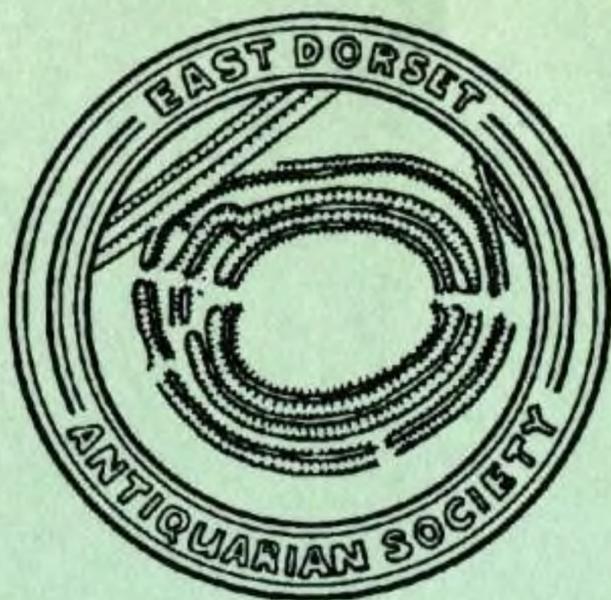


EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY



JOURNAL VOL.3



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Contents

Foreword	1
Waterfront, Poole	2
Penny's Mead	4
T E Lawrence Effigy	9
East of Eden	12
A Memorial to Two Stones	16
Lazerton Farm	18
The Origin of Jacob Spotted Sheep	25
The Deserted Village of Knowlton	28
Canford Manor	34
A Starter of Ten	38

Committee Members 1988/89

Chairman:	John Day	General Sec.:	Ann Sims
Vice Chairman:	Malcolm Mclvor	Treasurer:	Les Baker
Membership Sec.:	Della Day	Special Advisor:	Martin Green

Members: Graham Adams, Ruth Clipson, Pauline Gibbs,
Teresa Hall, Len Norris, Joan Vincent.

Membership Enquiries: Della Day, 2 Wigbeth Cottage, Horton
(tel Witchampton 840338)

*This journal is dedicated to the memory
of Ian Horsey who died tragically in 1988*

Foreword

This third journal of E.D.A.S. brings you into touch with several aspects of Dorset's history and reflects the breadth of the Society's interests and activities.

The wealth of local archaeology is reflected through "East of Eden", which centres on the area east of Wimborne through Paleolithic times, to a report on the Society's recent skirmish (armed with lens and trowel) with Roman roads at Lazerton Farm. "Penny's Mead" graphically illustrates that archaeology is with us at home, and the "Deserted Village at Knowlton" shows how homes change over the years. Little has been published on the history of Canford Manor, and the article has only been able to whet the appetite for a further history in due course. We were very fortunate to receive Ian Horsey's article on the Waterfront at Poole, which will encourage many to visit this very influential Dorset port. The Society has discussed many subjects and so the history of the T E Lawrence Effigy in Dorset and the article on Jacob sheep are not surprising inclusions in this journal. The journal concludes with an excellent selection of books which will save the enthusiast many hours of painstaking research in the quest of how to get started on an enjoyable archaeological read!

The authors of these articles range from the amateur to the professional archaeologist. This is very pleasing and perhaps is indicative of the economic environment for archaeology changing appreciably since the last journal. The dependence of the amateur on the professional and vice-versa is a source of strength in general and to the Society in particular. The Society's links with professionally directed digs, with the Dorset Archaeological Committee, the Universities and Local Authorities point the way to interesting field work and articles in the future.

The authors are warmly thanked for their willingness to contribute to the journal. The production would not have been possible without the unstinting editorial work of Pauline Gibbs, and the energy and technical understanding of both Graham Adams and Anne Brown in the production and typesetting.

Christmas 1988

Malcolm McIvor

WATERFRONT, POOLE

Ian Horsey

**Poole Harbour: 'Some Ships. . .Some Merchants. . .Some Trade'
- Daniel Defoe 1720**

As a practising professional field archaeologist I am very well aware that it can be all too easy to indulge in archaeological field work, pursue the goal of academic publication and relegate the display of the material to a secondary role. However with the reduction in real terms of central government funding for excavations, archaeologists have in recent years had to devote much more of their time and energy to the search for financial support. Multi-source funding is the order of the day. Whether or not this is on balance a good thing is a matter for debate, but one positive effect must be to make archaeologists think harder about presentation of their material to the public. Personally I don't think that there has ever been a lack of will in this direction; more a lack of resources.

It is fortuitous that in Poole two excavations and one museum development, all with a common theme, are being realized at the same time; so presenting a rare opportunity to present academic archaeology within an innovative museum development. The theme is the maritime trade and commerce of Poole - to include waterfront and underwater archaeology - and the museum is the new Waterfront development on Poole quay.

The Studland Bay wreck is a unique example of what is probably an Iberian merchant vessel of c.1500, currently being excavated at a depth of twelve metres in Studland Bay. The Project is run by a limited company and represents an unusual example of co-operation between professional archaeologists, amateur divers and the local business community. Without sponsorship from industry it would be very difficult to run such a complex operation since there is no government money available for underwater excavation in UK territorial water. The site itself is of international archaeological importance as it is closely dated to a period when we know great changes were being made in ship construction.

Unfortunately so far as we can tell only part of the starboard side of the hull survives, lying flat on the sea-bed, and the artefacts from the site have been disappointing: the exception being the Spanish maiolica pottery which represents the largest assemblage of its type in this country.

Quite by chance last years excavation on the site of the old Poole Foundry, opposite St James Church, produced more maritime evidence of a similar date. Here, buried in the inter-tidal zone of a beach which ran close up to the site of the medieval church, groups of ships timbers had been stored for seasoning purposes. Over sixty timbers were found; many were just shaped rough-outs although some timbers had been salvaged from a built craft. The beach was reclaimed c.1500. Such a timber 'butt' presumably lay close by a medieval shipyard and again represents a unique page in the archaeological record.

The Studland Bay Wreck and the Poole Foundry timbers are major archaeological finds, and, when taken with the Iron Age dug-out canoe dredged from the harbour in 1964, they will form the basis of a superb museum display devoted to underwater and waterfront archaeology.

It is entirely fortuitous that these sites have been excavated in Poole at a time when the Borough of Poole, with the generous assistance of the English Tourist Board, the Museums and Galleries Commission, and the Area Museum Council for the South West, has embarked on a major expansion of its maritime museum. The maritime museum in the medieval wool house is being extended into the adjoining eighteenth and nineteenth century warehouse, and all staff and resources are being concentrated into the former offices of the Harbour Commissioners.

Access to the 'Waterfront' experience will be gained through an eye catching glass envelope fronting the high street and in addition to the museum galleries themselves, the complex will house a shop, coffee shop, library and education resource centre. On the ground floor visitors will pass from the modern shopping experience (actually I was going to say souvenir shop but such heretical remarks were deleted by the director) back through a nineteenth century street scene leading to the quay and bustling with sounds and activities. The first and second floors will be devoted to the 'seatown' of Poole, including background to the harbour, and the working life of Poole featuring the conserved timbers from the Foundry boatyard store. The third floor, 'Plunging into the Past', will be devoted to underwater archaeology and will pose some

challenging display problems. I don't know of any similar museum exhibitions in this country, although the Viking ship museum at Roskilde in Denmark is planning a glass walled 'scanorama' tank where visitors can see how archaeologists work under water.

As is only to be expected with a development as large as Poole's 'Waterfront' the building programme is behind schedule which, of course, will affect time available for museum staff to prepare the exhibition areas. However, the complex should open in time for the Summer 1989 visitors to enjoy the displays which will give an emphasis to making the exhibits come alive with sounds, working demonstrations, audio-visuals, graphics and activities involving visitor participation.

PENNY'S MEAD

A Middle Saxon Site in East Dorset

Jake Keen

This article describes the discovery and subsequent excavation of a Middle Saxon pit at Penny's Mead, Cranborne. The first part is an account of what was found in the ground and is based on a report made by Mark Brisbane, Assistant Curator, Southampton City Archaeology Section. The second part contains a few personal reflections on the practice of archaeology, amateur and professional.

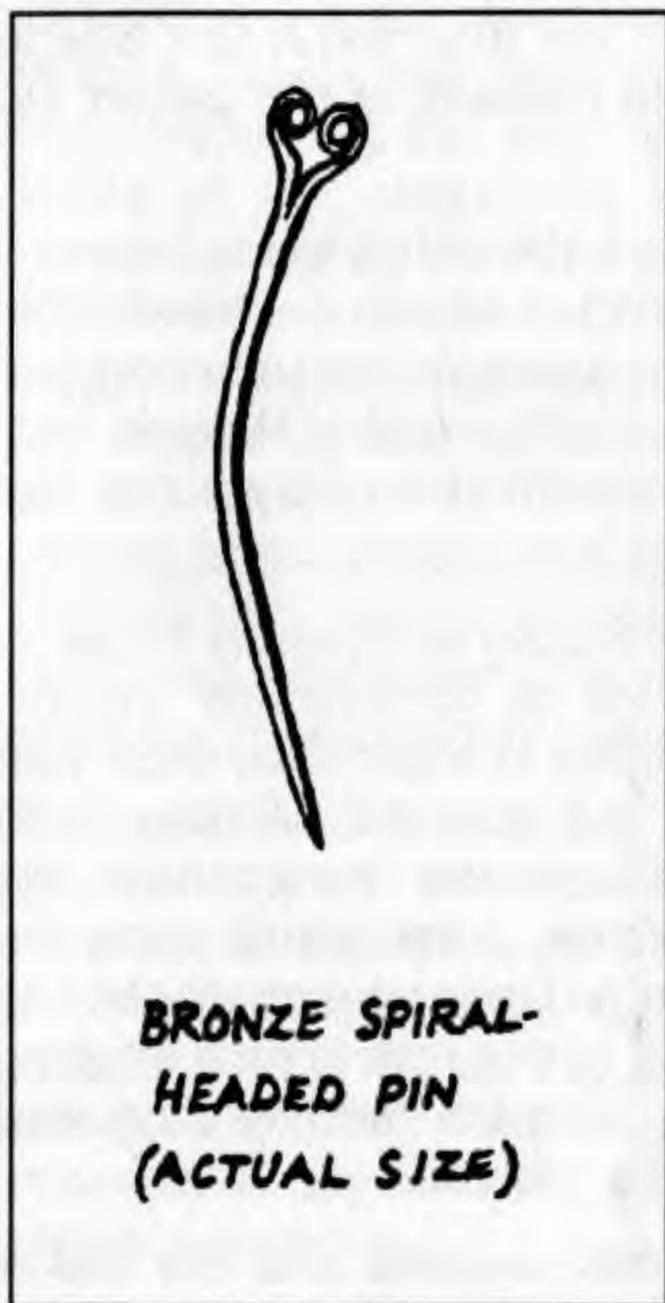
In 1982 I was involved in a self-build scheme in Cranborne, and while digging footings cut through an area of soft soil full of bones. I saved a few pieces of crude pottery which came to light and later took them to The Archaeological Centre in Salisbury. After some debate the consensus of opinion there was that the sherds were probably from a Saxon rubbish pit and therefore of much interest.

