the text is factually adrift, notably in some references to Bristol Castle and to the porcelain industry (p.20). Similar errors appear in the drawings. For instance, the example of a timber framed house on p.10 would look happier in the Welsh Marches than in Bristol where the tradition of decorating 17th century framed buildings was quite different (cf Llandoger Trow), and I cannot understand why the author is so unhappy about the huge 17th century gable of the 'Stag & Hounds' on p.14. Some of the drawings also feel too cramped and some, especially those of the superb mid-late 19th century Trinity Hospital, fail to capture the spirit of the subject, but these are relatively minor points. I would also have liked to see cross references between the Town Trail and the text which would make the booklet easier to use.

In conclusion, in spite of my reservations, I feel that Dorothy Brown should be heartily congratulated for her hard work in stimulating public interest through this booklet in such a fascinating but so far sadly neglected part of medieval Bristol.

David Dawson

Keith Branigan : The Roman Villa in South-West England (Moonraker Press 1977)

Professor Branigan is well known for his studies of various aspects of Roman villas in Britain. This latest work, published with the assistance of the University of Bristol, is clearly intended for popular consumption, but summarises some of the arguments advanced in articles printed elsewhere, notably in The Roman West Country and various articles in the Bristol & Gloucestershire, Dorset and Somerset Archaeological Societies' Proceedings. As a reviewer, I must state at the outset that Professor Branigan was kind enough to invite my comments on an early draft of this book, and that some of the alternative interpretations that I shall suggest have been formulated since then.

Dorset, Somerset, Avon and Gloucestershire form the core of the area studied. The natural environment of the area is first examined, and, after a brief discussion of other types of rural settlement, the book is devoted entirely to villas, emphasis being placed both on their history, their buildings and their Romanitas. An appendix examines tribal boundaries; the work is concluded with a useful catalogue of villas and an index.

In the chapters dealing with the development and subsequent decline of the villas, several important arguments are advanced. These deserve detailed consideration, for there may be other interpretations which can be placed on the available evidence.

Firstly, the view that no villas in the territory of the Durotriges date from before c. AD 200 is probably incorrect. At least ten have produced 1st or 2nd century pottery, and at least three (Littleton, Halstock and Ilchester Mead) have buildings which were constructed before c. 200. Moreover there is increasing evidence from other parts of Britain that many early villas were built in timber. Few of the excavations cited by Branigan are such that we can safely exclude the possibility that these have not been overlooked. Also, many of these excavations have only examined the latest floors of villas, particularly when mosaics have been encountered.

Secondly, there is the whole question of Gallic immigrants and villas allegedly founded by them in the late 3rd century. In S. Somerset and N. Dorset, at least, there is no evidence to suggest that any villas were founded at that time. For these and other areas covered by Branigan's arguments, there does not appear to be any serious discussion of the limitations of coin evidence. As Reece has demonstrated (Britannia III & IV), most rural sites occupied during the Roman period will have a preponderance of coins dating from c. 270 onwards, so that it is most unwise to infer from such coin assemblages that sites were founded at that date. The arguments centred around villas with intra-mural yards are also open to question. The plans shown are taken from Branigan's article of 1972 in the Bristol & Gloucestershire Proceedings where they are stated to be 'not to scale'. They are also out of proportion and omit walls and other features shown on the original excavators' plans, for instance at Frocester and Farmington. Furthermore, any argument based on parallels between Gallic and British villa plans must take into account the vast number of villas, mainly undated, revealed in their entirety by Roger Agache's work in N. France.

Thirdly, we must be sceptical of the evidence for villas being burnt in the Barbarian Conspiracy of AD 367. Quite apart from the problems of coin evidence, the use of information from past excavations is perhaps a little uncritical. At Ilchester Mead, L.C. Hayward's accounts of the excavations provide no basis for suggesting any rebuilding c. 370. At Seavington St Mary, a site poorly recorded in 1861, a list of finds included 'ash pits' and 'skeletal remains', but there is no evidence that these were either 'associated' as Branigan suggests, or that they can even be dated to the 4th century, let alone 367. The use of the West Coker evidence is equally uncritical, for Moore's original accounts show clearly that the excavations were both hurried and ill-understood. There is no evidence at all for rebuilding in the 4th century.

