

# FIELD WORK.

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SHEET XVIII.

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BY  
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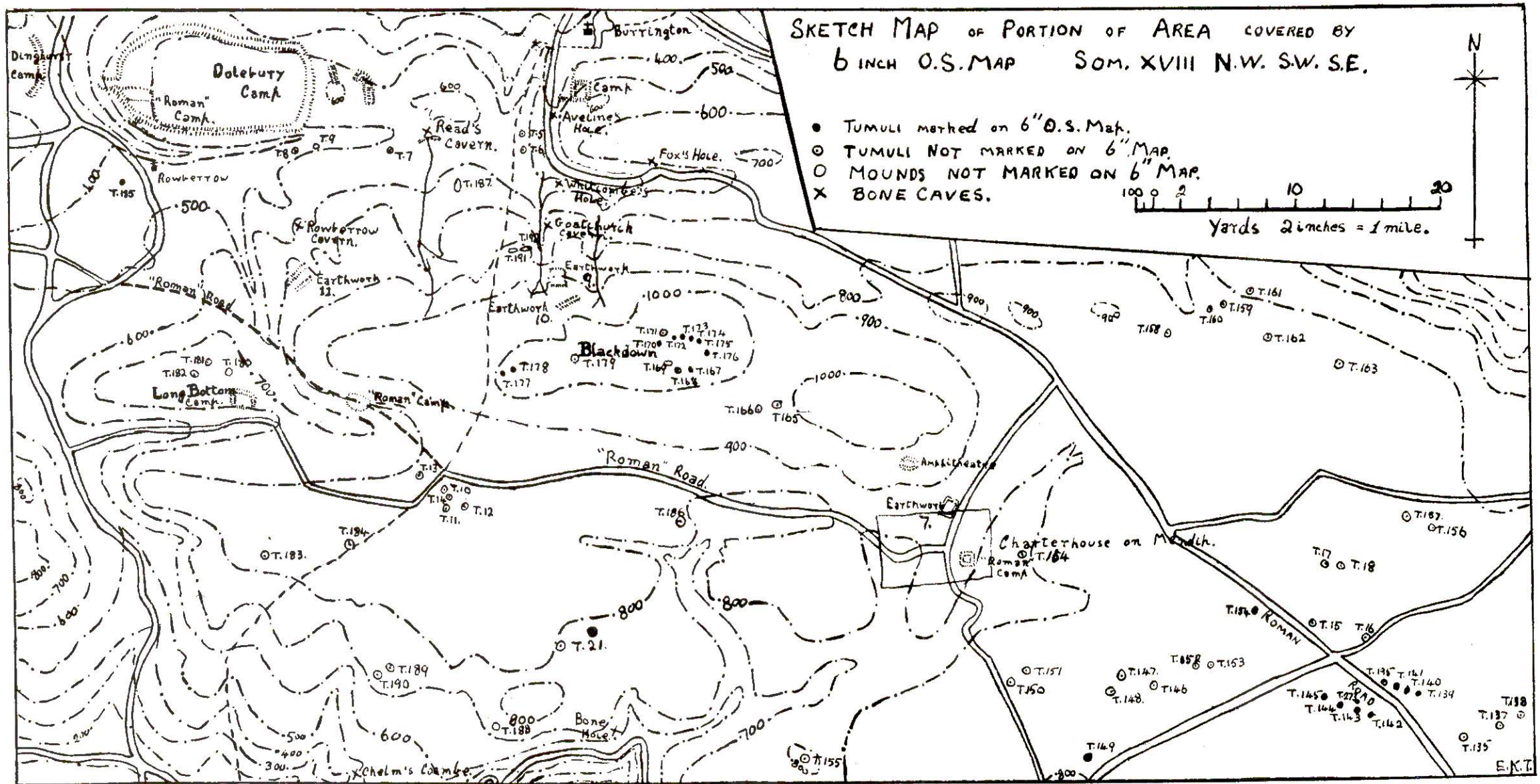


FIG 1.

Based on the 6-inch O.S. Map. By permission of H.M. Stationery Office.

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### INTRODUCTION.

In the last number of these Proceedings brief reports were given under this heading on the prehistoric remains within the area covered by Sheets XI and XXVII of the six inch O.S. maps for Somerset, and in addition a series of discoveries of similar remains in various parts of Gloucestershire was noted. In the present article only one sheet, namely sheet XVIII, will be dealt with for Somerset, while further notes on remains in Gloucestershire are given.

### SOMERSET. SHEET XVIII. (Fig. 1.)

The area covered by this sheet is well-known to many people embracing as it does to the south a large part of Cheddar Gorge, and thence eastwards for three miles, while to the north it reaches the valley of the Yeo; thus it includes Blackdown, which forms the highest portion of the Mendips and occupies the centre of the area with which this article is concerned. A reference to the previous Proceedings and to a one-inch map will shew that this area comprises that lying between Sheet XI to the north and Sheet XXVII to the south previously described.

On the whole it is an area of high ground divided by deep valleys such as Burrington Combe, Long Bottom and Long Wood, to quote only three examples. To the north the area covered by the sheet embraces the low lying valley of the Yeo and the lowest slopes of the next ridge, which forms the bulk of the area covered by Sheet XI.

