

The Medieval Village at Garrow Tor, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall

By DOROTHY DUDLEY and E. MARIE MINTER

SUMMARY

The site chosen for excavation in the medieval village at Garrow proved to be a platform-house, a variant of the long-house, a widespread form of peasant dwelling. Both types provided for the shelter of man and his beasts under one roof; in its early form, as here, it consisted of a living-room and byre separated by a passage connecting with an entrance in each long side. The platform-house was suited to meet the hard conditions of life in a hilly country of heavy rainfall. It was built on an oblong platform constructed with its long axis at right angles to the contours of the hillside. Thus the house gained considerable protection from wind and rain.

Two outstanding features were the hearth with fireback centrally placed on the floor in the upper room and the manger which was in situ in the byre. Near the house was a small barn. The two buildings stood in a small enclosure. Pottery found in the house and barn and in the fields connected with the settlement showed that there was occupation from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries. Inhabited farmhouses of this type can still be seen in Cornwall.¹

GENERAL

By DOROTHY DUDLEY

GARROW TOR (PL. XXVII, A; FIG. 87) lies in one of the loneliest parts of Cornwall.² It is slightly south of the highest hills in the county, Brown Willy (1,375 ft.) and Roughtor (1,311 ft.), and rises like an island from the downs and the valley of the river De Lank. It is about a mile long and half a mile wide and is treeless, for its elevation (most of the hill is over 800 ft.) and the harsh, salty winds from the Atlantic discourage tree-growth. The 'tor' itself (1,087 ft.), a mass of flat, granite rocks,³ is confined to the northern end of the hill; it drops abruptly to the 1,000 ft. contour and from that level has a gentle and even slope on all sides. Thus, dry footing and good grazing ground made it suitable for early settlement and remains of prehistoric, medieval and modern occupation cover the hill; some medieval fields run down into the bog on the south and west, possibly indicating deterioration in the climate since they were set out. The wet, acid soil does not produce a rich flora, but Garrow has a sweet grass much favoured by the beasts. The presence of sixty acres of rushes, however, as one of the perquisites of the local manor, attests its wetness even in medieval times.

¹ We are much indebted to Mr. Peter Throssell, the owner of Garrow Tor, for his kind permission to excavate and for his continued interest; to Mr. Charles Woolf for his photography; to the volunteers and workmen who made the excavation possible; and to Mr. J. G. Hurst for his constant interest and help.

² O. S. Cornwall 1 in., 186; 6 in., XXI NW.; 25 in., XXI 5; Nat. grid 146785.

³ The hill is in the granite formation.

There may have been more than one medieval settlement, but the only clearly-marked remains of houses lie on the SE. side of the hill; elsewhere, other possible dwelling-sites were affected by the summer-pasturing of cattle and their proximity to track-lines and show little but their fields.

The SE. settlement (FIG. 87) is still remote and faces the wildest and least-known part of the moor.⁴ Its situation may have been due to the presence there of the finest spring on the hill and the steep slope of the ground (1 : 4) which would make it useless for cultivation. It was demarcated by a wall of distinctive character now much obscured by the addition of stone from the clearing of the fields by later farmers and in some places by more recent ploughing. On the western bounds of the hill it has the appearance of a low, ditched, travelling-mound about 3 ft. high and 5 ft. broad. Excavation, and damage by time, have shown that the wall was built by placing two large, flat granite slabs vertically facing each other about 18 in. apart. Earth and stones filled the gap between them. This construction was then mounded over with earth dug out along the inner side. A fence could easily be set in the top of the mound to keep the cattle in and intruders out (PL. XXIX, A). This boundary coming down both sides of the hill converged near a large barrow close to a spot known to-day as 'Garrow Gate' and so named in a 'Perambulation of the bounds of Blisland Manor' in 1816.⁵ The use of the word 'gate' here is interesting. Field-work in Zennor⁶ has shown that in almost every instance in which it has been found it denotes a passage to a habitation; possibly here was the main entrance to the Garrow farmlands. From this point the mound is greatly damaged,⁷ but it can be traced to the ford on the river Camel west of Roughtor. From there it probably ran to some small medieval settlements known from documentary sources but now absorbed into the Davidstow State Forest.⁸ At the SW. extremity of the Garrow settlement it can be seen running toward Lease, another medieval farm. This boundary-wall should not be confused with another mound of similar outward appearance that is spoken of as a 'trackway'; it is made of earth only and follows a different route,⁹ though it approaches the Garrow track in some places.

