

EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY



JOURNAL VOL.1



The central aim of this Society is to Explore, Record, and Initiate Interest in Local Archaeology.

We wish to better understand the development of Man. We believe it will increase our respect for mankind, which we would like to share with others; kindle a growing awareness of the need to conserve that which is best around us, and play an active role in so doing; that the society should be a centre of enjoyment through learning.

Our interpretation of Archaeology is wide. As we see things in the dynamic relationships of interaction and continuity we do not wish to be restricted by semantics. We are aware we can not be all things to all men and understand the reasons for needing to aim our sights within the realities of our boundaries. We are constricted by all those things which constrict all of us, individuals and organizations alike. within these parameters we believe the members of the society have much to offer.

Our logo is Badbury Rings; our administrative centre Wimborne; our area of interest East Dorset; our hope we will develop in close liason with all those other bodies with similar aims. The only qualification for membership is a strong affinity with the history and archaeology of the area in which most of us are priviledged to live in.

EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

STEERING GROUP.

D. Bicheno. L. Baker. D. Day.

J. Day. H. Everall. M. Green.

EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

JOURNAL

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E.D.A.S. COMMITTEE MARCH 1983.

Chairman. John W.Day. General Secretary. Dennis Bicheno. Treasurer. Les Baker.
Membership Secretary. Della Day. Vice Chairman. Haydn Overall.
Special Adviser. Martin Green.

Members.

Sylvia Church. Phil Coles. Teresa Hall. Len Norris. Brian Tiller. Janet Westley.

EDITORIAL.

The Steering Group believed a Journal to be an important factor in the development of the Society. As a part of the group's function we have produced this first edition. Our terms of reference for its production were:

- (1) A journal for amateurs mainly by amateurs.
- (2) A document which will be the history of the society.
- (3) A medium for recording our activities.
- (4) A medium that can be shared with other appropriate groups who do not have a journal of their own.
- (5) A medium by which we can advertise ourselves, gain membership, and mobilize an interest from professional people in order to get the professional support we acknowledge we require.
- (6) A medium in which we publish things that interest us and hopefully interest others.

This first edition represents our enthusiasm. We are not abashed it reveals our lack of expertise. We hope it will be read, enjoyed, invite contributions and creative criticism. We hope the committee organise an editorial board that will take note of the comments received and use them as a focal point from which to produce a second and much improved edition.

Editorial Comments.

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(Many people have helped in all sorts of ways, never-the-less a special vote of thanks goes to Mrs. J. Cooper who has typed most of the final draft. She is not a member of the society but is interested in it.)

Miss J. westley has given unstinting help with a mass of typing for the Steering Group.

INTRODUCTION

The formation of the E.D.A.S. is a stage in a process of welding together strands of interest in local archaeology. Central to this is the Wimborne Workers Educational Association and the unique conditions prevailing at Down Farm near Sixpenny Handley.

The Wimborne W.E.A. in its leadership by Jude James has for a long time been a stimulating organization. Within it the archaeological classes have gone from strength to strength. Tim Schadla-Hall, the original tutor was capable of raising the dead with his enthusiasm for the long lost past. David Johnston, our current tutor, has widened our interest with forays into the Roman period and extended our very limited practical experiences into the excavation of the Roman Cross Road at Badbury Rings. Haydn Everall the class secretary played an important role. His knowledge of local archaeology and ability to act as a social catalyst went a long way to ensure cohesion, and fruitful use of energy within the classes.

Down Farm is so well known that description is unnecessary. Martin Green, the farmer, farming in the middle of so much pre-history that it is not surprising that he is an amateur archaeologist of some renown. It is perhaps surprising he has time left for farming. His friendship and guidance first to individuals and more latterly to groups of us have been of inestimable value in the direction we have taken.

We have been more than fortunate to have had the support of Norman Field and we look forward to its continuing.

There have been other focal points from which the momentum for the society has sprung. Some are individuals and some from other groups. All with the common denominator of an interest in the past, particularly the pre-historic past of Dorset. Each looking for something more than appeared to be available to them. Each recognising an amateur status and wanting more than their current activities were offering. Most belonging to Dorchester Museum but finding it too far for easy access.

The E.D.A.S. is not meant to be in competition with, but to supplement other organizations and by liaising with them help create a wider pattern of activity in which all can benefit. Our symbol is Badbury Rings and our area is East Dorset. While our administrative point is Wimborne we are looking for ways of being available to people in the whole of the East of the County. We are though, determined not to run before we can walk and much work and time has to go into all those things which will give us credibility.

GEOLOGY OF SOUTH - EAST DORSET

B.A.TILLER.

Geologically Dorset has a variety of formations, structures and fossils that are unequalled in any other British County, and has always been one of the most favoured areas for geologists and fossil hunters to visit.

It is difficult to separate south-east Dorset from the whole, but we have geological deposits ranging from the Eocene of the Hampshire Basin with surrounding cretaceous beds giving the high downland to the Jurassic deposits in the South of Purbeck. The most recent deposits, the Eocene of the Tertiary strata were formed approximately 38 to 65 million years ago and the oldest, the Jurassic, between 136 to 190 million years ago, although the oldest beds of the Jurassic are not represented in our area.

The Eocene strata form the bleak heathland around Poole Harbour, Wareham and the Army tank ranges of Bovington and Wool. These acid heaths, the Egdon Heath of Hardy's Wessex, are comprised mainly of Bagshot beds and are formed of sands, clays and gravels. The heaths end to the south against a narrow band of clays of the London clay and Reading beds. This more fertile land forms a narrow belt of woodland and pasture along which Studland and the parks of Creech Grange and Lulworth Castle are situated, sheltering under the Purbeck ridge.

The chalk, part of the Cretaceous beds, forms the Hog's back Purbeck ridge running east to west from Ballard Cliff to Worbarrow Bay, providing a glimpse of the high downland. The ridge widens near Lulworth and then spreads north-westwards around the western end of the Tertiary beds of the Hampshire Basin. These rolling chalk downlands, with their dry combs and ridgeways form the landscape of most of North Dorset, including Cranborne Chase, an area noted for its archaeological interest. Badbury Rings is found on the chalk (although it has a coping of Reading beds) along with several other hill forts,

many barrows and settlement sites. A feature of the chalk strata are the bands of flint nodules which they contain and which provided the raw material for flint implements manufactured during the prehistoric period.

South of the Purbeck ridge the Wealden beds, also Cretaceous, form another contrast - a fertile and wooded valley akin to the Weald of Kent. Here are many farms and the villages of Corfe Castle and Church Knowle, also the site of several deserted villages still remembered by ancient manor houses, now farms, such as Godlingston, Woodhyde and Barnston. Of considerable interest are the calcareous tufa deposits found at Blashenwell Farm, near Corfe Castle, from which many mesolithic artefacts have been recovered. The lovely semi-circular bays of Swanage and Worbarrow, and the round cove of Lulworth with their multi-coloured cliffs of yellow and red sands and mottled clays were formed by the sea cutting into and eroding the Wealdon strata.

In south-eastern Purbeck are the Purbeck and Portland limestones, which are part of the Jurassic series. These limestones have been much quarried for building stone, including the famous Purbeck marble, which has left the landscape scarred by spoil heaps and shafts, both ancient and modern.

Finally, in the south-western Purbeck the Kimmeridge Clay, also Jurassic, comes to the surface. Here the cliffs consist of crumbling block shale and clays constantly slumping and falling. Many of the shales are bituminous and on a hot day the sulphurous smell of oil is very strong. The Kimmeridge shale provided the raw material for the manufacture of the shale rings, cups, beads etc., which have been found on many archaeological sites.

From this it can be seen that south-east Dorset has a wide range of geological formations resulting in varying structure and scenery, from chalk downland to acid heath, which with their attendant land uses form an area of outstanding geological interest.

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BADBURY RINGS

J.W.Day.

Location. Map Ref. 964030. Badbury Rings are situated 4 miles west of Wimborne on the north side of the Blandford - Wimborne road (B.3080) in the north east corner of the parish of Shapwick. The north east aspect of the Rings are close to the Parish of Pamphill. Cranborne Chase extends north, the village of Shapwick on the banks of the River Stour to the South West.

Description. The parish of Shapwick is 3000 acres and entirely of Chalk. Badbury is an 18 acre chalk knoll capped with clay and gravel. The name Badbury is derived from the Anglo Saxon BADDABYRIG 'the earth work of BADDA'. The Rings may have a Neolithic origin but are undated and unexcavated. It is as seen, an Iron Age multivallate hill fort. There are two stages of development. The first the building of two inner ramparts, two ditches, and entrances west and east. The western entrance is more elaborate; it has inturned banks leading to a defensive area; the Barbican. Both ditches have V. shaped profiles.

