

Fieldwork and Excavation in the Butcombe Area, North Somerset

SECOND INTERIM REPORT, 1968-9

By

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ABSTRACT

The geological and early historical background to the area is outlined and the ancient field systems, including one associated with a Roman villa, described. Continued excavation of a prehistoric/Romano-British settlement is briefly recorded, with detailed reports on rock samples, slags, brooches, snails and bones.

INTRODUCTION

Since the First Report (Fowler, 1968), a further two fortnights of excavation have been spent on the settlement in Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe, and results are briefly updated below, pp. 183-5. Meanwhile, fieldwork and documentary research have also been continuing, and here we provide first background notes on the local landscape and parish. The excavation is part of an area project for which all the field-names, 19th century and current, have now been collected for several parishes. A detailed field survey of Nempnett parish has also been carried out. The previous brief comments on the pre-medieval field systems and settlement patterns in the area are developed here. Some general considerations arising from research in the area are discussed elsewhere (Fowler *et al.*, 1970; Fowler, P. J. and E., *forthcoming*).

THE BUTCOMBE AREA
TOPOGRAPHY (*Fig. 25*)

Butcombe parish, 8 miles S.S.W. of Bristol, lies in the centre of the south-facing slope dropping from Broadfield Down (*c.* 600 ft.) to the R. Yeo, draining at the extreme southern tip of the parish from Blagdon Lake (*c.* 150 ft.) westwards through the Vale of Wrington to the Bristol Channel $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant. One mile south across the Vale rise the steep northern slopes of Mendip. Most of the existing hedged fields are pasture or meadow, though a current trend is towards temporary or permanent cultivation. Woodland is scarce.

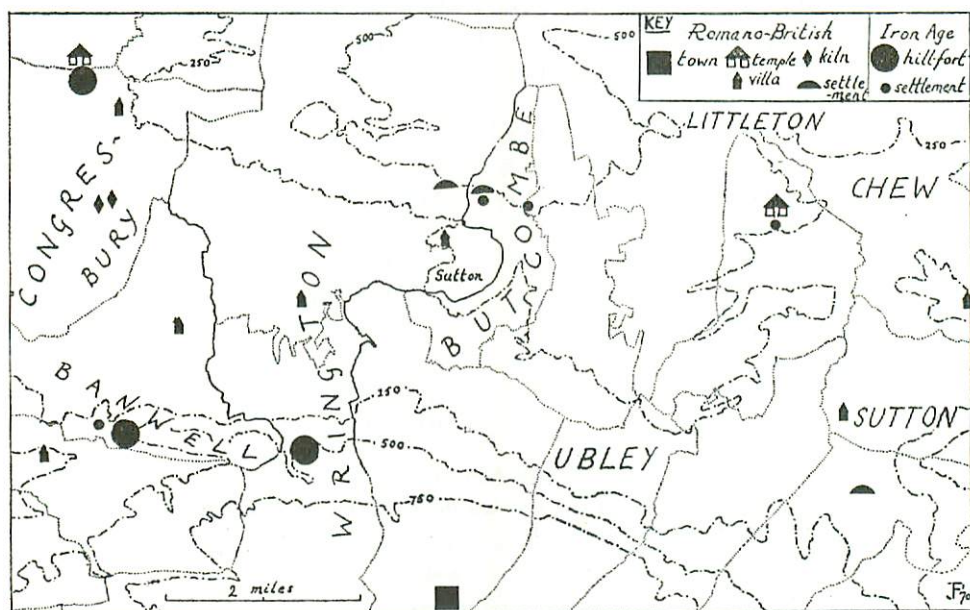


Fig. 25. The Vale of Wrington showing pre-Roman and Romano-British sites in relation to parishes (dotted lines). Names indicate documented Saxon estates. The co-incidence of Saxon and extant boundary on the west and the east sides of Wrington is shown by a continuous line.

GEOLOGY

Broadfield Down is formed of Carboniferous Limestone Series with its southern slopes composed of the Clifton Down and the Hotwells Group. The latter contains a band of Upper Cromhall Sandstone. The many Triassic valleys draining southwards off the Down are infilled with Dolomitic Conglomerate. The Vale of Wrington is eroded into Triassic deposits, mainly Keuper Marl, although in places, as on the sharply-defined plateau south of Lye Hole (see below p. 179), this is overlain by

outliers of Rhætic and Lower Lias forming flat-topped hills (see pp. 185-6 for a detailed report on the rocks from the excavation in Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm).

EARLY HISTORY* by F. A. NEALE, B.A.

The history of Butcombe is dominated by the steep, broken nature of its landscape. The narrow parish centres round one steep valley running from the top of Broadfield Down to the R. Yeo; immediately to its east lies the similar parish of Nempnett. They form a marked contrast to their neighbours, comparatively open and extensive parishes such as Wrington and Chew Stoke, which formed unified estates prospering under important medieval landowners: the Abbey of Glastonbury at Wrington, the St. Loe family in the Chew Stoke area. Both Butcombe and Nempnett reflect their cramped physical surroundings in a history of small landholdings, dispersed hamlet settlements, and ancient individual farmsteads.

Medieval deeds show that landholdings and miniature "manors"—parts of Butcombe, Nempnett, Thrubwell, Regilbury, Blagdon—overlapped and ignored their common parish boundary. The Tithe Map (1843) shows an extraordinary amount of "extra-parochial" land scattered in isolated patches all over Butcombe, a legacy of these small, much-divided units of settlement (some are shown in Fowler, 1968, *Fig. 51D*). The one firm boundary of proven antiquity is that now forming the parish boundary between Butcombe and Wrington (*Figs. 25 and 26*). This appears to coincide with the boundary of the Wrington estate described in a Saxon charter of 904 A.D. (Finberg, 1964, 128; Neale, 1969, 1-3, 87-108). It is a boundary that was not overlapped by any medieval landholders. It makes use of such natural features as are available: Lye Brook (*Wetheleigh Brook* in 904) and the springs at its source (*Merewells*); the remarkably sharp bluff of Sutton Hill (*Wulbikan Hill*) now marked by the boundary lane of Sutton Lane (*East Meadow to Wulbikan Hill . . . to the Hedgerow by South Sudden*); and the equally striking ridge linking Aldwick

*The chief documentary sources for this background note are:

- Bere, Rev. T., *MSS History of Butcombe* (Parish records, Butcombe).
 Bristol Archives Office, AC/M1/1-45; AC/M10/5, 14; AC/M21/8, 10; 4981(1); 4549(28).
 Cartwright, Rev. W. H., 'A Sketch History of Butcombe,' *Bath Field Club Proc* 3 (1877), 25-34.
 Collinson, J., *History of Somerset*, ii (1791), 313-16.
 Crawley-Boevey, A. W. (Ed.), *The Cartulary of . . . Flaxley* (1887).
 Grundy, G. B., *Saxon Charters of Somerset* (1935), 167-78.
 Hearne, T. (Ed.), *John of Glastonbury's Chronicle* 2 (1726), 348-53.
 Historical MSS Comm., *Calendar of Wells MSS* 1 (1907), 485.
 Hunt, W. (Ed.), *Two Cartularies of Bath Priory* Somerset Rec Soc 7, (i), 32.
 Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe Farm, Private deeds.
 Rutter, J., *Delineations of Northwest Somerset* (1829), 122-5.
 Somerset Records Office, Deeds X/BDN; land tax returns.
 Watkin, Dom. A. (Ed.), *Glastonbury Cartulary* Somerset Rec Soc 1948, 63, 545-9.

