Gough's Old Cave, Cheddar, Somerset

(O.S., 6 in. to 1 mile. Somerset N.G.R. (Entrance) ST 46685388. U.B.S.S. Cat No. M17)

By

E. K. TRATMAN, O.B.E., M.D., F.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

The cave of this name used to be a show cave before the present one was discovered. It was approached by a relatively gentle slope up from the road and was easily accessible. It now lies behind the Cave Man Restaurant and, when this was built in 1934, the whole of the base of the slope was dug away and a retaining wall built to hold the remainder of the material of the slope in place. No record of any discoveries made at this time are available. The excavation of the base of the slope produced a considerable slip of material from higher up extending as far as the mouth of the cave and to at least one foot inside the gate. This involved the whole of the talus cone and the gently sloping platform that used to extend outside the iron gate at the cave mouth. There now remains a steep and somewhat unstable slope up to the gate at the cave mouth. This slope is about 25 ft. in vertical measurement and is composed of yellow to red soil with many stones and boulders. There are modern remains in this but in the main it appears to be a final Pleistocene or early post-Glacial deposit. It is a disturbed deposit and wellnigh impossible to dig because of its proximity to buildings and the very costly arrangements that would have to be made for the disposal of the spoil. It appears to be a more or less barren deposit in keeping with the barrenness of similar material in the cave. It is probable that there is not very much remaining over the rock face if this face is at all similar to that exposed a few feet to the west in a place known as The Slitter.

The entrance chamber to the cave is small (*Fig.* 1). The floor had been considerably altered when it was made into part of the show cave and just how much alteration was done has not been exactly determined. Certainly some levelling had been done, especially at the back, platforms built up and stone walls erected. In the back (south) part of the chamber Gough had, to judge from the faint indications on the cave walls, removed at least 4 feet of deposit down and into the red deposits, which are probably of Pleistocene or early post-Glacial date. The material so obtained was presumably thrown out of the cave down the slope and has since been carted away. On the west side at the back Gough's digging produced a collapse of the boulder ruckle

blocking the way to the upper part of The Slitter. This now forms an open pothole with the north side missing and above it lies the entrance to the *Long Hole*, sometimes known as the Roman Cave from the large number of Roman coins found in the entrance deposits during the haphazard total