THE EXCAVATION (PL. XXVIII, A; FIGS. 87-8)

The excavation was undertaken in a settlement on the SE. side of the hill. There were probably nine houses, some with attendant barn and croft.¹⁰ Most of them were situated in the field numbered 1779 on the 25 in. O.S. map (Nat. grid 146780); this has an area of about 2½ acres and a slope of 1 : 3; it belongs, of course, to the later history of the farm. The form of the house was adapted to the

⁴ A still lonelier medieval farm lies over the hill east of Garrow, hidden in the valley below Buttern and Codda hills.

⁵ John Maclean, *Parochial & Family History of the Parish of Blisland* (1868), 1, appendix ii, p. 94.

⁶ By the late Lt.-Col. F. C. Hirst: MS. at the Museum, Zennor, Cornwall.

⁷ This was a favourite area for the summer-pasturing of cattle.

⁸ Information from Mr. J. G. Hurst.

⁹ See Col. Mudge's map of Cornwall published in 1809.

¹⁰ The ground is much damaged and overgrown; the upper part of the field contains a number of late-bronze-age hut-circles.

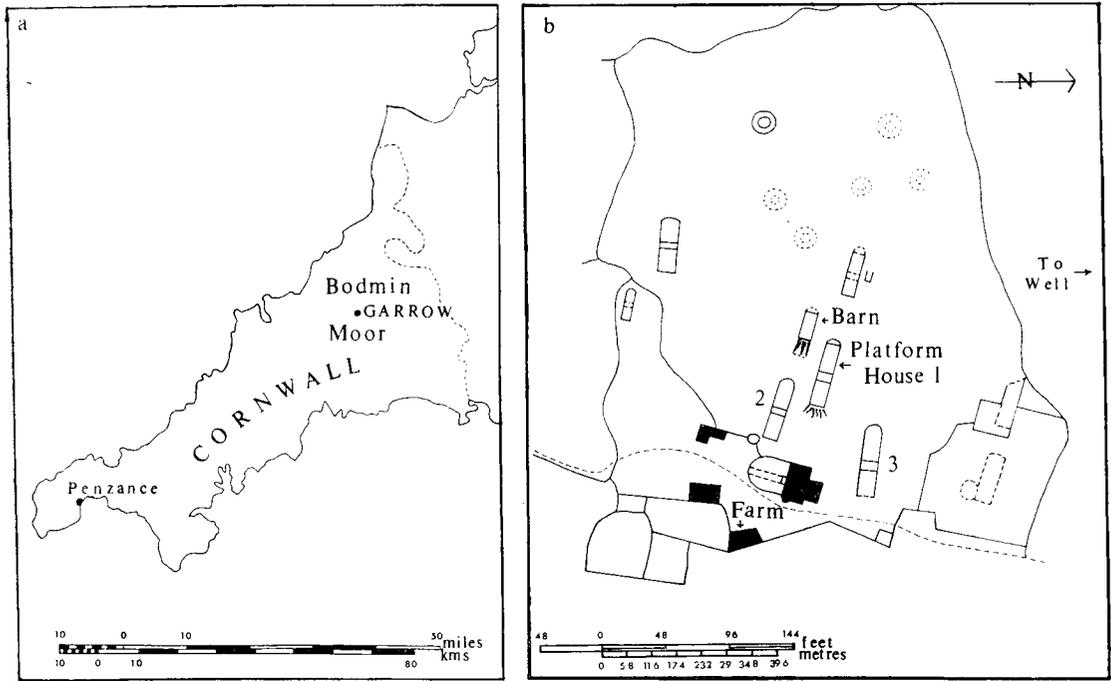


FIG. 87
 GARROW TOR, CORNWALL
 a, map showing position of Garrow Tor and b, plan of village (p. 273)