In phase two a third ditch and rampart was constructed. The ditch is 25ft. wide in parts and is flat bottomed. It is less sturdy than the first stage. Entrances east and west were continuous with the earlier gateways. A further two entrances west and south, are of a later date; one being modern.

Badbury Clump, a fir copse of probable 17th. century origin, is situated on the summit. Sheep and rabbit grazing had kept the Rings in Downlike condition. Increased public access made grazing impracticable and myxomatosis decimated the rabbit population, resulting in a reversal to shrubland on the ramparts. These have been recently cleared, the Dorset Countryside volunteers playing a major role in this.

Associated Monuments. (1) Ancient Trackways and Roman Roads. Section of the Ackling Dyke being well preserved. (2) Romano - British settlement (Ref.960029) identified as Vindocladia. (3) Roman Fort in nearby Crabb Farm. (4) Lake Farm Roman Camp three miles south east. (5) Over 25 barrows recorded in the area. (6) Spetisbury Iron Age Fort. (7) Kingston Lacey House. (8) Beech tree avenue on the B.3080 planted in 1835.

History. No doubt one of the twenty OPPIDA conquered by Vespasian. (2) Possible site of battle of Mons. Badonicus. (3) Site of Edward the Elder's preparation for attacking Wimborne in 901. (4) Site of meeting of the Dorset Clubmen in 1635. (5) Part of the Bankes Estate of Kingston Lacey until bequeathed to the National Trust in 1982.

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MONS BADONICUS - BADBURY RINGS

DENNIS BICHENO

It must be admitted at the onset that, to date, the identification of Badbury Rings with Mons Badonicus, the site of a major British victory over the Saxons, remains more a matter of fancy or faith rather than fact.

This is not surprising since we are considering a period of history before the invention of printing, when events were recalled by the spoken word in forms such as the narrative poem or were painstakingly recorded by hand by the relatively few scribes of the time. The existing written records were copied and recopied, no doubt, many times with inevitable transcription errors over the years. In any event there is considerable difficulty in obtaining information for the period from the end of Roman rule in the 5th century and the mission of St. Augustine to Kent in 597.

Some of the most voluminous references to Arthur such as those by Geoffrey of Monmouth (12th century), Chretien de Troys (12th century) and Mallory (15th century) cannot be taken seriously as historical records, much as they have been valued as historical fiction. Probably the only contemporary record is the set of documents known as the British Easter Annals, originally compiled by ecclesiastic sources to predict the Easter feast dates etc. These commenced in 457 and were also used to record important events such as births and deaths of leaders, and dates of battles.

The Annals note that the Britons, under Arthur, gained a significant victory at the Battle of Badon Hill in 518 AD.

Gildas the monk, writing in his work "Concerning the Ruin and Conquest of Britain" in about the year 540 confirms that the Saxons were decisively defeated at Mount Badon without mentioning the name of the British leader.

The Welsh bard, Aneirin, however, referred in his epic poem "The Gododdin", written in around 600, to the British leader Arthur as a redoubtable warrior.

Writing around the year 800, the Welsh monk Nennius attributed to Arthur, "the dux bellorum" (military chief) the leadership of the

victorious Britons in a series of twelve battles with the Saxons. Of these engagements four could be placed rather tentatively around Lincoln, one in the lowlands of Scotland, one at the City of the Legions (presumably Chester or Caerlion) and the twelfth and culminating victory at Mount Badon, where Arthur is described as performing prodigious feats of valour.

Bede, writing in the seventh century in his "Ecclesiastical History of the British People", drawing on several historical sources, (particularly Gildas) confirmed Arthur's victory at Badon but gave no further clues to its location.

To summarise, we may make a reasonable assumption from the scant evidence available that around the year 500 the Britons, possibly under the leadership of a military chieftain or regional leader named Arthur, scored a major victory over the Saxons at Mount Badon. Informed opinion is divided as to the location of this battlefield and there are five possible Badburys, but the choice seems to lie between Badbury Rings in Dorset, Liddington Castle, near Badbury in Wiltshire, and Bath (on one of its surrounding hills).

All three sites provide suitable hill tops, and are in the general area (north Wales to south-west England) where Gildas lived and travelled. In addition they are relatively close to Cadbury Hill (which Leslie Alcock's recent excavations have gone some way to identifying with the legendary Camelot).

Some factors which give some tenuous support to the claim of Badbury Rings to be Mount Badon are as follows:-

- (1) The British Easter Annals (Welsh Annals) refer to a second battle of Mount Badon fought in around 667. This would seem to imply an earlier battle at the same site between the same combatants. If this be so then the Badbury Ring site would be the only one of the three which would fit the facts, since it is fairly well established that by the year 550 the Saxons had set up a stable front along a curved line from Southampton to Warwick, and by the early seventh century along a line from Bournemouth to Weston-Super-Mare. Thus while Badbury Rings might have been close to a disputed frontier, both Liddington Castle and Bath would have been well inside the established Saxon territory.

- (2) The ninth century continental chronicler Rudolf of Fulda refers to the influx of Saxons from Britain arriving at the mouth of the Elbe around the year 530, thus supporting the idea of a major Saxon reverse in Britain. This is supported by the occurrence of English - type pottery and brooches of this date in North Germany.
- (3) Norman Field has pointed out that the distribution of Saxon graves peter out at Bokerly Dyke (some ten miles from Badbury Rings), - further evidence of a "frontier". It was also established that further strengthening of the Dyke took place in the early fifth century, presumably to halt the Saxon invasion.
- (4) J. Hutchins quotes from "the eminent Dr. Edwin Guest " as follows:- "Why may not the Mons Badonicus (where a great battle was fought between the Britons and West Saxons circiter 520) be the Badbury of Dorsetshire ? Its elevated site, its great strength and evident importance and its name all alike favour the hypothesis. It exhibits ample proof of Roman occupancy; though I believe no Roman baths have yet been discovered in the neighbourhood. It lay also on the borders of West Saxon territory and in the very district where the Welsh and the English were at that time contending, and where only the year before Cerdic had fought the battle of Charford".

The Anglo Saxon Chronicle tells us that Cerdic, a West Saxon chieftain, with his son Cynric and his army disembarked from five ships in Hampshire in 495. It is reasonable to assume that the Charford referred to was the village north of Fordingbridge (17 miles from Badbury Rings). If this is the case it is by no means unlikely that the battle of Mount Badon took place a year or so later between Arthur and Cerdic at Badbury Rings.

It is interesting to note that the next mention of Cerdic's forces is not till some fifty years later when Cynric advanced

to Salisbury to defeat the Britons in 552.

(5) Norman Field makes the following observations:- South Cadbury (Camelot?) " became a hill fort of special importance in the late fifth century, when it was massively strengthened, probably to act as a central bulwark against a Saxon thrust anywhere along the "frontier". We have seen that an early Roman road led from Badbury to Hod and that it continued up the Stour valley as well as eastwards towards the New Forest and Winchester. This route would have been invaluable to a British army hastening from the direction of Cadbury in order to engage the Saxon enemy who had reached Badbury Rings by way of Roman roads".

(6) Some attempts have been made (with little success) to use the derivation of place names to identify the location of Mount Badon.

J. Hutchins explains that the Anglo Saxon name for Bath (a bath) would have been Bathan, but in Hampshire and surroundings "th" was often pronounced as "d", hence if there were Roman baths near Badbury the locality would probably be called Badde. In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle Badbury is termed Baddanbyrig, the bury or fortress of Badde.

(7) The two rivers, the Hampshire Avon and the Stour would have been navigable, presumably, to the Saxon boats of the time for a considerable distance from the sea, and, therefore, the territory between the two would have been of considerable strategic value. It would not have been surprising if Badbury Rings (and, indeed some of the other hill forts in the area) were strongly garrisoned by the defending Britons and singled out for attacks by marauding Saxons. This would be true for the Dorset Badbury Rings but not for locations at Bath or Liddington Castle.

(8) Richard Barber has suggested that since "Gildas's horizon is limited to the south and south-west it may be that the battles culminating in that at Mount Badon may have been confined to those territories.

This possibility gains some measure of support from Leslie Alcock's speculation that the third, fourth and fifth battles reported by Nennius in "History of the Britons" as taking place in the district of Linnius might not refer to the region of Lindsey in Lincolnshire but indicated the settlement of Lindinis (usually identified with the town of Ilchester.) This would locate successive battles in an area closer to Dorset's Badbury Rings than to either Liddington Castle or Bath.

(9) Norman Field has also pointed out that in the mid - seventies several Saxon burials came to light at Christchurch and are dated to the early or middle seventh century. Thus indicating an established Saxon presence at that time close to Badbury.

(10) I am also indebted to Norman Field for the information that in the autumn of 81 a large Saxon cemetery had been investigated at Charlton (4 miles south of Salisbury and on the Avon.)