### CAMPS AND EARTHWORKS.

#### (1) DINGHURST CAMP.

Only traces of this camp remain, the rest having been destroyed by quarrying operations which have made it impossible to determine its original form and size. It was possibly built to supplement Dolebury Camp which forms the main defence for the deep valley of Dolebury Bottom, which gives ready access to the main valleys and hills of the Mendips, an area of prime importance in prehistoric days, as the Yeo valley to the north was probably largely forested and certainly in parts very swampy.

## (2) DOLEBURY CAMP.

This magnificent stone built camp is known at least by repute to almost every prehistorian. It has been very adequately described by Allcroft,<sup>1</sup> to whose excellent description I have only one point to add, namely the discovery of an hitherto unrecorded outwork, which had escaped the attention of even that careful and accurate observer.

The outwork lies 300 yards east of the north-east corner of the camp, and consists of a rampart with a well marked ditch on the outer or east side. The work starts a little way down the northern slope from the flat top of the hill, and runs at first almost due north. After a course of 120 yards it makes a gradual turn and finishes by running nearly due west, for a total length of 220 yards.

The work begins and ends suddenly, and no extension of it southwards across the top of the hill to the steep southern slope, or westwards along the hillside on the north could be found. The vallum rises on the whole 3—4 feet above the general level of the ground on the inner side, and stands 6—10 feet above the bottom of the ditch. The work is most prominent just south of the turn, the vallum being there 25 feet wide at the base with its top 10 feet above the bottom of the ditch, which is here 5 feet deep and over 6 feet wide.

## (3) BURREINGTON CAMP.

This camp again has been adequately described by Allcroft,<sup>2</sup> and the reader may be referred to his most excellent volume.

(4) LONG BOTTOM CAMP.<sup>3</sup> (Fig. 2).

This camp is mentioned by Knight<sup>4</sup> and Skinner, and briefly described by Burrow.<sup>5</sup> It is situated on the more gently sloping parts of the field immediately west of the farm that gives the camp its name, and thus it is only a little way above the bottom of the valley. In form it is trapezoidal, and the defence consists of an inner vallum and an outer fosse which is traceable on the north, east and west sides. On the south the sloping ground of the field has been scarped, and the material so obtained thrown up to form a slight vallum. The defences are everywhere slight and obviously much degraded by constant ploughing, while the entire camp is dominated by the rapidly rising ground to the north.

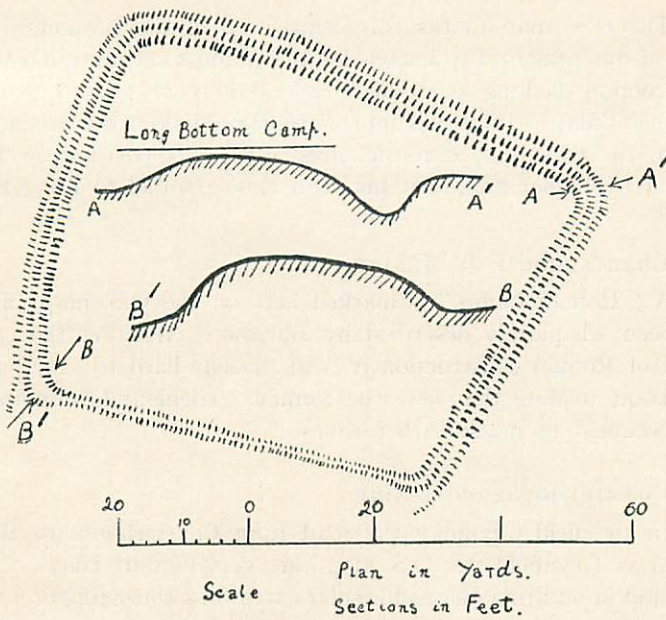


FIG. 2.

It is impossible to tell the date of its erection, but from the feebleness of its defences we may place it as being either earlier or later than such great structures as Dolebury, and as belonging to a period more peaceable than that represented by such camps.

Water is available just outside the eastern boundary of the camp, and the marshy ground there must have provided an additional defence on that side. This camp is not marked on the present edition of the 6-inch O.S. map.

(5) "ROMAN CAMP," BLACKDOWN.

This camp lies half a mile N.E. of Long Bottom Camp, and is in the parish of Rowberrow, on the southern slope of Rowberrow Warren, and hence it is sometimes called by that name. It is roughly square with very much rounded angles, which gives it a decidedly circular appearance when viewed from the opposite side of the valley. The track way, the traditional line of the Roman road, from Charterhouse to Rowberrow and Shipham passes through the camp, the whole area of which is riddled with hollows due to surface mining. These hollows also occur outside the camp, and are very easy to mistake for hut circles. The defence of the camp consists of a slight mound, and a very faintly marked ditch.

The O.S. map marks this camp as "Roman" though in the light of our present day knowledge it is almost certainly not of their construction, lacking as it does each and every typical feature of a Roman Camp. Its actual date of origin and its purpose are unknown but in the weakness of its defences and in its position on a slope backed by higher ground it makes a close parallel to Long Bottom Camp.