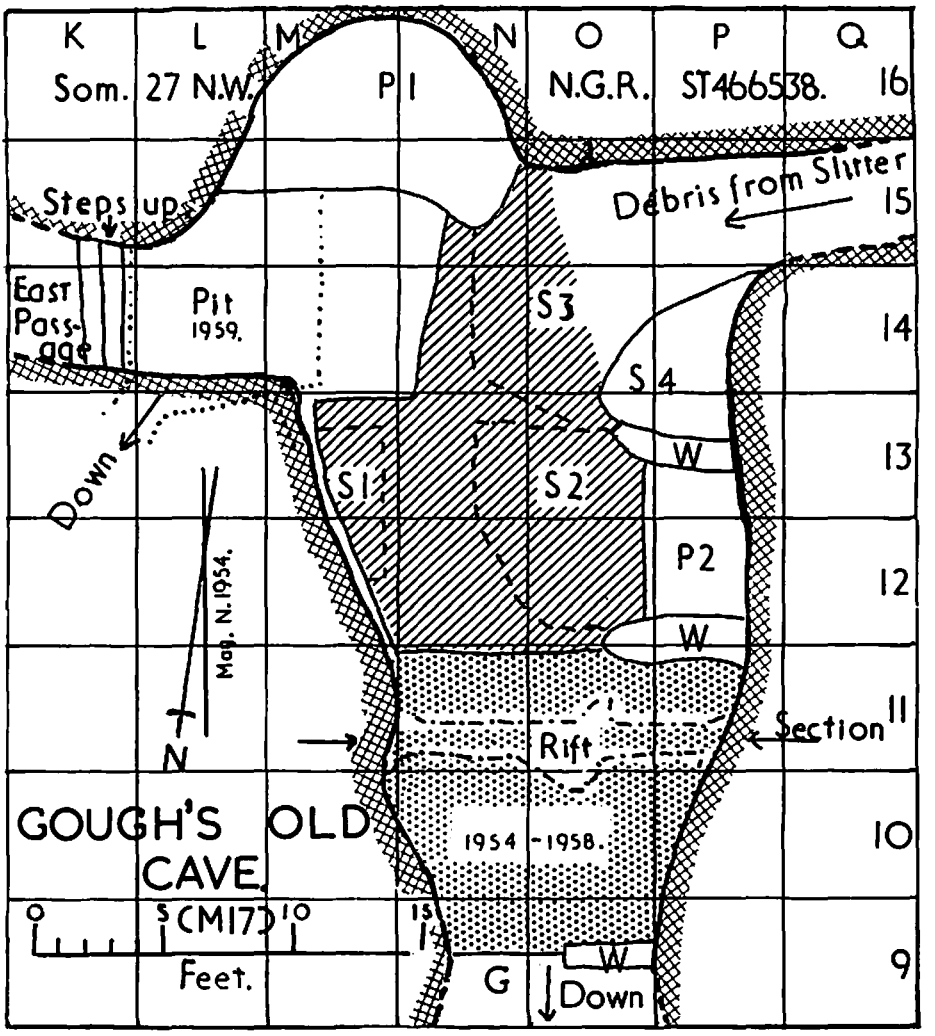

Fig. 1.—1954–1958 excavation area is shown stippled. The hatchured area was cleared to bedrock which lay under modern debris. G. Gate; W. Walls erected by Gough; P1., Platform 2 ft. high on stones and boulders with air spaces between; P2, Platform 6 in. high on top of bedrock. S1—S4. Spoil heaps as at Jan. 1st, 1960. S2 covers P2. S3 covers P1. S4 is mainly material from 1954–1958 excavations.

destruction of those deposits. Some at least of the spoil from the Long Hole was thrown down into the pit of The Slitter.

On the east side at the back a passage goes off east and after a few feet turns back south to the inner part of the old show cave. This passage had been partly mined out by Gough.. A stalagmite floor had been broken through. This floor can be followed up along the passage but soil samples from under it proved barren. The samples were taken under the connection through the roof of the show cave to the Long Hole above where this cave crosses the line of the old show cave. This east passage contains a steep flight of steps founded on a filling of black earth and stones introduced by Gough. The source of this filling is not known but it contains a variety of modern objects and an occasional sherd of Roman pottery. This fill is over 8 ft. deep at the bottom of the steps and rests on a loose dry mass of angular limestone fragments and boulders with some admixture of sandy earth. How much of this lower material is a Goughsian fill has not yet been ascertained. A pit is being dug into this material. There is a connection to the front part of the cave from this pit. The only remains so far found in it are obvious derivatives from recent deposits. It is probably a disturbed late Pleistocene filling and appears to be largely the product of frost action. It has replaced an earlier filling, traces of which remain round the edges of the pit as a much more compact sandy material with many angular limestone fragments and an occasional well-rolled Old Red Sandstone pebble. This material has also so far proved barren. The presence of rolled pebbles indicates that at the time they were deposited the cave was an active descending waterway. The only other point to be noted at this stage is the extreme dryness of the material in this pit though there is a constant trickle of water coming down from the old show cave so there must be an opening lower down to drain off this water. Perhaps this rift is the top of a connection down to the active waterway of the cave system.

The cave had also been used in later times as a dumping ground for all sorts of oddments amongst which were biscuit tins containing Roman pottery of unknown origin. The containers were handed over to the management of Gough's Caves. A few items from the old show cave are in the cases in the museum at the entrance to the present show cave. None call for any comment and their exact provenance is not known. They could, for example, all have been derived from The Slitter and that in turn from the Long Hole when the mass from the upper or south end of The Slitter slid into the old show cave.

EXCAVATIONS BY THIS SOCIETY

These excavations (*Fig.* 1), were made mainly at weekends through the winter months over four years. In the summer months Cheddar is so thronged with people that archæological excavations are virtually impossible to conduct.

A survey was made of the entrance chamber, which was gridded into squares with sides of 5 ft. It was decided to excavate the front of the chamber first over an area shown on the plan (*Fig.* 1). The spoil was temporarily disposed of by filling up the lower part of the East Passage at the back and by building a dry stone wall to contain the spoil on the west side at the back towards the opening to The Slitter, thus leaving the central area clear. Most of this spoil was put back into the excavations though some was left on top