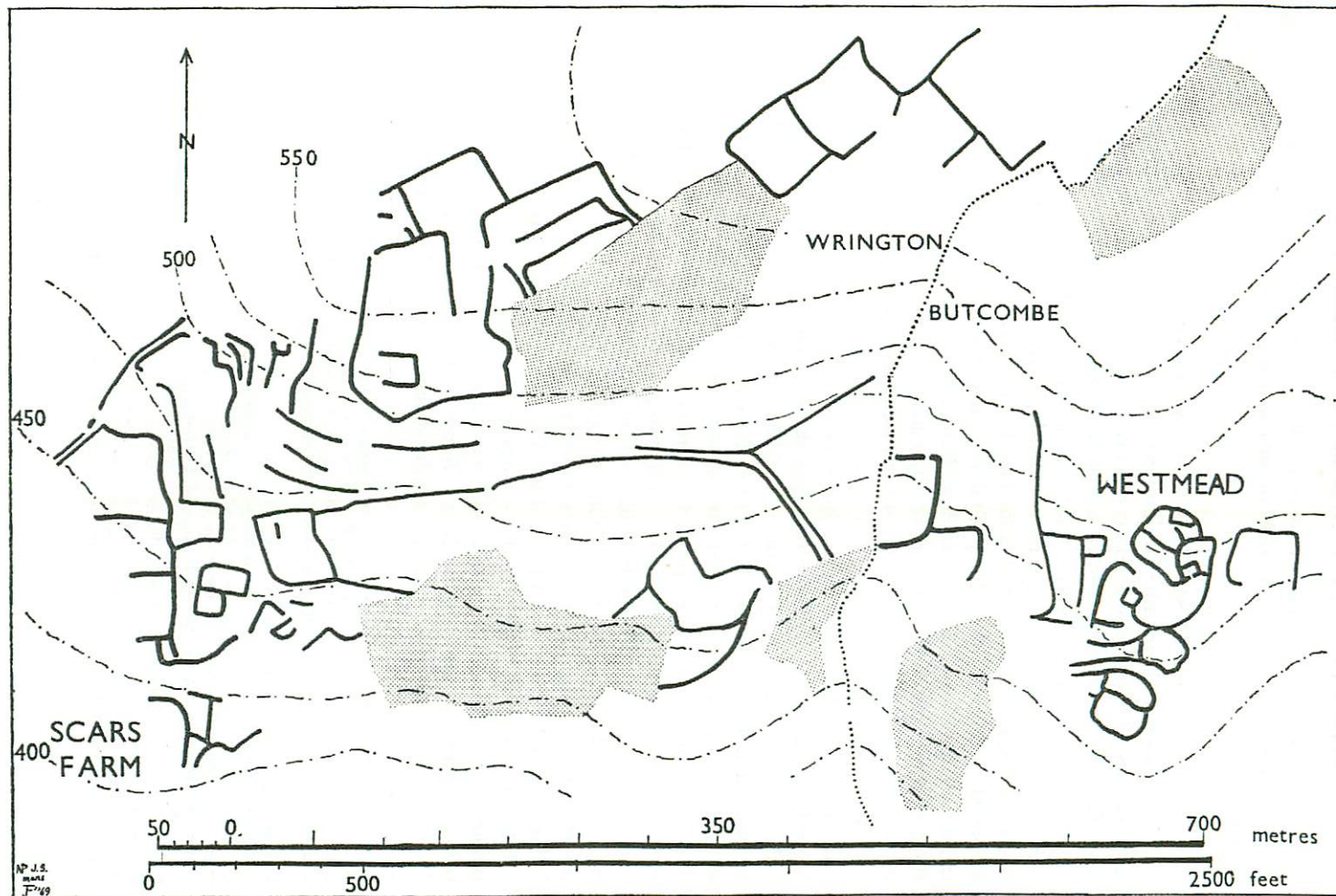


Fig. 26. Plan of the "earthworks" of Romano-British settlements and fields between Scars Farm, Wrington, and Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe. Stipple indicates existing woodland. Original scale $1/2,500$, here reduced to $1/5,000$.

to Sutton Hill (the *Mererigg*). Between these fixed points other Saxon features listed in the charter can be placed: the Felton long barrow (*Berghe*) at the northern corner of Butcombe parish; *Credelinghale* and *Suwardinglegh* above Lye Brook, the latter presumably the field on the Wrington side of the boundary on the north bank of the Brook, and the former perhaps the gully at the upper end of this field.

Wrington therefore existed in 904 A.D. as a Saxon estate, with a defined boundary between it and Butcombe. The first reference to Butcombe itself occurs in the will of Wulfwar (c. 984-1016) in which she divides between her eldest son Wulfmær and her younger daughter Aelfwar the estate at Butcombe "with produce and men and all profits . . . and they are to share the principal residence between them as evenly as they can, so that each of them shall have a just portion of it" (Finberg, 1964, 148). The site of this house is not yet identified, but in view of their later importance, Butcombe Court, Butcombe Farm or one of the old farmsteads near the church are all possible candidates. In addition, the charters (Finberg, 1964, 113, 143, 152), now no longer extant, of King Ine (688-726) at Congresbury and King Edgar (959-75) at *Hubbanleghe* (Ubley), together with the very late (1065) Banwell charter whose bounds encompass part of the southern side of the valley adjoining Wrington, all indicate that the Vale of Wrington in Saxon times was divided up into well-delineated estates. Even estates such as Blagdon, for which no charters survive, must by implication have existed in the 10th century, since its neighbours on either side are documented. This pattern of land use can be picked up again and carried forward from 1086 onwards; but the most tantalising questions are whether continued archaeological fieldwork will enable it to be traced backwards, and whether any continuity can be established with the equally thorough pattern of Roman land-use in the valley, of which it is so reminiscent. A possible correlation is beginning to appear between Roman villas and Saxon estates (*Fig. 25*). An answer, if it can be found, will almost certainly lie in a study of the Vale of Wrington as a whole, and not in Butcombe itself.

Fieldwork and documentary evidence yield some information on land usage in medieval Butcombe. Domesday Book highlights as early as 1086 the difference in landscape and land-use between the top and bottom of the hill. Parish boundaries and 19th century estate-ownership enable the area of the small manor of Aldwick, an "appendage" to Butcombe parish, to be defined at the foot of the hill and with considerable river frontage; the rest of Butcombe occupies the hill-slope and hill-top, with very little river frontage. Aldwick, much the smaller of the two, yet has land-potential for five ploughs against Butcombe's three, 15 acres of meadow against Butcombe's 10, and 49 acres of woodland against

Butcombe's 30—a clear contrast between the heavier, wooded clays, the fertile valley arable and the water-meadows beside the R. Yeo on the one hand, and the thinner, less cultivated soils of the higher ground. This is borne out by the contrasting proportions of the demesne stock: Aldwick has 11 swine for its woods, and 14 cattle for its ploughs, against 2 and 6 respectively in Butcombe; but Butcombe has no less than 124 sheep in demesne, and Aldwick only 14. There is considerable documentary evidence of extensive medieval sheep-grazing on Broadfield Down, open land until the 19th century and intercommoned by its adjoining land-owners. The commons were also used for quarrying stone, and for mining small deposits of lead, ochre and iron, followed in the 17th-18th century by more extensive calamine mining. One such 12th-14th century mining site was partially excavated at Worship's Farm (Tratman, 1935) and the medieval site in the N.W. corner of Westmead may belong to a similar context (below p. 180).

Numerous springs and wells rise between the 300-400 ft. contours, several in the vicinity of the older farmsteads; of these, the *Merewells* are mentioned in 904 and Cleeves Well in 1360. Between hill-top and river, patches of woodland, field-shapes, areas of ridge-and-furrow and strips "fossilised" by later hedges, suggest a mixture of woodland, assarts and patches of strip cultivation where the ground permitted, hardly sizeable enough to justify the name "open fields"; nor would such a system on any scale be expected in an area so subdivided between different owners. Another consequence of this subdivision is a lack of medieval manorial administrative records to supplement the evidence of the ground; only a few 14th-18th century Views of Frankpledge, and some 16th-17th century court rolls of Aldwick, include fragmentary topographical details.

The dispersed nature of settlement in Butcombe is suggested as early as 1086. Whereas Domesday Book divides the total hide-assessment of nearby nucleated estates, large and small alike, so that by far the greatest share is apportioned to the demesne and to any sub-tenanted tenants, Butcombe and Aldwick reverse these proportions completely. This dominant villein tenure suggests that the dispersed settlement history of medieval Butcombe, which as recounted by Collinson, Rutter and others forms a confusing and occasionally conflicting series of genealogies and property transfers, can be traced back to very early origins. Where one estate is mentioned in the 10th century, and two by 1086, there are six or seven by the 13th-14th century: changing, joining or subdividing as the local families intermarried, died out or sold lands.