After the buildings were finished I began to excavate what was left of the

pit (a semi circular area roughly 4' wide by 8' long), lying underneath the kitchen window of my new house, seeking advice from Peter Woodward, Christopher Sparey-Green and Martin Green. It soon became apparent from the interest shown by Southampton archaeologists who had

examined the pottery, that this was a very exciting find, because so little is known about the people who inhabited the countryside after the Romans left. It has long been argued that the Bokerley Dyke was built during the 5th Century to keep out the invading Saxons, but what happened in the Cranborne area between then and 981, when the first documentary evidence of settlement appears, is not yet known.

Growing increasingly aware of my own ignorance and the degree to which specialists can glean information from the least promising material, I set about carefully sieving the entire contents of the pit, centimetre by centimetre. By the time an almost perfect bronze spiral headed pin (see drawing) emerged 580mm down from the 1982 meadow turf line, I had a large box of pottery fragments, animal bone, stone, metal items and slag to take to Southampton for analysis.



**BRONZE SPIRAL-
HEADED PIN
(ACTUAL SIZE)**

The bronze pin and some of the sherds were identified as being compatible with the Middle Saxon material from Hamwic and in this light the remaining objects were examined. Fourteen different types of pottery were present, ranging from Roman to Medieval. All of the Saxon material was handbuilt and derived from cooking pots which were tempered with grass, flint, limestone or coarse sand. Most of the fabrics corresponded to types found in Southampton. A number of medieval sherds were in the pit, but how they got there is not yet clear.

The bones were in very good condition and represented the remains of cattle, sheep, pig, goat, domestic fowl and goose as well as an amphibian (toad in the hole ?) and cat and dog. The size of the cattle bones was typical of Middle Saxon measurements but would have been unusually large for Iron Age or post conquest material.

Amongst the stone objects was a finely worked and smoothed whetstone, typical of whetstones found at Hamwic and a lump of Niedermendig lava. Trade in quernstones made of this volcanic rock, which was quarried in the Eifel mountains in Germany, was a key feature of the Middle Saxon economy throughout Northern Europe. The presence of a fragment in Cranborne indicates that, at the very least, this rural settlement was in contact with the wider world, presumably via Hamwic, at this period, i.e. late 7th, 8th or 9th Century.

Several iron objects were found, including a hook with a twisted stem, a needle or stylus and a small tool resembling a chisel. A considerable number of pieces of slag were in the pit, suggesting the iron smithing and possible smelting was carried out nearby. Unlike the sites at Hamwic, very little worked bone was in evidence, but one tooth of an ivory comb was found near the bottom of the pit.

In his unpublished report on the finds, Mark Brisbane made the following comments: "Taken together these finds are of considerable interest, particularly the Saxon material. To have together in association finds from a rural site of such variety is very unusual and must be indicative of an important Saxon settlement very close to this feature. There can be little doubt that pottery, the spiral headed pin, some of the animal bone, the whetstone and the lava fragment are of Saxon date and probably Middle Saxon, rather than Early or Late Saxon.... Pits of this date in rural England are exceedingly rare, perhaps the nearest being the recently excavated ones at Abbots Worthy in the Itchen Valley, Hampshire."

The study of the settlement of England in the centuries after the end of Roman Britain in the 5th century has always been bedevilled by the lack of evidence. In this sense only can the period be called a 'Dark Age', for the years after A.D. 600 saw the establishment of a rural economy that was thriving throughout most of southern England within a short space of time. Indeed, despite the almost complete abandonment of towns, the highly productive rural economy may well have continued from the 4th century onwards, albeit with substantial changes to its organisation and its control. Sites like Cranborne are critical to our understanding of this process and as such every opportunity must be afforded for further archaeological investigation prior to any redevelopment in the area.

My lifelong interest in archaeology was dramatically focussed by discovering the potential importance and rarity of this site and the fact that I could explore it at leisure. My determination to extract what evidence I could before building an extension over the pit was reinforced

by the highest priority given to investigation of sites of this period in the Dorset County Museum Monograph, "The Archaeology of Rural Dorset".

Lacking the skills and knowledge of the professional, I spent two years of my spare time painstakingly working through the broken crockery, chewed bones and other domestic debris of my antecedents of this plot of land. Thus I was able to salvage the fragile Niedermendig lava, the fragment of ivory and even egg shell and mouse bones. As I worked I was aware of my neighbours busily extending their houses or creating gardens while my own was gradually obliterated by spoil heaps. People in Cranborne would often ask me what the finds were worth, as though the only conceivable purpose of all this effort could be to make money. In fact, trowelling away at the bottom of the pit, more than two metres below ground level, while mowers and chainsaws from the the 20th century whirred and whined above, I did feel rich and privileged to have so much time passing, literally, through my hands. I know that each particle of soil contained information: fragments of charcoal, tiny snails, microscopic spores and increasingly I began "to see a world in a grain of sand".

Although I disdained to see my investigation in financial terms, it is clear that money, or the lack of it, defines the scope and practice of professional archaeology. The professional has to establish a scale of priorities and thence set out to find answers to specific questions. There is little point in exploring an aspect of prehistory that is already well understood unless fresh questions are being asked. Nor is it economic to excavate a complete feature if a section or a sample will provide the required answers.

When the field next to Penny's Mead was bought by Wimborne District Council for development, action was taken to evaluate its archaeological potential. English Heritage commissioned the Trust For Wessex Archaeology to carry out this work which was done over four days in October 1987. The funding was sufficient to provide a machine to cut six trenches across the field down to bedrock, while an expert watched to see if anything appeared. "All but two of the trenches proved to to barren of any evidence of ancient human activity. The evidence in trenches F and G comprised of five semi-circular pits, one of which produced a late Neolithic flint assemblage". The trenches were backfilled and have since weathered. A rich scatter of sherds, some of them similar to those found in the pit described, lies on the surface, seeming to mock the efforts of the J.C.B.

Recognising that the aim of archaeology today is not primarily the

retrieval of artefacts so much as the gathering of evidence, the rather violent contrast between the methodology of the amateur and professional in the case of Penny's Mead highlights a number of problems. As archaeology is forced to become more of a business needing to sell its wares in order to attract funds, inconspicuous little sites like Cranborne seem to be in danger of failing to figure in the strategies of the important agencies, which are clearly going to be preoccupied with the major sites attracting big money. Notwithstanding the perception of the general public, who still largely regard archaeology as digging for treasure, it is easy to interest people in evidence, even of a mundane nature, that throws light on how their ancestors lived.

The profession has a responsibility to educate the public to value and care about our shared heritage. A very good way to do that is to take full advantage of amateur groups, which, though lacking authority and expertise, often have the time and patience to be able to take on useful work under professional guidance. This of course happens, but it seems to me that the liaison between amateur and professional often works only in one direction, with the latter taking little account of what might be called grass roots interest.

It is likely that the archaeology department of the Dorset Institute of Higher Education will take a further look at Penny's Mead before development begins later in the year. It would be a pity to lose the chance of creating a clearer picture of early settlement in Cranborne for want of careful analysis of a few samples from the field.

REFERENCES

- 1. Unpublished report on the finds from a pit at Penny's Mead. Mark Brisbane, 1986**
- 2. The Archaeology of Rural Dorset, Groube and Bowden. Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Monograph No. 4**
- 3. Penny's Mead Archaeological Evaluation. The Trust for Wessex Archaeology, 1987**
- 4. Dark Age Economics. Richard Hodges, 1982**

Wareham St Martin's

T E LAWRENCE EFFIGY

Molly Old

In 1988 we commemorate the centenary of Thomas Edward Lawrence's birth at Tremadoc, Wales. The life interests and a memorial to this man all come together in the stone-quiet, peaceful church of St Martin's, Wareham. The second son of Thomas and Sarah Lawrence, T.E. was educated throughout England and Scotland and as far afield as Jersey and France. His family settled in Oxford in 1896 and he attended the City of Oxford High School, where he fostered an interest in History and Archaeology. Helped by the Ashmolean Museum, - and particularly by D G Hogarth and his staff - T E Lawrence gained a scholarship to Jesus College, Oxford from where he attained a First Class Honours Degree in Modern History and Archaeology. During research for his Ph.D, Lawrence made far-reaching cycle tours around England and France, examining Medieval architecture and crusader castles in towns and villages.

His career as an Archaeologist took him to Syria, Jebail, Carchemish (under D G Hogarth and R Campbell-Thomson) and to Egypt (with Flinders Petrie). He also went to Carchemish (Jerablus) under C L Woolley, Sinai (with Woolley and Thompson) where he was excavating Hittite settlements and researching ancient civilisations and collecting artefacts for selected museums.

From 1914 T E Lawrence was attached to the British unit at Cairo, being seconded to the Arab Bureau. The year 1916 saw his exploits as 'Lawrence of Arabia', liaising and helping the Arab revolt against the Turks, claiming freedom for the Bedouin Arabs from the Turkoman yoke.

From 1918 until his death in 1935, T E Lawrence worked in the service of the British Army and Air Force, often based in Dorset, whilst still pursuing archaeology. He is buried at Morton Church, Bovington. A memorial - a monumental effigy - was placed in St Martin's Church, Wareham.

As a child I visited Wareham on market days with my mother, enjoying a quiet walk around the Saxon Burgh walls to picnic by St Martin's Church, ready for the train journey home. On high summer days we would picnic on the outer walls overlooking the swimming hole in the river Piddle,

behind St Martin's, eating Dorset ice-cream bought from the hut on the "Moot" by the ancient bowling green - this is the place where the Summer Fayres were held and bonfire night celebrated.

Many times I have wondered how T E Lawrence's effigy came to be in a little-used, semi-redundant, small parish church in a country town of sleepy Dorset. My mild curiosity was transformed into enthusiastic enquiry on finding that T E Lawrence was himself an archaeology scholar.

Soon after his tragic death at Bovington, a committee was formed of T E Lawrence's intimate friends, including Kennington, a distinguished sculptor, Lady Astor, and George Bernard Shaw, and meetings were held in 1935-6 to organise a public memorial. The possibility of an effigy was mentioned. Kennington made some drawings which were later accepted, but no confirmation made. Somewhat later, Eric Kennington had made a bronze of T E Lawrence's head and offered it to St Paul's Cathedral. It was gratefully received and placed in the crypt.

Two years later the Times newspaper withdrew the appeal. Kennington had forged ahead alone, funding the project himself as a personal tribute. When the work was completed there was only the question of where the effigy should be placed. Salisbury Cathedral was chosen, the service, a principal guest list, and the theme of the occasion organised. Bishop Neville Lovett viewed the effigy, claiming there was a site in the Cathedral if the Dean would accept the "Air Force Saint" effigy. However liaison was by no means perfect.

On Kennington's request, Prof A W Lawrence, brother of T E Lawrence, was informed. He viewed the effigy and enquired how much it was worth. Prof A W Lawrence wrote out a cheque immediately for the agreed sum, claiming 'Now it's mine, I can do what I like with it'. Eric Kennington and Prof A W Lawrence journeyed to Salisbury Cathedral and looked at the proposed site in the south transept. The Dean was against the effigy - modelled in Arab dress and not in RAF uniform - being placed in an English Medieval setting, and would not accept it into the Cathedral.