All the burials date, apparently no later than the mid - sixth century - further evidence that the Saxons seem to have been halted along the line of the Hampshire Avon early in the fifth century.

Conclusions

Whilst there seems little doubt that a series of battles between the Saxon invaders and the British took place during the late 5th and early 6th centuries resulting in a decisive defeat for the Saxons it remains uncertain as to whether the final victory was achieved under the kingship or military leadership of Arthur, Ambrosius Aurelianus, or some other chief. Equally although it seems certain that a final victory was achieved at Mons Badonicus we cannot be certain of its location. Of all the likely sites Badbury Rings Dorset seems the most probable, but very far from certain choice.

The great volume of literature (mostly fiction to a greater or lesser degree) favours the idea of Arthur, king of all Britain scoring a momentous and overwhelming victory at Mons Badonicus and our local pride insists on siting this at our very own Badbury Rings.

I acknowledge with gratitude the help and guidance given by David Johnston and Norman Field, and the assistance in preparing the paper from Janet Westley and Graham Linnington.

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BADBURY - SAXON KINGS

BY J.W. DAY

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records the amassing of troops on Badbury following the death of King Alfred:

'Anno 901. This year Alfred, son of Aethelwulf, died. And then Edward the son succeeded to the kingdom. Then Athelwald the Etheling, his uncle's son, seized the vill at Wimburne and then at Tweoxneam (Christchurch) without leave of the king and his Witan. Then the king rode with his forces until he encamped at Badbury, near Wimburne, and Athelwald sat within his vill, with the men who had submitted to him, and he had obstructed all the approaches to him and said he would do one of two things, or there live, or there be dead. But not withstanding he stole away at night.'

This record reveals the story of Athelwald, who rebelled when his cousin Edward the Elder took the throne on the death of his father, King Alfred. Athelwald seized the manors of Wimborne and Christchurch and proposed to abduct a nun whom he had married without Royal consent. Edward gathered his troops on Badbury Rings and Athelwald barricaded himself in Wimborne, saying he would fight to the death. In fact he slipped off in the night, leaving his wife, to travel to Northumbria, where he pledged himself to the Danes.

BADBURY, HAMBLEDON AND THE CLUBMEN

BY J.W. DAY

Charles I demonstrated many signs of bad faith, but the Englishman's dislike of revolution and the substantial resistance felt towards Parliament's wish to alter the whole system of government in Church and State caused many to rally round the King, when on 22nd August 1642 he set up his banner at Nottingham for the Great Rebellion.

Religion divided the two sides more than politics. The strength of Parliament lay in Puritanism. Those who were afraid of the rigidity of Calvinism fought for the King, as did the Roman Catholics. The division between social sectors was however not as clear cut as is sometimes stated. A large number of nobles of old standing were opposed to the Crown. Leaders in the Commons were landed gentry with large estates. The divisions were mainly geographical and followed the lines of the Tudor conflicts between York and Lancaster. The more wealthy and progressive areas were Parliamentary, and the conservative districts aligned with the King. The Royalists were stronger in the North, Wales and the South-West. Both sides used propaganda and printed their views, but it was only the landed and moneyed people who were sufficiently literate to read them. At the time of the Battle of Marston Moor (1644) a farm labourer was found on the battlefield. When told to go because the King and Parliament were fighting, he exclaimed: "Whaat? Has them two fallen out then?"

The Civil War has been described as a conflict between the 'godly middle sort' and 'traditional feudal society'. Sir Bartholomew Peel said of the Puritans: "If the Parliamentarians prevail your religion is lost, your marriage, your christening, your burials, be all lost". A Royalist critic spoke of "the old vanities and superstitions of their forefathers, the old necromantic order of prelacy and the wondrous old heathen customs of Sunday pipings, dancing with meritorious Maypoles, Garlands and jolly Whitsun ales".

In Dorset the seaports sided with the Parliamentarians, as did Dorchester. At first the Royalists gained ground, but Cromwell's New Model Army made itself felt in the summer of 1643. Lady Bankes' defence of Corfe Castle is so well known as to need no recounting here. The Bankes Estate was sequestered but, as noted by Viola Bankes, Cromwell was compassionate to women and he restored her annual income. The land was not split up and handed to Parliamentarians as so much was, and the sequestration was lifted in 1647, the Estate returning to the Bankes family.

Sir Ashley Cooper of Wimborne St. Giles turned his back on the King and changed sides. The Royalists were defeated in their attack on Dorchester, and their garrison at Wareham was over-run by Shaftesbury and Colonel Sydenham. On

29th February 1645 Goring was travelling westward with his troops when some of his soldiers were killed by the villagers of Godmanstone. Cromwell, in pursuit, failed to win them over to his side.

Both Royalists and Parliamentarians caused considerable damage to country and property. Lying between London and the Royalist West, Dorset suffered great disruption at all levels of society. Homes were plundered, crops destroyed and stolen by both sides. Corfe Castle, Sherborne, Lulworth and Cranborne all suffered.

The Clubmen were formed as a result of the disastrous trampling of the countryside by the rival armies. The movement started in Somerset but soon spread to Dorset and Wiltshire. Among the various theories on the derivation of the name, 'Clubmen' may mean 'association', or it may reflect the primitive weapons which the participants had to hand. Their stated aims were politically neutral. They are generally described as a movement of countrymen with no political preferences but united in objection to the economic situation and to the physical disruption caused by both sides.

The Royalist leaders of the Clubmen appear to have come mainly from nucleated settlements on the chalk downlands rather than from towns or from the clay lands. Durweston, Spetisbury, Shapwick, Alvediston and Coombe Bissett were prominent in producing Royalist-biased Clubmen leaders. Parliamentarian-orientated leaders came from the fen edge villages of the Somerset Levels and from the cheese area of Melksham and Chippenham. These regional political preferences seem to reflect the cultural background, but most of the movement had Royalist leanings. The Dorset Clubmen resisted Fairfax's Roundheads, but those in central and north Somerset quickly cooperated, a move which may have indicated political preference or have been a tactical manoeuvre.

The political views of the peasant classes reflected their parochial attitudes. Support for the Dorset Clubmen and their leaders came from the better educated and moneyed classes, including clergy and local gentry. Little is known about the rank and file membership, but they seemed to have found the cultural medium of their leaders more acceptable than zealous reformers. When employers were Parliamentarians the feudalism of the traditional values of Dorset culture was often a source of conflict. John Fussell, one of the Earl of Shaftesbury's stewards, was particularly disloyal, and is likely to have played a part in the plundering of the Earl's Cranborne house. Court Rolls were thrown away or sold to marauding tenants.

Following the fighting at Godmanstone there was a surge of Clubmen activity. On 12th May 1645 some three thousand met between Blandford and Shaftesbury, and on 25th May a combined meeting with Wiltshire Clubmen took place at Gorhedge Corner, Gussage. They adopted articles of association, and

a few days later met at Badbury to form a 'Peace-Keeping Association' for self protection. A lawyer, Thomas Young, addressed them, reading the articles of their covenant and formulating their 'Desires, Resolutions and Directions for present behaviour'.

Cromwell advanced to Bridgewater, which was captured after a violent battle on 16th July. He was then faced with the alternative of advancing to Devon and Cornwall, where Prince Charles had taken refuge, or curb the Clubmen. As ammunition supplies were low he decided to take the second course. The Parliamentarians captured Bath and Sherborne in July, and started the siege of Sherborne Castle in early August. The Dorset Clubmen were more resistant than those of Somerset, and Fleetwood was sent with troops to Shaftesbury. He brought 40 prisoners back to Sherborne, but the Clubmen were not intimidated. Faced with the possibility of a rescue attempt, Cromwell went to Shaftesbury with two columns of horse. Two miles from Shaftesbury he met a Mr. Newman and Mr. Hollis at the head of a party of Clubmen. He told them that if they were presenting themselves as a third political party they would be punished; if they were innocent, they would be protected. At this they dispersed peacefully, telling Cromwell that there were ten thousand Clubmen massed on Hambledon Hill.

There were at least 2,500 Clubmen on Hambledon, and Cromwell sent 50 troopers 'in civil manner', but they were fired on. Twice he sent a Clubman, Mr. Lee, to negotiate peacefully, but each time he was turned back. Writing later to Fairfax, Cromwell said this was mainly due to 'two vile ministers', who harangued the crowd. A captain was then sent with troops to say no harm would come to them if they laid down their arms. Two of his men and at least four horses were killed.

Cromwell sent Major Desburgh to the northern part of the hillfort, and from there they attacked the Clubmen from the rear, killing 12 and 'cut very many'. Three hundred were taken prisoner. In a letter to Fairfax he says he kept them overnight in Shroton church, but some authorities maintain that it was in fact a barn in the village. He referred to them as 'poor silly creatures'. The next day he let them go after admonishing them, and saying that they could defend themselves against plunder but must refrain from stopping soldiers going about their business. If caught they would be hanged.