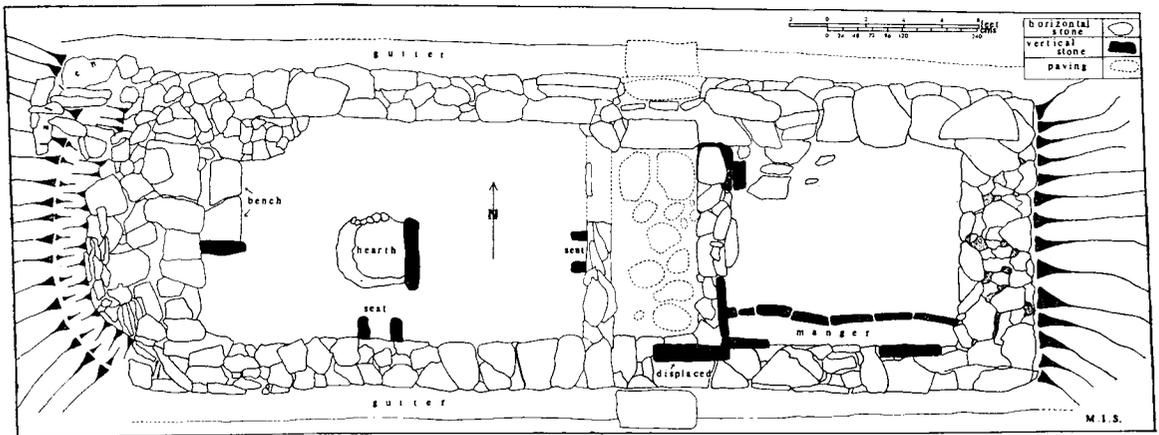


FIG. 88
 GARROW TOR, CORNWALL
 Plan of platform-house I (pp. 275 ff.)

declivity of the land and the exigencies of a heavy rainfall. It was designed to expose as little as possible of the foundations to the direct run of water down the hillside. The house, accordingly, was oblong in plan with its shorter side cut into the hillside, the earth dug out being thrown downhill to provide a 'platform' on which the house was built; a curved bank of earth and stone called the 'hood' protected the head of the house and, so long as it was well kept, the chances of water getting into the house were lessened. The lower edge of the house was strongly revetted with earth and stones. Entrance to the house was at the junction of the natural and built-up surfaces and could be from either side according to how the wind and weather affected the draught for the fire and to the wish of the occupants. A passage ran between these entrances and from it access was made at the same level to an upper room and, by stepping down, to a byre where the oxen were housed.¹¹

Platform-house 1 (PL. XXVIII, A-D; FIG. 88). The internal measurements of this feature were 48 ft. by 11 ft. and it was chosen for excavation as it appeared to be a normal unit of the settlement, possessing house with hood and revetment, barn and croft. Excavation was slow and arduous owing to the steepness of the site, the close proximity of other houses and the great quantity of stone which entirely filled the building. The stone used in the construction was the local 'moorstone', i.e. weathered blocks of coarse, undressed granite gathered from the hillside. The quality of the wall-building varied very much; simple building shown by the incorporation of very large, natural boulders was noted in the upper room yet there was good building in the coursed, W. wall of the house and in the use of large, flat blocks as binders. The walls were just under 3 ft. wide, solid and dry-built with the exception of an inner facing of small stones over the upper part of the N. wall of the upper room; here *rab*¹² had been used to hold the stones in position and, perhaps, to exclude damp and draughts. The passage walls were very much damaged and difficult to elucidate; they were only 2 ft. wide and may have been intended to carry a light, wooden superstructure, which could easily have been obliterated by the fall of stone at an early date. Yet, it should be noted that some stones, placed rather top-heavily on the W. passage wall, had the appearance of conscious building, though in a manner incongruous with the general style; possibly, this could have been the work of dwellers in the early 'modern' farmhouse, for the upper room had been used for peat storage prior to the fall of the walls.

There was no good stratification observable anywhere in the house before the mass of fallen stone was removed; the overburden of bracken, rushes and grass was very thin and soil lay in shallow pockets. Below the stone 8 in.-12 in. of soil had accumulated, mostly dark in colour and rather gritty; in the lower room it was thickest in and against the manger where it was 8 in.-12 in. deep; elsewhere the layer was uneven and in the centre of the room was thinner and mixed with *rab*, where the feet of the oxen had kicked into the superimposed floor. No drain

¹¹ For a full account of this type of house see C. A. Gresham, 'Platform-houses in north-west Wales,' *Archaeol. Cambrensis*, ciii (1954), and C. and A. Fox in 'Forts and farms on Margam mountain,' *Antiquity*, viii (1934), 395 ff.

¹² *Rab* is the upper surface of the decaying granite.

was found, yet the floor, generally, seemed clean. Finds were few, but included sherds of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries from the lower filling in the manger, the floor near it and the central area.