The Professor went to Wareham and St Martin's was viewed. All agreed that the Anglo-Norman setting in St Martin's was the place for the effigy. Although Salisbury Cathedral had turned it down, the Bishop was delighted and happy at the outcome. Lawrence had always loved the Church of St Martin's and it was thought to be the right place for the effigy. Further letters and meetings with the Rector F B Howe of Wareham Diocese resulted in the effigy being accepted.

St Martin's history dates from Saxon times, improved by Anglo-Normans and enlarged through the medieval period. Basically, it is still an Anglo-Saxon structure, so matching the interests of T E Lawrence's ideas of Arthurian chivalry and medieval crusaders. As a crusader church, many a young squire or knight would have sought St Martin's quiet sanctuary before leaving the busy port of Wareham for the crusades. They travelled by sea and overland from castle to castle to fight for Holy Jerusalem, the same routes researched by T E Lawrence in his youth and university days.

On T E Lawrence's travels by bicycle as a teenager - while seeking out medieval architecture - he must have passed through Wareham on his way to the fine example of Corfe Castle. No archaeologist can pass by without recognising its Anglo-Saxon architecture, as mentioned by the 18c historian, Rev. Hutchins in "The History of Dorset".

St Martin's was untouched by Victorian refurbishment. Luckily this Anglo-Saxon Parish Church was left virtually unchanged. The Victorians spent all their energy and money on the alterations to Lady St. Mary. The interior of St Martin's held further secrets. Valuable and rare wall paintings dating from the 11th - 18th centuries were hidden under layers of plaster, and were uncovered in the renovations of 1935-1936 - a great discovery. Had T E Lawrence recognised these in the spring of 1934? The paintings probably covered the entire walls of St Martin's in Anglo-Norman times; the most important was a fresco on the east wall of the chancel, depicting St Martin on horseback, escorted by mounted squires, giving half his cloak to a beggar. After this chivalrous deed he saw a vision of Christ.

This fresco mirrors one of the characteristics of T E Lawrence. Many a time he gave half of what he had to some soul more wanting than himself, whether it be books, music, food, tools or money, or encouragement and friendship to some struggling author or artist. While visiting Clouds Hill T E Lawrence helped local Wareham dignitaries organise and collect funds to restore St Martin's, so saving this unique Anglo-Saxon/Norman Church.

Did T E Lawrence have some precognition to make ready the Crusader Church that now houses his effigy?

Time and weathering will blend this monument into its surroundings - a 20th century Arab Crusader in a Medieval setting.

EAST OF EDEN

Colin Steers

For the most part the boundary between Dorset and Hampshire lies fifteen or more miles to the east of Wimborne. This corner of the county comprises the districts of Bournemouth (which includes Hengistbury Head within its boundaries), Christchurch and Highcliffe. The Avon is typically the county boundary, but Highcliffe pushes Dorset several miles beyond the river to the outskirts of the New Forest.

Although archaeologically unique, this area of east Dorset receives no mention at all in the RCHM for Dorset! Norman Field's 1972 definitive list of the Ancient Monuments of Dorset does not refer to a single site! The reason being that it was not till that year that local government reorganisation made a free present of this part of south west Hampshire to Dorset. We natives are still schizophrenic on this subject - watching Hampshire county cricket at Dean Park, Bournemouth; shopping at the Hampshire Centre in Castle Lane whilst our churches are within the Diocese of Winchester, not Salisbury! Hampshire's loss is Dorset's gain.

Geographically the area is dominated by two rivers: the Stour, running from the north west and the Avon from the north, pointing like a huge arrow head into Christchurch Harbour, the shores of which - as you will see - have been occupied by man for over 10,000 years. Between the arms, and to each side, of the river is an area of infertile sandy heathland, which none the less has also been the focus of settlement. The rivers meeting at Christchurch, forming natural highways into the heart of Wessex and a natural harbour north east of Brittany and the Cotentin Peninsula of France, are the keys to understanding this area's strategic importance for immigrant groups.

First Catch Your Reindeer

In Paleolithic times the landscape was very different. Hengistbury was possibly an inland hill overlooking a river, which eventually went into the sea to the west of the Isle of Wight. A subsequent rise in the sea level destroyed the chalk hills, which formerly stretched from the Isle of Wight to Ballard Down on Purbeck, and the sea flooded up the ancient river path to create Poole and Christchurch Harbours. Excavations at the eastern most point of today's Hengistbury have revealed the burnt

quartzite stones of a nomadic reindeer hunters' camp site, together with flint spear or arrow points, knives, scrapers and burins. The paucity of open (as opposed to cave) sites in the British Isles assures Hengistbury a place in the literature of the Paleolithic. The whole Bournemouth area shows widespread Paleolithic activity with recordings of many hundreds of flint artefacts which contrasts to the dearth of finds in Cranborne Chase and Purbeck and the remainder of Dorset. Clearly Paleolithic Man greatly preferred the territory to the East of Eden !

Mesolithic hunting sites have been recorded in this area for many years. Archaeology excavated between 1979-84 a site on Warren Hill at Hengistbury yielding hundreds of microliths where hunters both struck their flints and butchered the carcasses of their quarry. Oxford archaeologists experimented with modern flint arrow heads and (dead) deer and showed that broken flints found on the site were consistent with having been fired by an arrow fracturing as they hit the bone of the deer. Embedded in the animal they were released on butchery and eating (rather like lead shot in a Pheasant). Although there is, as yet, no evidence to locate a Neolithic settlement on Hengistbury, flints and pottery indicate that it is, in Barry Cunliffe's words 'one of the most important sites in Late Neolithic Wessex'. Grooved ware, scrapers, knives, arrowheads, burins and polished axes have all been found there. No burial sites from the Neolithic have been found on Hengistbury, but mention should be made of the long barrow at Holdenhurst, four miles upstream from Hengistbury. This barrow was almost unique in being sited on the low lying Stour river gravel and not on chalk and higher ground. Nothing of it can be seen today.

Property Owning Autocracy

The Early/Middle Bronze Age is well represented, with a scatter of round barrows on Hengistbury Head, St Catherine's Hill, Sopley Common and in Bournemouth itself. Late Bronze Age urnfield cemeteries have been found in Pokesdown (Southbourne), Kinson and Moordown (North Bournemouth). The many urnfield cemeteries in the lower Stour valley have given rise to the claim that this area has one of the highest concentrations in the whole country.

One of the Hengistbury round barrows (excavated in 1911) yielded a cremation in an inverted collared urn, an incense cup, a bronze miniature halberd pendant set in amber, two gold cones and amber beads. These exotic finds showed evidence not only of wealth, but also of extensive overseas trading in the Bronze Age. It is interesting to speculate whether Christchurch Harbour was even then an important entry point from continental Europe.

What is not in dispute is that there is a break in the record of activity between 1400 and 800 BC and the arrival of Iron Age invaders from the continent. They used both Hengistbury and Lulworth as beachheads and minor invasion points. However the well known double dykes at Hengistbury (which are similar in conception and design to the Bindon Hill earthworks about Lulworth), probably date from 100 BC/100 AD - perhaps 700 years after the first Iron Age landings.

Excavations by Oxford archaeologists in the field 1000 metres to the east of the double dykes, and crossed by the main path bordering the south side of the harbour, have revealed the original settlement of 800-600 BC. Clay hearths and the post holes of round houses have been found, together with coarse pottery. The iron industry, based on the local ironstone, was probably traded with other settlements lacking iron ore, like Badbury and Danebury, and using the Avon and Stour as trade routes. Overseas trade in this period is represented by socketed bronze axes from Brittany and a rare axe head traced to Sicily.

Britanny Ferries...?

Moving a few hundred metres further east from the Early Iron Age settlement we come to the site of the Late Iron Age settlement and port. In 1985 evidence of a harbour was found, rectangular house plots and laid out roads (together with evidence of industrial iron smelting activity). This is a most exciting development, confirming what was recognized a half century ago when 3000 Durotrigian coins were found in the area - that Hengistbury was a substantial trading centre immediately prior to the Roman invasion. Large fragments of amphorae have been found, evidencing wine imports from the continent, together with raw purple glass from the Mediterranean, used for making beads and jewellery. No doubt Celtic entrepreneurs from all over Wessex would have travelled to Hengistbury to obtain these luxury goods, selling copper, silver and gold, hunting dogs and slaves. One can imagine the scene on the south side of Christchurch Harbour with the local Durotrigians bartering Wessex products with goods transported from Brittany by brother Celts from the continent.

After the Roman invasion of 43 AD Hengistbury appears to have continued as a settlement for another 300 years, after which it was abandoned. Possibly shifting sands finally doomed Christchurch Harbour. Certainly the Romans did not appear to use it, preferring Hamworthy as their port of entry into the area. A new settlement 1.5 miles to the north west on the north side of Christchurch Harbour, and on a spur of gravel separating the River Avon from the River Stour, was selected by Saxon invaders and Hengistbury was never occupied again.

New Light on Dark Ages

Who these Saxons were, and where they actually settled we do not know, but we do know they travelled from further east in Hampshire, or possibly the Isle of Wight. Evidence of their settlement is to be found in the 7th century cemetery discovered when the Bargates was being redeveloped ten years ago. A total of 30 graves were found, some interments and some cremations in urns. No skeletal remains were found because of the acid ground, but photographs in the Red House Museum show their 'shadows' as stains in the soil. The graves contained iron artefacts: spearheads, knives, buckles and shield fittings. Vestigial remains of cloth or clothing is trapped by the corrosion of the metal.

Like their predecessors at Hengistbury, these early Saxons disappeared after a shortlived occupation. The remains of the Saxon walls that can still be seen today were the result of refortification 300 years later. But even at this time the 'town' must have been a pretty poor place and not to be compared with Wareham, for example. Very little evidence has been found of building. Domesday tells us of only 39 houses. Even small Saxon towns had their own mints and moneyers, but Christchurch had no coinage. Its claim to fame was only as a settlement serving the religious community which gave rise to its name - Christes Church at Twynham, meaning Christ's Church at the place between the two rivers (the Stour and the Avon).

Two Up, Two Down and WC

The story of the foundation of the Norman priory church and the building of the motte and bailey castle are familiar ones and will not be repeated here, but the story of 10,000 years of settlement at the confluence of the Avon and the Stour cannot end without reference to a unique domestic building of circa 1150 AD.

The Constable's House beside the millstream is a first floor hall house built of Purbeck marble with one large room on each floor, both of which were divided with wooden partitions. The ground floor was for storage or for animals and is lit only by loops. A newel staircase in the corner leads to the first floor hall, but there was also access by a now destroyed external flight of stairs. There is a fireplace and flue in the wall and a cylindrical chimney, which Pevsner says is a very rare feature at such an early date. There are three typically round headed and ornamented windows with rebates for shutters. At the south east corner there is a full height garderobe tower, a Medieval WC, which was inserted later. This house is probably one of 20 or so 12th century first floor hall houses in England and is unique in Dorset - if the hall of Sherborne Old Castle is disregarded.