The archæological reflection of this situation is the existing broken, scattered settlement pattern of the area. The problem lies in matching the meagrely documented estates with the separate, ancient farmsteads

dotted over the hillside. Butcombe Court, usually accepted as the site of the principal Butcombe estate of the Percevals from the 13th to 17th century, could alternatively be associated with the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, Bristol, which had important interests in the parish including advowson of the parish church. Thrubwell Farm was the manor house of the Thrubwell estate, with its own chapel in 1242; on the border of Nempnett parish and adjoining Butcombe Court, it was linked to Butcombe by marriage in the late 13th century: a situation somewhat clarified by a deed of 1314 not apparently known to Collinson. Present-day Butcombe Farm was almost certainly the headquarters of the separate Aldwick manorial estate, closely associated with Blagdon and Wrington rather than Butcombe. The Abbots of Flaxley owned Regilbury Court in Nempnett, and other lands there, in Butcombe and in Winford. The Clevedon family and even (temporarily at least) the Abbots of Thame also had interests in Butcombe. The boundaries of these properties have not yet all been traced in the field with certainty. Row of Ashes Farm, Bicknell Farm, Merry Hill Farm, and Pit Farm are all old-established farmsteads difficult to assign to particular estates; Bicknell Farm is certainly on a medieval site, and Row of Ashes was, prior to 1777 at least, called Butcombe Farm and probably associated with the Court.

The present fragmentation of settlement and landholding in Butcombe therefore has its roots in the earliest documentary history of the area. It remains to be seen to what extent it may be the successor to still earlier patterns of settlement in the area.

PRE-MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT (*Figs. 25-27*)

The present investigation began in 1965 when a number of people, apparently independently, became interested in the ancient field remains around Redhill/Scars Farm, Wrington, and in particular in the probable associated settlements. Notable amongst the latter was the site in Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe, which has subsequently become the springboard for both research and training under the aegis of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol.

This site and its environs appeared to offer a worthwhile opportunity to study an aspect of the Romano-British landscape which has been barely touched in Somerset *viz.* the form, nature, chronology and economy of a small rural settlement of non-villa type, the sort of "native settlement" which has at least been studied, whatever the gaps in our knowledge, on the chalklands to the east and in the South West peninsula, Wales and Northumbria (Thomas, 1966). An additional and particular attraction of

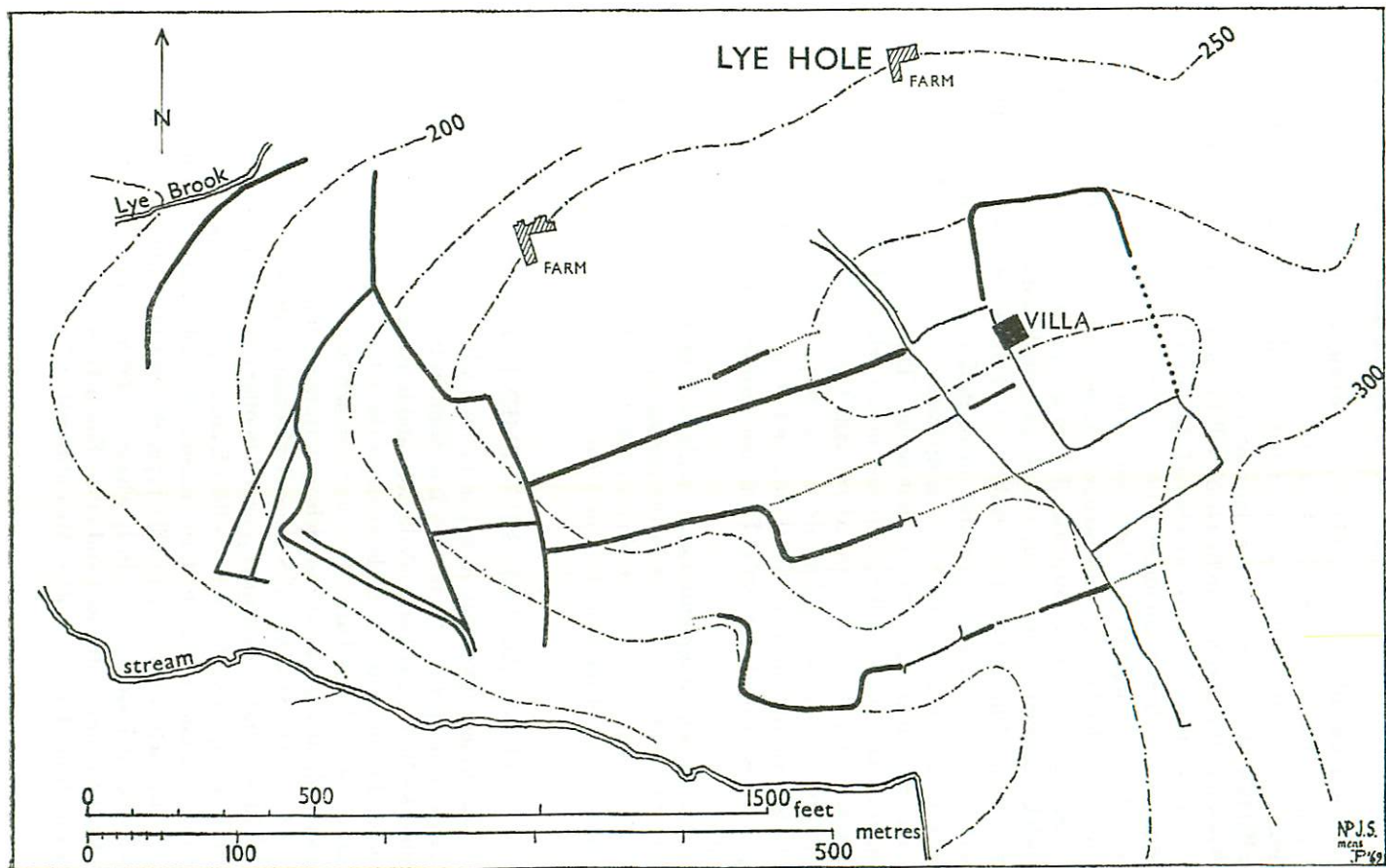


Fig. 27. Field system and villa enclosure (heavy black lines) south of Lye Hole Farm, Wrington. Dotted lines represent possible continuations; thin lines are modern field boundaries. Original scale $1/2,500$, here reduced to $1/5,000$.

the Butcombe area is the association of the Westmead site with other probable settlements, fields and trackways, enabling the settlement to be examined as part of a landscape rather than simply as an isolated feature (Fowler, 1968, *Fig. 51C*).

While the villas of Somerset are well-known and recent published work has added to knowledge of other types of site in the county, the absence of any significant mention of rural settlement types or patterns in a recent survey (Grinsell, 1965) reveals the poverty in this field over the last 60 years since Haverfield's comprehensive survey (1906). The only directly relevant local publication of a comparable site has been about Camerton (Wedlake, 1958), though local studies of particular aspects of the Romano-British landscape are helpful (e.g. Tratman, 1962; Cunliffe, 1966), and recent published excavations in north Somerset are valuable for assessment of the excavated evidence (e.g. Rahtz and Harris, 1957; Sykes and Brown, 1961; Barton, 1964; ApSimon, 1965). The current work at Gatcombe, only $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Westmead, is closely related (Cunliffe, 1967; Solley, 1967; Branigan, 1968) as indeed are the temple complex on Pagan's Hill, Chew Stoke (Rahtz, 1952), 3 miles to the east, and the Chew Valley Lake sites, only 4-5 miles to the south-east. A villa (ST 502622) exists near Lye Hole on a low-lying plateau projecting into the valley below the Westmead settlement (Haverfield, 1906, 308; Tratman, 1960; Fowler, 1968, *Figs. 51 B and C*); and others, certain or probable, are known within a few miles. There can be no doubt that agricultural settlement was heavy along the bottom and sides of the Vale of Wrington, and doubtless the proximity of the area to the metalliferous deposits of Mendip—Charterhouse is only 4 miles south of Row of Ashes Farm—and indeed the existence of such deposits within the area, contributed to both population and exploitation during the Romano-British period.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Westmead, another settlement (ST 502629) survives as earthworks, the grass-covered remains actually being collapsed stone walls. Rectangular buildings are visible and a small amount of Romano-British pottery has been picked up there (*Fig. 26*). In the field between this Scars Farm settlement and Westmead were two conjoined enclosures, part of a complex which continues into the wood on the slope to the south. Superficially very similar to the Westmead settlement, it was thought that this site was another settlement, but not a single artefact was found during several visits when the enclosures were bull-dozed in April, 1968, and it may well be that they were simply stock enclosures. Other surface finds in the area may indicate settlements but the likelihood of pottery scatters from manuring of pre-medieval fields must be considered in the absence of other evidence for occupation.