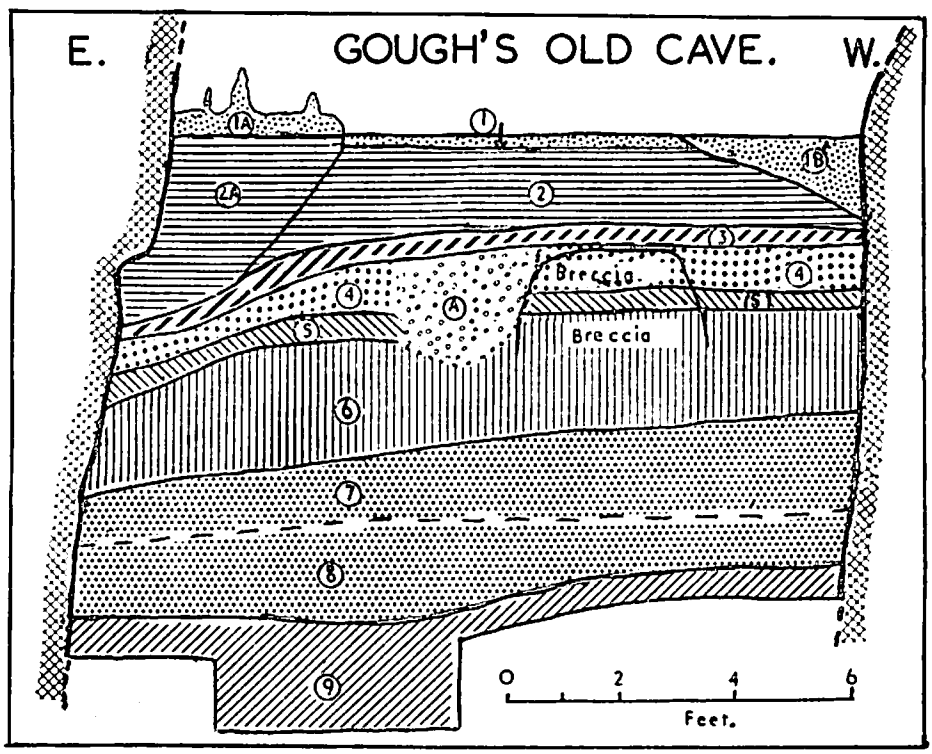

Fig. 2.—Section across cave in Mid. 11. South face is shown. For explanation of numbers see text.

of the debris from The Slitter mainly at S.4. The section (*Fig.* 2) of these excavations is largely self-explanatory. On top was a well-trampled layer in the centre (1) about 3 in. thick. On the east were remains of concrete stalagmites (1A) and on the west very black loose material, mainly bat guano (1B). Underneath the concrete stalagmites was a filling of very loose stones with only a little earth (2A). It contained some modern material and was probably a fill put into a natural rift by Gough to level up the floor. The looseness of the material against the east wall made the true provenance of any item

difficult to ascertain. In the main the next layer was more compact with more earth with the stones (2). From this layer came two Roman coins identified by Mr. G. C. Boon as Valentinian 1, 367–375, *Gloria Romanum* and Valentinian 1, *Securitas Republicæ*. They are probably strays from the Long Hole (Boon, 1958).

Below (2) was a rather earthy layer, somewhat darker in colour and traceable right across the cave; it yielded some Roman pottery and sherds of typical Glastonbury Lake Village ware, two of them bearing cross-hatching decoration (*Fig.* 4, Nos. 9, 10). This is layer (3) or the First Hearth. Its date is presumably round about the middle of the 1st century A.D. as included in it was a sherd of Durotrigian ware (*Fig.* 4, No. 11). The First Hearth did not represent a long occupation. The remains were very scanty and the layer could have been contaminated with material of a later date, including, perhaps, the Durotrigian sherd. Besides the pottery the upper stone of limestone of a saddle quern from layer (4) below may belong to this hearth. Parts of several other saddle querns were found in disturbed material and others were observed where they had been placed by Gough. There must have been at least five querns all of limestone represented by the upper stones. A rather remarkably large number for such a small site. One is inclined to wonder whether the cave was used as a grain-grinding place for a larger community living close by. Some, of course, may have been derived from the Long Hole via The Slitter. No fragments of rotary querns were found but in view of the disturbed nature of the deposits it is doubtful if this has any significance, but it could imply a continuity in population and tradition from the Second Hearth/Iron Age A level to the First Hearth level of Iron Age B (Southwestern). At Wookey Hole both rotary and saddle types of querns were found while at Read's Cavern (Palmer, 1920) the only quern found was of the saddle type and the occupation there can be dated as having been between 50 B.C. and A.D. 50. At the Glastonbury Lake Village both types occur but the rotary type was much more common than the saddle type in the proportion of about 5:1. At All Cannings Cross only saddle querns were found.

Beneath the First Hearth was a layer of brown earth and stones (4), which was fairly level on the west but sloped steeply down on the east. In the centre this layer was interrupted by a hard patch of breccia, which had formed under a drip from the roof (4B), and by an animal burrow (A). Below again was the Second Hearth (5). On the east it was mixed with loose material as with the higher layers. The animal burrow had disturbed it considerably and from this part came a coin, apparently a George III half-penny, two sherds of Roman pottery and a fragment of glazed ware of quite recent date. The Second Hearth passed through the patch of breccia and immediately west of this was an area of the hearth that was apparently undisturbed. It was from this area that most of the pottery found came. This