Land of Nod

Bernard Calkin, in his monograph referred to below, claims with perhaps undue local pride that there is 'probably no other region of comparable size in the whole of Britain that has produce so great a number and variety of relics from prehistoric times'. The recent publication of a magnificent Volume One of a three volume set on Hengistbury by The Oxford Institute of Archaeology (£32 to members of DNHAS; otherwise £40) has helped to refocus our attention on this Land of Nod.

Not many of us will be able to afford the Oxford volumes but for the money conscious member it is worth mentioning that Calkin's 40-page and profusely illustrated booklet "Discovering Prehistoric Bournemouth and Christchurch" published in 1966 at 4s 6d is still available at the Red House Museum, defying all the laws of inflation! The museum is currently (1987) in the throes of reorganising its collections to display the Hengistbury and Christchurch finds to better effect. In the meantime we in EDAS could perhaps give more attention ourselves to discoveries from this fascinating area to the East of Eden.

A MEMORIAL TO TWO STONES

John Warren

PONDS were "in the air"; everyone was digging them - it was the thing to do. But when in '85 I decided to jump on the band-wagon too I didn't realise what fun I was going to have. I knew I had some old ponds, fed from the River Iwerne, but they only had water in them in February and March, when the river was at its highest. They were overgrown with wild Balsom, Flags and other things, full of fallen trees and dead branches and really rather a nuisance. However, with a little time on my hands, I started nosing about in the area of the ponds and in no time had found intriguing stones. I had caught "Ponditis" - there is no cure - the ponds must be reclaimed.

While clearing some undergrowth for a "hide", I noticed two particular moss-covered stones sticking up in the shallow ditch, roughly where the pond intake channel ran. There was nothing to indicate that anything exciting was there or that the shallow ditch would turn out to conceal a wall-lined channel, a metre wide and sixty centimetres deep. Now, two years later, those same stones are still there, still unexplained, though they do seem to be involved in one of the walls. But I jump ahead.

In the meantime I had been introduced to the East Dorset Antiquarian Society - the "diggers" as they became affectionately known in my family. John Day and his gang wished to do some more work on the stretch of the Roman Road (Hod Hill to Badbury Rings) which passed through my land, particularly where it approached the River Iwerne. This happened to be close to the pond intake channel and it was quite easy to persuade the diggers to investigate the moss-covered stones. From then on the two projects became inextricably mixed.

During the summer of '86 it was very exciting to visit the "diggers" as almost every day something else had been discovered - walls, double walls, a brick-capped wall, two roads and not just one. A survey of the ponds was done before the arrival of the excavator in October. This revealed the remains of sluice gates between sections of the pond complex and indications that the first pond, at any rate, had been revetted with stone all round. To the old hands all this must have been rather commonplace, but to one with a bad go of "ponditis" and more than a passing interest in the Roman Road it was fascinating.

O & J House sent their huge excavator on October 16 and had completed the reclamation of the three ponds in about a week. A most skillful operator was in charge and one both experienced and also interested in the work. This was just as well since the last item of interest was discovered because of his vigilance - the fact that the southern of the three ponds was very shallow (18") and had a solid bottom consisting of compacted chalk and gravel with a layer of small graded flints into the surface.

The opening ceremony was carried out at 3.30 pm on 8 November 1986 in the presence of half a dozen of the "diggers" and Jackson House, who himself removed the last sod from the mouth of the inlet pipe. A very satisfying rush of water started to come in from the stream with Rufus, my dog, doing his ineffectual best to stop it. By the next morning, helped by 21mm of rain during the night, there were lovely sheets of water where all had been dry earth.

Postscript: Two broods of mallard had their homes there in the spring plus some moorhen. A kingfisher uses them for a regular fly-past and the swallows practiced their dive-bombing. I wish I had a cine camera.

The ponds got second prize in the Dorset "over three years old", section; most of the credit should go to O & J House and the "diggers".

Thank you "Diggers" for a lot of fun and excitement. Come back again !

**Lazerton Farm.
Stourpaine**

LAZERTON FARM

Interim Report

J.W. DAY

INTRODUCTION

The site was brought to the attention of E.D.A.S. by Norman Field, who was aware of landowner Col. John Warren's impending work to re-institute the ponds at Lazerton Farm. A decision was taken to undertake a rescue dig, at weekends from July to October 1986, on a linear feature and an adjacent water-course which would be disturbed by Colonel Warren's project.

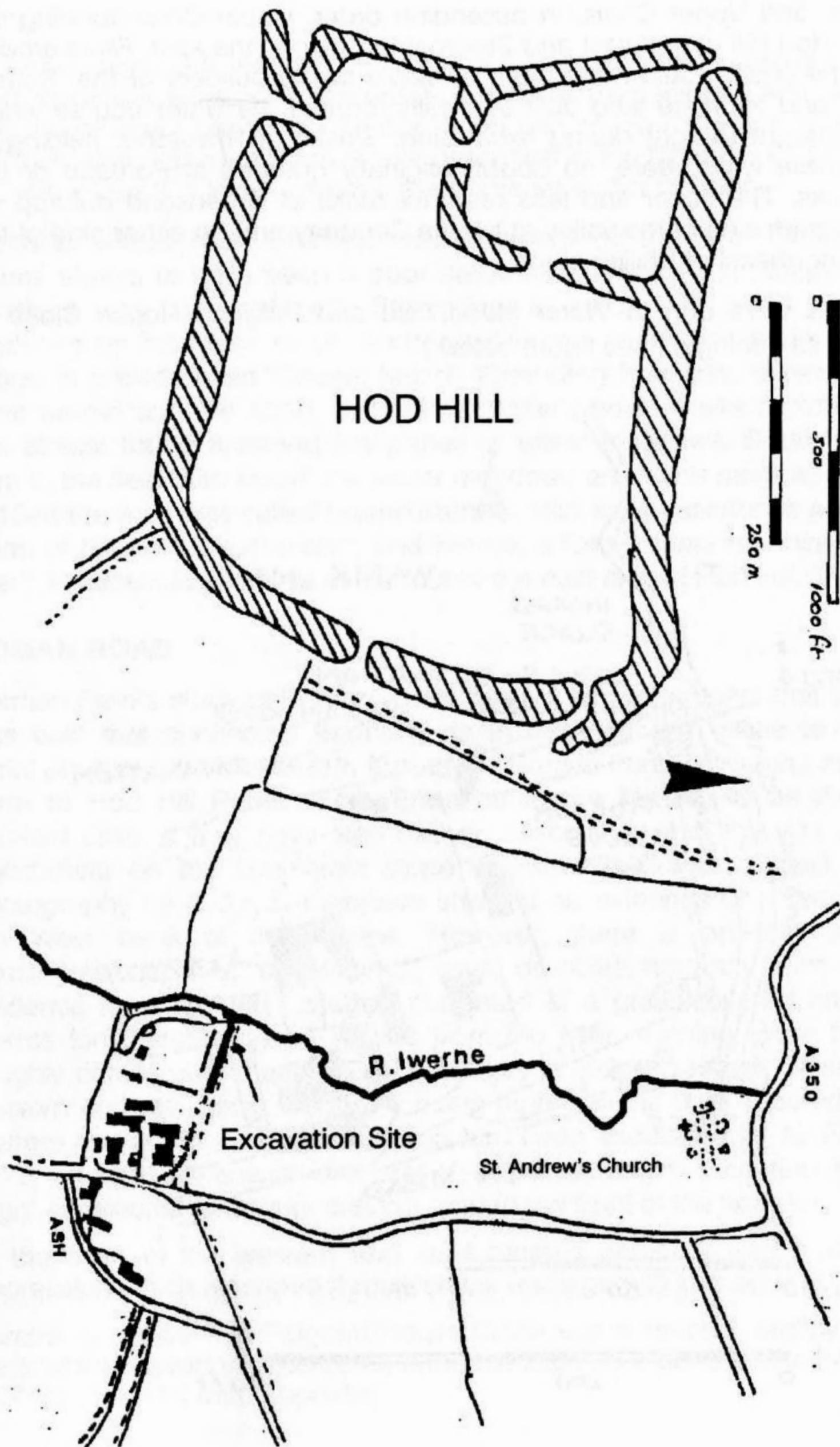
The main objective was to section the linear feature at the western end. Secondary objectives were to ascertain what evidence there was for this feature crossing the River Iwerne, and to gain insight into the structure and history of the water-course and ponds. Time and resources were - as ever - constraints. This report will briefly set out the geology and locality of the possible Roman Road, and our findings on the water-course and ponds.

The success of this project was directly related to the authorisation, enthusiasm and support of Col. Warren and his family, and also the flexibility and supporting contribution of the company draining the ponds.

GEOLOGY

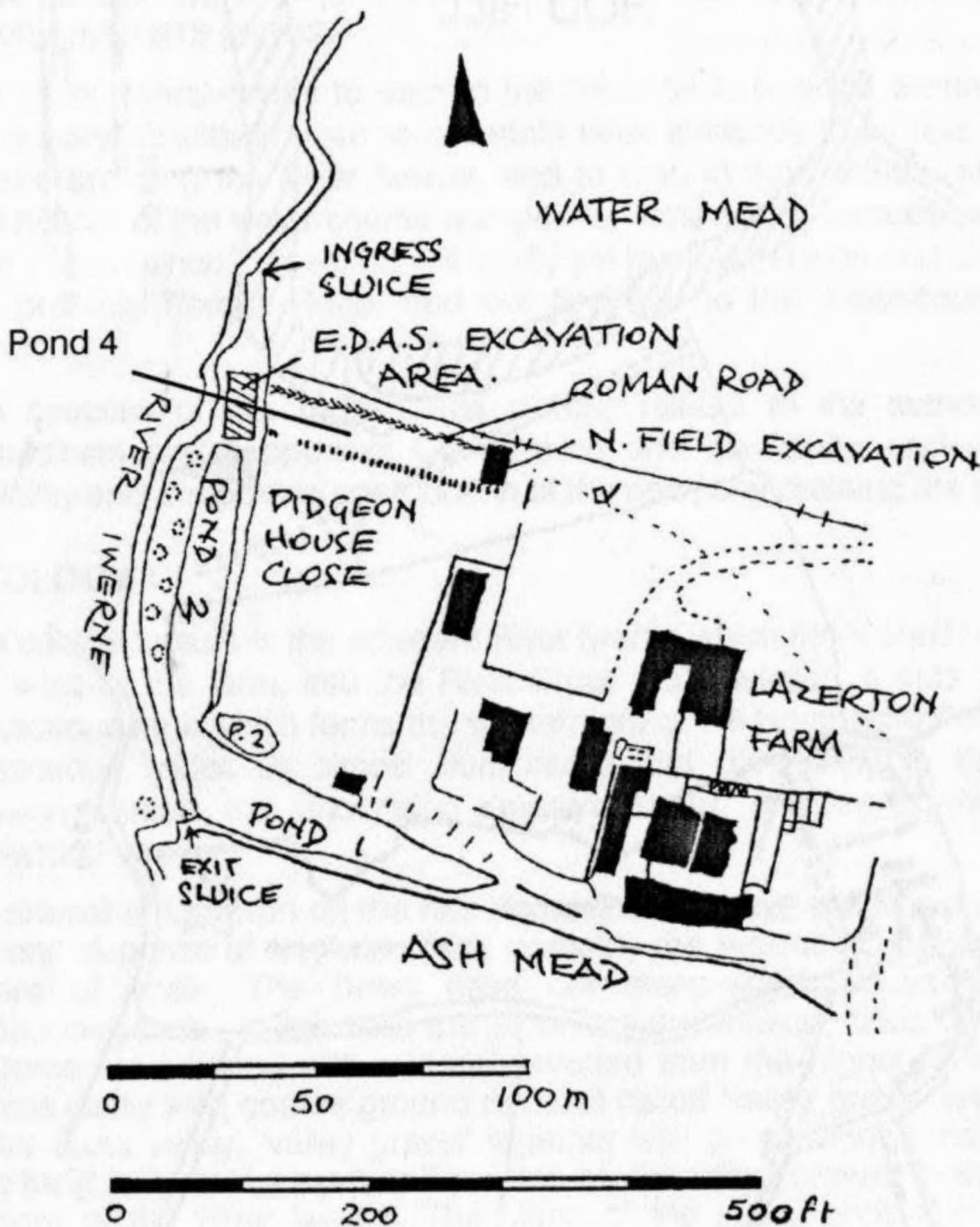
The central feature is the adjacent River Iwerne which flows southwards to the west of the farm, into the River Stour at Durweston. It cuts through cretaceous rock which forms the western rim of the Hampshire Basin. The cretaceous series lie almost horizontally and dip gently to the east. Erosion reveals the underlying Jurassic strata, 5 miles northwest of Lazerton Farm.