PRE-MEDIEVAL FIELDS

(Fowler, 1968, *Fig. 51C*; *Figs. 26 and 27*)

Smallish, rectangular fields survive, albeit fragmentarily, over some 2 sq. miles around Westmead, and there can be little doubt that at one time a field system or systems existed over at least that area. The previously published map was compiled primarily from R.A.F. vertical air photographs (CPE/UK 1969, 3251-3), supplemented by limited personal aerial photography and observation and ground checking. The main object was to show the extent of the remains and the general layout of the system(s). There is undoubtedly more detail to be added—fragmentary fields survive in Nempnett, for example—but two areas have now been surveyed in detail and sufficient is known to make some points.

The fields are confined to the south-facing slope from Broadfield Down, notably between the 500 ft. and 400 ft. contours; but, it can be argued, this distribution merely indicates positively where ancient cultivation took place and not where it was absent. Almost certainly the fields once covered the lower slopes; now the bulk of the surviving remains are on the higher margins of the medieval and later arable land. It is by no means certain, however, that similar fields once existed on the plateau of Broadfield Down, the traditional waste and customary sheep-grazing area (above p. 174). In other words, although in large part the detectable extent of ancient fields is due to the accident of survival, their absence on the plateau may well be real and indicate an ancient difference in land-use.

Despite the fragmentary nature of the field remains, clearly they belong to the "Celtic" field rather than the medieval "open field" tradition (*contra* Tratman, 1935). Below Westmead, and elsewhere, remains of strip cultivation overlie lynchets of the small rectangular fields, and overall it is possible to sort out the earthworks of the two distinct types of cultivation (Fowler, 1968, *Figs. 51C and D*). Furthermore, the associations of the pre-medieval fields are Romano-British, and there seems little doubt that the visible remains belong to this period.

Although in only a few cases does a complete field survive, enough remains to suggest that here are two distinct if related field systems, separated by the Lye Brook and indeed by the different nature of their associated settlements. On the slopes north of the Brook, the fields are related to "native" settlements, and despite the irregularities of the terrain they nearly all lie slightly across the contours on a north-east/south-west axis (*Fig. 26*). This suggests some sort of unity, particularly in view of the quite large area involved. South of the Brook, although the fields are still laid out roughly on the same axes, their association is with a villa and, in as far as the evidence allows, they appear to be of a different size and shape (*Fig. 27*).

North of the Brook, eighteen measurements of lengths and breadths of fields give average dimensions of *c.* 100 × 50 yd. but they are probably misleading. Individual fields tend to be either *c.* 75 × 40 yd. or *c.* 135 × 60 yd., enclosing areas of, respectively, about $\frac{2}{3}$ acre and nearly 2 acres. The fields near the Westmead settlement itself are almost square, their dimensions being between 50–65 yd., but it is difficult to be certain in the area shown on *Fig.* 26, close to the settlements, which earthworks are the remains of arable fields for some seem rather to be stock enclosures associated with long, narrow “pens” and tracks.

South of the Brook, just enough remains (*Fig.* 27) to indicate that here were long narrow fields running W.S.W. from the villa enclosure. The maximum length of these fields is *c.* 335 yd. though it could well be that this length was divided about halfway to give individual fields *c.* 170 yd. long. It is possible to discern that in the original layout the width of the fields was, fairly certainly, *c.* 33 yd. (100 ft.), though subsequent activity has somewhat obscured this, not least by throwing adjacent fields into one. But if that original width, indicated at various points between the villa and the continuous N.–S. bank on the west, is accepted, then there would have been at least 8 oblong, parallel fields running out from the villa, perhaps 16 if they were subdivided longitudinally. The earthworks west of the continuous N.–S. bank appear to be associated but do not obviously conform with this layout. It is just possible that, in part anyway, they are the remnants of an earlier field system overlaid by the villa fields, though the double-lynchet track coming up from the stream is probably an insertion.

The disposition and size of the fields associated with the “native” settlements is comparable with the better known “Celtic” fields found primarily on the Wessex chalk (Bowen, 1961, 2). If the villa fields *were* subdivided, their proportions and certainly their original width are also directly comparable to the “Celtic” long fields defined and dated to the Romano-British period on the Wessex chalk (Bowen, 1961, 24; Thomas, 1966, 58; Fowler and Evans, 1967, 298). In this area, then, we have a glimpse of two different but probably contemporary field systems, the one associated with small “native” settlements, the other with a villa. The latter association is, of course, a rarity (*cf.* Bowen and Webster in Rivet, 1969, 44 and 219).

The fields are most substantially defined by lynchets, occasionally up to 10 ft. high but more usually *c.* 3 ft., on their downhill sides running up with the contours across slopes. In some cases the sides lying up and down the slopes still exist as low banks. The original boundaries were probably of stone, either as lines of rubble or perhaps as proper walls. The point remains to be settled by excavation, but bull-dozing of the

lynchets west of Westmead showed they were of the former type.

Several trackways are associated with the fields, though the full system remains to be established. The most obvious was a double lynchet trackway, now bull-dozed, running towards Westmead from the west, with a branch coming into it from the north and a branch leaving it on the south to run down into *Credelinghamale* (above p. 173).

DESERTED MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENTS

In two cases, the sites of probable deserted medieval settlements lie in what might be significant relationships to the estate boundary described in the late Saxon charter (above p. 171). One site (ST 507631) is just above *Credelinghamale* in the N.W. corner of Westmead immediately east of the present parish boundary (shown as a half-filled square on Fowler, 1968, *Fig. 51D*). The site appears to be very small, judging from the existing slight and confused earthworks which are known to include a filled-in pond. One depression could be a rectangular house site; some 12th–13th century sherds have been picked up.

Further south, the boundary runs east along the Lye Brook before sweeping in a great bulge along Sutton Lane on the south easterly rim of the Lye Hole plateau (above p. 171). The implication is that it is respecting a settlement called "Sutton" and its fields (*Fig. 25*). The existing Sutton Cottages (O.S. 6 in.) might be perpetuating an ancient site, but a more likely candidate for the implied deserted Saxon settlement is the area above Long Sutton Spring (ST 505616) where slight earthworks including what appear to be building platforms are additionally defined by the surrounding edge of the preserved ridge-and-furrow. The site is approached all the way from Lye Hole by a hollow-way which cuts across the Roman field banks immediately west of the villa (*Fig. 27*).

EXCAVATION OF THE SETTLEMENT IN WESTMEAD, ROW OF ASHES FARM, BUTCOMBE

1968–1969

The following brief notes on what is now a structurally complex site follow the "Phases" outlined in Fowler, 1968, 214–18 (the NGR is misprinted p. 210, and should be ST 50846297). One pre-Roman Iron Age structure, F2, is isolated from its context and its plan presented as we have similarly treated Building A1 previously. A small selection of what appears, at this stage, to be significant material follows in some detail, but further consideration of pottery and most categories of small finds is held over till the next report. Some 770 m² have now been stripped but an overall detailed excavation plan is not published here since so much is as yet incomplete. The following descriptions refer to the plans already

published (Fowler, 1968, *Figs. 52 and 53*) and to the schematic outline excavation plan given here simply for identification purposes (*Fig. 28*).

