

FIELD WORK.

BY

E. K. TRATMAN, B.D.S.

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FIELD WORK.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

BY E. K. TRATMAN, B.D.S.

It has been very clearly demonstrated that the best way to study the archæology of England is by a series of regional surveys. One such survey has already been completed for the Cambridge region. But before such a survey can be safely attempted, the maps of the district must have been brought up to date in the light of the knowledge gained during the years that have passed since the last issue.

Usually from the point of view of a regional archæological survey it is best to take geographical regions, but a geographical region for the Bristol district is difficult to find unless one takes an area of great extent ; for with Bath as a centre the high ground stretches to the Cotswolds in the north, and the chalk uplands to the south and east, while westwards it ends in a series of limestone ridges reaching, for the most part, to the shores of the Bristol Channel. There is then no geological feature cutting off a geographical area from the rest of the south and south-west of England save on one side only. Therefore sub-divisions of this area must be arbitrarily fixed for field survey purposes and the most convenient seem to be the sheets of the six-inch Ordnance Survey Map.

Now a brief examination of the 1902 edition of these maps for Bristol and south-westwards to the Mendip Hills will demonstrate to anyone who knows the country that many features of great archæological importance have not been entered on them. With the object of filling in these archæological features a systematic survey of the district with which this Society is chiefly concerned was set on foot last summer. Each sheet of the six-inch map is to be taken in turn

and gone over field by field so that as far as possible no detail of prehistoric archæological interest shall be overlooked. While every effort is made to make this survey as complete as possible it is not proposed to maintain that there will be no omissions, for anyone who has done any of this work knows how very easy some features, such as nearly ploughed out barrows, are to miss unless the light and the observer's position are just right. It is obvious then that work of this nature must of necessity occupy a long time, and so far only two full sheets have been nearly completed.

One of the first problems that must be solved is that of the various mounds that are to be found scattered all over the higher ground; on the maps some of those that are marked are described as "Tumuli" and others as "Barrows." Of most of those that are not marked one may reasonably assume that they are ancient burial mounds from their general appearance and shape. Therefore some definition of "Tumulus" and "Barrow" is necessary, and throughout this article the following definitions govern the nomenclature adopted.

"A tumulus is a mound which from its general appearance, shape and position one may assume to be an ancient burial mound."

"A barrow is a tumulus which has been proved by excavation to be an ancient burial mound."

Now while it is almost certain that the majority of these newly discovered mounds will prove on excavation to be barrows, there are a certain number about which the finder must feel a certain amount of doubt as to their antiquity and purpose; for these then the term "Mound" has been reserved, which, without implying any archæological information, does note its actual presence.

Further this Society has instituted a numbered card index of all mounds, tumuli and barrows that it has in any way investigated under the code letter "T." In this index are recorded the position (lat. and long.), type and approximate size of all mounds under the above headings. As excavations are carried out, or as information comes to hand the knowledge so obtained is entered up under its appropriate number so that all the information in possession of the Society respecting any one mound, tumulus or barrow can be obtained by merely quoting the code letter and number, or by giving the latitude and longitude. In the tables relating to the tumuli the rough dimensions, obtained by pacing and estimation, are given so that a person going to the site indicated may have some idea of the size of the feature he is seeking.

Finally, in order to complete as large an area as possible in the shortest possible time consistent with thoroughness the various map sheets have been distributed, and the reports on them appear under the investigators' names below.

SOMERSET. SHEET XI N.E. AND S.E.

These two quarter sheets cover an area including a broad ridge of high ground five or six miles to the south-west of Bristol. The chief parishes are those of Winford, Butcome, and Nempnett Thrubwell. The general level of the high ground is between 500 and 600 feet above O.D.; most of it is thickly enclosed, making it very difficult to work over. Generally the land slopes steeply down to the valleys from the 500 feet level, but in some places there is a fairly broad terrace at the 400 feet contour. On these two quarter sheets all land down to the 400 feet contour has been examined. As the ground slopes steeply from this level to the valley bottom it is very unlikely to bear any remains of prehistoric interest, and where areas below this level have been examined no such remains were found; in fact very little was found below the 500 feet contour, the Fairy Toot being the only feature of any considerable importance.

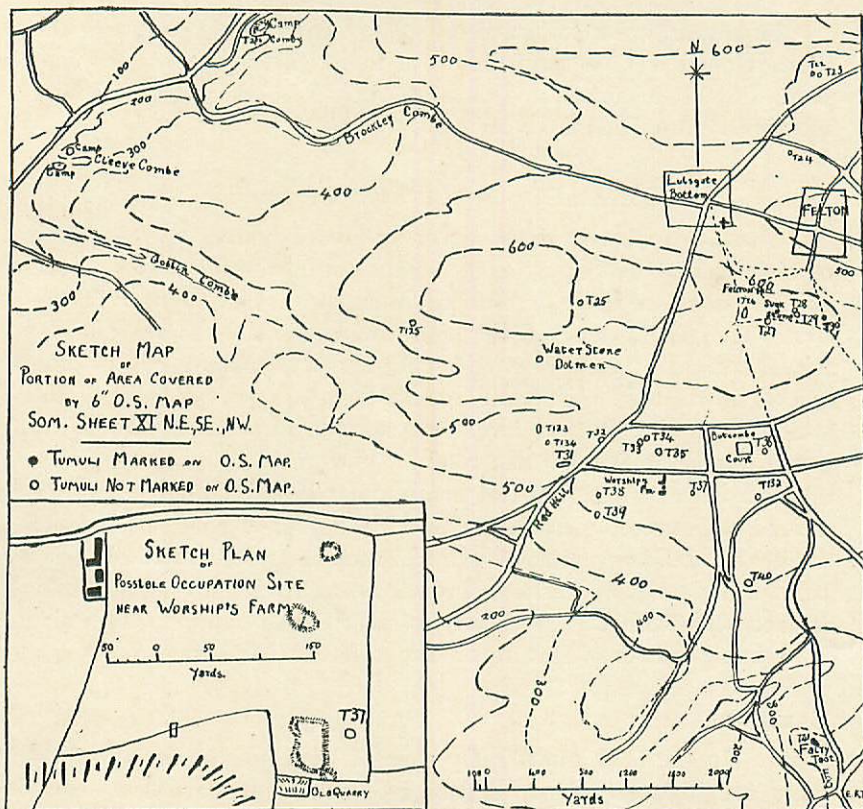
EARTHWORKS.