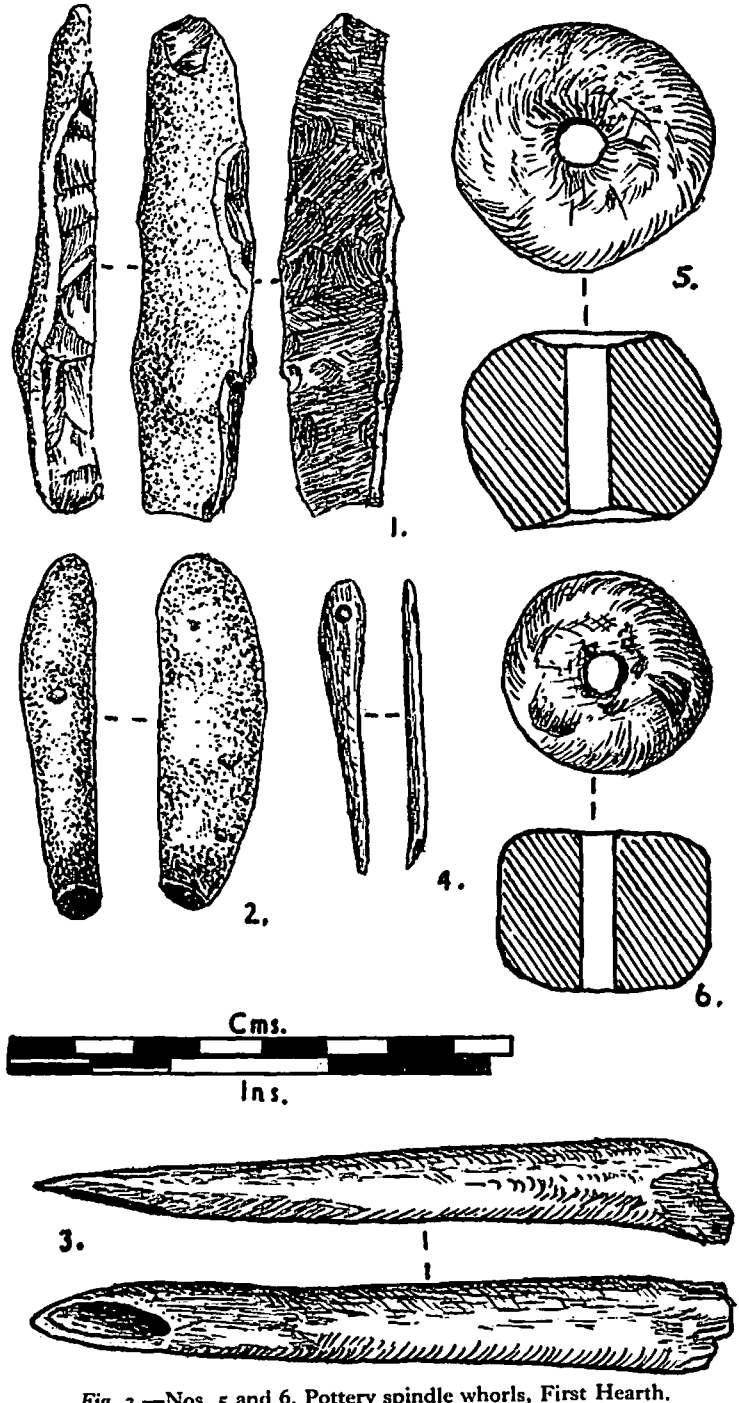

Fig. 3.—Nos. 5 and 6. Pottery spindle whorls, First Hearth. Not referred to in text.

included a big storage pot of coarse, calcite gritted ware, poorly made by hand (*Fig.* 4, No. 2). The everted rim had a finger tip decoration. Mixed with these sherds were a few of a much smaller vessel with a highly burnished black exterior and a well defined shoulder (*Fig.* 4, No. 1). Two lug handles, (one is shown in *Fig.* 4, No. 3), and parts of at least ten other vessels were found, including another small carinated pot, but all were too fragmentary to make reconstruction possible. No metal objects were found. A bone needle belongs to this layer (*Fig.* 3, No. 4); the hole had been drilled from one side only and the drill had caused some splintering of the bone on the opposite side. The bone point (*Fig.* 3, No. 3) probably belongs to the Second Hearth but as it was found in the loose material against the east wall it may have come down from above. Other objects of note from this layer are parts of two carefully shaped upper stones of saddle querns. Both are of limestone and both had been very carefully shaped. They are very similar to some found at All Cannings Cross. Two surprising objects were of flint. One (*Fig.*3, No. 1) is of the well known type called the slug shaped fabricator. Close to it came an elongated nodule of flint on which a striking platform had been prepared as if to make it into another fabricator (*Fig.* 3, No. 2). Ordinarily such fabricators tend to occur most frequently in a Secondary Neolithic milieu but here one is associated with pottery that is undoubtedly of Iron Age A provenance and apparently contemporary with this pottery. Parts of several other flint implements, including two rather crude scrapers, were found thus demonstrating once again the continuing use of flint in the Early Iron Age.

The date for the Second Hearth is given by the pottery as *circa* 200 B.C. It could be earlier by a century or so but not later as a considerable period must have elapsed between the end of the occupation marked by the Second Hearth and that represented by the First Hearth. The quantity of pottery found in the few square feet of undisturbed deposit indicates how rich the site must have been before the cave was disturbed.

The Second Hearth rested on a calcareous layer of soft tufaceous stalagmite (6), pinkish white in colour when freshly exposed. It was slightly darker against the west wall due apparently to seepages of rainwater from the open surface of The Slitter.* In the first foot of this layer a small grey patch, apparently a hearth, was found and occasional specks of charcoal. Rodent remains occurred in patches under known owls' perches in the cave roof above. All the remains belonged to recent species. This calcareous material rested on the bed rock generally but spanned the narrow rift shown in *Fig* 1. The bed rock sloped steeply down south from the gate to the rift, which narrowed rapidly downwards to have vertical faces on north and south till at

* These seepages were seen to occur during rain in the course of the excavations.

a depth of 6 ft. 6 in. it had the form shown in *Fig.* 1. The animal burrow had penetrated deeply into the calcareous layer but did not seem to have gone right through it.