The ring leaders were taken to Sherborne. A Civil War tract includes in the list of prisoners:

Captain Richard Craddock, 'the malignant merchant of Blandford'

John Pope of Marnhull, 'a man of verie good state but a notable malignant' (John was an ancestor of A. Pope, F.S.A., President of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, who in 1927 gave a presidential address on Hambledon Hill)

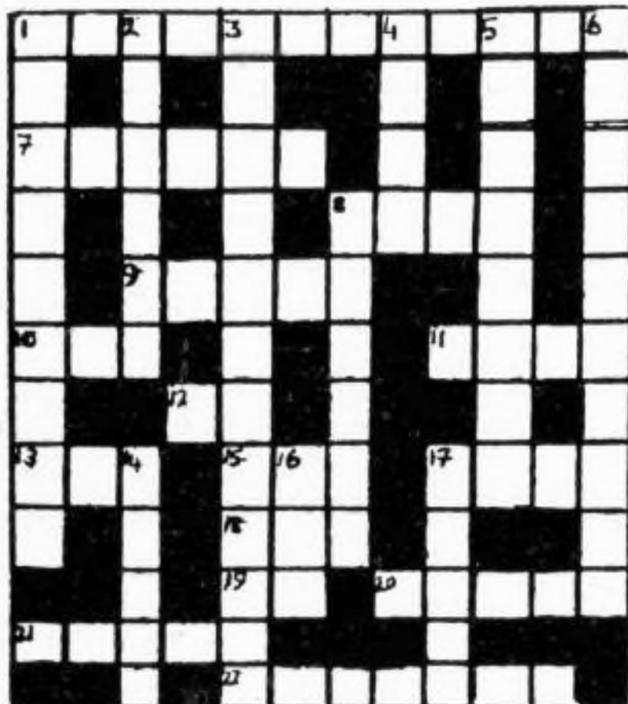
John May of Melbury, 'a notable rogue'
 William Caining, 'a young malignant Priest of Cerne'
 Robert Pocke, Rector of Chettle, 'a desperate malignant parson'
 George Holles of Wimborne, 'a kind of General unto them'.

References

'A Dorset Heritage' - V. Bankes
 'Chalk and Cheese' - D. Underdown
 Letter from Cromwell to Fairfax

CROSSWORD
 BY H. EVERALL

CLUES



DOWN

- (1) Only Hardy types survived this skirmish.
- (2) These pseudo Romans guard this street.
- (3) Tune in to the right wavelength to get a date, do you copy?
- (4) A divinity worshipped by the 'Arawaks', or a joined dwelling in Zomerzet!
- (5) One of the finest painted caves.
- (6) Iron Age folk may be found within these.
- (9) Amongst them include Goliath and Cyclops.
- (14) Norma changed built an empire.
- (16) Plough on with furrowed brow perhaps!
- (17) Modern ochre.

ACROSS

- (1) In this era folk were on their mettle!
- (7) Spanish fleet.
- (8) The Great Pyramid is to be found here, by an old man perhaps?
- (9) Ruth's mother-in-law.
- (10) Generally supported by the South in civil matters.
- (11) Did McEnroe excavate these?
- (12) A shortened skirt for an Egyptian god.
- (13) Essential to life throughout the ages.
- (15) First to leave a sinking ship but in reverse it keeps out the wet.
- (17) Henry's sixth and last.
- (18) Their forerunners may well have travelled the Ackling Dyke.
- (19) An odd poem, too short perhaps?
- (20) He had the golden touch
- (21) 5 down is found in this land.
- (22) Anglo-Saxon coin.

BIRTH OF A DORSET MUSEUM

D.Bicheno & J.W.Day.

Blandford Forum has a long and honourable past. Although (contrary to the impression one might have got from its name) it was not a Roman town. It has magnificent long barrows, Bronze Age round barrows, Iron Age hill forts, Roman villa sites and pre-historic, Roman and medieval trackways all within a few miles.

A staunchly Royalist centre in the Civil War, as well as a thriving agricultural market town it achieved some fame for the quality of its beer, lace, gloves and buttons. Perhaps it is best known for the disastrous fire of 1731 which virtually destroyed the town.

This gave an opportunity for the Architect/Craftsmen John and William Bastard to redesign much of the town and to construct so many of the attractive Georgian buildings we see today, built by Act of Parliament and public subscription. It has not all been peace since then. The political riots of 1830s were some of the most violent in Dorset.

One would have expected such an historic town to have a substantial and comprehensive museum where its relics of former days could have been accumulated and stored for the interest and pleasure of the residents and visitors of today and the future.

Regrettably, no such museum existed or was envisaged not (that is to say) until 1975 when a Blandford housewife with considerable vision, energy and civic pride, set about forming a Museum Trust. Mrs. Suzanne Tupper, aided by a dedicated Council of Management commenced this long and difficult task.

The immediate priorities were to arouse local interest and support and above all to raise funds. This was done with ingenuity, drive and enthusiasm.

The real breakthrough occurred in the autumn of 1978 when the William Williams Charity agreed to consider making available at a peppercorn rent a building in the town centre known as the Old Coach House. More fund-raising, planning and negotiations finally led to the signing of the lease in 1981. The snowball response is seen in the growth of museum members; seventy eight in December 1980, three hundred now.

The restoration of the rather dilapidated building was a somewhat daunting task, entailing the stripping, repair and lining of the roof and considerable building modifications. Much of this work was carried out by unstinted voluntary work by individual members and friends, and with help from Community Service and Friends of Earth teams. At the same time the essential raising of funds continued and was aided by the donation of building materials, museum furniture and exhibits. They continue to look for memorabilia, given or borrowed, that can be put on show. It is increasingly realised that more things have survived The Fire than hitherto believed. The work towards the opening of the museum greatly assisted by the appointment of Mr. Ben Cox as Curator.

For thirty years Mr. Cox had been Curator of the Almonry Museum at Evesham, and now brought a wealth of professional expertise to the new post. His guidance in the final design and layout of the museum and his unflagging efforts to obtain assistance and contributions from other museums and local authorities will greatly contribute to the success of the enterprise.

It is no accident the opening is on June 4th., the date of the Great Fire, and it is with the warmest best wishes that E.D.A.S. hopes the future will be a bright one and in it we can be of mutual assistance.

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A DORSET VILLAGE - LYTCHETT MATRAVERS. £ 6.50.

This book, by Shirley Percival, who lives in the village, is 'an adventure into the past'. She wanted to know the people who had lived there before; to know who had knelt in the church; walked the footpaths; seen the views. She has painted a picture of village life through the ages and attempted to answer the questions she herself was asking. It is a beautifully presented, hard-back book with many illustrations which must appeal not only to those residing in Lytchett Matravers today but to all interested in village life through the centuries.

WIMBORNE Minster . THE HISTORY OF A COUNTY TOWN. £5.95.

By one of the most popular w.E.A. lecturers, Jude James, this is an enjoyable and informative book with excellent photographs. J.W.DAY.

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IT'S PAINFUL

BY YOUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Arthritis is one of the oldest diseases known to man. Basically it is the degeneration of the ends of bones where they sit in their joints. It is very common place, some 61 million working days being lost each year. There are various forms of arthritis; osteo-arthritis in particular appears with age. It is not associated necessarily with damp conditions but has an hereditary disposition, affecting females more than males. There are clear indications of predisposition in people whose activities cause more than normal stress on particular joints, such as 'Wicket Keeper's Thumb'. The knee is particularly likely to be affected, which may be due to the vulnerability of the weight-bearing stress resulting from bipedal evolution. The associated joints are designed for quadrupedal locomotion, predisposing them also to degenerative changes.

Palaentologists are still unable to say why man became upright. Full bipedal ambulation occurred by the middle of the Pleistocene period, about three quarters of a million years ago. Java man had extraordinary large nodules on his femur, which led to osteo-arthritic changes. One Neanderthal skeleton affected by osteo-arthritis, which caused a stooping, shuffling gait, led many generations of anthropologists to believe that this was the normal posture amongst Neanderthal man.

It has been suggested that the Neolithic evolution into farming communities was associated with a growth in the occurrence and severity of osteo-arthritis, which appears to have affected a higher proportion of Neolithic and early Bronze Age peoples than modern man. Curiously, osteo-arthritis of the shoulder was commonplace in our ancestors, but is rarely seen today.

The 4th century A.D. Romano-British site at Poundbury revealed several skeletons with arthritic changes. One, of a young woman, showed osteo-arthritis in the knee, spine and waist. This seems to have been caused by an occupational hazard - the knee cartilages were severely affected by what appears to have been their frequent hyperextension!