1. In the field immediately west of Worship's Farm is an irregular roughly rectangular earthwork. The banks are low, being one to two feet high and three feet wide; the work measures 30 yds. from north to south and 20 yds. from east to west. The centre of the enclosure is at Lat. $51^{\circ}, 22', 1''$, N. and Lon. $2^{\circ}, 42', 9''$, W. In other parts of the field are ring mounds with hollow centres. Two of these coalesce, forming a figure of eight. Immediately to the east of the earthwork is a small tumulus (see T.37). In the same field were picked up a fragment of flint and a sherd of pottery, possibly Romano-British. The whole site is possibly a settlement of that date, with some hut circles outside the main enclosure. (Fig. 1)

DOLMENS AND STONES.

1. *The Water Stone Dolmen*.¹ (Lat. $51^{\circ}, 22', 33''$, N, Lon. $2^{\circ}, 43', 3''$, W.) Capstone and two uprights are present and slight traces of a mound. There are some large stones on the garden wall of Cornerpool Farm which are said to have come from the dolmen. (Fig. 1).

¹ *Proc. Clifton Antiquarian Soc.*, Vol. III, Part 3, 1896.



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of
H.M. Stationery Office. The W. B. Harris Printing Co., Bristol.

FIG. 1.

2. On Felton Hill at Lat. $51^{\circ}, 22', 46''$, N. and Lon. $2^{\circ}, 41', 30''$, W., is a very large flat stone, known locally as the Suck-Stone, from the fact that water usually stands on its upper surface in a natural hollow (*c.f.*, similar naming of the Water Stone Dolmen). Near by are a considerable number of large stones, some of which can be made to lie on a circle, the Suck-Stone being one of them. There are, however, too many stones close by which cannot be made to come on a circle. The stones are of limestone, which forms the hill, and similar stones can be found on various parts of the hill. The fact that one stone bears a name is very suggestive of antiquity, and it is possible that the main group represents a burial circle; but the state and position of the stones does not warrant a definite assumption. On the same hill are one long and two round tumuli and two mounds (see T.26—T.30), and their presence is a point in favour of the antiquity of the Suck-Stone and its neighbours.

TUMULI AND MOUNDS.

Somerset Sheet XI, N.E., S.E., N.W. Six inch O.S. Map.

Chief Parishes: Barrow Gurney, Butcombe, Nempnett Thrubwell and Wrington.

No.	Lat. N.			Lon. W.			Type	Measurements in feet.			REMARKS
	Deg.	Min.	Sec.	Deg.	Min.	Sec.		Central Mound Diam.	Height	Total Diam.	
T 22	51	23	44	2	41	27	S.B.	25	1.5		*
T 23	51	23	44	2	41	26	S.B.	25	1.5		* Partly destroyed.
T 24	51	23	34	2	41	39	Mound	20	1.25		* Hollow in centre.
T 25	51	22	48	2	42	58	S.B.	20	1.5		*
T 26	51	22	49	2	41	48	Long	—	—		* See below.
T 27	51	22	46	2	41	45	Mound	20	3.0		*
T 28	51	22	48	2	41	26	B.D.	51	4.5	57	* See below.
T 29	51	22	47	2	41	26	B.D.	68	2.5	74	* See below.
T 30	51	22	47	2	41	17	Mound	12	1.5		*
T 31	51	22	8	2	43	8	Long	—	—		* See below.
T 32	51	22	17	2	42	38	S.B.	—	—		* Largely destroyed by hedge and road.
T 33	51	22	15	2	42	28	S.B.	50	3.0		* Part E of hedge gone.
T 34	51	22	16	2	42	26	S.B.	40	1.0		* Large flat stone at centre; nearly ploughed out.
T 35	51	22	14	2	42	23	S.B.	65	1.5		* Nearly ploughed out.
T 36	51	22	13	2	41	37	S.B.	72	2.5		* Measured by tape.
T 37	51	22	2	2	42	7	S.B.	30	2.5		* Disturbed. See p. 276.
T 38	51	21	57	2	42	47	Mound	18	1.0		* A ring; flat centre; gap to W.
T 39	51	21	46	2	42	46	Mound	—	1.0		* N-S 18 & E-W 15 feet
T 40	51	21	40	2	41	41	B.D.	75	5.0-7.0	95	* Ditch only seen on N. & W.
T 41	51	21	10	2	41	18	Long	—	—		† Remnants only. Fairy Toot (see Gents. Mag. 1789).
T125	51	22	43	2	44	2					* See below.
T132	51	21	52	2	41	32	Mound	21-27	1.0		*
T133	51	22	18	2	43	13	Mound	—	—		* Long stony mound much mutilated.
T134	51	22	13	2	43	11	Mound	21	1.5		*

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS.

S.B.	Simple Bowl.	†	Already marked on map as Tumulus.
B.D.	Bowl with Ditch.	*	Not marked on map till now.

SOMERSET, SHEET XI. NOTES ON TUMULI.