At a depth of 6·5 ft. in the centre, that is below 2·5 ft. in the calcareous layer, an abrupt change took place in the nature of the deposit. A loose darker layer (7) composed of earth and stones appeared; it sloped down from south to north towards the cave mouth and slightly from west to east. It was thought at the time of excavation that the calcareous layer would have preserved the layers below from contamination but there has obviously been gross disturbance as Dr. Savage has shown in his report on the animal remains in Appendix 2. The possible sources of this disturbance must be considered. Previous excavation by Gough or others can be ruled out because of the continuity of the calcareous layer. Seepages from The Slitter along the west wall and through the extension of the fissure southwards in o/11 (*Fig.* 1) are possible sources of contamination. In wet weather a tiny stream would enter the excavations through the extension of the fissure and small animals could easily have come in by this route. Secondly there were several occasions in the course of the excavations when unauthorized visitors disturbed the excavations to a limited extent. Birds nesting on the roof ledges would produce a surprising amount of debris on the floor of the rift below between one weekend and the next. Foxes, or perhaps dogs, quite often visited the cave but none of these are likely to have produced the degree of disturbance noted by Dr. Savage. Thirdly the animal burrow may have penetrated right through the calcareous layer though this did not seem to be the case at the time of excavation. Finally the excavation marked "Pit 1959" in *Fig.* 1 has now been dug deeper (1960) revealing an open connection to the rift below the level of the calcareous layer along and under the east side of the cave. The beginning only of this passage is shown in *Fig.* 1 in M/13. This route would be easily passable by burrowing animals up to the size of a fox or badger. This is the most probable source of the disturbance.

At a depth of 6·5 ft. the area available for excavation was restricted to a narrow rift and in layer (7) a femur of reindeer and a phalanx of horse were found. The material now became looser still with remains of a single beast ranging through a vertical depth of over 2 ft. (8). From the eighth foot came two halves of a mandible of arctic fox, while the ninth and tenth feet yielded parts of a pair of reindeer antlers each having part of the frontal bone attached. This would seem to imply human agency. Parts of the upper jaw and both halves of the mandible of beaver, part of a mandible of Lepus Anglicus and the bones of a large bird, some teeth of reindeer and several vertebrae of a small fish were found. There was some admixture of fine silt especially against the west and east walls and the silt became continuous across the narrow rift at about 8 ft. (9). The silt was sandy.

The interpretation of these stratigraphical details requires some attention. The main mass of material down to the base of the Second Hearth is largely homogeneous, the differences being essentially the product of occupation of the cave by man at two periods separated by about 3–4 centuries. The material is the ordinary weathering accumulation in those parts that were available for study, namely close to the entrance It is probable that, as at other caves, there was the usual talus cone at the cave mouth and as the material accumulated some of it would roll back into the cave with, perhaps, some assistance from the passage to and fro of animals and man. This talus cone at a cave mouth is a well-known feature constantly exemplified in sections of deposits, but in the present case the cone has disappeared with the slip of material when the base of the slope was dug away. On the other hand the accumulation of a foot of deposit, layer (3), in the course of 3–4 centuries seems rather excessive in comparison with such other Mendip caves as Sun Hole, Cheddar (Tratman and Henderson 1928 and Tratman 1955). That cave faces south. The report on Soldier's Hole, Cheddar (Parry 1931), indicates the existence of the same feature and the cone could be observed at several of the small caves and shelters in Ebbor Gorge particularly at the Bridged Pot Hole shelter (MacBurney 1959). On the other hand at Rowberrow Cavern, which faces north like Gough's Old Cave, the rate of accumulation was much faster than at Gough's Old Cave (Taylor 1926).

At Sun Hole and at the Bridged Pot Hole, Ebbor, the change in the nature of the deposit from earth and stones to a more calcareous layer marked the change from Secondary Neolithic/Beaker times back to the end of the Pleistocene as indicated by the fauna thus leaving a gap, apparently, of several thousand years unrepresented in the deposits. Even if one allows the continued existence of some of the smaller mammals of the final Pleistocene into later times, and for this there is no definite evidence, there would still seem to be quite a long gap unrepresented. At Gough's Old Cave the change to a calcareous layer represents a change of climate to wetter conditions. The most calcareous portion was formed immediately antecedent to Early Iron Age "A" times, that is, in late Bronze Age times and this change is in keeping with much other information on this matter (e.g., Godwin 1956, p. 80). The calcareous deposit covers the period between the end of the Bronze Age and the end of the Pleistocene, for it is only below this level that an early post-Glacial or late Pleistocene fauna is encountered mixed, it is true, with remains of more modern animals. The minor fluctuations of the climate within this period of time have not left recognizable records in the deposit.