Southwest of Lazerton on the hills above Shillingstone and Durweston are 'recent' deposits of clay-with-flints, probably the residue of eroded upper layers of chalk. The rivers have cut steep-sided valleys into the cretaceous rock - in this case the Stour into the Jurassic beds. The valley bottoms are covered with materials eroded from the higher levels - the Iwerne valley with coarse ground material called 'valley gravel' and in the wider Stour valley, 'valley gravel' together with an alluvium consisting of fine sand and mud. Lazerton Farm lies on the valley gravels in the valley bottom of the River Iwerne. The sides of the valley consist of Lower,



Middle, and Upper Chalk, in ascending order, Upper Chalk forming the top of Hod Hill to the west and Stourpaine Down to the east. Flints eroded from the chalk would have been available to the builders of the 'Roman Road' and to those who built the walls forming the water course which was brought to light during excavation. Blocks of limestone, helping to form these walls, were, no doubt, originally quarried at Portland or the Purbecks. The softer and less resistant rocks of Greensand outcrop on the western side of the valley at Iwerne Courtney and on either side of the valley northeast of Shillingstone.

Sections were dug in Water Mead field and Pidgeon House Close to assess its geology. (see figure below)



LAZERTON

Lazerton Farm (G.R. 86381032) is half a mile north of Stourpaine on the road to Iwerne Minster. It lies within the medieval parish of Ash, which, with the adjacent parish of Lazerton, form part of the 17th Century parish of Stourpaine. Lazerton Farm is well described in the Dorset R.C.H.M. Vol. 3, Central part 2. It is not known if there was an earlier building.

Lazerton Village (G.R. 864106) was deserted by the 17th Century. It seems always to have been a poor settlement; formerly an independent parish, it was integrated with Stourpaine in 1431. O.S. maps note its existence by reference to St. Andrew's Church, which lies south of the village in a field called 'Chapel Mead'. Extending from this, between the River Iwerne and the A350, is the field 'Water Mead' in which ploughing has almost totally flattened the panes of water meadows. South of the farm in the field 'Ash Mead' the water meadows are much more apparent. In 1346 the area was called Iwernelazerton. Mills says Lazerton is possibly "farm of the Leech gatherers", and Iwerne, a Celtic name meaning "yew river". Notably Lazerton lies at the foot of the east side of Hod Hill.

ROMAN ROAD

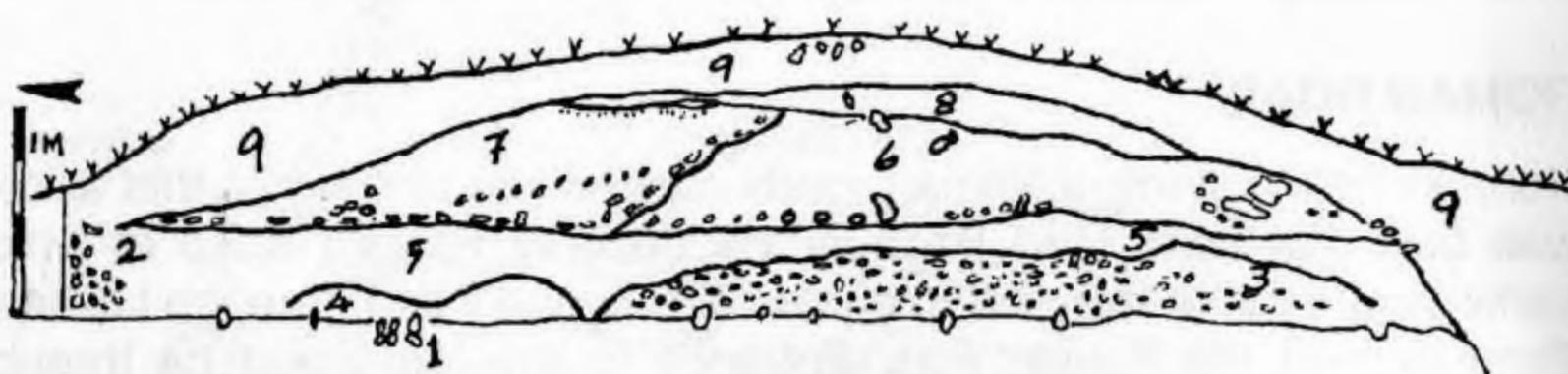
Norman Field's study of Roman roads has led him to suggest that a road was built that connected Badbury via Buzbury Rings (close to which aerial photography has shown a possible Roman Fort), through Lazerton Farm to Hod Hill Roman Fort. Entrance to the fort would be through Ashfield Gate. It may have also had an association with the villa site in Bournefield on the south-east slope of Hod. Field walking and aerial photography by E.D.A.S. members showed no evidence of a road near the West bank of the Iwerne. However, there is on this side a considerable build-up of soil which could be obliterating any such signs. Evidence for a road at Lazerton consisted of a grass-covered bank 58 metres long, extending 12 metres from the river, running close to and roughly parallel with the medieval boundary in Pidgeon House Close. The western end was badly eroded, 1 metre high and the bank tapered at its eastern end to 50 - 80 cm. This end had been excavated by N. Field in 1972, and he demonstrated a probable Roman origin. It continues as a slight occasional earthwork curving around the front of the house.

At the base of the western end, and running across it was a shallow depression which extended through thick undergrowth into pond 3.

Parallel to the bank in Pidgeon House Close was a second, slightly lower bank which served to enclose an area identified as a dried pond. (Marked as Pond 4 on the map opposite)

A section cut across the western terminus of the north bank revealed a disturbed profile. As the face was cut back it was evident that there had been several stages of repair and it had been used to accommodate what was probably material from the building or cleaning of the dried pond. The associated water course at this juncture increased the disturbed nature of the area, which made the few pottery finds of doubtful significance in their stratification; the most important were some 14th and 15th century sherds, which lay in an undisturbed state in the northern side of the section.

It is suggested the base of the section - see profile - are large flints puddled into chalk bedrock with rammed stones, which constitute the original roadway. The earth above this may reflect a period of disuse. A further period followed when the centre seemed to have had a lot of use and there were repeated repairs.



WEST FACING SECTION. LAZERTON FARM 1986

1. Large flint nodules densely packed embedded in chalk bedrock.
2. Packed stones
3. Brown black. Compacted angular flint of various sizes with large flint nodules embedded in chalk bedrock.
4. Brown. Scatter of medium angular flint and chalk.
5. Black earth. Some scattered small flint and chalk.
6. Grey earth. Banded flint mixed sizes, angular and sub-angular; small amount of powdered chalk.
7. White grey silt. Very small round chalk and very small white patinated angular flint. Mixed sizes of stones mostly in well defined bands.
8. Grey earth. scatter of small angular stones.
9. Top soil, roots. A few small angular stones.

WATER COURSE

The depression running across the end of the bank was excavated for a length of 9.9 metres to reveal a substantially walled water course of knapped flint and worked blocks of Greensand and Purbeck and Portland Limestone, 1 metre deep and 1.4 metres wide. At the point where the water course cuts across the 'Roman' road, are the remnants of a third wall which consists of two large vertical blocks supporting a third, lying horizontally, which provides a link to the western wall. No mason marks are present although diagonal saw marks typical of 13th century stone masons' work are apparent, suggesting they may have come from St. Andrew's Church, Lazerton D.M.V.

This water course was filled with earth and further worked limestone blocks. There were sherds of Verwood Pottery, including good quality pieces from Horton, Donyatt glazed decorated and one Belamite-like piece. There was insufficient material to indicate the spot had been used as a rubbish dump over a length of time, but more likely it had been filled in one operation in a water course that was already silting up. Whether it was part of an incidental land clearance or deliberate occlusion is not understood.

A scatter of oyster shells, *Ostrea edulis* Linnaeus, and freshwater mussels, *Unio pictorum* Linnaeus, were found.

Pond 1 was 54 metres in length, tapering from 19.3 metres in width to 17 metres. It was served by a farm trackway which cattle from Ash Farm used in historic times. It was fed by a spring from Ash. The floor was packed tight with small flints. On the last day of excavation a slight depression in the centre of Pond 1 proved to be a ditch infilled with chalky soil. M. Green considered this to be a water-meadow drain. The date and origin of water-meadows is unknown but their hey-day was in the 17th-19th centuries. If this ditch was part of the water-meadow system, it is likely to have existed before the 17th century farmhouse.

Pond 2 was roughly circular and the smallest.

Pond 3 lay north/south, and was 14 metres wide and 50 metres long.

Pond 4 was dry, while the others were muddy, and had water in winter.

Except for Pond 4 there was a profusion of plant growth, including a medlar tree and orange balsam. The sides of the ponds were lined with worked limestone blocks and flint, as were the sluices. The banks were covered in trees.

An estate map of 1788 (D.R.O. Mk/26) showed Water in ponds 1, 2 and 4. An 1886 map shows only ponds 1, 2 and 3. Both show pond 1 as being 30 metres less in length than the EDAS survey.

The rectangular shapes and shallow depths make them similar to other 12th/14th century Dorset Ponds. J. Bond (Bristol University) advises medieval flint-lined ponds are unknown.

SUMMARY

(1) Excavation demonstrated a probable Roman road with later use as a pathway to the river and forming a side of a pond.

(2) The ponds were built after the water meadow system, possibly in the 16th century. The stones used for the sluices and pond sides came from Lazerton D.M.V. It is possible the roadway was used for cattle from Ash Farm, which went out of use when the ponds were built. The making of the ponds was a stage in the building of the farm house.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This article could not have been written without the encouragement of members of EDAS, particularly D. Day, L. Norris, P. Gibbs and R. Clipson.

Members of EDAS record their thanks to N. Field, M. Green, H. Hanna, P. Copland-Griffiths, J. Stainer, J. Bond and not least Col. Warren.