T.26. FELTON HILL. Oriented slightly east of north looking north, and measures 58 feet in length, 46 feet and 40 feet in width at the south and north ends. The height is 4 feet, with the centre depressed due to disturbance, or to the collapse of a burial chamber and gallery. At the north end two flat stones placed on edge at right angles to each other probably mark one of the chambers. A rounded stone near the first two, and another flat stone placed on edge near the centre can be observed. The general shape is that of an egg,

and there is no trace of a surrounding ditch. This tumulus and T.28 and T.29 are known locally as "The Mountains," and there is a tradition that they are the burial places of soldiers killed in a war, supposedly the civil war(!); the tradition is of interest. This tumulus will in future be known as the Felton Hill Long Barrow.

T.28 AND 29. These are two flat topped tumuli. The first has been disturbed, and the material thrown on to the second. Both are surrounded by a ditch, which is as much as 3 feet deep in places, and which becomes a common one at one sector where the tumuli abut.

T.31. RED HILL. Oriented east and west, and 154 feet long. The wider and higher end is at the east, the widths being 50 and 45 feet, and the heights being 3.5 and 3.0 feet. Some large stones are visible, and a hedge crosses the mound some 20 feet from the west end. Oak trees are growing on the east end, from which an old hedge bank runs down in the direction of the road. The ends are rounded, but there is no trace of a surrounding ditch.

No name for it, or for the field could be discovered, but the corner 250 yards to the south where the road to Wrington leaves the main Bristol-Bridgwater road, is known as Goblin Corner. This tumulus will in future be known as the Red Hill Long Barrow.

T.125. This is overgrown with Scotch firs and much mutilated, leaving a central mound 10 feet in diameter, while a circular irregular rim marks the original extent of the tumulus.

SOMERSET. SHEET XI, N.W.

BY MURIEL THORBURN, B.Sc.

(Chief Parishes: Brockley and Wrington.)

The whole of the area covered by this sheet has not yet been investigated. The part examined to date lies north and east of Goblin Combe. Most of the ground is very thickly wooded, and is thus very difficult to work over. All combes between Taps Combe on the north and Goblin Combe on the south have received special attention, resulting in the discovery of one camp, and the re-discovery of two others. In addition the Combe leading up into King's Wood from Channel View Farm, half a mile W.S.W. of Cleeve Toot, has been examined.

CAMPS.

1. TAP'S COMBE CAMP. (Fig. 2.)

This camp is situated on the north side of the entrance to the combe, its centre being at Lat. $51^{\circ}, 24', 0''$, and Lon. $2^{\circ}, 45', 0''$, and is a small promontory fortress the ramparts enclosing an area of

about two acres. The defences consist of a single rampart on the west from which the ground slopes away fairly steeply; a scarp, ditch and slight outer bank protect the north, while a stronger rampart and ditch serve the same purpose on the more open east side. The south side is protected apparently only by the steep natural scarp of the combe side, though an artificial defence may have been destroyed by the numerous small quarries which have been made all along the edge of the scarp.

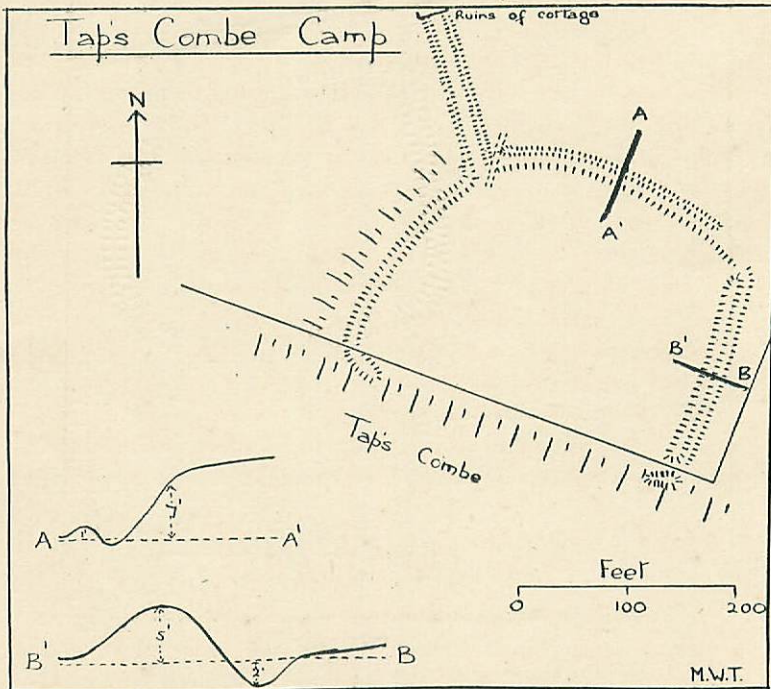


FIG 2.

A covered approach enters the camp at the north-west corner, being protected by two parallel banks. The outer end of the approach has been destroyed by the building of a cottage, now itself in ruins. This camp is not marked on the maps, and no references could be found to it.

2. CLEEVE HILL CAMP. (Fig. 3.)

It is situated on the north side of the entrance to Cleeve Combe, its centre being at Lat. $51^{\circ} 23' 22''$, N., and Lon. $2^{\circ} 46' 21''$, W. A single rampart with no ditch encloses an area of about three-quarters of an acre. There is no visible entrance, and the scarp of the combe

side is not utilised for defensive purposes; the whole site is now covered with trees. The camp is mentioned in the *Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club*, vol. 3, part 2.