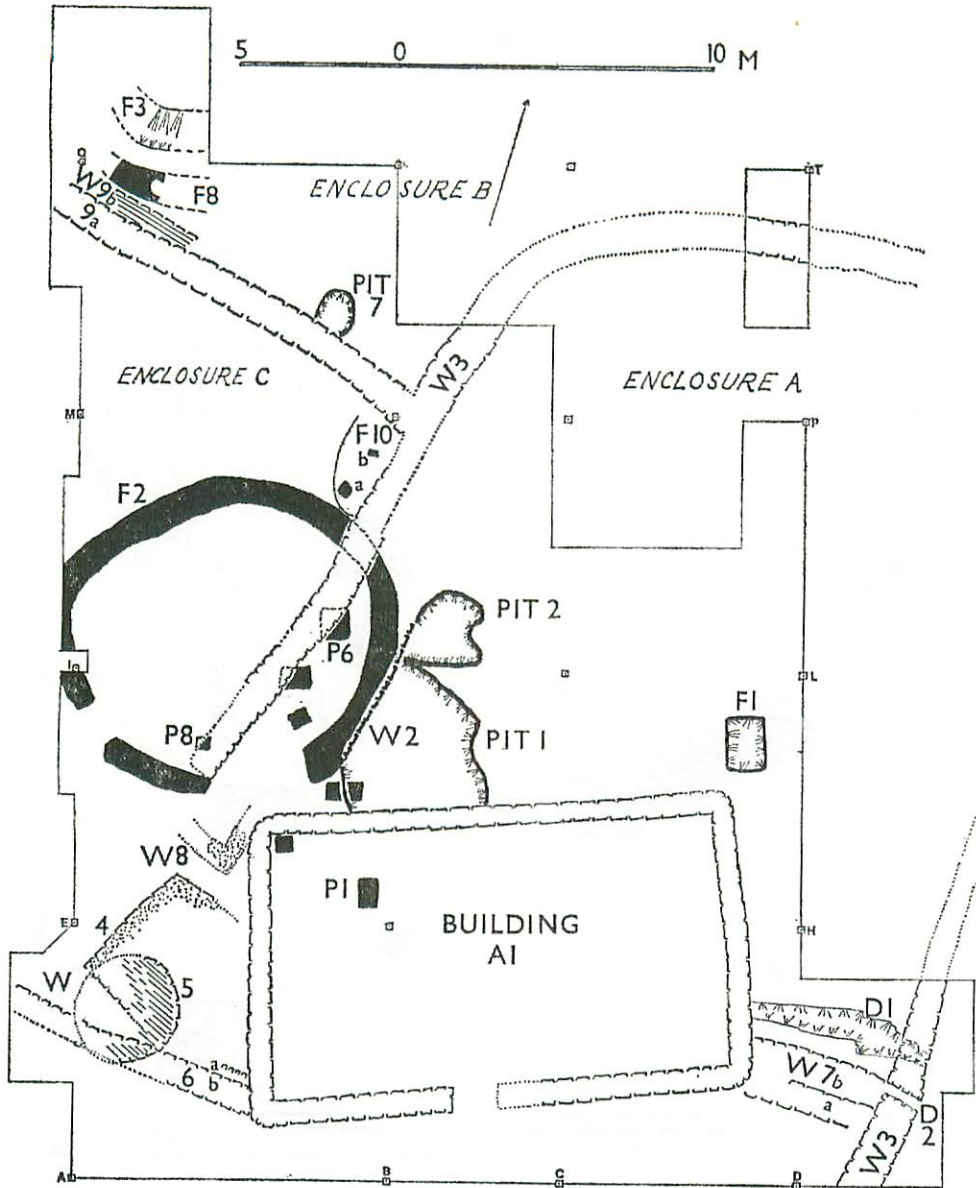


Fig. 28. Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe. Schematic outline plan of main excavated features, 1966-69, for identification purposes only (see pp. 183-191). Solid black: Phases 1a (F10 a and b only) and 1b; heavy outline: Phase 1c, "Belgic"; outline and stipple (W4, W8): Phase 1c, early Romano-British; outline only: Phase 2; outline and oblique hatching (W5 and W9b): Phase 3. Original scale 1/100, here reduced to 1/240.

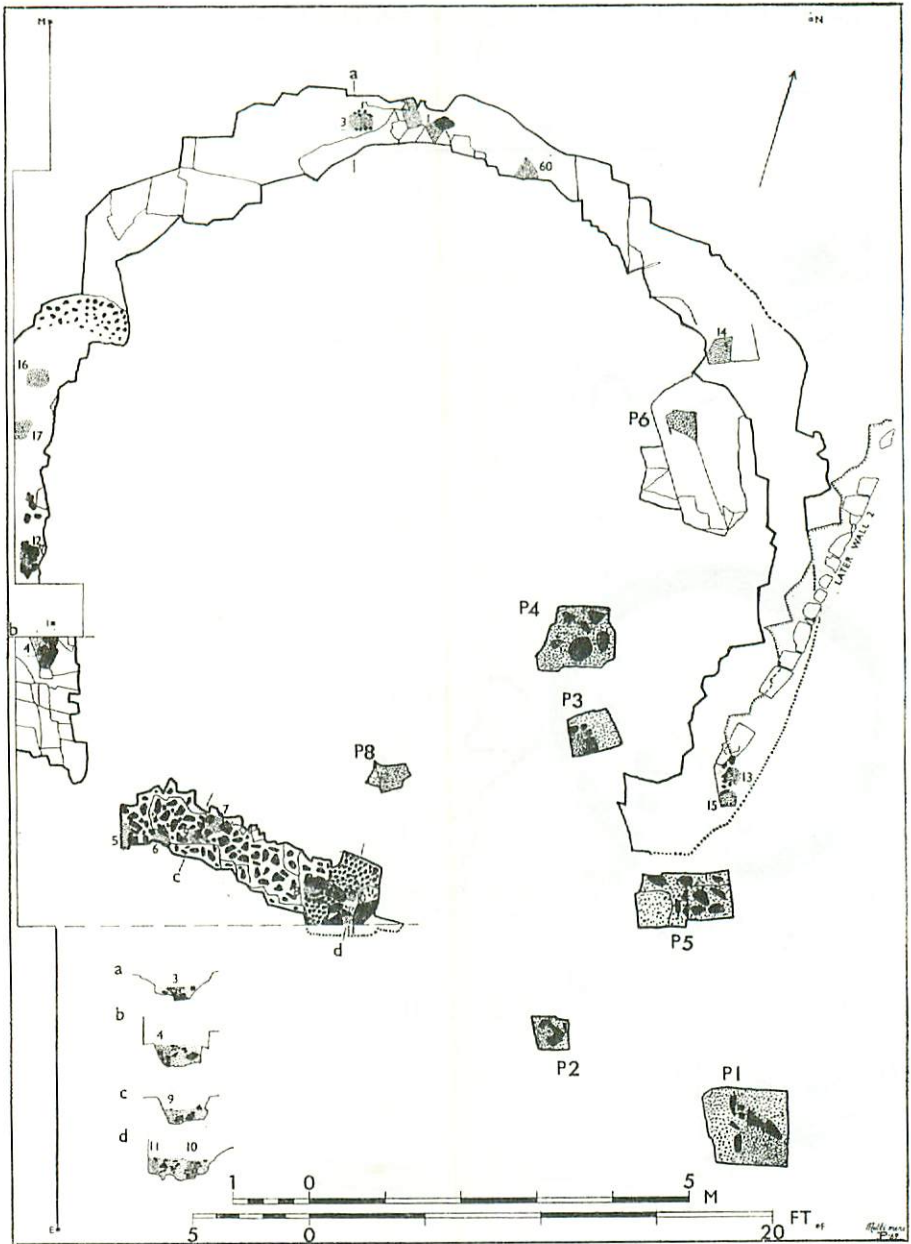


Fig. 29. Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe. Plan of Phase 1*b* (i) timber structure (F2). Stippled areas (numbered) in the foundation trench represent post-sockets. Original scale 1/20, here reduced to 1/100.

SUMMARY OF THE PHASES

1. Early

(a) *Early Prehistoric:*

(i) Palaeolithic: nil.

(ii) The possibility of Mesolithic activity is hinted at by the occurrence of a flake of Portland Chert.

(iii) Neolithic/Bronze Age: another stone axe fragment, many more flint flakes and a few implements, and a curious decorated baked clay object (below p. 188, *Fig. 30, 8*), are now supplemented by two probable post-holes in F10 (*a* and *b*), associated only with flint flakes, suggesting the possibility that structures of this general period may exist.(b) *Pre-Roman Iron Age:*(i-ii) A settlement, stratigraphically and materially distinct from and earlier than, the "Belgic" phase (1c) is now demonstrated by an approximately circular structure, F2, a probable similar structure F8 20 m. to the N, and much pottery. F2 (*Fig. 29*) consisted of a rock-cut palisade trench with two undug and one superficially dug arcs, respectively on the SW, SE and N. Approximately 10 m. in diameter, the trench was as much as 1 m. wide and 0.5 m. deep, characteristically with vertical sides and a flat bottom. Its profile was, however, very much the product of the bedding planes of the Carboniferous Limestone at any given point. Evidence, variable in quality, of 18 upright posts previously standing in the trench was observed. Both the general and detailed similarity of F2 to the late/post Roman Structure II at Cadbury Camp, Congresbury (Fowler *et al.*, 1970), was uncanny, but its Early/Middle PRIA date here is certain, not least because it was cut by Pit 1 of Phase 1(c). It contained no associated features internally, such as a hearth, with the possible exception of P6 which may be earlier. P4, 3, 5, and 1 on the E., however, P2 in the centre of the SE gap, and P8 and possibly other post-holes at present under Walls 8 and 1, suggest a substantial porch in a characteristic position.Pottery from the filling, and from appropriate contexts elsewhere on the site, included a small amount of haematite and incised decorated wares, but mostly consisted of large cooking/storage jars and smaller bead-rim jars, with fabrics containing, singly or in combination, calcite, oolite, limestone, shell and quartz. This great increase in the amount of pre-Roman pottery from the site, plus the current reconsideration of "Glastonbury" pottery (Peacock, 1969), has led to a revision of Nos. I-V of our Type Fabric series (Fowler, 1986, 219-27), and a further thin-sectioning programme is being undertaken. The new material does not, however, greatly add to the range of *forms* already published (Fowler, 1968, *Fig. 57*).(c) *"Belgic"/early Romano-British:*

This phase, although still not certainly continuous from the last, has now been further established stratigraphically first, by the demonstration that Pit 1, which contained so much slag (below p. 186) and "Belgic" pottery, cuts F2 and post-hole P5 as well as underlying Building A1; and secondly, by the demonstration that structures of the early Romano-British period, surviving under the walls and associated levels of Phase 2 particularly west of the W end of Building A1, have in part been destroyed by the construction of Phase 2 features. Building A1 especially probably removed a great deal and certainly seems to have truncated one rectangular structure. In fact every phase on the site so far can be demonstrated stratigraphically in the small area immediately outside the W end of Building A1. Seven more brooches, all but one stratified (below p. 187), and an increasing amount of samian ware, substantiate this phase in which metal-working was clearly important. An almost complete pony burial in Pit 7 probably belongs to this Phase (below p. 191).