(6) CHARTERHOUSE-ON-MENDIP.

A "Roman Camp" is marked here on the O.S. map, and this has been adequately described by Burrow.<sup>6</sup> Whether the camp is really of Roman construction it is at present hard to say, but it is important to note that here the Roman settlement lies on top of a site occupied in much earlier times.

(7) CHARTERHOUSE-ON-MENDIP.

In the field adjoining the road from Charterhouse to Blagdon known as Townfield (see O.S. map), are very definite traces of buildings, and in addition one rectangular earthwork consisting of a vallum with an external fosse. From its shape and site one may justifiably ascribe it to the Romans in the absence of evidence obtainable by excavation, but one can hardly describe it as a Camp. The vallum is wide and low, and the fosse is shallow, but these were once much more prominent as the whole structure has obviously suffered much from the plough. The exact purpose of the work is not evident. It is not marked on the O.S. maps, but it was observed by Skinner.<sup>7</sup>

(8) CHARTERHOUSE-ON-MENDIP.

An earthen structure known and described on the O.S. map as an Amphitheatre lies half a mile north of the village. Its structure and purpose have been discussed by Allcroft<sup>8</sup> and others, and no further description of mine is necessary; but I would draw my reader's attention to the rather important notes on tumulus 186 (see below).

(9) BLACKDOWN. (Fig. 3, 1.)

On the northern slope of Blackdown, and on that part that lies between the two Twin Brooks, lie two earthworks not previously described or recorded as far as I am aware.

The first or more northerly one consists of an irregular square, if one may so express it, lying at a level of 900 feet above O.D. and near the edge of the slope down to the west Twin Brook. Only a simple vallum is present, and of this only faint traces appear on the

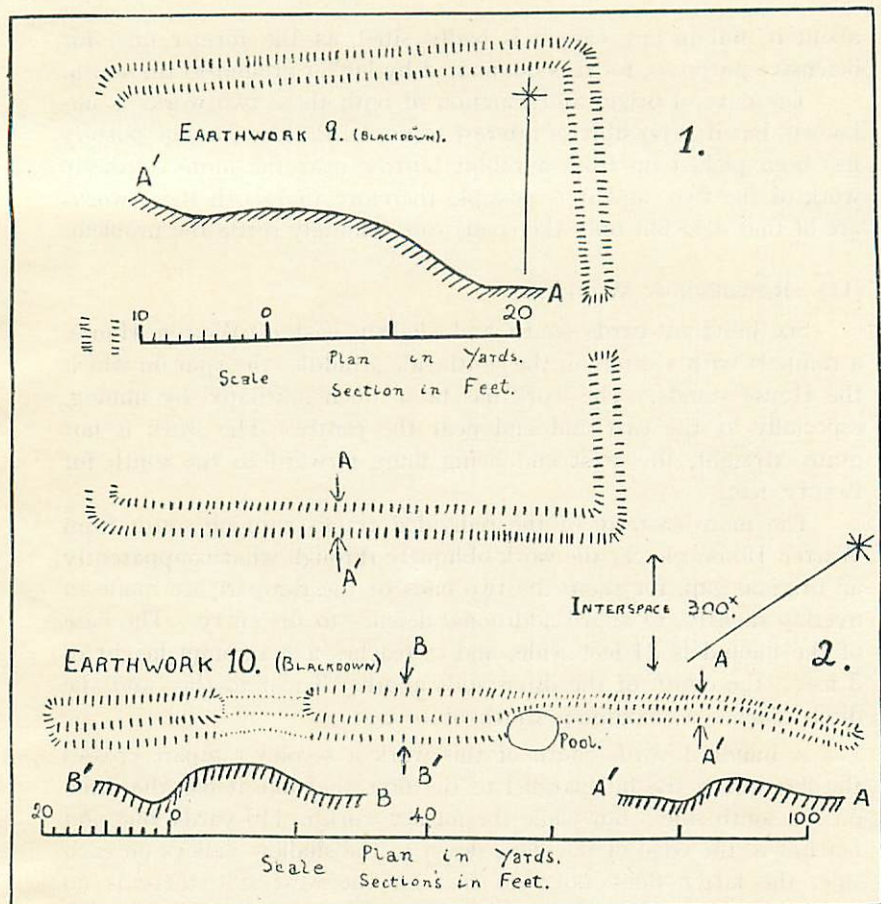


FIG. 3.

western side, which is near but not actually on the edge of the steep slope that leads down to the brook. A gap, apparently original, exists on the east side. The defences are very weak, and the date of erection and exact purpose of the work are not evident, though it has the appearance of great antiquity.

(10) BLACKDOWN. (Fig. 3, 2.)

The second of these two works lies 300 yards to the south of the first (No. 9). It consists of a rampart with a ditch on the higher or south side, and it runs from the edge of the boggy head of the west Twin Brook north-east for just over 100 yards, and then ends. It is most prominent at the west end and in the centre, the eastern half being very much fainter. The whole work has an unfinished air

about it, but in any case it is badly sited, as the former one, for defensive purposes, for it is dominated by higher ground to the south.