The manger had remained *in situ* against the S. wall. It was constructed with six flat granite slabs set vertically in the rab, one foot from the wall, and was one foot deep. Some persevering worker had laboriously bored three holes for the insertion of tethering-ropes near the top of the stones (PL. XXVIII, c). The interior measurements of the room (12 ft. by 8 ft.) would give space for four oxen. The floor of the lower room, which lay $1\frac{3}{4}$ ft. below the entrance-level, may seem rather low for the passage of cattle, but, near the entrance, stones firmly set in the rab were noted and these may have carried a ramp. It should also be recalled that it was a common practice to keep beasts indoors for the greater part of the winter, so the need to move them would not occur very often and, moreover, dung would soon raise the floor-level very considerably. The revetment at the E. end of the byre prevented the insertion of a door there for the use of cattle as seen in some early dwellings.

In the upper room, 20 ft. by 11 ft., the stratification was clearer, for the floor on the hardened rab was flat; it had no paving and carried a layer of soil 8 in.-12 in. deep. It was slightly complicated by the fact that the peat had not been completely removed before the use of the room as a store had been given up; consequently, the centre and much of the room on the east had a thick, rather greasy layer of peat residue and fine charcoal below the soil and partly mixed with it. The removal of this layer revealed the hearth (PL. XXVIII, b). This was a flat, almost circular block of granite about 4 ft. in diameter set in the rab and rising about an inch above it. It was black with charcoal and staining from the peat, but provided no charcoal large enough for examination by sectioning. Immediately behind the hearth was the fire-back, placed vertically, to shield the fire from draughts; it measured 2 ft. high, 3 ft. 4 in. long and 5 in. thick. This arrangement of central hearth and fire-back resembles the authentic 'pentanfaen' or fireback-stone of the Welsh: ' . . . once placed in position it was an offence to remove it. The house itself might be destroyed, the owners might desert the site . . . but the pentanfaen was never removed. It stood as a perpetual sign that the site where it stood was the site of an occupied homestead'.¹³ The presence of this type of hearth would suggest early dating for the house. It is obvious that the presence of peat on an already acid soil would lessen the chance of useful finds in horn, wood or leather. There were, indeed, very few finds of any kind; some small, sodden sherds of early thirteenth-century date had been trampled into the floor and were difficult to remove; a few more sherds lay on a shelf in the wall where there was, also, a much-corroded piece of iron, perhaps the remains of a knife. The handle of a seventeenth-century jug and a sherd of similar ware lay on the top of this floor-filling immediately below the stones.

A stone bench (4 ft. by $1\frac{3}{4}$ ft., and 14 in. above the floor) was set in the W. wall and, elsewhere, stones projecting at right angles from the wall looked like supports for a bed or another seat. A neatly-built semicircular feature about 4 ft.

¹³ I. C. Peate, *The Welsh House*, (1944), p. 123; 'The double-ended fire-dog,' *Antiquity*, xvi (1942), 64-70.

across was set in the NW. corner; it was raised 8 in. above floor-level, but no purpose can be suggested for it. Apart from the staining and remains from the peat-stack, the floor seemed clean; there was no drain through the room; the floor was dry enough when cleared. No post-holes were found in either room; the only depression in the floor was a shallow hollow near the foot of the stone bench which could not have been used as a support for a ridge-pole; thus, the roof was probably of a simple truss-construction with tie-beams at roof-level,¹⁴ since the walls of the house were relatively high and still stand at a height of a little more than 6 ft. at the upper end.¹⁵ The thatch would need to be fairly light and was most likely of rushes supported on such branches as could be found. Rushes would, of course, be useful in the making of wax candles¹⁶ for the house.

The passage between living-room and byre was 4 ft. wide, paved, and had three steps neatly set at each end to reach ground-level outside. The walls here, as previously stated, were greatly damaged, but the entrance to both rooms seems to have been at the northern end. No post-holes were found to suggest the setting of the doors—possibly they were hides slung across the opening. The clearance beside the outside walls showed that the hood was originally well-built and that a gutter ran from it down the long sides of the house; this was in part paved but much of it was ruinous; from it, however, came sherds of pottery. Some shapeless iron and an early 'buzza' (PL. XXIX, D, 2; FIG. 92, no. 15) lay in the filling of the passage. Sherds of a costrel (PL. XXIX, D, 1; FIG. 92, no. 14) were found on the ramp at the E. end of the byre.