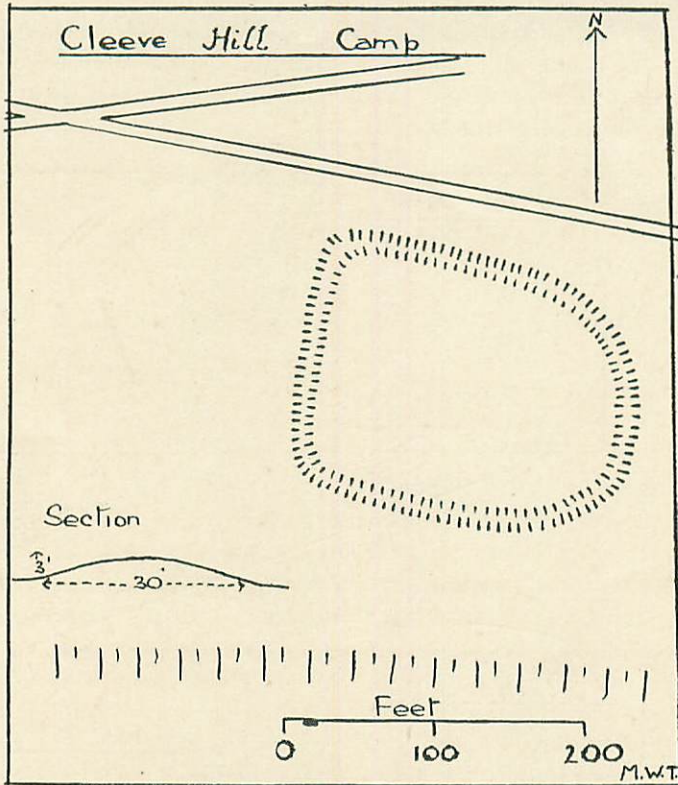


FIG. 3.

3. CLEEVE TOOT CAMP. (Fig. 4.)

It is situated on the opposite or south side of Cleeve Combe and just below Cleeve Toot, its centre being at Lat. $51^{\circ} 23' 15''$, N., and Lon. $2^{\circ} 46' 22''$, W. It is a promontory fortress enclosing an area of about three acres. The defence consists of a single semi-circular rampart with no ditch; the steep natural scarp forms the sole defence on the north. Cleeve Toot to the south would make an excellent observation post for the camp, the site of which is now entirely covered with trees. The camp is mentioned in the *Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club* (vol. 3, part 2) and by Rutter,² who calls it a Danish camp.

² Rutter, *Delineations of N.W. Somerset*, page 68.

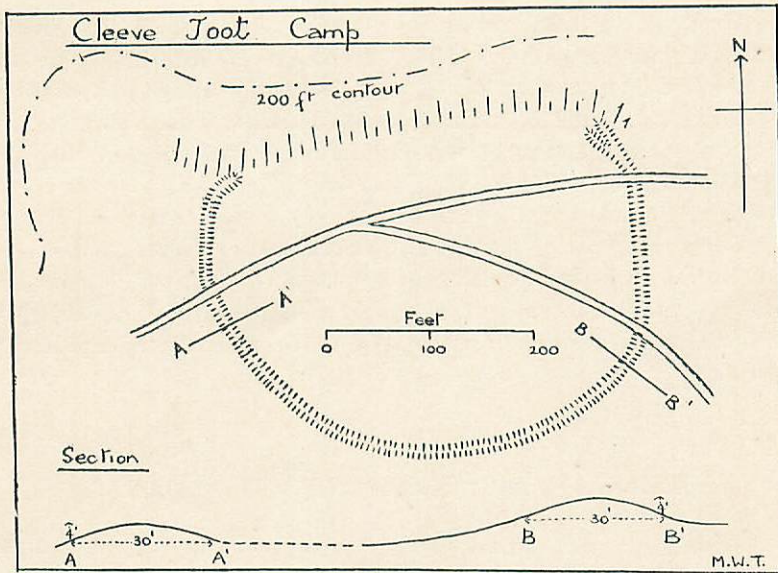


FIG. 4.

The sides of Tap's Combe and Cleve Combe are particularly suited for camps as the slope up to the 200 feet contour is steep; above this level the ground rises very gradually to the 300 feet contour, thus providing a fairly level platform for the camps. In all the other combes, especially Brockley Combe, the slope between the 200 and 300 feet contours is far too steep to provide ground suitable for camps, and above this level the sites would be too far up the combes to be of any use to defend them.

Flint was found to be scarce in all the ploughed fields, except one at the head, and on the south side of Brockley Combe, 400 yards east of Willis' Batch. The field has been much ploughed, and may mark the site of a settlement.

SOMERSET. SHEET XI.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

The evidence cited above makes it abundantly clear that this area of high ground was extensively occupied during prehistoric times, from the Neolithic period onwards. The Fairy Toot and the Water Stone Dolmen, which is also probably all that remains of a long barrow, cease to be two isolated phenomena, for to these two can now be added two long tumuli, one on Felton Hill and the other at the top of Red Hill.

Much of the land having been under plough until recently it is very probable that much of the evidence of prehistoric occupation has been destroyed, and this means of destruction is still in operation (see T.33—35). Of the Bronze Age population it is seen that twelve tumuli of the round type have been discovered with a possible further five described for the time being as "Mounds"; but some of these tumuli are of small size, and may prove on excavation to be of the succeeding Early Iron Age. This later period is represented in its turn by the three camps described under sheet XI N.W., for in the light of evidence at present available with regard to this type of earthwork it is a reasonable assumption that they date from the Early Iron Age.

SOMERSET. SHEET XXVII, N.E., S.E., AND N.W.

BY E. K. TRATMAN.

INTRODUCTION.

The chief parishes are Priddy, Westbury and Cheddar, though portions of a number of others are included in the area covered by these three quarter sheets. At present the ground down to the 600 feet contour only has been examined thus omitting part of the S.E. sheet, and the greater part of the N.W. one. The area examined is, then, the high ground of the Mendip Hills, bounded on the north and east by the bounds of the map, and to the south and west by the line of the escarpment which runs from N.N.W. to S.S.E. Along this latter boundary the land falls throughout almost its whole length steeply down to the plains below, from the 800 feet contour to the 200 feet one, and thence more gently to the low lying moors.