The date of origin and function of both these two works is unknown, but it is possibly of interest to record that bronze age pottery has been picked up from a rabbit burrow near the more southerly work of the two, and it is possible therefore that both these works are of that age, but only the spade can definitely settle the problem.

(11) ROWBERROW WARREN.

Six hundred yards south and slightly east of Warren House, a rampart with a ditch on the south side straddles the spur on which the House stands. The work has been much mutilated by mining, especially at the east end and near the centre. The work is not quite straight, the west end being flung forward to the south for twenty feet.

The more easterly of the redivided tracks running south from Warren House pierces the work obliquely through what is apparently an original gap, for there the two ends of the rampart are made to overlap slightly, to afford additional defence to the entry. The base of the mound is 24 feet wide, and it reaches a maximum height of 3 feet; the depth of the ditch adds another 3 feet to this, and the ditch reaches a maximum width of 10 feet.

A hundred yards south of this work a second rampart crosses the flat top of the hill parallel to the first, and like it has the ditch on the south side; but while the former work is 110 yards long and reaches to the edge of the slope down to the shallow valleys on each side, the latter does not; in fact on the west side there is no valley. The length of this second work is only 60 yards, and it tails off considerably at each end, but at its maximum the rampart stands 7 feet above the bottom of the ditch, which is here 6 feet wide and 4 feet deep, while the base of the rampart is 18 feet wide.

Skinner<sup>9</sup> describes these works as a camp with a single agger and fosse, and even gives a plan of it; but as both the ramparts have the ditch on the same side, namely the south, and also as no ramparts can be traced along the side of the spur between them, it is obvious that the works were intended to form the spur into a promontory fortress. Yet such a fortress would be very easily taken, for the whole of the eastern and northern slopes of the spur are comparatively gentle and offer but little obstacle to the attacker, and the same applies to the more southerly portion of the spur on the west side; it is quite probable, however, that cultivation has obliterated all traces of defensive works round the northern end of the spur.



## LIST OF BARROWS, TUMULI AND MOUNDS.

## SOMERSET SHEET XVIII.

Chief Parishes : Churchill, Burrington, Rowberrow, Ubley &amp; Shipham.

No.	Lat. 51° N.		Lon. 2° W.		Type	Measurements in feet			REMARKS
	Min.	Sec.	Min.	Sec.		Central Mound		Total Diam.	
						Diam.	Height		
T 5	19	20	45	16	B.R.	25	2.5	41	* } (Blackdown Barrows. Nos. 1-4. * } {See Proc., Vol. II for reports. * } * } Remains of a rangers hut. * } * } {N.S.E. & W. Barrows, Tynning's * } {Farm, Blackdown. For reports * } {see Proc., Vol. II. * } * } Fernhill No. 1. Proved to be a * } barrow. * } Fernhill No. 2. Built of stones. * } Fernhill No. 3. Low and flat. * } Fernhill No. 4. * } Piney Sleight Barrow. See Proc., * } Vol. II. * } Near T 137, T 138. * } Slightly oval. * } * } {Close together and also near * } {T 195, and the group T 142- * } {145. * } * } For description see below. * } * } Flat top. * } * } See below. * } * } 90 * } † Ditch less than 1-ft. deep. * } * } Much mutilated. * } * } * } * } Built of stones. Steep sides. * } Partly destroyed. * } * } * } * } Almost destroyed. * } Almost destroyed. * } * } * } See below. * } * } * } †
T 6	19	17	45	15	B.R.	—	—	35	
T 7	19	19	45	56	B.R.	20	1.0	35	
T 8	19	20	46	24	S.B.	37	2.0		
T 9	19	19	46	15	Mound	18	2.0		
T 10	18	13	45	37	S.B.	44	5.0		
T 11	18	11	45	37	S.B.	55	5.0		
T 12	18	12	45	34	S.B.	33	2.5		
T 13	18	13	45	45	S.B.	21	2.5		
T 14	18	12	45	37	S.B.	74	2.5		
T 15	17	38	40	55	S.B.	50	2.5		
T 16	17	37	40	37	S.B.	60	5.0		
T 17	17	55	40	52	S.B.	50	1.0		
T 18	17	55	40	48	S.B.	54	1.5		
T 21	17	38	45	5	Disc	—	—	33	
T 135	17	14	40	11	S.B.	42	2.5		
T 137	17	18	39	57	S.B.	—	2.0	30-42	
T 138	17	21	39	50	S.B.	30	2.0		
T 139	17	22	40	20	S.B.	63	5.0		
T 140	17	23	40	24	S.B.	70	4.5		
T 141	17	23	40	26	S.B.	75	5.5		
T 142	17	16	40	37	S.B.	90	8.0		
T 143	17	17	40	41	Bell?	—	—		
T 144	17	18	40	47	S.B.	80	5.5		
T 145	17	20	40	51	S.B.	96	5.5		
T 146	17	23	41	51	S.B.	27	2.0		
T 147	17	26	42	3	S.B.	120	10.0		
T 148	17	23	42	5	S.B.	30	2.5		
T 149	17	9	42	12	B.D.	70	6.5	90	
T 150	17	22	42	30	S.B.	45	4.0		
T 151	17	26	42	17	S.B.?	40	3.0?		
T 152	17	28	41	28	S.B.	45	2.0		
T 153	17	28	41	22	S.B.	45	3.0		
T 154	17	39	42	6	S.B.	60	9.0		
T 155	17	12	43	41	S.B.	60	2.5		
T 156	18	4	40	18	S.B.	66	3.0		
T 157	18	5	40	24	S.B.	80	7.0		
T 158	18	41	41	40	S.B.	40	3.0		
T 159	18	47	41	13	S.B.	50	3.0		
T 160	18	45	41	21	S.B.	54	2.0		
T 161	18	49	41	3	S.B.	40?	1.0		
T 162	18	40	40	59	S.B.	36?	1.0		
T 163	18	36	40	39	S.B.	40	1.5		
T 164	17	54	42	20	S.B.	54	4.0		
T 165	18	33	43	52	S.B.	40	3.0		
T 166	18	31	43	55	S.B.?	60	?		
T 167	18	36	44	21	S.B.	54	6.0		
T 168	18	37	44	24	S.B.	54	2.5		