REFERENCES

M. Aston: Interpreting the Landscape

Mills: Dorset Place Names

R.C.H.M. Dorset, Vol. 3, Part 2.

The Origin of Spotted or Jacob Sheep

John Milner

**'And did those sheep in ancient time
Graze upon Knowlton's pastures green?'**

Probably not, but before looking into their origin perhaps I should say something about the sheep themselves.

Jacob sheep are deep bodied and moderately long limbed; both rams and ewes are horned. The head, legs and ears are covered with short, close-lying wool, while the neck and body are covered with an abundant fleece of considerable length and density. Concentration of black on the head invariably continues - to a greater or lesser extent - onto the neck and fore-quarters, while the white blaze down the face generally extends as a white band down the chest. The amount of patching on the body is subject to considerable variation.

They are hardy, vigorous and intelligent creatures. A well respected sheep judge of long standing once said to me "I judge all breeds but I particularly like judging Jacobs - they're the only breed that stands up and looks me straight in the eye!" The ewes are good mothers and rear a twin of lambs each year. Their unique advantage, of course, is the high quality wool in two distinct colours, which means that spinners and weavers can produce a wide range of materials and pattern without resort to dyeing.

Why are spotted or piebald sheep called Jacob sheep? In the 1599 version of the bible Jacob says to Laban 'I will passe through all thy flocks this day and separate from them all the Sheepe with little and great spots'. You may remember that Jacob went to work for his uncle Laban and that Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah and the name of the younger Rachel. Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured. Jacob agreed to work seven years in order to have Rachel as his wife, but Laban deceived him. 'And it came to pass, that in the morning, it was Leah.' So he worked another seven years to gain Rachel but at the end of the fourteen years it was agreed he could also have all the spotted sheep. What Laban didn't know was that Jacob had found out how to ensure that the ewes would produce piebald lambs

and, therefore, could arrange that all the best ewes produced lambs for him. '....so the feebler were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. And the man increased exceedingly...' This story is also related by Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice" and, again in the same period, there is a reference '...as spotted as Jacob's sheep...' in Webster's "The Duchess of Malfi".

It is generally accepted that sheep and goats originated in Asia and spread westwards into Europe. As we've seen, the Bible tells of piebald sheep in the Middle East. There is a Yang dynasty parchment (c. 1200) depicting piebald sheep in China. It is known there were piebald in Spain and Portugal and that spotted sheep still appeared in the most carefully bred Merino flocks at the close of the 19th century, although the piebald breed itself had died out in the Iberian Peninsula by then.

What is not known is when Jacob sheep first came to Britain. At the end of the last century and during the first few years of this, there was much debate on the question. There was a long correspondence in the "Field" magazine and various people published books and pamphlets. It was claimed that they came to Britain from Syria; from Persia; from Barbary; from Spain, from Portugal and from South Africa. Many of the claims were wildly speculative and fanciful; most supporting evidence has since been shown to be incorrect.

What is certain is that all pedigree Jacob sheep can be traced back to a handful of 18th and early 19th century English flocks. The earliest known record of Jacob sheep in Britain is at Charlecote, Warwickshire, where the flock is mentioned in a letter dated January 13th, 1756. Then there are paintings, dated c. 1760, showing Jacob sheep at Wentworth, Yorkshire and Tabley, Cheshire. How long these flocks had been in existence, and where they originated, is not known.

There is a legend in the De Tabley family that their piebald sheep swam ashore from an Armada ship stranded on the Irish shore, and that they were brought to Tabley afterwards when Sir John Byrne of Queen's County sold his Irish estate and married the heiress of Tabley.

The origin of the flock maintained by Sir Tristram Tempert at Long Hall in Yorkshire in the 19th century is unknown, but the family believed they had been there since the Armada.

Again there is a link with Spain in a letter written in 1844 by Sir Henry Dryden who had a long established flock at Canons Ashby in

Northamptonshire:

Many years ago, a Spanish beggar woman came here (Canons Ashby) carrying a child on her back. It told her that I could not speak Spanish. 'But', she said, 'there are many of my countrymen here'. I made out that it was the sheep and she explained that when the child saw the sheep it cried out that it recognised countrymen. I asked her more and she said that there were numbers of them, but I forget if I asked her for the part of Spain.

The ancestors of the flock at Charlecote are said to have come from Portugal. In a letter dated 1910, Sir Fairfax Lucy writes "I have looked up the sheep in a book of records we have and all I can find about the sheep is this. A letter written to my grandfather, Lisbon, Rue d'entrell, Jan 13th 1756, in which it is stated that Mr Geo. Lucy remained in Portugal till June and brought with him the ancestors of the flock of white spotted sheep that graze in the park amongst the deer." This letter confuses me. June of which year? Sheep imported in June '55 can hardly have bred a flock by January '56.

There is a statement in the Chronicles of St Alban's Abbey referring to imported 'Spanish Sheep' in 1274. There is no reason to suppose they were piebald, but it indicates the importation of sheep from Spain was long established.

All in all, the 'Spanish sheep' claim would seem to be the most likely, with a strong Armada tradition relating to a Spanish origin and the almost universal application of the term in the 18th and 19th centuries in various parts of the country, including Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire and Yorkshire. Certainly the breed was established in this country before 1756 and spread, due to its ornamental and curiosity value, to parks and estates throughout the country. More recently, the special properties of its wool, combined with the breed's hardiness and prolificacy have been increasingly recognised and it is now the most popular breed amongst small flock owners.

And so, I suggest, after a long migration from Asia, by way of the Middle East and the Iberian Peninsula, involving untold adventures, including perhaps shipwreck, Jacob sheep now graze safely in the Hundred of Knowlton.

THE DESERTED VILLAGE OF KNOWLTON

Martyn Whittock

This brief essay is an attempt to bring together some of the evidence regarding the deserted village of Knowlton, Woodlands. Situated 600m northwest of the ruined church within the Henge Monument, it is one of the most atmospheric of lost village sites. Knowlton (as "Chenolton" or "Chenoltune") is mentioned twice in Domesday Book: once as land of the King along with Winfrith, Lulworth and Winterborne; once as land of the Court of Mortain. In The Book of Fees, Knowlton was held from the Honour of Gloucester. Since the royal lands are included in one package it is not possible to extract information regarding Knowlton alone. However, the second entry does outline at least part of the village. Ansgier(?) held two hides there (approx 240 acres) and before 1066 it had been held by the Saxon Aelmer. Tax was paid on the two hides and present in this part of the village was one slave, one smallholder ("Bordarius") and a mill worth 12/6d a year. What this indicates is the village was at least a Saxon settlement; its name meaning "The Village/Settlement (Tun) by the Knoll". The name "Charlton" (surviving in Charlton Dairy Farm at 026160) may indicate a daughter settlement, dependent on this village. It is recorded that a certain Wulfric Hunter held one hide from the King (he was a Saxon and his land was settled by three smallholders). In Domesday Book this parcel of land is given no name but in The Book of Fees it is called "Cnolle" and "Chnoldon". The further reference to it, in this source, as "1 hide in Baggeriggestrete" makes its identification as Knowle Hill almost certain ("Baggeriggestrete" survives in the modern Bagman's Farm and Copse).

The Lay Subsidy Roll of 1333 lists 31 taxpayers, but the figure also includes a number of other settlements, and so is unreliable. What is more definite is the architectural evidence from the isolated church, which points to a 12th Century date for the construction of the Chancel and Nave and a 15th Century date for the North Chapel, West Tower and probably the South Porch. This work indicates a fairly substantial population served by this Church. Inhumation burials to the East and Southeast of the church may indicate the location of the Medieval (or Pre-Domesday) Cemetery.

Whilst there are no other Early and Middle Medieval records relating to the village, the surface pottery finds indicate continuous occupation of the

site. Their spread indicates that the village occupied the south eastern half of the present field, (about 019105), which stretches from a striking river cliff to the Allen. The sherds date from the 12th to the 17th Century with a particular concentration of 12/13th Century pot rims, skillet rims and jug handles. Sherds of 17th Century "Verwood" type are in evidence and the occasional small sherd reminiscent of Romano-British (New Forest) Grey Ware. Animal bones and oyster shells also occur as surface finds.

The Allen, in this vicinity, seems to have had its course altered and straightened. Prior to this, its course ran along the north western limits of the village site. This course can still be detected in the field as a clear depression with a different colouration and depth of grass to the rest of the field. In wet weather the old course is noticeably damp. Additionally, this old course is marked as a minor stream on the 1811 O/S map (Part 4, Plate 15).

From the later Middle Ages it becomes possible to examine something of the life of the village in a little more detail, although it was probably in decline. In 1485 "Le Knoll" (Knowle Hill) is mentioned in a lease and again in 1593, 1594, 1597 and 1600. Knowlton itself is mentioned in 1527 in an indenture between Henry Ashley and William Smithfield concerning "all his lands and tenements in Knolton". The use of the term "tenements" implies the existence of a number of almshouses in the village. The same phrase (this time linked with "Knolle") is used in another indenture of 1531. As in 1593 "Knoll" was referred to as a "Messuage or Farm", it is clear such a description (in the plural) applied to Knowlton in the 1530's. The term "messuage" implies a dwelling house with attendant outbuildings and land.

In 1594 "2 Messuages, 1 garden, 1 orchard, 160 acres arable, 4 acres meadow, 400 acres pasture, 300 acres wood, 100 acres heath in Knowlton and Brockington", give a more detailed picture of the settlement and its lands. A land agreement of 1593 specifically refers to the pastureland of Knowlton, where a 5 acre close bore the name "Furzey". However, it is possible that by the 1590's the village consisted of little more than these named farmsteads. Later, 17th Century evidence suggests that this remnant of the village was centred on 2 water mills called Knowlton Mills. In 1608 these mills consisted of "Hopyards, 2 watergrist mills under one roof" and a number of plots of land including a close of pasture called Millclose, one called Dowdiche, a meadow called Myll Mead, an orchard and an adjacent meadow, "2 parcels of meadow in the common mead of Knollton" and "29 acres of arable in the common

fields of Knowlton".

The horse pasture called Tylease in 1608 may have been to the north east of the village where the common arable field (later called Long Close) ran down to the banks of the River Allen. The mills are mentioned again in 1651 when a reference to a "messuage in Knowlton and all houses" may reveal an arrest in the decay of the settlement. Another lease dates to 1659 and the last recorded to 1669. This latter was a 99 year lease at 40/- per annum to Hastings". It is worth noting that by 1684 Knowlton Mill had lost ownership of Millmead to the Shaftesbury Estate. It is likely that the "Old Leet", marked by an abandoned brick aqueduct (which cuts through house platforms and closes to the north east of the road to Brockington) was related to the Knowlton Mills.

The counterpart lease of June 16, 1684 is one of the last definite references to habitations in Knowlton. It refers to a certain "Thomas Bayly of Knowlton, Husbandman" who had gained the lease of Fryerne Farm, in the vicinity. This should be considered in the light of the desertion of Knowlton Church in the middle of the 17th Century and an attempt to demolish it in 1659. This should clearly be linked to the decayed state of the village. In 1695 there is a final mention of a "Messuage with a Little Parcel of Land".