2. Main

Late 3rd-mid 4th centuries A.D.:

Perhaps now following on directly from the preceding phase chronologically, it certainly involved wholesale re-organisation of the lay-out of the settlement and the destruction of some earlier features. Wall 3 between Enclosures A and C has been completely uncovered, and indeed removed as far as its junction with Wall 9a which has itself been uncovered for about half of its length. The main points relevant to this Phase

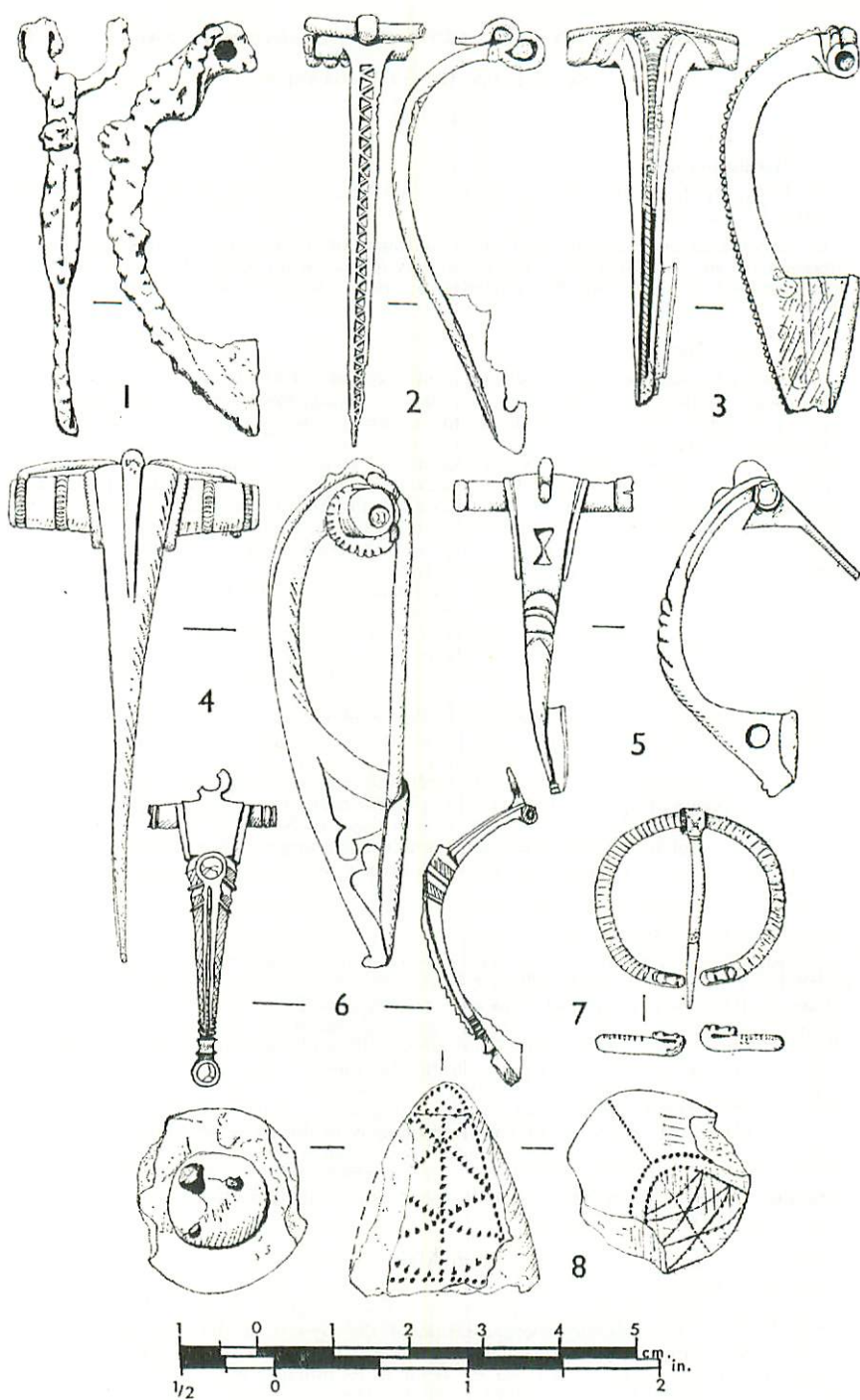


Fig. 30. Westmead, Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe. Brooches (1-7) and pottery object (8). Scale 1/1.

arising from this stripping are: (a) that the enclosures are empty of contemporary structures; (b) that, except in the tumble from the Enclosure walls, contemporary finds, apart from potsherds, are infrequent and in particular that coins are almost entirely related to Building A1; (c) the Enclosures themselves may not all be exactly contemporary in construction and certainly their walls were structurally altered; (d) all the walls have been robbed and mostly only survive as a basal course. Probably belonging to this Phase was a foetal burial south of Wall 9a (below p. 190). Walls 6 and 7 were structurally of two phases (a and b); and the latter partly blocked the original outlet, integral with the Enclosure wall, for the drain from the E end of Building A1. A new outlet was created through Wall 3 c. 2 m. further north, presumably when the original drain had become blocked by the midden which accumulated in the extreme SE angle of Enclosure A.

3. Late

After c. 350 A.D.:

Further evidence was obtained on the N side of Wall 9a immediately inside Enclosure B where a kerb (9b), similar in construction to Wall 5, had been built into and partly over the tumble from Wall 9a. An occupation level associated with it contained pottery of TF II.

THE MATERIAL

I. Minerals

(a) *Rock Samples*

Fifteen different-looking samples of rock were collected from the site and examined by D. Findlay (Soil Survey of England and Wales). Twelve samples were of rock-types usually associated with Triassic Dolomitic Conglomerate. Two samples of iron ore deposits were also probably from the Dolomitic Conglomerate though they may also occur as infillings in Carboniferous Limestone; the chert samples could also be derived from either. A flaggy, somewhat micaceous, medium-grained, grey felspathic (?) sandstone was probably not local, however, and could be of Pennant (Coal Measures) origin.

Nodules of ferrous-looking material of several superficially different appearances are also common on the site, and in some cases it was initially difficult to tell macroscopically whether they were natural, corroded iron objects, or slag. Seven samples were therefore submitted to elementary laboratory tests, carried out by J. Silby. All proved to be natural, consisting of iron and/or iron-oxides, with slight variations in minor elements. One sample proved to be almost pure iron/iron-oxide. Co-incidentally orientated with the axes of Building A1 and lying beneath its S wall W of the entrance was a straight natural open joint in

the bedrock, *c.* 0.3 m. wide, of unknown depth, and packed with rounded nodules of ferrous material superficially like but heavier than slag. The mineral was Goethite with small quantities of silica and phosphates. Presumably it was from such features that the ores were obtained for the sort of early iron-working indicated here in Phase 1(c).

(b) *Slag*

A considerable quantity of slag has been collected from a sporadic scatter over much of the area excavated, often from Phase 1(c) contexts, and specifically from layers 4, 5 and 7 in Pit 1 (Fowler, 1968, *Fig.* 54.1). Elementary analysis of a single sample in 1966 showed it to contain iron with silica and some nickel, and in 1969 a dozen samples were examined by W. L. Linton (Imperial Smelting Corporation Ltd., Avonmouth) whose report forms the basis of this note. The samples were chosen primarily to cover the whole range of superficial differences in appearance. The bulk of the material is nodular, rust-coloured and "heavy," but some pieces are smooth-surfaced, greenish and "light" and had aroused a suspicion that slags other than from iron-smelting might be present.