Though the evidence collected on the high ground shews it to have been thickly populated during the later prehistoric periods it is not therefore presumed that the moors remained quite uninhabited; and in point of fact the settlements discovered at Glastonbury and Meare, in the centre of what must have been a great marshy area, interspersed with shallow lakes, shew that extensive settlements had been developed there during the Early Iron Age, several centuries before our era. That these two sites will prove not to be isolated ones is an almost foregone conclusion, and doubtless when the moors come to be examined the actual sites of similar settlements will be discovered.

TUMULI AND MOUNDS.

Somerset Sheet XXVII, N.E., S.E. and N.W. Six inch O.S. Map.
Chief Parishes: Priddy, Westbury and Cheddar.

No.	Lat. N.			Lon. W.			Type	Measurements in feet			REMARKS
	Deg.	Min.	Sec.	Deg.	Min.	Sec.		Central Diam.	Mound Height	Total Diam.	
T 19	51	16	15	2	39	54	S.B.	75	6-0		* See page 000, with T.71
T 61	51	16	57	2	43	9	S.B.	54	2-5		* Flat top. Large flat-stone near centre.
T 62	51	17	4	2	42	45	S.B.	54	6-5		* See below.
T 63	51	16	59	2	42	48	S.B.	42	3-0		* Built of stones.
T 64	51	17	3	2	42	16	S.B.	30	1-0		*
T 65	51	17	3	2	39	46	S.B.	72	5-0		* Flat top.
T 66	51	16	57	2	39	55	S.B.	45	7-0		* Destroyed nearly to centre on S.W.
T 67	51	16	56	2	39	57	S.B.	42	3-0		*
T 68	51	16	51	2	39	49	S.B.	60	9-0		* Disturbed by four trenches now filled in.
T 69	51	16	47	2	39	47	S.B.	54	5-5		* Partly destroyed.
T 70	51	16	27	2	42	39	S.B.?				* Practically destroyed.
T 71	51	16	19	2	40	3	S.B.	60	8-0		† With T.19.
T 72	51	16	3	2	41	9	S.B.	60	7-0		† See below.
T 73	51	16	4	2	41	5	S.B.	60	6-0		† Flat top.
T 74	51	16	6	2	41	3	B.D.	60	8-0	66	† Ditch 1-ft. deep. Slightly disturbed.
T 75	51	15	59	2	42	24	S.B.	80	4-0		* Flat top.
T 76	51	15	57	2	42	22	S.B.	74	5-5		*
T 77	51	15	55	2	42	22	S.B.	60	2-5		* Flat top.
T 78	51	15	53	2	42	21	S.B.	66	5-0		*
T 79	51	15	59	2	41	17	S.B.	48	4-0		† Superficially destroyed in central area. With T.72-74.
T 80	51	15	40	2	42	21	S.B.	66	7-5		* Flat top.
T 81	51	15	39	2	42	18	S.B.	45	5-5		*
T 82	51	15	38	2	42	17	S.B.	65	6-5		* Steep sides; flat top.
T 83	51	15	37	2	42	16	S.B.	50	6-0		*
T 84	51	15	43	2	41	41	S.B.	65	5-5		* } These three overlap extensively.
T 85	51	15	43	2	41	41	S.B.	50	5-0		* } These three almost touch one another and T.84-86.
T 86	51	15	43	2	41	41	S.B.	55	5-5		* }
T 87	51	15	42	2	41	41	S.B.	27	2-5		*
T 88	51	15	42	2	41	41	S.B.	52	6-0		*
T 89	51	15	41	2	41	41	S.B.	75	6-5		*
T 90	51	15	34	2	43	23	S.B.	40	3-0		*
T 91	51	15	31	2	43	47	S.B.	50	4-0		*
T 92	51	15	31	2	43	35	S.B.	36	2-0		* Dug away nearly to centre on N.
T 93	51	15	29	2	43	30	S.B.	36	2-0		*
T 94	51	15	23	2	43	42	S.B.	24	1-5		*
T 95	51	15	25	2	43	15	B.D.	36	4-0	46	* Ditch less than 1-ft. deep.
T 96	51	15	26	2	42	39	S.B.	54	3-5		*
T 97	51	15	25	2	42	36	S.B.	30	2-5		*
T 98	51	15	26	2	41	33	S.B.	51	4-5		* } With T.124.
T 99	51	15	25	2	41	32	S.B.	56	5-0		* }
T100	51	15	34	2	40	40	S.B.	60	5-0		*
T101	51	15	36	2	39	49	S.B.	42	3-0		* Outlier of Priddy North Hill group.
T102	51	15	11	2	42	58	S.B.?	90	10-0		† Westbury Beacon; see below.
T103	51	15	15	2	42	47	S.B.	80	5-0		† See below.
T104	51	15	13	2	42	42	S.B.	40	3-5		*
T105	51	15	17	2	41	46	Long				* See below.
T106	51	15	16	2	41	20	S.B.	30	1-5		*
T107	51	15	8	2	42	25	S.B.	69	6-0		* Slight depression in centre.
T108	51	15	3	2	42	17	S.B.	40	2-5		*
T109	51	14	59	2	42	1	S.B.	36	1-5		* Almost ploughed out.
T110	51	15	7	2	40	24	S.B.	50	3-0		*
T111	51	15	7	2	40	23	S.B.	60	3-5		*
T112	51	15	8	2	39	48	S.B.	69	5-0		*
T113	51	15	8	2	39	45	S.B.	57	2-0?		* Largely destroyed
T114	51	14	50	2	41	56	S.B.	27	2-0		*
T115	51	14	49	2	41	55	S.B.	40	3-5		*
T116	51	14	43	2	40	41	S.B.	30	2-0		*
T117	51	14	43	2	40	35	Mound	20	1-5		*
T118	51	14	27	2	41	17	S.B.	30	4-0		*
T119	51	14	27	2	41	10	S.B.	57	5-0		*
T120	51	14	27	2	40	27	S.B.	36	3-5		*
T121	51	16	10	2	44	6	S.B.	50	4-5		* Flat top.
T122	51	15	51	2	44	0	S.B.	27	2-5		* Flat top; partly destroyed by trench from E.
T123	51	16	53	2	42	8	S.B.	40	2-5		* Recent trench dug in from N.E. Nothing found.
T124	51	15	23	2	41	28	S.B.	40	3-5		*
T126	51	16	1	2	39	57	S.B.	60	5-0		* Outlier of Priddy Ash Hill group.
T127	51	15	29	2	42	45	S.B.	40	3-0		*
T128	51	15	30	2	42	46	S.B.	72	3-0		* Very flat top.
T129	51	15	31	2	42	47	S.B.	60	2-5		*
T130	51	15	32	2	42	48	S.B.	36	2-5		* Flat top.
T131	51	15	21	2	42	9	S.B.	30	2-5		* Largely destroyed to build wall.
T136	51	17	17	2	39	52	S.B.?	60	7-0?		* Much mutilated on S.E. sector.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS.

