

## **FIELD WORK ON EASTERN MENDIP**

by

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### **ABSTRACT**

Archaeological remains are noted from field-walking along the route of the Nunney Catch Bypass. Material from bridge and road construction has been spread on neighbouring fields. An area west of Holwell was also examined.

Between 1985 and 1987 the writer undertook a limited amount of fieldwork along the route of the Nunney Catch Bypass during its construction. A

further area occupying the high ground to the west of the village of Holwell was also examined for archaeological remains.

Briefly noted below are the fields and areas of the bypass walked by the writer and, where relevant, the archaeological material found. Each site is located by its National Grid Reference and the reader is referred to the sketch map of the area in the accompanying report on the Holwell Romano-British site, (Vranch, this issue).

The fields were walked in a totally random manner and all flint artefacts found are tentatively assigned to the Neolithic-Bronze age.

### *The Nunney Catch Bypass*

1. N.G.R. ST 724447. This field has been backfilled to a variable depth with Forest Marble clay from a nearby road cutting and the road cutting in the vicinity of site 2.
2. N.G.R. ST 73954465. Excavation of a shallow road cutting a short distance south-east of the new roundabout revealed a large quantity of pottery sherds just below the field surface. The pottery is datable to the 17-18th century, Wanstrow Ware, and the presence of much material damaged during the course of manufacture indicates that a kiln site may be present nearby.
3. N.G.R. ST 73114484. The entrance to Tom Tivey's Other Hole, a cave in the Marston Road Quarry, is now blocked by a large slab of limestone. A 4 m long cave passage trending west was encountered and destroyed during road widening and a further cave passage, now plugged with concrete, was rumoured to have passed beneath the A361 road.
4. N.G.R. ST 72754495. Excavation of the foundations for a new road bridge over the Nunney Brook revealed some 3 m of alluvial deposits resting on the Forest Marble clay bedrock (Vranch, in prep.). A basal deposit of coarse to fine gravel was overlain by a rich plant detritus layer containing leaves, moss and large tree limbs, which in turn was covered by a thick deposit of clay and flood loam in which a former hearth layer was identified. Two former river channels were recognized bisecting the above deposits at different levels. Human and animal remains, including a fine horn core of the Aurochs, were collected from the basal gravels and nearby dumped material from the excavations.
5. N.G.R. ST 724447. An area covering the upper two-thirds of this field was backfilled to a depth of approximately 1.5 m with material predominantly from the new bridge foundation excavation. The backfilling will contain both human and animal skeletal remains.

### *Field Walking*

1. N.G.R. ST 726446. Several flint artefacts were found, particularly in the northern portion of this field. Material includes cores and scrapers.
2. N.G.R. ST 723444. Occasional flint scrapers were found in this field.
3. N.G.R. ST 723448. No finds.
4. N.G.R. ST 718446. Occasional flint implements including a discoidal scraper and a leaf shaped point.
5. N.G.R. ST 711443. Near the southern boundary of this field a large, 1.5 kg block of flint was found which had been used as a core.
6. N.G.R. ST 710447. No finds.
7. N.G.R. ST 711449. No finds.
8. N.G.R. ST 713449. No finds.
9. N.G.R. ST 715447. In the same field as the Holwell Romano-British site, 27 flint fragments were collected including both end and discoidal scrapers.

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