The samples were analysed spectographically and by X-ray diffraction to determine whether the slags were from iron, bronze or lead working.

Spectographic analysis: in all 9 samples, results were the same:

%Al	%Ba	%Ca	%Fe	%Mg	%Na	%K	%Pb
0.10	0.10	1.0	Strong	0.10	1.0	1.0	0.10

Comment: this technique does not give accuracy in the analysis of major constituents, but is useful for checking for trace impurities.

Most noticeable here is the complete absence of any trace of copper, showing that the slags did not arise from copper smelting. Lead is far below the level expected in lead slags. It is therefore probable that the slags arise from iron-working. The slags had never been fully molten and are certainly not tap slags.

The X-ray diffraction results from 12 samples, all from Phase 1(c), are stated below. SA at the end indicates that a spectrographic analysis was also made.

- (i) A typical iron slag.
- (ii) and (xi) Probably only clinker. No iron present
- (iii) A typical iron slag Iron content 52.4%. SA.
- (iv) Iron content 54.1%. SA.
- (v) A slag relatively low in iron. SA.
- (vi) Probably a slag, not an ore or roasted ore. No iron. SA.
- (vii) and (x) Iron slag adhering to clay. Maximum temperature employed probably under 1200°C.
- (viii) Clinker. Not an iron slag. SA.
- (ix) Probably a smelting slag. Iron content 53.4%. Sulphur content at 0.21% suggests use of coal rather than charcoal for smelting.
- (xii) Iron slag. Iron content 56%. SA.

Comment. All the samples had a fairly high sodium and potassium content of 1% each. These are probably derived from the charcoal used in smelting but the high sulphur content of (ix) suggests that coal was also used as a fuel.

II Brooches

(Numbered as on *Fig. 30, 1-7*)

Bow brooches by D. F. Mackreth, B.A.

(a) *Iron*

1. "Nauheim Derivative," heavily corroded but the spring seems to have had the usual four coils. Found at edge of F1.

Comment: a common type whose simplicity probably accounts for its long life up to the Flavian period; but iron was, for brooches, more characteristic of the very early Roman period and before. Not later than *c.* 50 A.D.

(b) *Bronze*

2. Colchester type. Three spring coils survive. The ornament is cast, the design being made in the mould with a die: the same faults can be seen to repeat themselves exactly at least three times. Phase 1 (*c*) occupation layer (?), south of and beneath tumble from Wall 9a.

Comment: decorated Colchesters can be broadly divided into two main classes: those with fluted wings and plain bows, and those with plain wings and zig-zags down their bows. A parallel is from Colchester period IV, 49-60 A.D. (Hawkes and Hull, 1947, 310, *Pl. LXXXIX, 11*). The type survived the Conquest but was being ousted at Colchester in mid-1st century by derivatives with separate springs. *c.* 35-55 A.D.?

3. Colchester Derivative, probably originally with a simple two coil spring/hinge. Phase 1 (*c*) layer sealing top of F2.

Comment: this represents typologically the earliest stage in the assimilation of the hinge pin introduced into Britain by such Roman provincial types as the Aucissa and the Hod Hill. It does not belong to any well defined sub-group of Colchester Derivatives, and the only features which may indicate its date are the absence of a foot-knob and the inferred presence of a "hinged" pin coiling once or twice round the axis bar; the end would have been recurved to bind on the back of the bow. *c.* 50-70 A.D.?

4. Colchester Derivative, the coils holding an axis bar which passes through plates at the end of the wings, while the chord passes through a pierced crest on the head of the bow. The chord broke in antiquity and a repair to the spring was made by recurving the last coil of the spring so that it would bind on the wing. Found 65 cm. deep in F1.

Comment: parallels in descending degrees of closeness come from the River Church (Allen, 1912, *Pl. opp. p. 102, lower two views*), Cirencester (Corinium Mus., no number), Wood Eaton, Oxon. (Kirk, 1949, No. 9, *Fig. 2, 6*), Wroxeter (Atkinson, 1942, 204, *Fig. 36, 204, drawing unreliable*; Rowley's House Mus., Shrewsbury, B427), and Cirencester (Corinium Mus. no number). None of these is dated but they are related to the writer's "Dolphin type" (*cf.* Collingwood and Richmond 1969, *Fig. 102, 12*) which seems to belong to the end of the 1st and beginning of the 2nd century (Gould, 1967, p. 17, *Fig. 7.7*) though the Butcombe examples are closer to the earlier Colchester Derivatives (*cf.* Hawkes and Hull, 1947, 311, *Pl. XCI, 42 and 43, the latter 49-60 A.D.*). *c.* 55-80 A.D.

5. Colchester Derivative, from base of S tumble from Wall 9a.

Comment: this specimen belongs to a very distinct, and at the moment small, class of brooch (*cf.* Wheeler, 1928, p. 162, *Fig.* 13.9). The present specimen departs from this example in having a hinged pin instead of a spring, side ridges to the upper bow instead of border grooves for the enamel inset area, and a more elaborate moulding on the centre of the bow. It may be a typologically later version related to one already found at Butcombe (Fowler, 1968, 232, No. 3) and to similar brooches whose distribution is centred in the Dorset-Wiltshire area. A late date in the main series need not, therefore, be correct. The brooch from Caerleon came from a deposit dated before 125 A.D. while another from Wroxeter (Atkinson, 1942, 205, *Fig.* 36, H. 40) was dated after 130 A.D. c. 125 A.D. or later.

6. Colchester Derivative with a cast-on head-loop, circular inset of red enamel on the crest of the bow and on the foot-knob. Topsoil.

Comment: parallels are known only from Nor'nour, Isles of Scilly (Dudley, 1967, 38, 40, *Figs.* 16. 84-92 and 24.232, especially *Fig.* 16.85), and at Ham Hill, Somerset. The date given for most of the Nor'nour brooches is c. 100-200 A.D. but this may be too late for this example since enamelling on headstuds can be dated earlier than 75 A.D. (*cf.* Webster, 1955, p. 102, *Fig.* 2.8; Thoroton Soc. 1938, *Pl* IIa, 23). The forward facing foot-knob can be paralleled on a variety of the headstud type (e.g. Tester and Bing, 1949, p. 33, *Fig.* 6.2); the fully developed decorated and enamelled Trumpet Brooch was in being by 75 A.D. (Hobley, 1969, p. 110, *Fig.* 19.9). Date range of c. 70-c. 100 A.D.

7. Penannular brooch (*Fig.* 30, 7) by Elizabeth Fowler, M.A., B.Litt. Complete with pin, Fowler (1960) type D6. Ribbed on top only; terminals bent round, clenched and nicked. Pin bent round ring, also lightly nicked and with incised cross on top; its patina is different from that on the ring. Found immediately above bedrock immediately W of F10.

Comment: other examples (refs. in Fowler, 1960) occur on a variety of sites, some military (Hod Hill, Wroxeter, Corbridge, Housestead), others civil (town contexts at Colchester, Cirencester, Verulamium, Woodeaton; "native" contexts like Cold Kitchen Hill, Wilts.). A concentration occurs in Somerset and Wiltshire. Date range generally 1st-3rd centuries A.D. but here it is most unlikely to have been deposited later than the mid-1st century A.D.

III. Pottery Object (*Fig.* 30, 8)

8. Conical, 3 cm. high with round base, 2.7 cm. external diameter containing domed central hollow 1.5 cm. across and 0.8 cm. deep. Off centre in the roof of the dome is a pointed rectangular hole. Externally, the cone is divided into three triangular panels, two blank and separated by a straight line of "pin-pricks," the third decorated by a symmetrical arrangement of impressed dots in straight lines forming six triangles on either side of a central line bisecting the triangular panel defined by double lines on both "upright" sides. The whole is in a fine, gritless homogeneous reddish fabric. Found in Phase 1 (probably 1 (c)) context beneath Wall 3 within F2.

Comment: purpose uncertain, though it appears to have fitted over some protrusion and may be simply a pot lug. Fabric and decoration suggest Beaker affinities, but no close parallel is known.