S.B. Simple Bowl.
B.D. Bowl with Ditch.

† Already marked on map as Tumulus.
* Not marked on map till now.

EARTHWORKS.

1. WESTBURY CAMP. (Fig. 5.)

This camp actually lies within the bounds of the parish of Rodney Stoke, but is nearer to the village of Westbury than to Rodney Stoke. The camp is irregular in shape, and encloses an area of roughly

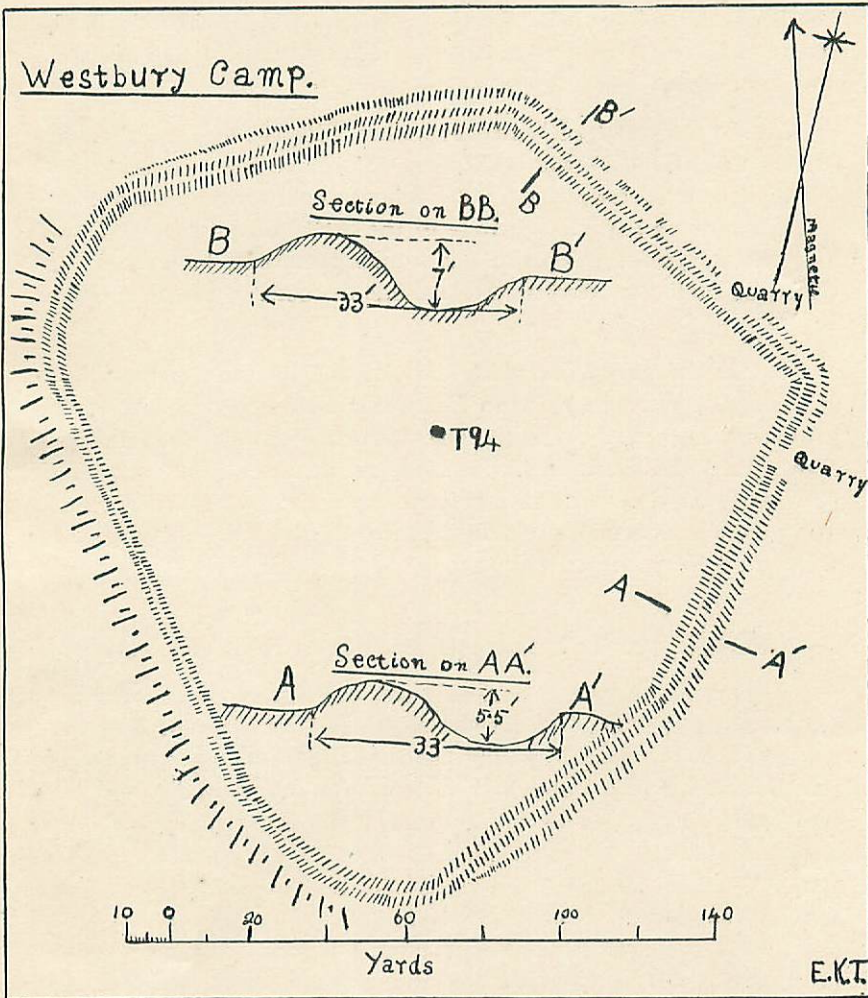


FIG. 5.

six acres, immediately north of Stoke Woods. It is a hill camp utilising on its S.E. side the slope of the hill, the general slope of the ground being from N.E.—S.W. On the N.E. the defences consist of a mound with a ditch on the outer side, but both have been largely

destroyed by a series of small quarries. Similar, but more pronounced, defences exist on the S.E. sector, but as the defences go south and down hill the ditch gradually disappears, and the vallum becomes less marked. A similar state of affairs exists on the northern sector. The western and south western angles are rounded, and the sole defence on the S.W. consists of a very low mound, while the hillside has been scarped to make the slope steeper. Approximately in the centre of the camp is a small tumulus, T.94, at Lat. $51^{\circ}, 15', 23''$, N., and Lon. $2^{\circ}, 43', 42''$, W.