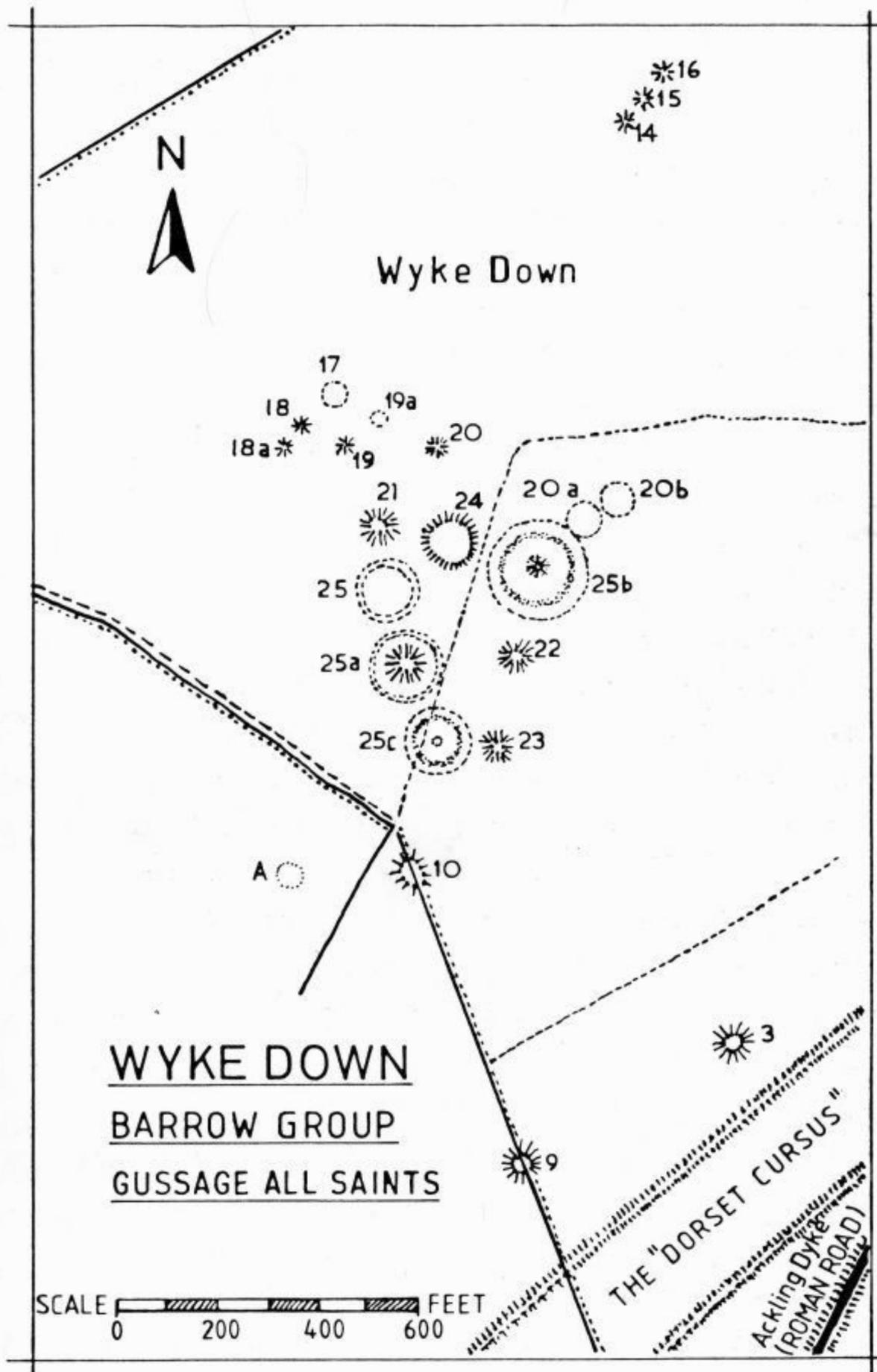
PROJECT 1.

PROPOSED EXCAVATION OF RING DITCH DURING 1983 ON DOWN FARM

Martin T. Green.

The Ring Ditch in question was first brought to my attention by M Newman-Wren who had observed it on an aerial photograph at the RCHM office in Salisbury. It apparently has never been recorded and does not appear in Dorset Barrows (1959) Supplement (1982) or the RCHM Vol V. It has subsequently been seen by myself and other members of EDAS whilst flying over the area, as a soil mark. It is clear from the plan taken from Dorset Barrows by LV Grinsell that the ring ditch is part of the extensive Wyke Down Barrow Cemetery. No record of any excavation of this group exists and is possibly the only major Dorset barrow group to have escaped examination. Unfortunately the group has suffered greatly in recent years from extensive ploughing and only a token 3 mounds (nos 25a, 9 and 10) on the plan are left unploughed. The remaining mounds have been all but flattened which is most unfortunate as they included 2 disc barrows (nos 25c and 25b) and a very rare platform barrow (no 24.)

During fieldwalking I have found fragments of urned cremations being ploughed out of 2 of the peripheral mounds (nos 14 and 17). The pottery from these is of LBA Deverell-Kimbury type and supports the idea that the smaller peripheral mounds are later in date than the larger "fancy" barrows forming the core of the group which would presumably be EBA in date. This would suggest even before putting a trowel in the ground that the ring ditch selected for excavation (marked A on plan), also occupying a peripheral position, is also LBA in date. Additional evidence to support this was provided when I dug two trial slots through the ploughsoil to locate the top of the ditch on the Northern and Southern sides. The Southern slot revealed a very flinty layer at the top of the ditch whilst the Northern slot revealed a normal fill with only occasional flints. It has frequently been shown that LBA cemeteries often occur on the S.E. sides of barrows (also extending outside the area of the ditch) and these burials are often associated with a cairn of flints constructed in the ditch on this side. All this seems to suggest an LBA origin for the ring ditch but it is quite possible that the original construction could have been earlier and that it saw a period (s) of re-use at a later



date c.f. the previous ring ditch excavated on Down Farm. All these points should hopefully be resolved during the excavation and make the prospect of finding out all the more exciting.

Method of Proposed Excavation.

An area 26 x 32 metres is hoped to be completely stripped. This will include the Ring Ditch thought to be about 18 metres in diameter and a fairly substantial area outside particularly to the S.E. Most of the topsoil will be removed by machine but the final 10 cms or so will have to be removed by hand (boring but essential!) When the ditch has been revealed it will be divided into segments (size of segments dependent on how complicated or simple the ditch proved to be) for excavation. Any features inside or outside the ditch will be half sectioned as soon as possible after completion of the hand stripping.

Finds

It is likely that quite a large amount of struck flint will be found in the ditch so it is necessary for participants to familiarise themselves with Bronze Age flintwork (a lot of which is of dreadful workmanship and only just recognisable as humanly struck). It is hoped to have an evenings instruction on this aspect before the excavation commences.

The Environs

The density of barrows in this particular part of Cranborne Chase is enormous and owes much to the position of the Dorset Cursus. The Wyke group sprawls off the plan to the S.E. where at least 2 barrows are built inside the Cursus. The group extends even further to the East where a longbarrow seems to form the starting point of the group at SU 01471476 although these are sometimes referred to as the Drive Plantation Group. It is remarkable that less than a mile away from the extensive Wyke group is the similarly extensive Oakley Down group much better known because of its fine state of preservation. It is remarkable to have 2 large cemeteries in such close proximity.

NOTES-FOR VOLUNTEERS ON THE ABOVE EXCAVATION

L. Baker.

Work is due to commence on the site on the week-end 30th April. Initial work will consist of stripping off the remaining topsoil and, using brooms, to get as clean a surface as possible before excavation

commences. At any given time a maximum of seven volunteers are required for this work. If any members have a spare wheelbarrow or shovels or forks to loan, a total of two wheelbarrows, four shovels and four forks are needed extra to those already available. The duration of the initial stripping and cleaning is obviously subject to how many people turn up over the first four week-ends, (and possibly week-days) but it is hoped the stripping will be completed by the first scheduled week-end, i.e. 30th May.

Note: This initial week will be of a hard physical nature and may not be suitable for older or less robust members.

The Excavation.

Once stripping is completed it is hoped to continue excavating every week-end up until 16th July. It is likely however that occasional week-ends will not be available for excavating within this period, so check with the co-ordinators before setting off. Also some week-days may be possible for excavation within this period, so if you have time free during a week, check with the co-ordinators or the Director to see if this fits in with the arrangements.

It will be necessary for volunteers to have their own trowels and kneelers, but brushes, buckets and hand shovels will be provided.