IV. Non-Marine Mollusca by Dr. J. G. Evans

The settlement was examined for land Mollusca to try and obtain information about its environmental history. For a variety of reasons, however, this approach proved unsatisfactory. Firstly, the subsoil (Hotwell's Limestone) weathers slowly and gives rise to generally non-calcareous soils which neither encourage nor preserve Mollusca. Secondly lengthy stratigraphical sequences represented by deep sediments are virtually absent, and the Mollusca are too few and their stratification too close for any useful purpose to be served by serial sampling. In any case, the stratification of such small objects as snail shells would probably be severely distorted by earthworm mixing. Thirdly, buried soils are poorly preserved, perhaps partly due to their disturbance through cultivation before the settlement and partly to earthworm activity since the Roman period.

Spot samples of soil were taken from a variety of contexts:

Table 1

	DRY WEIGHT (kg.)	NOS. OF MOLLUSCA
(i) Buried soil by the outside of the E wall of Building A1, beneath tumble. Dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) loam	1	5
(ii) Soil between upper flagstones inside Building A1. Dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) loam	1	0
(iii) Filling of pit 1, layers 4 and 5. Dark reddish brown (5YR 3/3-3/4) organic loam with limestone rubble.	1	8
(v) Soil beneath flagstone in building A1	1	0
(vi) Soil beneath flagstone in Building A1	1	0
(vii) Soil from base of tumble outside Wall 3, N of outlet from drain 1.	5	241
Snails hand-picked during excavation from various places		45

The molluscan analysis of these samples is presented in Table 2.

In all but one sample Mollusca were sparse or absent. Their abundance in sample (vii) can be equated with the good micro-environmental conditions provided by the cluster of stones of a fallen wall and with the good conditions of preservation (high calcium carbonate content) of such a situation.

The composition of the fauna closely resembles that from the existing hedges and walls of the surrounding fields. Differences include the absence from the fossil fauna of *Lauria cylindracea* and *Vitrina pellucida*. Notable absentees from the present day fauna are *Pomatias elegans*, *Vallonia costata*,

Table 2

	(i)	(iii)	(vii)	HAND- PICKED	MODERN
<i>Pomatias elegans</i> (Muller)	—	—	8	1	—
<i>Azeca goodalli</i> (Ferussac)	—	—	1	—	—
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i> (Muller)	—	—	—	—	+
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	—	—	1	—	—
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> (Draparnaud)	—	2	8	—	+
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> (Linne)	—	—	3	—	—
<i>Lauria cylindracea</i> (da Costa)	—	—	—	—	+
<i>Vallonia costata</i> (Muller)	2	1	—	—	—
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i> Sterki	1	—	15	—	—
<i>Marpessa laminata</i> (Montagu)	—	—	1	—	+
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i> (Strom)	—	—	9	—	+
<i>Ceciloides acicula</i> (Muller)	—	—	9	—	—
<i>Helicigona lapicida</i> (Linne)	—	1	3	1	+
<i>Helix hortensis</i> Muller	—	—	1	—	+
<i>Helix nemoralis</i> Linne	—	—	5	13	—
<i>Helix</i> (<i>Cepaea</i>) spp.	—	1	38	20	—
<i>Helix aspersa</i> (Muller)	—	1	3	—	+
<i>Hygromia striolata</i> (C. Pfeiffer)	—	—	14	—	+
<i>Hygromia hispida</i> (Linne)	—	1	14	2	+
<i>Helicella caperata</i> (Montagu)	1	1	—	—	+
<i>Helicella itala</i> (Linne)	—	—	3	—	—
<i>Discus rotundatus</i> (Muller)	—	—	83	8	+
<i>Vitrea crystallina</i> (Muller)	—	—	2	—	+
<i>Vitrea contracta</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	—	—	+
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i> (Muller)	1	—	17	—	+
<i>Oxychilus helveticus</i> (Blum)	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Retinella nitidula</i> (Draparnaud)	—	—	2	—	+
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i> (Muller)	—	—	—	—	+
Limacidae	—	—	1	—	+

(+ = present)

Helix nemoralis and *Helicella itala*. This may be due to collecting deficiencies, but elsewhere in Southern Britain these species seem to have become rather more restricted today than formerly. The presence of *Helix aspersa* in a 4th century A.D. context is worth mentioning. This species seems to have been introduced into Britain at the beginning of the Roman period, but not before. In the absence of alternative dating evidence, therefore, it may be possible in the future to use it as an index species.

The modern fauna included also a number of arionid slugs, namely *Arion circumscriptus* Johnston, *A. hortensis* Ferussac, *A. subfuscus* (Draparnaud) and *A. ater* agg. (Linne). The modern Limacidae were *Limax maximus* Linne and *Agriolimax reticulatus* (Muller).

V. Bones, 1968 and 1969 by R. F. Everton

(a) *Human*: a cremation, probably of Phase 1 (c), was in a small pit beneath the crushed remains of an incomplete pottery vessel at the S foot of Wall 9a. The boney material is mainly very well crushed. Calcination is very variable. Identifiable human fragments are few. The anatomical evidence indicates that the remains are those of a young male.

Amongst the human remains were fragments of animal bones, of which only an unburnt molar of sheep was identifiable.

(b) *Animal*: the osteological material was again very fragmentary, though Pit 7 contained an almost complete skeleton of a pony whose epiphyses indicated an age of from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 years. The bulk of the material is from Phases 1(c) and 2. Generally, sex determination was impossible and age determination difficult (see Table 5), but the large number of loose teeth (ox 206, sheep 632, pig 69, horse 12) allowed a separate determination of minimum numbers of animals and ages (Tables 4-5).

The incidence of animals is very similar to that in the 1968 report (p. 233), ox forming the largest source of food in all four periods, followed by sheep and a small amount of pig. It is again indicated (Table 3) that the inhabitants ate mainly the less desirable joints and, judging by the relatively large numbers of remains from extremities, i.e. feet and skull, the animals could have been slaughtered at the settlement and the better class joints "exported". The age range of the oxen is less in this material than previously, suggesting that they were slaughtered before their usefulness as draught animals was over. There seems to be a large number of sheep in the older age group, suggesting a greater consumption of ewe mutton and a higher lamb and wool production. The relative scarcity of pig again indicates that it was not an important part of the diet.

There were some minor inclusions, mainly in Phase 1 (c) when a large bird (? goose) and 3 dogs are represented. Dog was represented in the prehistoric period by a molar tooth, and in Phase 2 there was evidence of one dog, one hare and one domestic fowl.

Table 3
DISTRIBUTION OF JOINTS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE
OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JOINTS REPRESENTED
FROM EACH ANIMAL

PHASE Joints	1B			1C			2			3	
	Good	Mode- rate	Poor	Good	Mode- rate	Poor	Good	Mode- rate	Poor	Mode- rate	Poor
Ox	20.5	13.5	66.5	1.9	28.6	52.4	28.2	19.7	50.1	50	50
Sheep	13.8	27.6	58.6	11.9	15.4	72.7	14.4	14.7	73.4	—	100
Pig	—	—	100	—	14.3	85.7	—	50	50	—	—
Horse	—	40	60	—	—	—	—	—	100	—	—

Table 4
MINIMUM NUMBER OF ANIMALS DETERMINED BY BONES
(Column i) AND TEETH (Column ii)

PHASE	1B		1C		2		3		Total	
	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
Ox	4	10	17	21	7	17	1	2	29	50
Sheep	7	14	32	56	13	60	1	8	53	138
Pig	2	4	2	12	1	3	—	—	5	19
Horse	2	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	6	8
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	29	53	94	22	81	3	11	93	215

Table 5

AGE RANGE AT DEATH AS DETERMINED BY EPIPHYSICAL CLOSURE OF BONES (Column i) AND ATTRITION AND ERUPTION TIMES OF TEETH (Column ii)

PHASE Age range	1B		1C		2		3	
	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
Ox								
Foetal	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatal	0	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
3 to 18 months	0	3	2	4	—	5	—	1
2 to 3 years	0	5	3	10	—	10	—	1
over 3 years	4	—	10	—	7	—	1	—
or 4 to 6 years	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
over 6 years	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
SHEEP								
Foetal	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatal	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3 months	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 to 12 months	—	4	7	1	1	1	—	1
18 to 24 months	1	3	1	23	—	40	—	2
24 to 36 months	4	7	20	32	12	18	1	5
PIG								
6 to 12 months	1	1	—	8	—	—	—	—
12 to 18 months	—	2	2	2	—	3	—	—
18 to 24 months	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
over 24 months	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
HORSE								
2 to 3 years	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
3 to 6 years	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
6 to 9 years	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
10 years and over	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

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