The croft. A small croft or enclosure lay around the house, and about 40 ft. beyond it down the hillside; at its lower end and on the north it was heavily revetted with large, granite boulders. There was no opening through this wall, and entry into the croft seems to have been made only from the neighbourhood of the house. It showed no sign of having been ploughed; it could have served as a yard, a place for a rick, and other garden or storage purposes. A corn-drying kiln is suspected close to the house, but not within the croft.

The barn (FIG. 87). This stood a few feet south-west of the house; it was an interesting little building, 26 ft. by 14 ft., ingeniously contrived. The main part was a rectangular area, 13 ft. by 10 ft., having granite walls, now 2¼ ft. high; these were well-built in coursed walling with some binders on top. It was originally hooded: the remains show as a slight embankment. The entrance was in the middle of the S. side and from it there were three shallow steps to the interior. Much stone had fallen from the walls into the room and, when cleared, revealed a layer of soil, about 1 ft. deep, light in colour and of a light friable—almost fluffy—texture; this suggests the use of the place for storing bracken or hay. There were thirteenth- to fifteenth-century sherds in the occupation-layer and an unusual, flat baking-dish. There was, also, a well-built stone wall projecting from the upper end 3 ft. into the barn; most of the floor was clean but at the W. end the soil was

¹⁴ A 'platform'-house still in use at St. Gennys, Cornwall, has this construction.

¹⁵ See E. M. Jope and R. I. Threlfall, 'Excavation of a medieval settlement at Beere, North Tawton, Devon,' *Med. Archaeol.*, II (1958), 121-2.

¹⁶ Purvan (Cornish dialect), rush-wick: A. K. Hamilton Jenkin, *Cornwall and its People* (1945), pp. 357-8; F. Seebohm, *English Village Community* (1883), p. 208; *id.*, *Tribal System in Wales* (1904), p. 161.

very dark, burnt and much harder than anywhere else in the building. A few small animals could have been kept here, but the place did not seem to be like a stable. The most interesting feature of the building was outside, at the lower end. Here, the ground had been levelled and a floor made by laying down great slabs of granite; on this floor three large blocks of granite had been set vertically at right angles to the E. end of the barn thus forming two neat little stalls for some animals—donkeys, perhaps, or calves. The dividing blocks were 3 ft. to 4 ft. high and 1 ft. thick; moreover, the outer edge of the house-wall had been adapted to form a feeding-trough or manger. No evidence for the roofing of this barn was found.

FIELDS (PL. XXVII, B, C; FIG. 89)

The field-systems on Garrow are extensive and of considerable interest; they cover most of the hill and range in date from the middle bronze age to the present century; not the least interesting among them are the medieval fields (PL. XXVII, B) associated with the platform-house settlement.

The prehistoric hut-circles and fields lay in irregular groups round the hill so that the medieval farmers were forced to utilize the land between them and it is here that they laid out their fields in the form of lazy-beds (PL. XXVII, C).¹⁷ They are best seen at the SW. end of the farm on a sunny evening in early spring when the ridges and furrows are thrown into clear relief. The beds, which run length-ways up and down the hillside, are approximately 200 yards long,¹⁸ have straight sides and a fairly constant width of about 6 ft. throughout their run.¹⁹

They lie in groups separated by baulks of granite boulders and stones gathered from field-clearings. The furrows are about 18 in. wide and the number of ridges in a group varies from five to seven. It is remarkable that such beds still present a symmetrical appearance; the ground on which they are set out is exposed, running from 700 ft. to 900 ft. in elevation, and still appears to be covered with rock masses of all sizes; there is, moreover, a heavy bank—probably a bronze-age feature—which encircles most of the hill and, not least of these difficulties, the medieval system had to be imposed upon one of early-iron-age date. Such an area needs hand-cultivation; that the Cornish farmer in the past used such a method is indicated by references to the foot- or breast-plough,²⁰ the dexterity of the farmer with the long-handled shovel and his practice until recently of clearing the furrows with this implement.²¹

Land was evidently much in demand; not only did the fields reach the limits of the rivers but economical measures within the fields denote practical attempts not to waste it. Four early-iron-age (A) hut-circles, standing together in the way of the run of a field, were enclosed to form a paddock and two of the huts had each

¹⁷ Lazy-beds were found in association with the long-hut group at Maen-y-bardd, Caernarvonshire. I am grateful to Mr. Lawrence Butler for permission to use this information.