Places available for volunteers will depend on how the excavation is progressing at any given time and numbers cannot be estimated at this time. There will be at some time extra room for finds washers and processors, so if you feel unable to excavate but would like to help in some way, please let the co-ordinators know.

Co-ordinators.

L. Baker. Lyckett MINSTER 625107 (evenings & week-ends)

B. Tiller. Bournemouth 512191 (daytime).

PROJECT 2

Most members will have had full details already; it is directed by David Johnston of Southampton University, and is an exploratory exercise to identify a possible Roman or Medieval road at Stoney Cross in the New Forest. It will take place on the last weekend of June and the first weekend of July. There will be an on site meeting at 10.30 a.m. on 21st May. (Ref. SU 255118)

JUNIOR CORNER

FOOTPATHS.

J.W.Day & D.Watson.

An interest in Archaeology inevitably leads to walking in the countryside. This gives rise to consideration of the history of trackways, but also an awareness of the rights and obligations associated with access to the countryside. Some archaeological sites are easily available to the public. Many are not. Before visiting it is important to ascertain if actually going on a site is permissible. The existence of an adjacent footpath does not necessarily mean that land owners allow people to roam at will from it. Most land owners are friendly and co-operative, but will only remain so if they and their land are treated with respect. The countryside, the archaeology on it while part of our heritage is always owned by someone. The owners may be bodies like the National Trust, or private individuals, and treating the land and its contents with respect enables visiting to continue. Respect becomes incorporated in the wisdom of protection and conservation. Natural erosion causes damage that can often be mitigated. Erosion by human activity is frequently more difficult to prevent.

Whether there were permanent tracks before man lived in settlements is a matter of conjecture. Once there were habitation sites, paths would quickly appear. These would lead to the fields, and other local centres of work, social and religious activity, while other paths went through the forest for wood management and the hunting of animals. Longer paths went from settlement to settlement. It is often argued that the earliest established paths were on the chalk hill tops, some routes of which still exist. These routes forming the historical backbone to social and commercial trading in this country. The oldest known trackway is in the Somerset Levels. It is of timber construction, neolithic age, and enabled people to walk across the marshes which separated the villages on the higher areas. This particular track, called the Sweet Track - after the man who found it - until recently lay buried and preserved in the peat near the village of Westhay.

Paths in existence today are identified by numbers. Each Parish having its own numbering system. A path crossing a Parish boundary will have a number change at that point. These numbers can be seen on Definitive maps.

Definitive maps are maps which are kept up to date on the opening and closures of Rights of Ways. They are thus the maps which are used to state authoritatively whether a path remains legally accessible. They can be examined in the Highways Department of the County Council Offices. Some libraries also hold a stock, but they are not always kept up to date.

The generic term 'Rights of way' describes routes open to the public. Rights of Way may be: (1) A 'Byway' - open to all traffic. (2) A 'Bridleway' - open for walking and horse riding only. (3) A 'Footpath' open for walking only.

Two other forms are in common usage. Green Lanes, of which there is no statutory definition, but are un-made up public highways, and RUPPs - roads used as public paths. These are highways, other than a public path, used mainly as a footpath or bridleway. This form is diminishing as a result of changes in the law.

The responsibility for keeping paths free is with the local authority. They can oblige land owners to keep paths clear. Should land owners not comply the council is empowered to get the necessary work completed and enforce the costs from the landlord. If a path is obstructed a walker has the right only to remove as much of the obstruction as makes it possible to get by.

Most obstruction is caused by the growth of vegetation and local groups such as the Ramblers Association cooperate with land owners and councils to help clear it. A Right of Way officer is employed by the County Council to ensure paths are kept maintained.

Farmers are allowed to plough footpaths but must afterwards make them good. This usually means rolling the surface. Where crops are sown this constitutes an obstruction. Walking through them is permissible but must be on the right line and in single file. While going off the path is trespass, common sense and negotiation with farmers sometimes allows more satisfactory routes to be taken during the peak crop growing period. Walking around the edges of a field which has been planted up to the hedge line will though, often damage more crops than keeping to a legitimate path aligned straight through and across.

To prevent a path being used the land owner must go through a legal process called ' Application for Extinguishment '. Any changes consequent to this will be put on the Definitive Map. Published maps may not be produced until some years later. Hence the footpaths on Ordinance Survey maps, while a valuable guide, does not guarantee accuracy.

Footpaths are important not only as a means of travel but a protective environment for many plant, animal, bird and insect life. As hedges are removed to make larger fields so natural habitats disappear. Examination of hedges can be a help towards dating the paths they border.

Dr. Hooper devised a method of dating by counting the different shrub species in a 33ft. length of hedge. By multiplying the numbers of different species in a 33ft. length by 99, the result gives an approximate age in measurements of hundreds of years. A hedge with two species would be about two hundred years old. A hedge with ten different shrubs would have been in existence at the time of the Norman Conquest. A further aid is that of trees. Some slow colonising trees will only grow in hedges that are already well established. A Spindle tree is normally only found in hedgerows six hundred years old; ie. hedges with six other shrubs. A Field Maple tree will indicate a hedge four hundred years of age.

The underlying geology of a path plays an important part in determining the accompanying plant and animal life as well as its physical characteristics. Greensand, Clay, and Chalk soils if continuously used become eroded and take on a sunken appearance. This is accentuated by wheeled vehicles and the passage of cattle. Many of these sunken lanes are no longer major tracks but continue to form part of a network of footpaths. The medieval road ascending the hill behind Little Bredy Church now serving as a footpath and the paths from Cranborne to Pentridge are examples of this. All sunken paths are not of antiquity and care must be taken that other dating mechanisms are applied. Some sunken paths were once the main roads of villages that have since disappeared.

The existence of banks along a footpath may have a significance in its development. Such banks may be due to repeated ditch clearing over many years or may be a Parish or Estate boundary line. Boundaries may be indicated by marker stones; many of these still exist.

Some ancient tracks that can be walked as interesting footpaths are:

- (1) The Ackling Way. This is that part of the Dorchester/Salisbury Roman Road that goes through Cranborne Chase. Long lengths of the ditches and banks form footpaths from Badbury Rings to the junction with the Ox Drove on the Wiltshire Hills.
- (2) The Ox Drove. This wide path was used for the passage of cattle in medieval times but undoubtedly preceded by a much older trackway. There are many Ox Drove, the most famous leading from Wales to England. The Ox Drove referred to here crosses the Roman Road (see above) in a westerly direction as the Ridgeway to Win Green. Here it is joined by ancient tracks from Berwick St. John and Tollard Royal. Some served the Iron Age Hill Fort at Winkelbury Hill. From Win Green it goes through Cross Dykes, across the Bath - Hamworthy Roman Road to the valley between Hambledon and Hod Hill. The exact location of the original tracks into Dorset from Win Green is uncertain.
- (3) The Priests Way. This was a medieval track that the priest from Langton Matravers used to walk to Swanage. Swanage being the subsidiary settlement at that time. It is nearly five miles long and can be picked up from the east of the village. The other end comes out at the old Swanage quarries. The strip field systems on East Hill above Windspit are plainly visible at the start of the Priests Way.
- (4) The Kerry Track. This is a pre-historic, probably early Bronze Age, and can be easily walked on the extant footpath of the Kerry Hills where there is an outcrop of igneous rock called Pierite. Though confined in origin to this area it makes good axe and hammer heads, and has been found as artefacts at Avebury and Stonehenge. Flint from Dorset Chalk has been found in association with the Kerry Track. This would indicate lines of communication between the areas. The same track was later used as a Drove way from Wales to England.

References.

- (1) Law of Footpaths & Bridleways - Ian Campbell.
- (2) Definitive Maps of Public Paths - Mary McAreevey.
- (3) Ancient Trackways of Wessex - Timberly & Brill.
- (4) The Welsh Border - Millward & Robinson.
- (5) The Making of the English Landscape. - W.G. Hoskins & C. Taylor.
- (6) Hedges and Local History. - National Council of Social Services,
- (7) Roads & Tracks of Britain. - C. Taylor.

PRE - HISTORIC FARMING (1)

J.W.Day.

Man was once dependent on wild plants, but with the passage of time has learnt to control them by cultivation. Even wood purchased from the local builders is more likely to have been grown in plantations than in the wild. The first event to occur, probably about 7,000 B.C. was an accidental cross between wild grasses, producing a seed that man was better able to use for his own purposes. Cultivation enabled porridge and bread to be made.

The earliest evidence for the appearance of agriculture is archaeological evidence from the fertile valley. It was believed that most of the changes heralding new eras of man's development commenced in the Middle East and difused outwards. Countries like England always therefore trailing behind in the evolutionary process. While there is no certainty about the places and methods of the first cultivators it is now generally accepted that it occurred in different areas. Inexplicably about the same time. Climatic changes seemed to have improved conditions for the growth of wild cereal and played a part in changing them from perennials to annuals. Early cultivation may have been by transplanting plants (vegeculture) as opposed to sowing seeds.