LIST OF BARROWS, TUMULI AND MOUNDS—*continued.*

No.	Lat. 51° N.		Lon. 2° W.		Type	Measurements in feet			REMARKS
	Min.	Sec.	Min.	Sec.		Central Mound		Total Diam.	
						Diam.	Height		
T 169	18	38	44	25	Mound	—	—		* See below.
T 170	18	42	44	25	S.B.	40	3-0		†
T 171	18	43	44	25	Disc	52	—	72	* See below.
T 172	18	42	44	23	S.B.	68	6-0		† See below.
T 173	18	42	44	21	S.B.	50	5-5 ?		† Disturbed.
T 174	18	42	44	19	S.B.	55	5-5 ?		† Disturbed.
T 175	18	42	44	18	S.B.	66	5-5 ?		† Disturbed.
T 176	18	39	44	14	Bell	60	5-0		† See below.
T 177	18	38	45	21	S.B.?	54	3-0		† Largely destroyed.
T 178	18	38	45	20	S.B.?	50	3-0		†
T 179	18	39	44	58	S.B.	36	1-5		*
T 180	18	33	46	46	Mound	45	3-0		* Oval. Probably remains of a tumulus.
T 181	18	37	47	1	S.B.	—	—		* See below.
T 182	18	33	47	4	S.B.	40	3-0		* Largely destroyed.
T 183	17	53	46	37	S.B.	45	2-5		* On top of oval (natural?) mound.
T 184	17	53	46	4	S.B.	70	4-0		* See below.
T 185	19	16	47	26	S.B.	65	8-5		† See below.
T 186	17	57	44	22	Disc	—	—		* See below.
T 187	19	11	45	31	Mound	—	—		* Long. Probably natural.
T 188	17	30	45	32	Mound	25	4-0		* Oval. Built of stones.
T 189	17	30	45	58	S.B.	85	7-0		*
T 190	17	29	46	0	S.B.	30	3-0		*
T 191	19	0	45	16	Mound	—	—		* See below.
T 192	19	0	45	15	Mound	—	—		* See below.
T 195	17	24	40	27	S.B.	80	4-0		* Near T 139-141.
T 273	17	17	40	40	S.B.	27	1-5		* Near T 142-145.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS.

† Already marked on map as Tumulus.

\* Not marked on map till now.

S.B. Simple bowl tumulus.

B.D. Bowl tumulus with ditch

B.R. Bowl tumulus with ditch and rim.

## NOTES ON TUMULI AND MOUNDS.

T.143. (Fig. 4, 1.)

This tumulus might be best described as an atypical bell. Unfortunately it has been much mutilated, but sufficient remains for it to be seen that the structure was as follows: an outer ditch three feet wide and one foot deep; inside this a flat area about eight feet wide followed by a narrow ring shaped mound eighteen inches high and two feet wide across the base. Within this ring lies the main mound which is still nine feet high on the comparatively small basal diameter of sixty feet. The tumulus forms one of a group aligned slightly obliquely to the marked line of the Roman Road, and is of the type commonly described as Roman.

T.147.

This tumulus like many others in the district has been used as a siting point for the present fields walls, four of which meet on top of it. Though it has suffered considerable degradation from ploughing, it is still by far the largest tumulus in this region of the Mendips.

T.165.

This has been much mutilated to supply stones for the eastern boundary wall of Blackdown. Near by is a hollow which might be described as a negative barrow.

T.169.

This is a long-shaped mound, obviously the mere remnant of a much larger one. It is oriented approximately east and west, and measures 110 by 60 feet. It is somewhat square ended, and there is no trace of a surrounding ditch. The remains now consist of a low mound of stones one foot high with a regular outer margin. The inner margin is irregular, the enclosing mound varying from ten to fifteen feet in width. The central area is stony, and is raised six inches above the general ground level, while there are three larger stones present in the S.W. corner. The whole may be the last degraded remains of a long barrow.

T.171.

This is a disc tumulus with a low ring ten feet wide. Three large stones are present in the S.W. sector. See also under T.186.

T.172.