One feature of the book which is not entirely pleasing is the plans. These omit much information shown on the original versions, and are at a variety of scales, making comparison between them almost impossible. It would have been useful to include information about unexcavated areas, streams, contours and existing field boundaries, field names, and lanes. It seems a mistake to confine the plans of villas to their known walls.

Finally, a number of minor errors could be usefully corrected in any second edition. Despite careful proof reading, there is a number of misspellings: 'Durotrages' (p.17), courtesey (p.61), Appelbaum (p.71, 72, 73, 79). There are also several factual errors: Castleton is in Dorset (p.29); the villa at Pitney does reveal signs of 'a long history' (pp.37-8) for Hoare describes a succession of floors each replaced in turn; 'the coin series' at High Ham (p.39) is a misnomer for only three coins were found; the coins found at the Ham Hill villa did include later 4th century issues which are described by the excavators on the same page; the statement that a 'bronze shield (?) binding' was found there (pp.40, 45) is positively misleading, for the excavators referred to it only as 'a fragment of sheathing'; there is no evidence for a 'sudden flowering' of the Somerset Levels pottery industry from c. 270 (p.47), although Farrar has commented that none of the forms found there need be earlier than c. 250 (CBA Research Report 10, 93); finally, the coin of Constantius II, said to be from the Seavington St Mary villa, was in fact found elsewhere in the parish, according to Haverfield (p.332).

Readers generally will be grateful to Professor Branigan for this, the only popular account of villas in South-West England. Since it will no doubt be widely read, serious students will clearly need to approach certain of the arguments with some caution and a critical understanding of the original sources cited. For many of the villas included in the study, there are finds which have never been fully published; an assessment of this evidence is clearly necessary before any further syntheses of villa development and history are attempted.

R H Leech

Iron Age and Romano-British monuments in the Gloucestershire
Cotswolds RCHM HMSO £25

This is the first volume of the general survey of Monuments in Gloucestershire, conducted by the RCHM. Its purpose is to provide an inventory of all known monuments of Iron Age or Romano-British date in the 182 civil parishes which make up the Gloucestershire Cotswolds. Archaeologically this is a false division which divorces the lowland settlement beneath the escarpment with its pattern of villas and ancillary peasant villages, from their counterparts on the uplands. The excavations along the M5 corridor on the lowlands indicated an intensive settlement pattern in Gloucestershire during the Romano-British period. From this knowledge it is obvious that any inventory of sites in this region will become outdated very quickly. This volume is no exception. At the time of going to press (1973) it represented a complete corpus of known sites with any information on each site provided in a précis fashion. By 1977, however, a considerable amount of extra information is now available. Two dry summers have produced a wealth of new sites, from air photography, around Tetbury and Cirencester. A spate of excavations including sections in the hillforts of Nottingham Hill, Icomb, Uleybury and Norbury, and the settlement site at Guiting Power have added to our knowledge of the local Iron Age. Work continues at Crickley Hill and for the Roman period the West Hill Uley temple site and the Ashel Barn Kingscote settlement site will contribute significantly to our understanding of the period. It is unfortunate, though understandable, that the wealth of information from Cirencester is not included in the inventory.

In spite of these limitations, this volume will become a valuable reference for the IA and RB periods on the Cotswolds. It is well endowed with maps and photographs and highlights the concentrated areas of settlement. It should provide a stimulus to local workers in the field to fill in some of the lacunae. One obvious feature which cries out for an intensive study is the Celtic Fields, of which tantalizing fragments survive. The difficult problem of sorting out the numerous doubtful hillforts/camps has been resolutely tackled. The authors have reclassified 37 such sites, some as dykes, some artificial but of uncertain date and a number as natural features of geological origin.