Despite the period of some time that has elapsed there are no major crops cultivated from the wild for the last 3000 years.

The change from the wandering existence associated with the ' hunter gatherers ' by the introduction of cultivating plants was considerable. More long term planning was required, the land is put to a different use, tools have to be invented, and people become more stable in their style of living. From this springs the first evidence of more settled ways of living. A study of cultivation is a study of farming, therefore a study of one of the great forces that has given direction to man's evolution.

The earliest form of wheat was Wild Einkorn (*Triticum Bocoticum*) and Wild Emmer (*Triticum Monocoides*). Wild Einkorn gave rise to a cultivated plant (*T. Monococcum*) which became widely distributed and was the first wheat to reach Britain. Both wild and cultivated Einkorn can be found growing in Asia Minor today.

wild Emmer gave rise to *T. Dicoccum*, a cultivated Emmer, which was known to have grown in pre-historic Iran, India, Ethiopia. In both of these cultivated varieties the main stalk (Rachis) is less brittle than the wild forms, the kernel not easily naturally dispersing. By the late Neolithic Emmer was more prevalent than Einkorn.

Sometime in early pre-history wild Emmer became crossed with another wild grass and gave rise to bread wheat. It was a more adaptable plant and developed different forms to suit a range of climatic conditions. Threshing was easier because the grain fell free from the chaff. Its gluten content enabled the dough to be leavened. Of the various forms Spelt (Tr. Spelt) was found in Bronze Age Britain and can be found in some parts of Germany today.

References.

- G. Dimbleby - Plants and Archaeology.
P. Reynolds - Iron Age Farm.

.....

Answers to Crossword

- | <u>Down</u> | <u>Across</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. TRAFALGAR | 1. THE BRONZE AGE |
| 2. ERMINE | 7. ARMADA |
| 3. RADIO CARBON | 8. GIZA |
| 4. ZEMI | 9. NAOMI |
| 5. ALTAMIRA | 10. LEE |
| 6. ENCLOSURE | 11. PITS |
| 9. GIANTS | 12. RA |
| 14. ROMAN | 13. AIR |
| 16. ARD | 15. RATS |
| 17. PAINT | 17. PARR |
| | 18. BRS |
| | 19. OD |
| | 20. MIDAS |
| | 21. SPAIN |
| | 22. SCEATTA |

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THE DORSET COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS

The D.C.V. was set up in 1972 to do much needed practical conservation work throughout Dorset. Most of our work is done for the Dorset Naturalist Trust, Nature Conservancy Council, R.S.P.B., woodland trust and the County Council. We also do some work for private landowners and farmers.

The types of work we do are heathland management, chalk downland management, tree-planting, coppicing, hedge-laying, pond work, footpath work, fencing, and clearing out old quarries for bats to hibernate in.

In the past few years, the Group has grown rapidly. In 1979/80 we did 328 man-days of conservation work; in 1980/81 - 536; in 1981/82 - 810; and in 1982/83 we expect 900 plus.

Most of our tasks are week-end residential, where, after a hard day's work we go to a nearby village hall to prepare and cook our evening meal. After visiting the local pub, we retire to a night on the village hall floor. The life can't be all that bad, we get between 10 and 20 volunteers staying overnight.

Very occasionally, we get a chance to do something different. A few years ago, we helped to restore an old lime kiln near Bridport, and also to restore an old sheep dip. Last August we were asked to do some work at Badbury Rings, restoring the profile of the embankments. This work was being continued from the previous year when a group of people from all over the country came together for a week. That task was run by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. They tried five different types of erosion control. Their experiments were a success and we had a week-end task to re-turf two areas of the Rings.

There is so much conservation work that needs to be done that we will be in business for a long time to come, but now there is an ever-increasing threat to our historical and ancient monuments. Dorset is so lucky to have so many ancient sites, from round and long barrows to hill forts. With modern farming techniques of deep ploughing, intensive grazing and the reclaiming of land once unusable, some ancient sites are disappearing fast. Once these sites have been stripped of their grass protection, it is only a matter of time before erosion by wind and rain, plus intensive farming, cause them to disappear completely.

I hope the East Dorset Antiquarian Society will be able to do some much-needed rescue work on some of these sites. I wish them all the luck and will back them up by loaning tools for digs, whenever possible.

Best luck for the future. Donald Simcock. (DCV co-ordinator)

Statistics.

The numbers game is part of the modern archaeologists occupation. Loved by some, hated by many, confusing to most of us. If we are to keep abreast of the times we have a duty to participate. Our first entrance into the field is associated with our first meetings.

Inaugral Meeting. February 10th. (Teacher's Centre)

Individuals Attending.= 20

Couples attending. = 6 Total 32.

Apologies received = 17. (Mostly due to bad weather).

Richard Bradley's Talk. Ceremonial Sites in Dorset. (Kingshead Hotel)

Number attending - 48

First Members- Meeting. 30th March. (Teacher's Centre).

Individuals attending = 17

Couples attending = 4. Total 25

Peter Woodward's Talk. April 21st. Some Purbeck Archaeology. (Teacher's Centre.)

Number attending.=31

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EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

If you like antiquarian charm
A museum on an archaeological farm
And can stand £4 without much harm

Join EDAS

If you want to know who set the pace
To find out more about the human race
The place for you is Cranborne Chase

Join EDAS

who has such expertise to nurse us
As Martin Green on the Dorset Cursus
And Richard Bradley to rehearse us

Join EDAS

would you like an archaeological dig
Perhaps find a flint axe that's big
And afterwards enjoy a swig

Join EDAS

Sons, mothers, daughters, husbands, bald and hairy ones
Were ancient Britons civilised barbarians
Find out - join East Dorset Antiquarians

Join EDAS

EDAS Secretary is Mr Dennis Bicheno
He lives in Wimborne at number 5 West Borough
If you are interested write to him and go

And join EDAS.

P.Coles.

(NB. Hon. Sec. Moving from Wimborne to new address.)

FOUNDER MEMBERS - 26 APRIL 1983

Membership No.

HONORARY MEMBERS

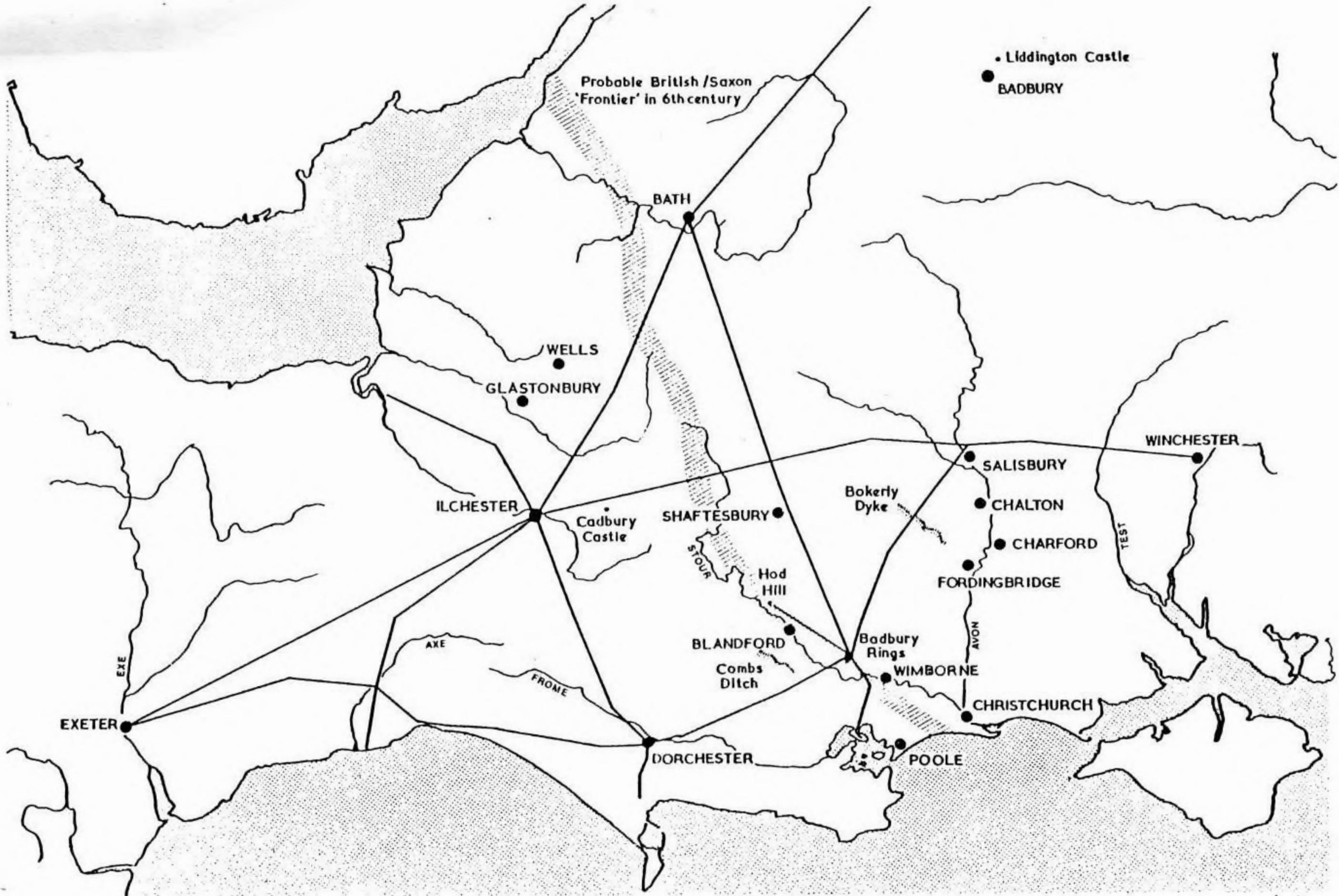
H1	Mr. D. Johnston	Southampton University
H2	Mr. N. Field	Corfe Mullen
H3	Mr. R. Bradley	Reading University
H4	Mr. J. James	Wimborne W.E.A.
H5	Mr. T. Schadla-Hall	Hull Museum