From the eighth foot down to the bottom of the tenth foot (9), where the area available for excavation became too narrow for further work, there was a change to more silty material, which coloured the whole red, and towards and against the west wall there was much more silt and the layer was

more compact and there were no air spaces between the stones. This change seemed to be the result of fine silt being brought in by water trickling along the west wall from The Slitter. The change to the silty layer was quite abrupt on the west side but not nearly so well defined on the east. The material seems to correspond to MacBurney's layer A^2 at the Bridged Pot Hole, Ebbor (1959).

The change in the nature of the deposits indicates a climatic change to one colder and also slightly drier. The abruptness of the change is an indication of a swift change in the climatic conditions. A similar change had been noted at Sun Hole Cave, Cheddar (Tratman, 1955, p. 61). The very angular nature of the material suggests thermoclastic activity without very much vegetation during the final cold spell of the end of the Pleistocene. The lower silty mixture suggests a wetter period, but not necessarily warmer, and getting wetter as one goes back in time precisely as at Sun Hole. The grouping of the rodent remains is clearly the result of the use of suitable ledges by birds of prey.

The remains found include most of a pair of reindeer antlers and in each case part of the frontal bone is attached to the base of the antler. The reindeer antlers and femur associated with the remains of beaver suggest the occasional presence of man unless the remains were brought to the cave by beasts of prey, such as the artic fox; either might be true as man was living in the entrance to the present show cave a few yards away (e.g., Parry 1929 and Donovan 1955).

There remains the problem of the sandy, silty material and the water rolled pebbles, including a number of Old Red Sandstone ones, which occur in appreciable numbers associated with sandy silt and more angular limestone debris in the barren deposits at the back of the outer chamber. The nearest source for the O.R.S. is Blackdown about two miles to the north or North Hill, Priddy, about three miles to the east. The time when stream-borne O.R.S. debris of this size could reach either Long Hole or Gough's Old Cave was long antecedent to that represented by the fauna. The deposits, if undisturbed, can only have been laid down when major streams were actually running through the caves under vadose conditions and this can only have been before Cheddar Gorge had been deepened below the level of these caves. There must, then, have been some resorting of the deposits including some replacement by frost shattered angular material of deposits washed out. The fine silt that remains now, associated with a late Pleistocene fauna, being also a redeposited material. This cave, then, presents one more example of a cave formed and then partly filled with stream-borne debris. Subsequently the cave underwent a process of rejuvenation. Much of the fill was washed out but parts of it remain in suitable localities within the cave. The extent of this rejuvenation cannot be determined but it was followed by a second period

of filling produced chiefly by thermoclastic action. The only way in which this material can have entered the back part of the cave is through The Slitter, which must have had an open connection with Gough's Old Cave. A similar deposit was formed at the cave mouth. The connection with The Slitter probably became greatly restricted towards the end of the Pleistocene and was completely closed in the early part of post-Glacial times and remained closed till the collapse caused by Gough's digging. With the connection to The Slitter closed and access to the East Passage barred by a stalagmite flow the cave would have been quite a snug place to live in, while at present with both connections open or with even only The Slitter open* the cave is always a cold one because of air currents that are always flowing through it, as they would also have done in Pleistocene times but not in Iron Age times when the cave was occupied.

SUMMARY

The deposits in Gough's Old Cave were greatly disturbed when it was made into a show cave. Further disturbance occurred when the Cave Man Restaurant was built.

Only the outer chamber has been excavated as that is the only part that would have been available for prehistoric man to live in. Only the portion near the gate yielded any remains so that the results are rather disappointing.

Two hearths could be demonstrated. The first yielded Roman and Iron Age "B" pottery. The Second Hearth yielded Iron Age "A" pottery, a bone needle and a flint fabricator. A sherd of Iron Age "B" pottery was amongst some very loose material against the east wall near the gate where there had been some recent disturbance which could easily have carried the pottery down to the Second Hearth from its proper level.

The Second Hearth rested on a calcareous layer which, for a depth of 2·5 ft., contained only a recent fauna. Below this came a darker and much less calcareous layer with scanty remains of early post-Glacial or late Pleistocene animals mixed with recent animal remains and below again cleaner material with a similar faunal mixture down to a total depth of 11 ft. The climatic changes indicated by the deposits have been discussed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The society is indebted to the Marquis of Bath for permission to excavate in this cave and for allowing the society to have custody of the finds. Mr. G. Robertson, manager of the caves, and his staff have been helpful in a number of ways. Student members have provided the main labour force throughout the excavations.

* During the excavations the east passage was for a time completely blocked off with spoil but this made little difference to the draughtiness of the cave.

Dr. R. J. G. Savage has kindly identified the animal bones for me and his report is given in Appendix 2. Mr. A. M. ApSimon has reported upon the pottery, Mr. G. C. Boon has identified the Roman coins and Mr. and Mrs. J. Weston Taylor have made the drawings from which *Fig.* 3 has been made. To all of these I am grateful.