This volume would make a valuable addition to the library of many local archaeologists but its price (£25) will preclude its purchase except by the more resolute individuals.

John Drinkwater

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CALENDAR
OF FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS & LECTURES
January-April 1978

abbreviations are as listed in previous issues

January

- 6 Agricultural Innovation and social change in 19th century Somerset SANHS TAUNTON 7.30 Weir Lodge, Staplegrove Rd
- 9 Recent Excavations in the punic, Roman and Byzantine port of Carthage by Henry Hurst (Director of the British Carthage Excavations.) 6.30 pm Dept of Extra-Mural Studies. JOINT BARG/UNIVERSITY series of lectures 'Current Work in Archaeology'. BRISTOL
- 9 Artifacts and Tools by A C A Wright MA. WICK The New School 10 meetings 7.30 - 9 pm University.
- 10 Some Animals in Archaeology by Georgina Plowright B & C A S 7.15 pm Lecture Theatre, Bath Technical College. BATH
- 12 West-Country Rural Life 1500-1900 by J H Bettey MA PhD & D P Davis BA MSc. 10 meetings Bradford's House, Frenchay Common, FRENCHAY, University 7.30 - 9 pm
- 12 Some Archaeological Animals BARG ASSOCIATES 7.30 pm City Museum, Bristol by Georgina Plowright
- 13 Archaeology & Local History by Georgina Plowright 20 meetings 7.30 - 9 pm Twyford House, SHIREHAMPTON. University
- 14 BARG MEMBERS SYMPOSIUM 2 pm City Museum, Bristol. Dr Ann Ellison 'Archaeological Implications of quarrying in Avon'; John Saysell 'Redfield Methodist Church, Bristol'; John White & Jim Hancock 'Some recent aerial photography'; Dr A J Parker 'Stoke Gifford'; Dr J Sluglett 'A preliminary report on some mummies in the City Museum'; M W Ponsford 'Bristol Castle'; and others.
- 13/15 Early Farming and the Wessex Landscape by P J Fowler & Dr J G Evans R w/e Urchfont Manor, nr Devizes, Wilts (P) University.
- 16 Discovering Local History 7.30 pm B Jerrard, Old Crypt Schoolroom, Southgate St, GLOUCESTER GDARG
- 19 The Harlot's Crown of Periclean Athens: The Parthenon by Brian Cook (British Museum) 7.30 pm Lecture Theatre G44, the Physics Block, University of Bristol BCM
- 23 Crickley Hill, Gloucestershire: Recent Developments at the Neolithic and Bronze Age Hillforts by Philip Dixon (Dept of Archaeology, Nottingham University). 6.30 pm XM Dept BRISTOL
- 24 Ancient Glass, from its Origins to the end of the Roman Period by Nicholas Thomas Bristol University Archaeological Society, BRISTOL Room 3, Wills Memorial Building. 5 pm
- 26 Wansdyke by Mrs Elizabeth Fowler 7.30 pm Community Centre Princes Rd, CLEVEDON. C & D A S
- 28 Roman Carthage by Henry Hurst 2.30 - 6 pm, The College, Oxstalls Lane, GLOUCESTER University