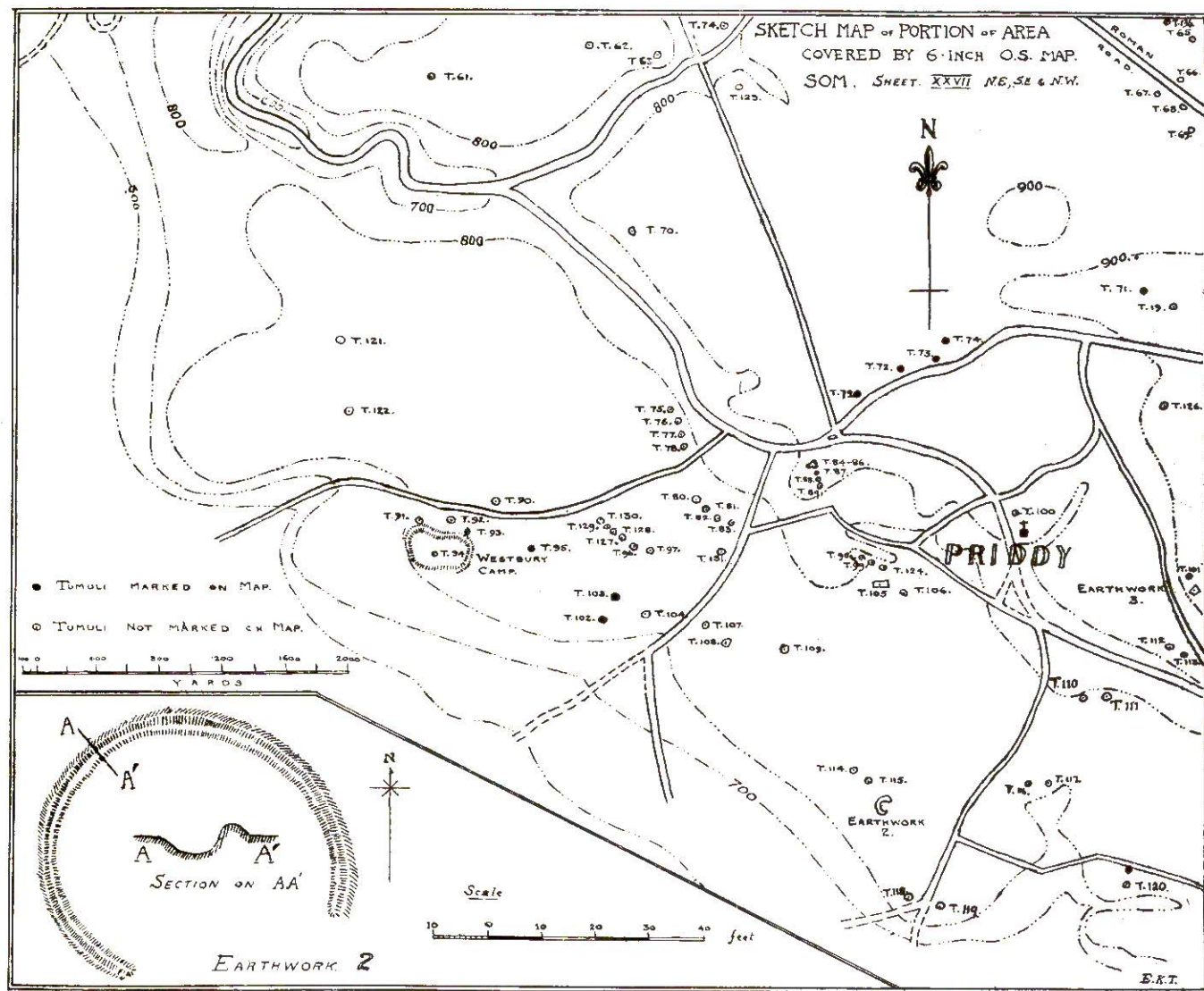
2. In the parish of Westbury at Lat. $51^{\circ}, 14', 41''$, N., and Lon. $2^{\circ}, 41', 49''$, W., is a small earthwork. Its shape is an imperfect and incomplete circle consisting of a low inner mound with a ditch outside. There is a large gap in the circle to the S.E. Its purpose and date of construction are unknown, but similar structures have been described as large hut circles. Its average diameter is 27 yds. (Plate XVIII.)

3. In the parish of Priddy at Lat. $51^{\circ}, 15', 33''$, N., and Lon. $2^{\circ}, 39', 49''$, W., and close to Eastwater Drove is a square earthwork with sides 55 feet long. The work consists of a single mound about three feet high and six feet wide at the base. The entrance is apparently at the south at the junction of the two southern sides, while there is a second, probably recent one, opposite it. Its date of origin and purpose are unknown.

NOTES ON TUMULI, SOMERSET SHEET XXVII.

The round tumuli in various parts of England have been described under the three headings of Bowl, Bell and Disc or Ring barrows. The typical Bowl tumulus has a ditch immediately surrounding the mound with an outer earthen ring mound as well. The Bell tumulus is similar, but has a flat area between the edge of the mound and the ditch, the mound being also more conical in form. In the area covered by this sheet of the map not a single example of a bowl tumulus as described above appears. The most general type of tumulus is a simple bowl shaped mound without any surrounding ditch or ring; these I have termed simple bowl tumuli. A few have a surrounding ditch, and these I have termed bowl tumulus with ditch.

On this sheet also there is only one possible example of a bell tumulus namely T.102; and there is not a single example of the ring tumulus, though these do occur, but rarely, in the immediate district.



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.
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T.72.

A trench running N.W. and S.E. has been dug at some time through the centre of this tumulus. At the centre the trench is 4 feet deep and 3 feet wide. The material from the trench has been piled on the south of the tumulus.

T.102.

This tumulus, marked as Westbury Beacon, has been much disturbed, leaving a crater-like depression on the top. The height at the rim of the crater is ten feet. There is an irregular ditch all round; this is faintly discernable on the north, but it becomes six feet wide and two deep to the S.E. where its inner edge is twelve feet from the edge of the tumulus, which might thus be described as being of the "Bell" type without the outer rim.