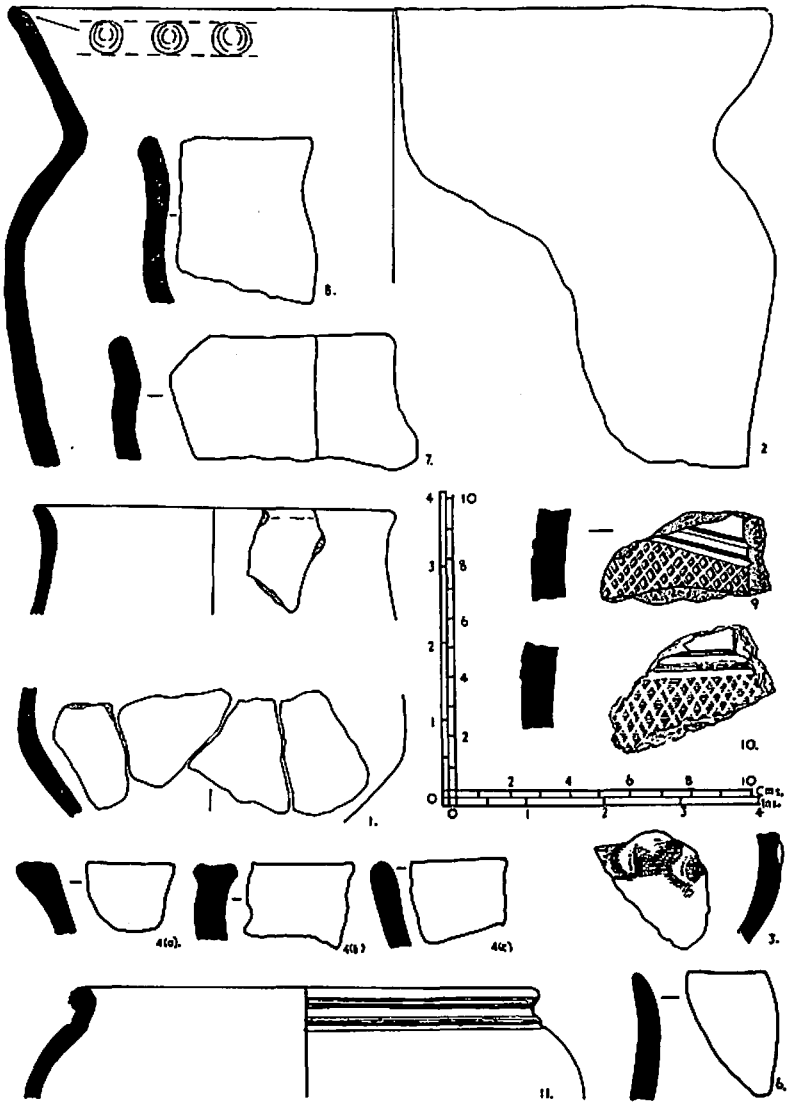

Fig. 4.

APPENDIX 1

NOTES ON THE POTTERY FROM GOUGH'S OLD CAVE*

By
A. M. APSIMON

[*Fig.* 4]

From the Second Hearth

1. Rim and body shards of small bowl made of fine, dark grey-black ware with smooth surfaces, especially the outside [28]*. A few shards of a similar bowl are in the collection.

2. Rim and shoulder and some body and base fragments of a large jar with a rim diameter of about 10 in. There are finger-tip impressions on the top of the everted rim. The fabric is coarse and calcite gritted. The whole is rather crudely made [30].

Two small conical lugs in fine ware, one [44], has fine incised lines on either side of the lug.

4. From squares O,P/9,10,11, an apparently undisturbed area, come a series of shards all in black, calcite gritted ware.

a. Rim of an open bowl with flat topped rim [36].
b. Plain flat topped rim [41].
c. Simple rounded rim [39].

There are also some base fragments of the same calcite gritted ware.

5. Flat-topped rim shard of a shouldered jar of ware similar to 4 (a). This is not figured.

6. A simple rim shard with a slight shoulder below [26].

Also from the apparently undisturbed levels is some thin ware, pale brown in colour, the paste speckled with finely divided calcite. This is perhaps derived from the fabrics found at Pagan's Hill and Little Solsbury.

This little group of Iron Age A pottery is rather like that from Brean Down and belongs to the developed stage of the All Cannings Cross culture. The bowl, number 1, is a devolved version of some found in the early group at Pagan's Hill. The coarse calcite gritted fabric and the open bowl type occur at Brean Down. This group should be substantially older than the fragments of Glastonbury and other later pottery from the First Hearth.

From the First Hearth

7. Rounded rim shards made in brown calcite gritted ware, with brown exterior, of a pot about 6 in. in diameter. This is a cooking-pot type found commonly in the Glastonbury culture [11, 19].

8. Rounded rim shard made in black, calcite gritted, ware not figured. The form is similar to number 7 but the neck curvature is not so pronounced [2].

9. Shard of decorated Glastonbury ware with a grey fabric and having much calcite grit. The outside is burnished and has two parallel grooves bordering the area covered with shallow cross-hatched grooving. There is a shard (No. 10) of another vessel with an almost identical decoration and paste.