There appears to be a ring of larger stones round the base of this tumulus. At present the stones are almost completely buried in the mound.

T.176.

This tumulus may be described as being of the bell type without rim or ditch. It consists of a steep sided mound two feet high and sixty feet in diameter; in the centre of this is placed another mound three feet high and thirty feet in diameter.

T.181.

This tumulus now consists of a crescent shaped mound, the northern portion and part of the central mass having been dug away. It is built of stones, and is now four feet high and forty feet across the horns.

## T.184. (Fig. 4, 2.)

This large tumulus abuts on the track from Tynning's Farm to Cheddar. It has been destroyed on the southern border, and the rest has been greatly ploughed down. Slightly N.W. of the centre is a large flat stone, while round the N.E.—S.W. sectors are arranged six large stones. Only the tips of these are shewing, but one of them appears to be on its side as eight feet of it are shewing along one surface. This is almost certainly a burial circle in which the stones have become embedded in the mound by the ploughing down of that structure.

## T.185.

This is the large tumulus of the simple bowl type near Rowberrow Church. It was opened in 1813<sup>10</sup> and proved to be a barrow. Near the centre when digging from north to south was found an area four feet square enclosed by stones three feet high and roofed with flat stones. It is not stated whether this was a cist sunk into the ground, and so we may presume that this chamber was above the ground level, and that the tumulus constitutes the only chambered round barrow in the Mendips. With the ashes (for the burial was by cremation *in situ*) in the chamber were a dagger—material not stated,—a number of perforated beads, a ball of baked clay "about the size of a small cannon ball," and a "vase or cup curiously wrought." Near the chamber were remains of an unburnt burial. From the description of the beads they appear to have been of amber. Rather over a year ago a bronze pin with a round head was picked up on the barrow. The pin is 7.5-cms. long by 0.2-cms. diameter; the diameter of the head is 0.4-cms.<sup>11</sup>

## T.186. (Fig. 4, 3.)

This is a very large tumulus of the disc type, and consists of a ring, now 40 feet wide at the base, enclosing a ditch 15 feet wide, and having a flat central area 50 feet in diameter. The total diameter is thus 160 feet, and the mound stands 5 feet above the bottom of the ditch on the south, where both are most prominent. To the north there is a gap 15 feet wide, which is apparently original.

The work is situated 300 yards W.S.W. of Lower Farm, Long Wood, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, and is rather inaccessible, and also invisible from any of the generally used roads and trackways, and so it has generally escaped notice, though it was observed by this Society and briefly recorded.<sup>12</sup>

Allcroft<sup>13</sup> appears to have been puzzled by references made by Prebendary Scarth<sup>14</sup> in 1858, and also by Phelps to a second

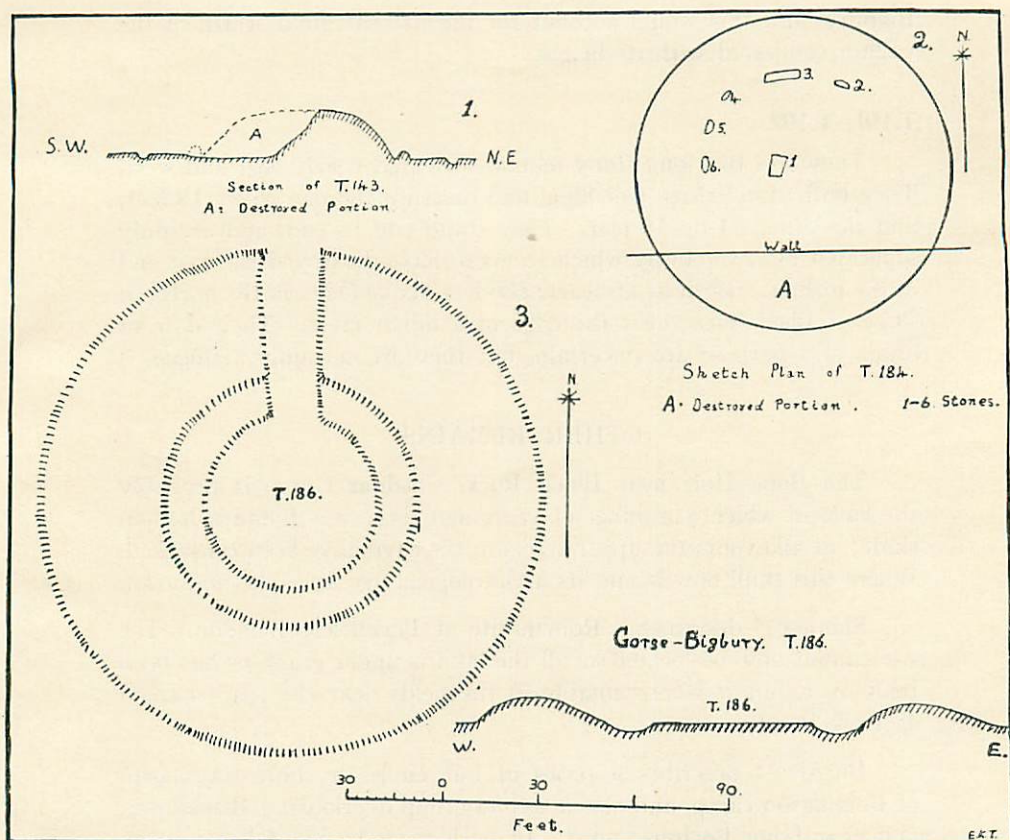


FIG. 4.

amphitheatre half a mile south of the so-called one at Charterhouse. This disc tumulus answers to the description given by these writers, and Skinner<sup>15</sup> also describes it and gives a sketch map of its position from which it is possible to state definitely that this is the structure referred to by the above writers.