The late 17th Century also sees the last reference to open fields in the vicinity of the village. In 1684 Thomas Bayly had leased 5 acres in "Knowlton Common Field" and 4 acres in "Knowlton Mead"; an earlier lease of 1650 had references to "several parcels of arable lying dispersedly in the common fields of Knowlton" and "All common of pasture and feeding of sheep in common fields and commable places of Knowlton". Later lease references to "A dwelling House" (1716) and "Messuage with outhouse and a plot of pasture" (1716) may refer to activity in the village (related to the revival of use of the Church in the 1720's or 1730's). However, it is also possible that these dwellings were not on the village site since the descriptions are imprecise. It is of interest to note the last mention of an inhabitant at Knowlton ("Richard of Knowlton") in the baptism register of Horton, dates from 1723.

What is clear is that enclosure (by mutual arrangements between landowners) of Knowlton open fields had begun early in the 18th Century. A lease of 1723 refers to a "Parcel (of land) at Matterly, in Knowlton Fields, formerly inclosed by Thomas Redman". An indenture of 1737 (between Edward Seymour of Woodlands and Humfrey Sturt of Horton) records the desire "...to inclose the said common field (Knowlton Field)

and allot every parcel of such land....in one parcel lying together". This replaced an earlier system where land lay "dispersed and promiscuous". This was followed up in 1738 by an agreement between Seymour and the Earl of Shaftesbury to exchange parcels of land in Knowlton Common Field and Knowlton Common Meadow. One unit (granted to the Earl by Seymour) and recently enclosed was called "Crate" on the north side of the lane, Lumber Lane, which leads from Knowlton Field to Brockington.

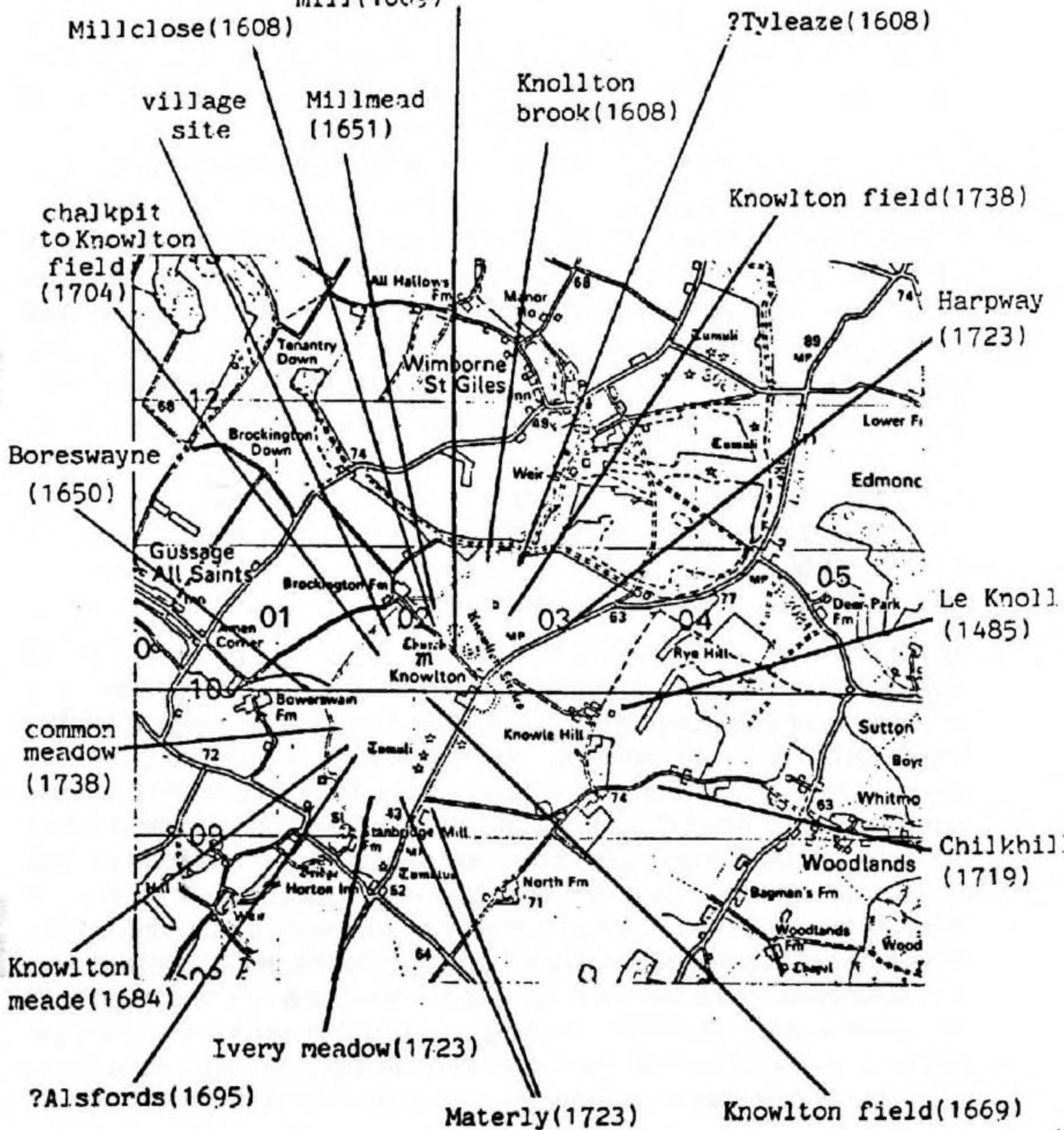
With these enclosures the effective life of the village, with its related land, can be considered over. In 1745 a "dwelling house, barn and stables and 30 acres of arable lately inclosed out of Knowlton Field" signals the construction of New Barn Farm and the start of a new system of land holding. In the late 18th Century the church roof finally collapsed, and, legend has it, its bell was stolen by the villagers of Sturminster Marshall. The stolen bell was lost in the Stour, giving rise to the rhyme:

*"Knowlton bell is 'a stole,
And hidden in White Hill Hole,
All the de'ls in Hell
Count's pull up Knowlton bell!"*

By the time of the O/S compilation of 1811, the village had not a single dwelling house standing. When the tithe commutation map was drawn up in 1841, even the name of the village had been displaced from its site. The field between the river cliff and the Allen was called Brockington Mead. Knowlton Common Field, south of Lumber Lane, had been split into Brockington Field, Barn Field and Barrow Field. Only the field about the Church, and the meadow north west of Matterly preserved the name of the vanished village. Nevertheless, a fine combing of the legal documents kept by the Shaftesbury Estate, (and compared with the 1841 Tithe Map: "Chapelry of Woodlands. Map of Horton and Woodland Part 2"), does allow some reconstruction of the Medieval landscape, prior to enclosure - see map. It is interesting because it reveals a recognisable block of land attached to the village and clearly bounded by the River Allen and the Wimborne-Cranborne Road (Harpway). The village had occupied a position on the north east periphery of the open field and common meadows.

Fieldname evidence suggests this landscape was Pre-conquest in its establishment. Ivery Meadow probably contains the Old English word "lifer", with its possible meanings of "Edge" or "Boundary". (It lies along the southern edge of the village lands). Matterly may preserve an Old

The lane which leads from
Woodlands common to Knowlton
mill(1669)



Reproduced from the 1984 Ordnance
Survey Map 195 with the permission of
the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery
Office, Crown Copyright reserved.
Dorset County Council,
County Hall,
Dorchester. Licence Number: LA 076570.

English "Mapuldor" and mean "Clearing where Maples grew". The form "Harpway" is reminiscent of Harpford (Devon, Somerset) which contains the Old English "Herepaeth" or "Army Road", "Main Road". The ploughed fields around the Henge show an abundance of surface finds of early Medieval pottery.

The cause of the decline of the village is quite unknown, but it was clearly well advanced by the late 16th Century. It is likely that some event (or events) in the 14th or 15th Centuries had undermined its economic viability. Plague is the too obvious contender for this role; however the existing evidence does not supply us with the material to decide one way or the other. The table below correlates the available evidence concerning the final abandonment of the village site.

Chronology of Desertion

17th Century

- 1659 Attempted demolition of church
- 1669 Lease of mill
- 1695 "Messuage with a little parcel of land"

18th Century

- Verwood pottery in evidence
- 1700 Revived use of church
- 1723 Baptism of Richard of Knowlton
- 1750 Church roof collapsed

19th Century

- 1811 No village in Ordnance Survey

In the area, Knowle Hill farmstead alone survives as a clear lineal descendant of the early Medieval farming communities at Knowlton.

Acknowledgement: My thanks to Lord Shaftesbury for permission to use the archives of his estate.

Canford Manor

Phil Coles

Canford Manor House, which in 1923 became Canford School, is situated on the South bank of the river Stour, approximately one mile downstream from Wimborne Minster. Although little is published on the manor it is steeped in history and has some links with the Roman occupation. In 1928 a section of Roman road was found in a field (across the river) opposite the site of the medieval manor house. The western boundary of the Saxon estate followed the Roman Road from Badbury to Hamworthy. The manor was substantial, forming part of its boundaries with the river Stour, and in the east the county boundary (which is still traceable beside Talbot Woods on the edge of Bournemouth).

The first written record which we have of Canford is in the 1086 Domesday Book Survey. The entry reads:

'Edward de Sarisburh (Salisbury)
holds Cheneford of the King. Alwen
held it in King Edward's time and it
was taxed for 25 hides. There is land
for 18 plough-gangs - of this there
are 11½ hides in the demesne and therein
3 ploughs and 9 servi and 35 villeins
and 40 bordars with 15 ploughs. Two
mills pay 15 shillings. There are 118
acres of meadow, pasture two leagues
in length and breadth, wood one league
long and half a league broad. Three
bordars and one house in Winburne
belong to this manor and there is one
league of brushwood.'

These were rich pickings for the Norman invaders and the manor at Canford would have been William the Conqueror's reward to Edward's father, Walter de Eureux, Earl of Rosmar, for the part he played in the successful invasion of this country.

From 1125 Canford went through many changes of ownership, depending on the politics of the age and the allegiance to the monarch. Intertwined with conspiracy and intrigue, plots and treachery, the Canford estate passed from King to noble by inheritance or marriage, only to be taken from those who tried to alter the state of the monarchy. Those who indulged in this practice were dealt with in no uncertain terms - death and dishonour. In these circumstances the estate of Canford reverted to the Crown, and was then, at some time, given to individuals who had supported the monarch as their reward.

While in the possession of the Crown, a Reeve was employed to oversee the economy of the estate. One such - Richard Gyllingham - mentions in his report that 'alum obtained at Derlying Cliff was an old established source of revenue', hence Alum Chine and Durley Chine as they are known today. Alum, incidentally, was used for tanning and as a fixative for dyes.

With the accession of Mary 1, Canford was granted to Gertrude Courtney, Marchioness of Exeter in 1553. She is buried in Wimborne Minster, where her tomb can be seen. The coat of arms of the Courtneys is displayed in the left side of the Minster chancel and floor. Her successor was her nephew James Blount, Lord Mountjoy (pronounced Munjee). He was left the property on the condition that within two years after the death of the marchioness "he erect, build and found six several houses within the parish of Wimborne for six several poor men or women and their successors to abide for ever". This charity still exists and the alms houses were built in the lane which leads into Dean Court Manor. Lord Mountjoy was Lord Lieutenant of the county and in 1558 he wrote a despatch to Queen Elizabeth 1, dated from Canford, about a large body of gypsies who had been apprehended. The queen in her reply stated "it is very convenient that some sharp example and execution should be made upon a good number of them".