February

- 2 Bristol Churches and their Archaeological Significance by David Dawson 7.30 pm City Museum, BRISTOL BARG ASSOCIATES
- 4 BARG PSU SESSION 10.30 am City Museum, BRISTOL
- 6 The Upper Thames Valley : a re-assessment of its archaeology in the light of recent and current work by David Miles (Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit). X M Dept, BRISTOL 6.30 pm. Current Work in Archaeology Series
- 7 Conservation in Bath by Peter Greening 7.15 pm Lecture Theatre, Bath Technical College, BATH B & C A S
- 8 Characteristics of West Country Merchant Shipping by J W Sherborne MA 7.30 pm City Museum, BRISTOL. BARG LECTURE
- 10/12 New Light on Roman Britain by P J Fowler & Dr W H Manning R w/e Dillington House, nr Ilminster, Somerset (P) University
- 16 Greek vases from the Atlantic: HMS Colossus and Hamilton's Greek Vases by Ann Birchall, 7.30 pm Lecture Theatre, G44 Physics Building, University of Bristol, BRISTOL BCM
- 17 Romans in the Avon Valley by Charles Browne 7.30 pm Ellsbridge House, Bath Rd, KEYNSHAM. K & S LHS
- **20 Members Evening GDARG GLOUCESTER 7.30 pm Old Crypt, Schoolroom, Southgate St.
- 21 The Roman Legionary Fortress at Usk, Gwent by Dr W H Manning. 5 pm Room 3 Wills Memorial Bldg, BRISTOL BUAS
- 23 Roman Lead Mining by H D H Elkington 7.30 pm Community Centre, Princes Rd, CLEVEDON C & D A S
- 27 Pre-Norman Church Architecture by M Hare, 7.30 pm Old Bakery, Chester Walk, CHELTENHAM GDARG
- 25 BARG AGM followed by Trade in the Roman Empire by Dr A J Parker, 2.15 pm City Museum, BRISTOL

March

- 2 Stonehenge and the Druids by L V Grinsell 7.30 pm City Museum, BRISTOL BARG ASSOCIATES
- 6 Excavation at the Uley Roman Temple 1976-7 by Dr Ann Ellison 6.30 pm XM Dept, BRISTOL Current Work Series
- 6 Life and Work of Towns and Country villas: Minoan Crete by Prof P Warren 5.45 pm City Museum, BRISTOL B & G A S
- 6-10 Archaeological Field Surveying by P J Fowler & D J Bonney R week at Urchfont Manor, nr Devizes, Wilts (P) University
- 7 Fieldwork, Archaeology & Planning in Somerset by M Aston 7.15 pm Lecture Theatre, Bath Technical College, BATH (New Building) B & C A S
- 11 Archaeology & the Sea by Dr A J Parker a one-day course to be held in BATH. Further details from Dept of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol.
- 16 Greek Goddesses in Miniature: 2,000 years of Greek and Roman Life seen through small terracotta statues by James Chesterman, 7.30 pm City Museum, BRISTOL BCM
- **20 February The Iron Industry in Roman Britain (with special reference to the Forest of Dean) by Henry Cleere (Director, CBA) 6.30 pm XM Dept, BRISTOL Current Work Series

March

18/19 Environmental Archaeology a w/e held in conjunction with BARG and University of BRISTOL Extra Mural Studies commencing 10.30 am Dept of Extra Mural Studies

April

- 1 Roman Pot Symposium BARG 10.30 am City Museum, BRISTOL
- 13 Trade in Pottery in 16th and 17th centuries BARG Lecture 7.30 pm City Museum, BRISTOL by John Hurst
- 17 Urban Environmental Archaeology by J S R Hood (Univ. of York), 7.30 pm Old Crypt Schoolroom, Southgate St, GLOUCESTER, GDARG
- 29 CBA Group 13 meeting BRISTOL Further details from CRAAGS The Archaeological Centre, Mark Lane, Bristol

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group will be held at 2.15 pm on Saturday 25 February 1978 in the City Museum, Bristol. Members are reminded that in accordance with Rule 10 nominations for Officers and members of the Committee should be received by the Hon Secretary c/o City Museum, Bristol not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting (ie by 11 February), accompanied by the names of the proposer and seconder and the written consent of the nominee. Nominations are required for the following Officers: Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Membership Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Hon Editors (Bulletin and Special Publications), Hon Fieldwork Adviser and Hon Secretary for Associate Members. The retiring Chairman is not eligible for re-election. The retiring holders of the other offices are eligible and available for re-election with the exception of the Hon Secretary, the Hon Editor (Special Publications) and the Hon Secretary for Associate Members. Nominations are also required for three elected members of the committee, to serve for two years. Retiring Committee members J Bryant, J Durnell and Deirdre Parker are not eligible for re-election.