¹⁸ They are in smaller lengths when an old bank breaks the run.

¹⁹ Bends at the lower ends of fields seem to be occasioned by the necessity of counteracting the swing of the hill to the east.

²⁰ W. Marshall, *Rural Economy of the West of England* (1796), II, 119, 142.

²¹ G. B. Worgan, *A General Survey of the Agriculture of Cornwall* (1808), p. 54; *id.*, *Old Cornwall*, II, 4, 28, 46.

a floor paved and an entrance widened to serve as a pen. The construction of the paddock wall is similar to that of the farm boundary-wall, and thirteenth-century pottery found in most of the numerous trenches excavated within the pound and

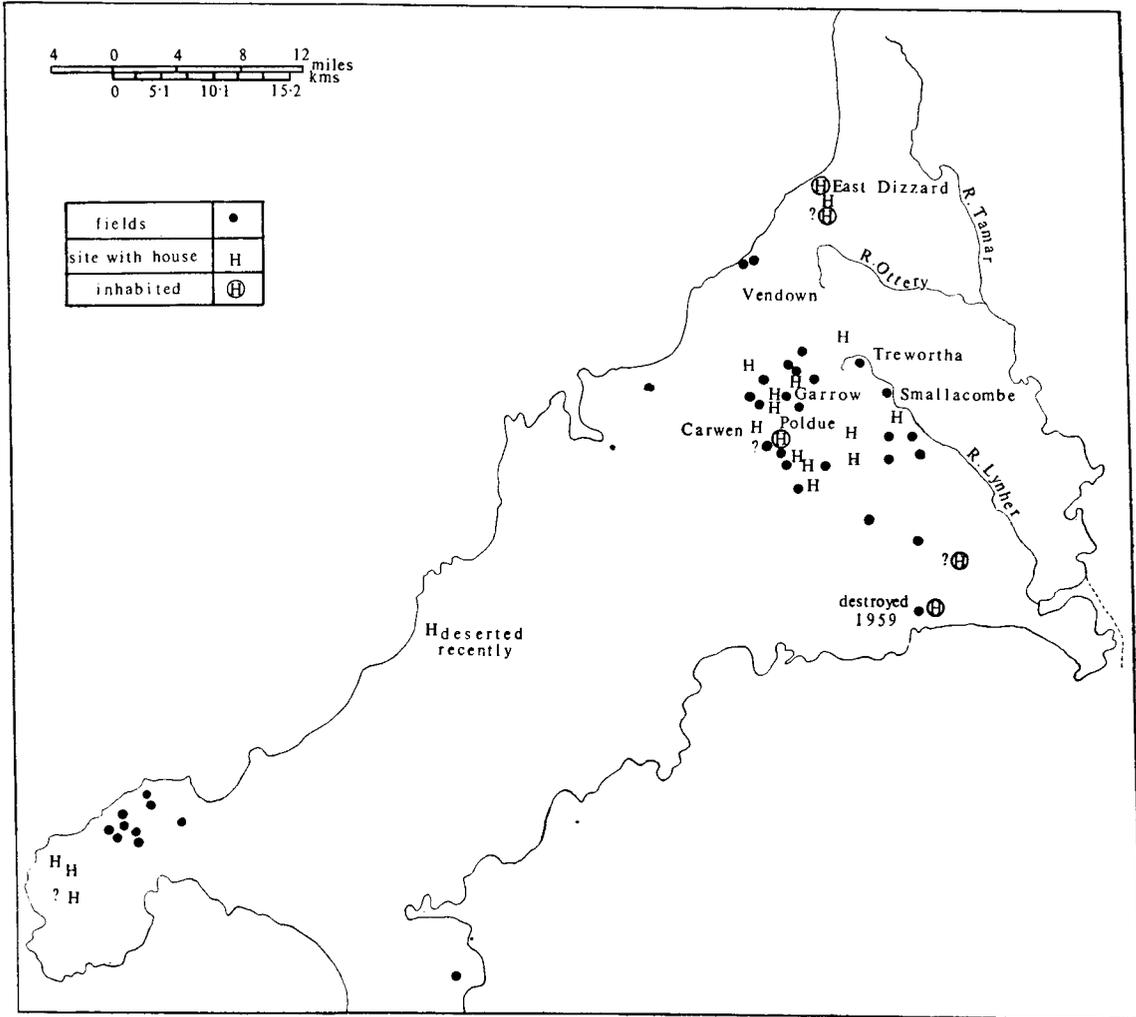


FIG. 89
 DISTRIBUTION OF EARLY MEDIEVAL PLATFORM-HOUSES AND FIELDS
 IN CORNWALL (pp. 278 ff.)

