

[late 1955]

University of Bristol, Spelaeological Society.

CIRCULAR to MEMBERS.

Bad weather has seriously interfered with the activities of the Society.

Ireland. A strong party went over at the beginning of July to Leitrim. A large area was investigated and a number of potholes explored in the Dartry Hills and neighbouring areas. Most of these had not been explored before. Some were over 100 feet deep. No substantial lengths of passages were found opening off of these potholes. The establishment of underground drainage appears to be geologically very recent.

At the end of this trip a party went on to Clare. About 2 miles of new passages, mostly in known caves, were added. Flooding of the caves from rain proved a serious hazard once more.

Priddy Circles.

Excavations in the most southerly of these have shown that there is a double circle of post holes in the bank on either side of a stone core. Other sections suggest that this structure may not be uniform. Passible causewayed entrances were located for the three southern circles and tested by boring. These tests indicated that the entrances were true causewayed entrances. Excavations have been made of part of one of the entrances and it has been shown that there is a causeway, that the bank never crossed it and neither did the ditch. There are post holes associated with the causeway and other structures. Flooding of the excavations prevented as much being done as had been intended. It is hoped to continue the work next year. There seems very little doubt now that the circles are true "Henge" monuments.

Little Solsbury.

Persistent bad weather made excavation very difficult. It was possible to demonstrate that there was a walled rampart faced by good quality dry stone walling on both the outer and inner sides. The wall was twenty feet wide at the top. There was no quarry ditch of any kind. The debris from the primary occupation passes under the rampart. A hut site was found but could only be partially explored in the time available because of the bad weather conditions.

Manor Farm Swallet.

Much labour has been expended here but constant slipping of the face has caused difficulties. Extensive shoring is necessary.

G. B. Cave. Terminal Passage.

Progress has been made here. The face is now several feet beyond the furthest point reached formerly. Flooding of the dig has prevented work on a number of occasions.

M. Balister,  
Hon. Secretary.