

*A Stake Circle Barrow? Priddy, Mendip.* In the Wells Museum there is a labelled diagram of the excavation of "The Glebe Barrow, Priddy". Balch (1896, p. [14]) states that the barrow was "explored" by the Rev. T. Palmer, vicar of Priddy in 1894. There are, according to W[icks] (1914, p. 43) two barrows in Priddy Glebe of which the more westerly is identified as the one dug in 1894. This is a very low mound, "a ring barrow" according to Wicks, with indefinite margins on top of a low natural hillock. The other "barrow" to the east seems to the present author to be purely a natural mound.

The Glebe Barrow is T100A in U.B.S.S. Catalogue, ST 52815141.

Mr. Maine, of Manor Farm Priddy, now (1968) 83 years old, recalls the barrow being opened by the "sons, of whom there were many, of the vicar". Two cross trenches were dug, meeting at the centre. These are still just visible and were about 2 ft. wide, E.-W. and N.-S. The junction area in the centre was enlarged. The diagram, Fig. 60, of the excavation

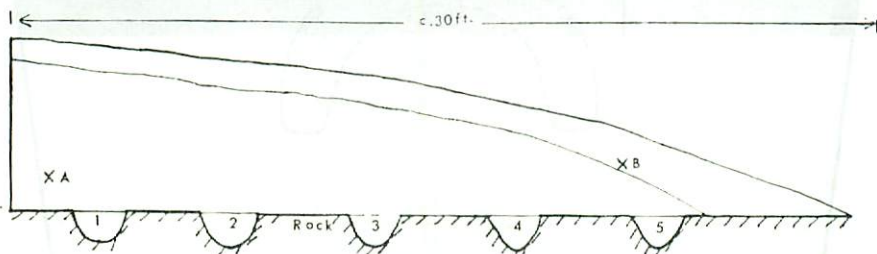


Fig. 60. Diagram of the Glebe Barrow, Priddy (T100A). Section according to label in Wells Museum.

shows the position of "A" the unburnt central burial, which was "contracted with the head to the west and facing south". The label also describes the finding of a "decayed, 4 in. long, bronze knife with rivets, and three flints 18 in. from the skull". In the museum case the bone fragments displayed in a box on a ledge beneath the label are from a burnt burial or burials. They could be from another barrow dug by Balch in 1895 as there are four trays of burnt bone and Balch found four cremations. Flint flakes are noted as being "abundant in the surface soil". The flints according to the box label were associated with the inhumation/bronze knife and include one small round-butted, triangular arrow head 20 mm. long, and some scrapers. There are a number of other pieces and there is a very wide variation in their patina. Amongst those with a dense white patina are two miniature *dos rabbattu* blades 22 and 25 mm. long which would not be out of place in a Late Palæolithic (Late Cheddarian) context or more probably in a mesolithic context. So perhaps the barrow was built on an older living site. (There is a good water supply close at hand).

The burial "A" is shown above the central one of a series of "symmetrical holes—in the rock containing only black clay". There were five of these holes. The description and arrangement of these holes, though in which trench they were found is not stated, suggests a central stake and four concentric circles of stakes. The holes could also be interpreted as a line of stakes demarcating an "entrance" to the central enclosure. The holes do not seem large enough to have been post holes. If the first interpretation is correct then it adds one more stake-circle round barrow to the few already known and described in Britain and is the only one so far noted for Mendip and fills a gap in the distribution map (see Ashbee 1959, p. 1, *Fig. 1* and 1960, *Fig. 22*). It would fall into category C1 (Ashbee). It should be noted that the barrow, in its present state, does not suggest that it was ever a bell barrow. Burial by inhumation associated with riveted daggers (knife) are known from other sites. From the diagram, the burial could have been secondary. If so the primary burial was not found.

E. K. TRATMAN

*Combe Hill Enclosure, Bristol (N.G.R. ST 561782) (Fig. 61)*

The enclosure, on the north-west corner of Coombe Hill, was first described by Tratman (1946, p. 178). The present paper sets out the results of an examination and survey of the visible remains. The survey was made by the author and his colleagues Mr. A. Waller and Miss M. Robinson, in Feb. 1967. A considerable portion of the site is occupied by the Henbury Golf Course. It was possible to study this thanks to the kind permission of the secretary of the club.

The enclosure is sub-triangular in shape and about 2 hectares (5 acres) in area. It is bounded on the east side, where the ground is level, and on the south-western side, where the ground slopes gently, by a single bank with an external ditch. The north-western boundary is a cliff edge, formed by the gorge of the Henbury Trym, which cuts through the Carboniferous Limestone ridge at this point. The interior of the enclosure is almost level, the south-western bank being placed at the top of the slope on that side. Across the gorge to the north-west, 300 metres away, is Blaise Castle Camp, and 500 metres due west is the camp on King's Weston Hill.

The banks, as they stand, are in two parts, as their probable point of union has been completely obliterated by quarrying and the construction of a water tank. The eastern section is the more massive, having a height