11. Rim shard made in hard grey ware with some pebble (?) and calcite grits in the paste. The surfaces are black and the exterior highly burnished with two grooves just below the rim. It was very probably wheel thrown. The shape and fabric are "Belgicised" and are identical with Durotrigian pottery from Ham Hill (Taunton Museum) and Wookey Hole (Wells Museum). Similar pottery was found at Cheddar when the debris slope in front of Gough's Old Cave and The Slitter was cut away to make the Cave Man Restaurant. Some of this pottery is now in the Society's museum.

The Glastonbury fragments could be as early as the late 2nd century B.C. but the Durotrigian shard is more likely to belong to the early-middle 1st century A.D. It could have been intruded into the First Hearth.

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* The catalogue number of each shard described is given in square brackets at the end of the description. Each number is to be prefixed by the cave catalogue number and sub-division, e.g., M17.7/28.

From Disturbed Material

12. A shard, Fig. 4, No. 3, of coarse, grey brown ware containing many pieces of calcite grit some of which project from the pot surfaces. Two finger-tip/nail impressions raise the surface. It belongs to the shoulder of a jar and probably to the earlier occupation of the Second Hearth.

APPENDIX 2

The Vertebrate Fauna

By

R. J. G. Savage, Ph.D.

Remarks on Faunal List

The following observations and comments may be made on the faunal list.

Bird bones are present in all layers; these bones are not specifically diagnostic but many probably belong to predatory birds. The remains of rodents, hares and insectivores predominate and strengthen the suggestion of association throughout with predatory birds. Ungulates are relatively scarce, both in species and in numbers of individuals.

Only two fossil species are recorded, aurochs and a lemming. Several species of mammals in the deposits are no longer native to Britain, but survive in more northerly latitudes (e.g., lemming, reindeer and beaver).

The distribution of species in the layers is only explicable if disturbance is accepted; either through spoils of previous excavations contaminating upper layers, or fossorial animals introducing elements into lower layers or through other causes.

3 ft. Calcareous	Layer:–		Apodemus sylvaticus
	Bird bones		Evotomys glareolus
	Apodemus sylvaticus		Arvicola terrestris
			Lepus variabilis
5 ft.–5 ft. 6 in.	Fish vertebrae		
	Small bird bones	8 ft.	Small bird bones
	Sorex araneus		Large bird bones
	Neomys fodiens		(with Owl)
	Evotomys glareolus		Myotis bechsteini
	*Lemmus lemmus		*Castor fiber
	†Dicrostonyx gulielmi		Evotomys glareolus
	Arvicola terrestris		Arvicola terrestris
	Microtus agrestis		Apodemus sylvaticus
	*Microtus ratticeps		Lepus variabilis
	Lepus variabilis		*Alopex lagopus
	Cervus elaphus		
	*Rangifer tarandus	9 ft.	Fish vertebrae
	†Bos primigenius		Small bird bones
			*Castor fiber
6 ft.	Small bird bones		Evotomys glareolus
	Sorex minutus		Arvicola terrestris
	*Castor fiber		*Lemmus lemmus
	Apodemus sylvaticus		Microtus agrestis
	Arvicola terrestris		Lepus variabilis
	Evotomys glareolus		*Rangifer tarandus
	Microtus agrestis		
	Lepus variabilis	10 ft.	Small bird bones
	Equus caballus		*Lemmus lemmus
			†Dicrostonyx gulielmi
7 ft.	Small bird bones		Microtus agrestis
	Large bird bones		Lepus variabilis
	(with Owl)		Vulpes vulpes
	Talpa europaea		*Rangifer tarandus
	Sorex minutus		?Oryctolagus cuniculus

* Not now native to Britain. † Extinct

The 5ft.-5ft. 6in. layer contains the largest fauna and includes both fossil species recorded from the cave, together with three species no longer native to Britain. These, taken with species identical to present-day fauna, reflects the very considerable degree of contamination in this layer. The 6 ft. layer comprises entirely present-day native species with the exception of beaver. The 7 ft. layer is entirely modern and includes mole and owl. The 8ft. layer again includes owl, together with beaver and arctic fox.

The 9 ft. layer includes reindeer, lemming and beaver—all consistent with relatively cold conditions, possibly of early post-Glacial times. The 10 ft. layer may in part be late Pleistocene: it contains two species of lemming, but also a modern fox and not an arctic fox, together with a bone which is probably rabbit. The presence of the fox is certain proof of contamination, and the probable rabbit supports this. The fox tooth is fresh and unlike other specimens in the bed.

The presence of *Dicrostonyx* and *Rangifer* in the 5 ft.-5ft. 6 in. layer suggests that the 9 ft. and 10 ft. layers were exploited in previous excavations and it may have been during this exposure that the 10 ft. layer became contaminated.

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* For Gough's Old Cave read *The Long Hole*. The author has confused two adjacent caves. E. K. T.