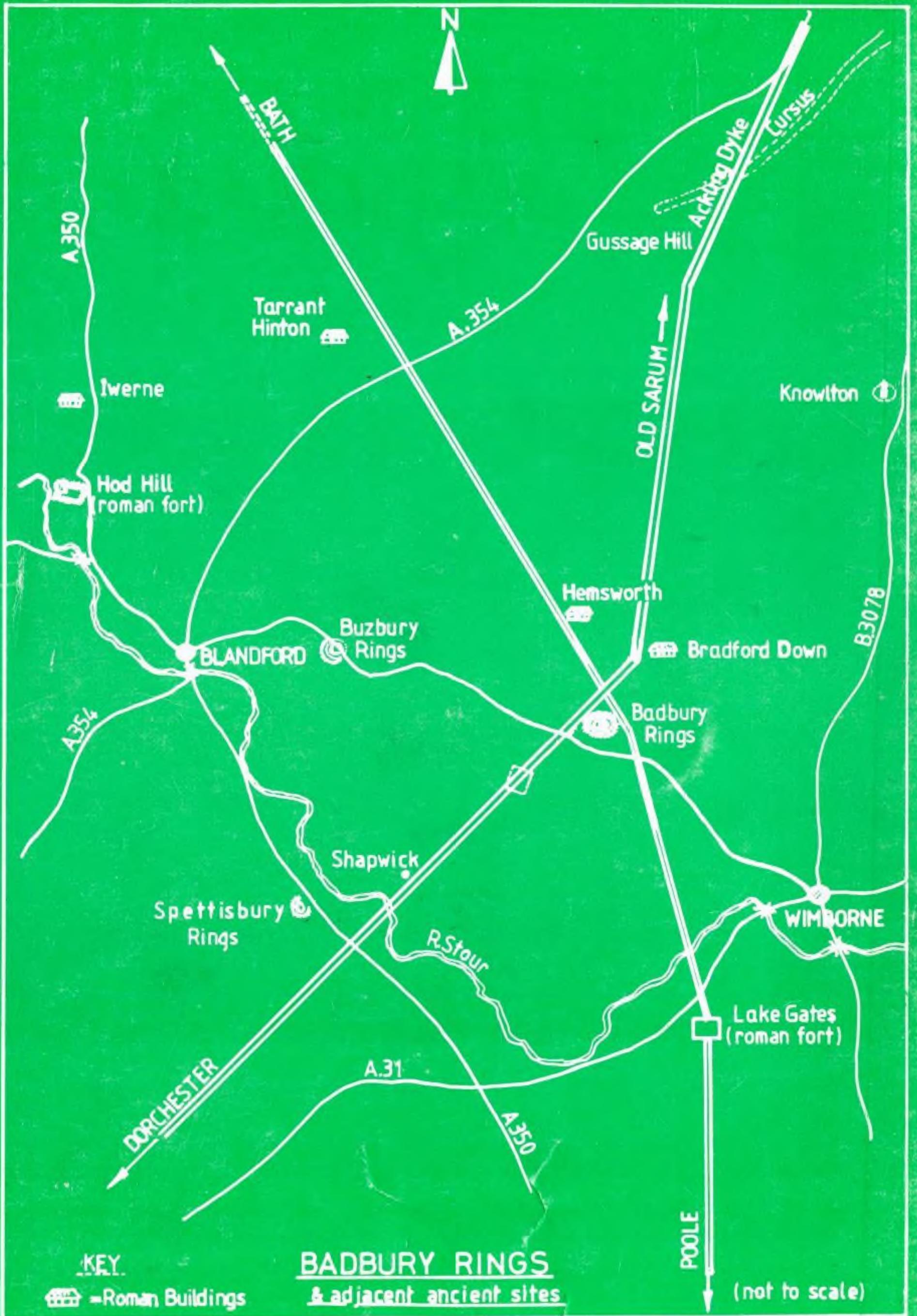
MEMBERS

A1/F Mr. J.W. Day	Horton	A26/O Miss A. Sims	Holt
A2/F Mrs. D. Day	Horton	A27/F Mr. M. Hall	Colehill
A3/O Mr. D. Bicheno	Wimborne	A28/F Mrs. T. Hall	Colehill
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	Matravers	A30/F Mr. B. Tiller	Winton
A5/F Mr. H. Everall	Blandford	A31/F Mrs. M. Tiller	Winton
A6/F Mrs. W. McFarlane	Blandford	A32/O Mr. D. Simcock	Upton
A7/F Mr. I. Hewitt	Poole	A33/O Mr. M. Roberts	Canford Heath
A8/F Mrs. I. Hewitt	Poole	A34/O Mrs. K. Holland	Hamworthy
A9/F Mr. D. Harper	Broadstone	A35/O Miss M. Holmes	Wimborne
A10/F Mrs. J. Harper	Broadstone	A36/O Mrs. B. Brown	Bournemouth
A11/O Miss J. Westley	Ringwood	A37/O Mr. A. Cosgrove	Shapwick
A12/F Mr. D. Watson	Merley	A38/O Mr. D. Taylor	Upton
A13/F Mrs. M. Watson	Merley	A39/O Mr. M. Green	Woodcuts
A14/O Mr. G. Gray	Wimborne	A40/F Mr. G. Lovell	Parkstone
A15/O Mr. Vincent	Broadstone	A41/F Mrs. R. Lovell	Parkstone
A16/O Mrs. J. Vincent	Broadstone	A42/O Mr. A. Horton	Parkstone
A17/F Mr. L. Norris	Corfe Mullen	A43/O Miss S. Crump	Talbot Woods
A18/F Mrs. P. Norris	Corfe Mullen	A44/F Mr. H. Cole	Colehill
A19/O Mrs. S. Church	Ferndown	A45/F Mrs. G. Cole	Colehill
A20/O Mrs. C. Trent	Ferndown	A46/F Mr. M. Brown	Lytchett
A21/O Mrs. F. Blake	Merley		Matravers
A22/O Mr. P. Coles	Wimborne	A47/F Mrs. A. Brown	Lytchett Matravers
A23/O Mr. G. Linnington	Southbourne	A48/F Mrs. S. Morgan	Lytchett Matravers
A24/F Mr. E. Bevan	Gaunts Common	A49/F Mr. K. Morgan	Lytchett Matravers
A25/F Mrs. M. Bevan	Gaunts Common	A50/O Mr. M. Lewin-Titt	Shaftesbury
		A51/O Mr. P. Kitching	Shaftesbury

BRIEFLY
BY D. DAY

The 1983/84 programme commences at 7.30 p.m. on 5th September at the Teachers' Centre, Wimborne. This will consist of a talk and discussion on the summer activities, with particular reference to the Down Farm excavation; this is proving to be a very unusual Neolithic monument. There will be a Day School in conjunction with Wimborne W.E.A. on 10th September called 'In and Around Wimborne'. Discussions are taking place about the possibility of a Day School at the Weymouth Institute of Higher Education connected with the projected Parish Survey research project. The programme for the Winter will include monthly evening meetings at the Teachers' Centre, and monthly weekend meetings of a practical nature. R. Bradley will give a further lecture in the latter part of this year, and Norman Field will be our guest speaker at the A.G.M.





KEY.

 = Roman Buildings

BADBURY RINGS
 & adjacent ancient sites

(not to scale)