T.103.

There is a disturbed flat area on top, as in T.102. The height at the rim of the depression is 5 feet.

T.105.

This is the only long tumulus found. It is oriented N.E. and S.W. with the wider end to the south. The higher end is at present to the north, but this is almost certainly due to the top portion having been dug away near the south end. This is the only trace of disturbance, and even this does not appear to have penetrated any chamber or chambers that may exist in the interior. It is then one of the very few remaining perfect long tumuli, and as such should be scheduled as a national monument without delay. Stones of the surrounding wall, and also possibly of two chambers are visible as well as the tips of the two uprights of the entrance passage at the south corner. The ends of the tumulus are square, and there is no trace of a surrounding ditch. The length is 70 feet, the width 32 feet at the south end and the height averages six to seven feet.

No old name for this tumulus is known or appears on the old estate maps, and it will henceforward be known as the "Priddy Long Barrow."

OTHER INFORMATION.

On the north side of the track north of Westbury Camp, and slightly to the west, are a number of banks in a field sloping down to the centre of the valley down which the track runs. At first sight these banks appear to represent the probable site of a prehistoric

settlement, but a closer examination and planning of them shews the outermost or boundary one on the east to have numerous turns and several re-entrants in its length, while the other banks always meet it at an oblique or acute angle at one of its turns or re-entrants; the whole when plotted gives a typical small field system of great irregularity, as one finds them in these regions, such as Priddy itself, where enclosures took place relatively early. Such an irregular system is very well contrasted with the relatively straight field boundary system of recent date.

A quarter of a mile to the S.E. of these banks an old trackway leaves the valley trackway and runs in a south easterly direction, being lost as soon as it reaches the more level ground; on its way it passes two small level areas which are however, natural and not artificial.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

The Palæolithic period is represented by cave discoveries at the Hyaena Den at Wookey Hole of the middle phase and at Cheddar at Gough's Cave of the upper one, and if ever the entrance gallery of the latter is excavated scientifically the excavators will doubtless be richly rewarded. Much of the upper level in Gough's cave still remains intact on either side of the public pathway, which itself lies on top of still further deposits as yet quite untouched.

The Neolithic period is represented chiefly by surface finds of flints attributable to this era, but a number of finds from some small caves in Ebbor Gorge have been placed as Neolithic. In addition implements of this age are said to have been found in the superficial deposits at the entrance to Gough's Cave, and also in one or more of the numerous caves in the remaining parts of Cheddar Gorge. The end of the age is represented as yet by no living sites on the highland and by only one long barrow, but perhaps as the survey is extended to other sheets additional ones will be found.

Now it is reasonable to assume that the majority of the round tumuli described in the list above represent barrows of the Bronze Age. The sketch map (plate XVIII) shews that these tumuli centre on Priddy, and this grouping would be still more pronounced if the boundary of the map was extended half a mile to the east as it would then include two large groups totalling eighteen tumuli on Ash Hill and North Hill, Priddy. A preliminary survey would seem to shew a second grouping area round Blackdown, though it must be remembered that tumuli are scattered all over the Mendips. There is then ample

evidence for a dense population having existed on this portion of the Mendips during the Bronze Age, and the population centred round Priddy and Blackdown for the reason that these are the two best watered districts in the area.

Further, most of the tumuli occur in groups of two or more; sometimes they are placed very closely together (see T.84—89) and it is the exception to find a tumulus separated by more than a half mile from its nearest neighbour.

Further researches on the Mendip Hills will probably shew them to have been quite as thickly populated as the areas of densest population in Wiltshire. At all events the material already collected must compel archaeologists to revise drastically their conception of the Bronze Age population of the Mendips as indicated by the present edition of the Ordnance Survey maps.

It is not possible on a sketch map to shew the field boundaries, but actually tumuli are frequently taken as siting points for junctions and turns in the walls forming these boundaries, and often a visit to a slight rise in one of the walls will reveal the presence of one or more tumuli.

Another point of interest is the presence of four earthen circles a bare mile away from the eastern edge of the sketch map. These, it has been suggested, might have served as the "Temple" for the region, much as Stonehenge seems to have served the same purpose for its immediate district in Wiltshire. Further it has been argued for Stonehenge that as it was a temple, the population would naturally tend to collect round it, and the people to bury their dead near it. But this line of argument to my mind appears, as far as the Mendips are concerned, to be confusing cause and effect, and the more logical sequence would seem to be as follows. Firstly, on the Mendips a group of Bronze Age people settle down in a district such as Priddy because it is suited to their requirements of agriculture, pasture, and, most important of all, water supply. As the settlement grows in size a need is felt for a larger temple than the small one that would probably be constructed at first, and in this area the Castle of Comfort circles may represent such a need satisfied. Thus the location of the temple is the direct result of the location of the population and not the reverse.

Yet though so many burial sites of the Bronze Age are known, the Mendips still hold the secrets of their dwelling places, though possibly the time is not far off when these also will be found and excavated.

The Early Iron Age is but poorly represented on this sheet for Westbury Camp is probably the only site found on the high ground. Probably some of the smaller tumuli, such as the group near the camp, belong to this period; if this is so then T.94 inside the camp is probably not a tumulus but a hut site. Other sites of this age will probably be discovered on the high ground when further areas have been covered. Romano-British remains have been recovered from a number of caves in Cheddar Gorge, and also from Wookey Hole cave, though the lower levels there represent an Iron Age occupation prior to the Roman conquest.

Such then is a very brief summary of the knowledge gained by a field survey of Sheet XXVII, N.E., S.E. and N.W. of prehistoric times.