It is likely that Lord Mountjoy was the last resident Lord of the Manor House because in 1567 he conveyed two thirds by writ of mortgage to John and Charles Brown; the third part went to Sir John Baker, the heir to Gertrude Courtenay. The property was not unified again until 1610 when it was acquired by the fifth Earl of Huntingdon who conveyed by purchase Canford, Poole and the Hundred of Cogdean - which included Kinson, Parkstone, Branksome, Corfe Mullen, Hamworthy, The Lytchetts, Charlton and Sturminster Marshall - to Sir John Webb Kt., son of John Webb Esq, clothier, of Odstock and Salisbury.

By this time the old castellated pile which was once the manor house had become uninhabitable and according to Hutchins in Part 3 of his Dorset history, the Webbs used building stone from the old building to construct a farm dwelling of ordinary dimensions. An interesting old print dated 1786 shows this building standing at some distance to the south west of John O'Gaunt's Kitchen, which was all that remained of the medieval manor house. The Webbs were Roman Catholics and for the next 215 years John O'Gaunt's Kitchen was used by them for religious purposes. Even during the Civil War and during the Commonwealth period it is said that priests from Stapehill rode over to Canford to celebrate Mass.

The second Sir John Webb was a Major-General in the Royal Army and he was created Baronet in 1644 for his services. In July 1648, he was declared a recusant and his estate sequestered. Canford was leased for a time to Robert Lewens of Wimborne, a crypto papist, who was ordered, however, to pay one third of the estate's income to Sir John. The house named Lewens still stands in Lewens Lane not far from the Catholic Church. The Restoration shows the Webbs back in occupation and Sir John Webb, the 5th Baronet succeeded in 1763. The 5th Baronet was a non-practising Catholic and he turned John O'Gaunt's into a brew house and the Salisbury Chamber into a wash house.

In 1786, Barbara, his daughter and eventual sole heiress, married Anthony Ashley Cooper, 5th Earl of Shaftesbury. In this connection should be read the second story in Thomas Hardy's "Group of Noble Dames": 'Barbara of the House of Grebe'. Sir John Webb died in 1797 and by a curious will he left Canford Manor to all the children of his grand-daughter who was only nine years old when he died. He also left his many other estates to his illegitimate sons, subject to strict male entail. It appears that because of his personal failure to continue the legitimate male line, he was determined that the Webb dynasty at Canford and elsewhere would die with his name. In 1794 the fifth Baronet had lent John O'Gaunt's to a convent of Carmelite nuns, who had fled from Flanders rather than face the French Revolutionary armies. The nuns stayed in residence until 1825 when they were evicted by the Hon W F Spencer Ponsonby, who had married John Webb's grand-daughter, Lady Ashley Cooper in 1814.

William Ponsonby's first task was to rebuild Canford Manor House and between 1825 and 1830 he employed Edward Blore for this purpose. Edward Blore was a friend of Sir Walter Scott and was the architect of Abbotsford. The new building was constructed immediately to the west of, and adjoining John O'Gaunt's Kitchen. So, the remnant of the old house, which once formed part of the west side of the medieval building, had

now become part of the east side of the new Manor. In 1838 William Ponsonby was created Lord de Mauley and about this time Queen Adelaide stayed at Canford for a while and she used the Salisbury Chamber as her private chapel.

As Sir John Webb, the fifth Baronet, had planned, the Webb tenure at Canford came to an end in 1846 when the estate was sold to Sir Josiah Guest, iron master from Dowlais, Glamorgan, who had made his fortune out of making rails for railways. He employed Sir Charles Barry, architect of the present Houses of Parliament to alter and improve Blore's building. Barry did this most successfully by adding the Victoria Tower, the Hall, the Grand Staircase and the Long Gallery. The chandeliers in the Hall and Library were first lit to welcome the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1890. Nineveh Court was added in 1851 to house the Assyrian Antiquities which had been dug up by Sir Josiah's son-in-law, Sir Henry Layard. These were sold to the Americans and are now housed in Philadelphia's museum. Nineveh Court with its Assyrian style wrought iron gate made by Guest, Keen and Nettlefold, its imitation stucco bas reliefs, and its intensely blue stained glass windows must be one of the most unusual tuck-shops in the world.

In 1852, Sir Ivor Bertie Guest, 2nd Baronet and 1st Lord Wimborne, succeeded. He became Viscount Wimborne in 1880. In 1885, the present Grand Staircase of carved walnut by G Biraghi of Venice was acquired to replace the former one which had been damaged by fire. In 1887 the West Wing was added. Ivor Churchill Guest, 2nd Lord Wimborne, succeeded in 1914, but Cornelia, widow of the first Lord, continued in residence until 1922. During the whole of the Guest tenure, John O'Gaunt's was employed in its original capacity as kitchen for the mansion, the Salisbury Chamber being the scullery.

Canford Manor opened as a school on 15th May, 1923. Neither time nor space permit me to describe the magnificent Hall with its unusual proportions, the elegant library, or to dwell on the headmaster's study which once was Lady Wimborne's boudoir. This short history is limited in several respects. It tells the reader nothing of the labourers who toiled on the estate, nothing of the scullions and cooks who sweated and froze in the huge medieval kitchen of John O'Gaunt's. It tells nothing of the development of Poole as a port by the Lords of the Manor of Canford, the port from which these medieval knights sailed away to fight wars in France and to join in the crusades to the Holy Land. These are tales yet to be told.

A STARTER OF TEN

Colin Steers

If you were marooned on a desert island, what books would you take with you ? In the belief that many members might wish to build up a modest bookshelf and would be interested in the contents of others' libraries, we asked five members: Dennis Bicheno, Phil Coles, John Day, Martin Green and Roz Wheat, to tell us their choice. However they were not allowed to select any of the eight volumes of the RHCM for Dorset or the Proceedings of the DNHAS. With some overlap and a little editorial pruning, this gives you a list of ten "EDAS Island Texts".

1. The first book selected was by Roz who suggested - as essential - James Dyer's "Guide to Prehistoric England and Wales", Penguin Books. This guide briefly covers, county by county, almost a thousand prehistoric sites in England and Wales and is illustrated with plans, maps, photographs and information on excavations and discoveries. (The same author wrote the - still available in paper back - "Southern England: An Archaeological Guide", Faber and Faber 1973).
2. For a general text on archaeology, Dennis recommended "An Introduction to British Prehistory", Edited by J V S Megaw and D D A Simpson, Leicester University Press, 1979. This book is intended primarily for first year archaeology undergraduates and for those attending adult education classes. It systematically surveys the period from the arrival of Homo Sapiens in Britain to the Claudian invasion. It is the work of seven specialist contributors and is profusely illustrated with line drawings and some photographs. Dennis, in recommending this book, says it is 'informative, accurate, comprehensive and easy to read'. Published at £7.95, I recently acquired a good second hand copy for under £5.
3. Turning to our own locality, there was general agreement that a must is "Dorset" (in the "Making of the English Landscape" series) by Christopher Taylor, Hodder and Stoughton, and currently available at £8.95. This book traces the ebb and flow of Dorset's history up to the present, relating events to the landscape we see today. Taylor was on the staff of the RHCM at Salisbury and is well

known in Dorset. Dennis Bicheno comments that this is an eminently readable book and John Day adds that it has the merit of a book that can be dipped into, or read from cover to cover. 'A delight to read', he concludes.

4. The Neolithic is represented in the reading list by the profusely illustrated "Prehistoric Avebury", Aubrey Burl, Yale University Press, 1979. Martin Green says that it is thoroughly readable and jargon free. 'It not only describes the monument and its contemporary neighbours in excellent detail but it attempts, in a very well reasoned manner, to get behind the mystery which surrounds these sites and to understand the Neolithic minds which created these stunning monuments'. John Day's only regret is the lack of maps or plans.
5. Phil Coles, Martin Green and John Day all selected "Iron Age Communities in Britain", Barry Cunliffe, Routledge and Kegan Paul. In Martin's words: 'the definitive work on the British Iron Age. To collate so much material from so many varied sources and present it in such a readable way is an outstanding triumph'. The last edition of this book was 1978 and it might be worth waiting for a new edition, which no doubt will include the more recent work at Danebury and Hengistbury Head.
6. Moving to Roman times, Phil Coles suggested the Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain, but not being a book this was declined in favour of Dennis Bicheno's choice "Britannia", also Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978, saying that it presents a 'most fascinating insight into the impact of Roman administration, technological and agricultural skills on a divided and relatively primitive country and the development of art, culture and religion'. Pity about the map, which is almost as good as a book, and you may want to purchase it in any case.
7. Place name study proved a popular choice for one of the ten books. With Roz Wheat nominating the classic - and nationally comprehensive - "Oxford Dictionary of Place Names", and Phil Coles, the specialist "Place Names of Roman Britain" compiled by A L F Rivet and C Smith. The final selection was the very modestly priced, and recently published, "Dorset Place Names" by A D Mills, a paperback at £3.95 available at most local bookshops, and published locally by Roy Gasson of Wimborne.

8. A book selected by John Day was "The Old Roads of Dorset" by R Good, also published locally by Horace Cummin of Bournemouth (alas, Horace Cummin's bookshop is now no longer with us). It covers the history of Dorset roads through prehistoric, Roman and Medieval times to the building of the turnpikes. Dennis Bicheno points out that this book shows how roads influenced the development and decline of Dorset villages. John Day reads this book with maps well to hand, to which he makes frequent reference. He warns that it is a concentrated book and not easy reading.
9. "Discovering Abbeys and Priories", G N Wright, is one of the very popular books from Shire Publications. Roz has selected it because of its comprehensive scope tracing the history of monasteries in Britain from Anglo-Saxon times to the Dissolution. It describes the various monastic orders, the daily life of monks and nuns, buildings, the influence of religious houses on medieval life and their effect on the landscape. It includes a gazeteer of over 200 places with monastic remains.
10. Our last choice was "The Early Barrow Diggers" by Barry Marsden from Shire Publications. This is a short, but highly entertaining account, of some of the pioneers of British archaeology. "It is easy", Martin Green says "to deride them, but they did lay the foundation in what was then uncharted territory". Martin recommends this book which he says is a joy to read, in part for its many hilarious quotations and "awful" poetic verses.

So there is your starter of ten if thinking of retiring to a desert island, setting up or supplementing your own bookshelf, or, if having exhausted your own local library, you can get the librarian to obtain one or more of the above for winter reading. Many will quarrel with the choice. Nothing on the Bronze Age - but is there anything? Nothing on Anglo-Saxon Britain. But don't blame the selectors. They were asked for three books, and as one of them bitterly pointed out this was an unreasonable restriction. What would be your top ten? In a future article we may well add to EDAS Island Texts !

My thanks are due to the five contributors. Most of the words are theirs. Any misinterpretations must be attributed to Colin Steers who edited their contributions and played umpire when discussions got hot.