Skinner spells the name of this tumulus in various ways ranging from Gorbury to Gorse-Bigbury, while Phelps calls it Gorse-Bigbury, which is probably correct, as the area round is even now much covered with gorse. Both Skinner and Phelps describe a second circle, other than the amphitheatre at Charterhouse, and it is possible with the aid of Skinner's sketches to identify this with the disc tumulus, T.171, on Blackdown.

Finally Skinner, who calls both the circles religious ones, relates how he met an individual who had helped to level the vallum of Gorse-

Bigbury, and this would account for the present great width of the vallum compared with its height.

T.191, T.192.

These are two long stony mounds oriented nearly east and west. They both stand three feet high, and measure the one 36 by 18 feet, and the other 54 by 18 feet. They stand end to end, and are only separated by a trackway which seems to have destroyed the east end of the former. Both lie at nearly 800 feet above O.D. on the northern slope of Blackdown, near the edge of a minor crest. Their date of origin and purpose are uncertain, but they are certainly artificial.<sup>15</sup>

#### OTHER REMAINS.

The Bone Hole near Black Rock, Cheddar Gorge is probably the cave in which a number of years ago there was found a human skull; at all events the upper layers in the cave have been ransacked. Where this skull now is and its archæological age are alike unknown.

Skinner<sup>16</sup> describes a Roman site at Parkfields, Blagdon. The site cannot now be located as all the land is under grass, or has been built over, but it is presumably in the fields near the road marked as Park Batch.

Burrow<sup>17</sup> describes a series of hut circles a short way north of Burrington camp, and also a second group overlooking Blackdown, and near Long Bottom Camp. In both cases he has fallen into an error very easy to make if one does not know the country in great detail, for these "hut circles" are in reality surface mine workings, hundreds of which may be found dotted all over the country of the Mendips.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

##### PALÆOLITHIC.

Goatchurch Cavern, Burrington Combe, well-known to many people, has yielded remains of this period to Sandford, Beard, Boyd Dawkins<sup>18</sup> and to this Society.<sup>19</sup> The fauna includes mammoth (Beard), brown bear, cave bear, horse, pig, and a giant form of wild cat similar to that from Aveline's Hole. The fauna is inconclusive, but suggests an earlier date for the deposits than those at Aveline's Hole, and the remains may in fact be as early as middle palæolithic times.

Aveline's Hole<sup>20</sup> at the foot of Burrington Combe is the most important station of the late upper Palæolithic yet explored in Britain. The occupation of the cave was contemporary with the late Magdalenian of France, and the floor material, which is still being excavated, has yielded very many human remains belonging to at least twenty individuals, as well as flint, bone and antler implements, and a very extensive fauna.

Fox's Hole near the top of Burrington Combe has also yielded a few animal remains of Palæolithic date.<sup>21</sup>

### NEOLITHIC.

Of the earlier portions of this period we know but little, for excavations have as yet revealed no mass of evidence that can be definitely attributed to it. The closing phase of the period is slightly better known. A rock shelter at Chelms Combe,<sup>22</sup> Cheddar, and Sun Hole<sup>23</sup> cave at the same place have yielded remains of neolithic round bottomed bowls, as has likewise Rowberrow Cavern<sup>24</sup> on the northern slopes of the Mendips. A number of surface sites, especially in the Charterhouse region, have yielded a goodly number of flints of which the general facies is distinctly late neolithic. At Charterhouse itself the field in which lies the "Roman Camp" is obviously the site of an extensive and much earlier occupation, and recently a broken polished flint celt (Fig. 6) was picked up there. The cutting edge is curved and is 4.3-cms. wide and perfectly bevelled. The portion recovered is 4.0-cms. long and tapers from the edge to a base width of 2.7-cms. "It appears to have been first chipped to form and then polished after fracture."<sup>11</sup>

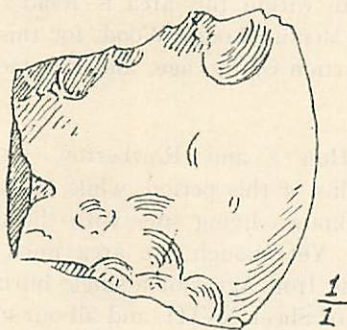


FIG. 6.

The transitional or beaker period is known from Sun Hole<sup>23</sup> and Rowberrow caves,<sup>24</sup> from the North Barrow Tynning's Farm<sup>25</sup> (T.10) and from a cist burial associated with cremation in barrow No. 1 Blackdown<sup>26</sup> (T.5). No long barrows have been discovered within the area of Sheet XVIII unless T.169, T.191 T.192 are in reality remains of these structures.

#### BRONZE AGE.

For remains of this period we have to depend almost entirely on those obtained from tumuli for our knowledge of the period. Living sites except for the scanty remains from Rowberrow cavern<sup>24</sup> are as yet unknown, but surface finds are steadily indicating where to dig for such living sites when time and money permits.

The Tynning's Farm group of barrows (T.10—T.14), have yielded four cinerary urns belonging to different parts of the age. T.15<sup>27</sup> has also been proved to be a bronze age barrow as also T.7.<sup>26</sup> T.8<sup>26</sup> has been proved like Rowberrow Barrow to be a barrow, and both of these for want of any evidence to the contrary and from their form may be attributed to the bronze age.

#### IRON AGE.

To this period we may refer the structure of such great camps as Dinghurst, Dolebury and Burrington, but in these very much remains to be done in the way of excavation. Long Bottom camp and the so-called Roman camps at Charterhouse and on the south slope of Blackdown probably belong to this period. But the most important living site within this area is Read's Cavern<sup>28</sup> near the southern border of Mendip Lodge Wood, for this cave was occupied during the later portion of the age, and has yielded many remains purely of that date.

Whitcombe's Hole<sup>29</sup> and Rowberrow Cavern<sup>24</sup> have both yielded a few remains of this period, while Romano-British remains come from all the known living sites with the important exception of Read's Cavern. Yet though the area must have been thickly populated during the Iron Age, not a single burial site has been discovered in the area of Sheet XVIII, and all our knowledge of the age is based entirely on living sites.



## ROMAN TIMES.

The important site of this period is, of course, Charterhouse-on-Mendip, the centre of the great mining industry of Roman and later times. Two Roman roads are marked on the map, while Skinner describes a third running from Charterhouse to Blagdon, and thence on towards Bristol and Portbury, but his evidence for calling it Roman is not given, though it is well to bear in mind in this connection his Roman site at Blagdon, and the known Roman villa at Lye Hole<sup>30</sup> farm.

Of the roads marked on the map, one pursues an irregular course from Charterhouse to Brean Down, and if the line as marked is truly the line of that road then it is obviously following the line of an older trackway. The second marked road runs from Charterhouse in the direction of Wells; it is marked as passing between the two groups of tumuli T.139—141, 195 and T.142—145. Neither of these two groups is parallel to the road, but they are very nearly parallel to one another and it is quite possible that they were sited in relation to this road, which possibly followed a route differing slightly from that at present marked.

Other Roman or rather Romano-British sites are known by surface finds within a mile radius of Charterhouse.

## CONCLUSION.

Thus in Palaeolithic times the area was but scantily occupied by nomad hunting folk, and it is not until the closing stage of the Neolithic period is reached that the evidence for more extensive occupation is available. A little later it is seen, to judge from the number of tumuli present, that a considerable increase in the population had taken place, and this increase is maintained in the succeeding Early Iron Age and in Romano-British times.

Finally I should like to express my sincere thanks to Miss M. W. Thorburn for the trouble and care she has taken in supplying me with copious notes on the Skinner manuscripts in the British Museum.

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  - 2 *Ibid.* p. 582.
  - 3 *Victoria County History of Somerset*. Vol. II. p. 512.
  - 4 E. A. Knight. *The Heart of Mendip*. p. 3.
  - 5 E. J. Burrow. *Ancient Earthworks and Camps of Somerset*. p. 114.
  - 6 Burrow. *Ibid.* p. 102.
  - 7 British Museum Additional MS 33673, p. 102.
  - 8 Allcroft. *Ibid.* p. 589 *et seq.*
  - 9 Skinner. *Ibid.* 33717. p. 180.
  - 10 *Bristol Times & Mirror*. October 23rd, 1813.
  - 11 Found by Dr. N. C. Cooper of Winscombe in whose possession the finds now are, and to whom I am indebted for the description of the same.
  - 12 *Proc.* Vol. I. p. 97 and 152.
  - 13 Allcroft. *Ibid.* p. 589, footnote 3. p. 591, footnote 2.
  - 14 *Archæol Journal*. Vol. XVI., p. 153.
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  - 16 *Ibid.* 33673. p. 141.
  - 17 Burrow. *Ibid.* p. 26.
  - 18 Boyd Dawkins. *Cave Hunting*. p. 33.
  - 19 *Proc.* Vol. II.
  - 20 *Proc.* Vol. I and II.
  - 21 Boyd Dawkins. *Proc. Som. Arch. & Nat. Hist. Soc.* Vol. XII. p. 170.
  - 22 Excavations at Chelm's Combe, Cheddar. *Somerset Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*
  - 23 Excavations now in progress. Its site actually comes on Sheet XXVII.
  - 24 *Proc.* Vol. II. No. 3.
  - 25 Not yet published as barrow not completely excavated at present.
  - 26 *Proc.* Vol. II. Nos. 1, 2 and 3.
  - 27 Excavations not yet complete. Not yet published.
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  - 29 Boyd Dawkins. *Cave Hunting*. p. 140.
  - 30 *Victoria County Hist. of Somerset*. Vol. I. p. 308.
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