adjoining field-banks is similar to that from the excavated platform-house.²² Elsewhere, a prehistoric pond shows the medieval ridge and furrow. The lower ends of some fields do not show today, as blanket-bog has encroached upon them;

²² D. Dudley, recent excavation (unpublished).

air-photographs indicate the layout of these fields and of a track passing under the bog in the direction of King Arthur's Downs.²³

As the years passed and newcomers worked the land, it is likely that pasture, not arable, was the mainstay of the farm. Those fields farthest from the farm would naturally be the first to go out of cultivation—hence their preservation in their old form—and conversely, the nearer the modern farm the more altered the fields became, walls being knocked down, two fields made into one and so on; the introduction of the traction-plough, too, would necessitate changes. Arable fields of early type are not restricted to Garrow Tor, but are known elsewhere on the moor and in various parts of the county. Many can be seen on air-photographs and traced on the ground, where their layout is entirely at variance with the present-day farmlands (Table pp. 282-3). Research into Cornish field-systems shows that sufficient evidence exists to prove that the notion that open fields were non-existent must be completely discarded; Richard Carew writes of ' . . . the ruins yet resting in the wilde moores which testify a former inhabitance'.²⁴ Study in the Lanhydrock Atlas, a plan of the properties of Viscount Clifden made in 1695-6, indicates that they occurred in many parts of Cornwall and not only in centres of English influence.²⁵ Similar evidence from the work done on this subject by the late Charles Henderson confirms this and extends the list of places where open fields were in use.²⁶

Fields in a narrow pattern of ridge and furrow are known on the continent from bronze-age times onwards.²⁷ The earliest known examples in England date from Romano-British times in the Fens.²⁸ In later periods on the continent they are known in the migration period in Norway²⁹ and the Viking period at Lindholm Høje in Denmark.³⁰ They are still in use in many parts of the highland zone in Britain³¹ and the excavation of a series of these narrow ridges by A. C. Thomas at Gwithian in 1961 in a dark-age context³² shows the antiquity of this type in the south-west. The Garrow fields are therefore of considerable importance if they are in fact medieval, as these are the first in this country that can be so dated. I am indebted to Mr. J. G. Hurst and Prof. Dr. Axel Steensberg for their help in discussing this type of field.

²³ Royal Air Force air-photographs 3G/TUD/UK/137. Part 1. 5075, 5076.

²⁴ R. Carew, *Survey of Cornwall* (1602), p. 57.

²⁵ I am most grateful for permission to study this document.

²⁶ Henderson MS. 886, Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro.

²⁷ Mr. E. Lomborg found a series of parallel ditches beneath a barrow in Zealand which he regards as ridge and furrow: 'En højgruppe fra Ballermosen, Jaegerspris. Gravfund, hustomt og højryggede agre fra aeldra bronzealder,' *Aarbøger for nordisk Oldkyndighed og historie*, 1956, p. 144, figs. 2 & 9. In Holland Prof. van Giffen found a series of ridge and furrow (höchacker) associated with bronze-age barrows on the Noordse Veld near Zeijen, published in 'Oudheidkundige aantekeningen over Drentse Vondsten XVI' in *Nieuwe Drentse Volksalmanak*, LXVII (1949), 123, figs. 24-5.

²⁸ *Antiq. J.*, xxix (1949), 147, fig. 3, pl. xiv.

²⁹ A. Hagen 'Studier i jernalderens gårdssamfunn,' *Oslo Univ. oldsak. Skr.*, IV (1953), 247, fig. 83, from Moland, Oterholt in Telemark, under barrows.

³⁰ *Kuml*, 1959, p. 64, figs. 16-17.

³¹ E. Estyn Evans, *Irish Folkways* (1957), ch. xi.

³² *Cornish Archaeol.*, I (1962), 69-80.

CONCLUSIONS

Excavation proved that the structure examined was a platform-house. This was a variant of the better-known and widely dispersed long-house, adapted for use in hilly country in an area of heavy rainfall. It was thus well-suited to many parts of the Cornish countryside and research is showing that it was in much commoner use than was previously thought (Table pp. 282-3). The house

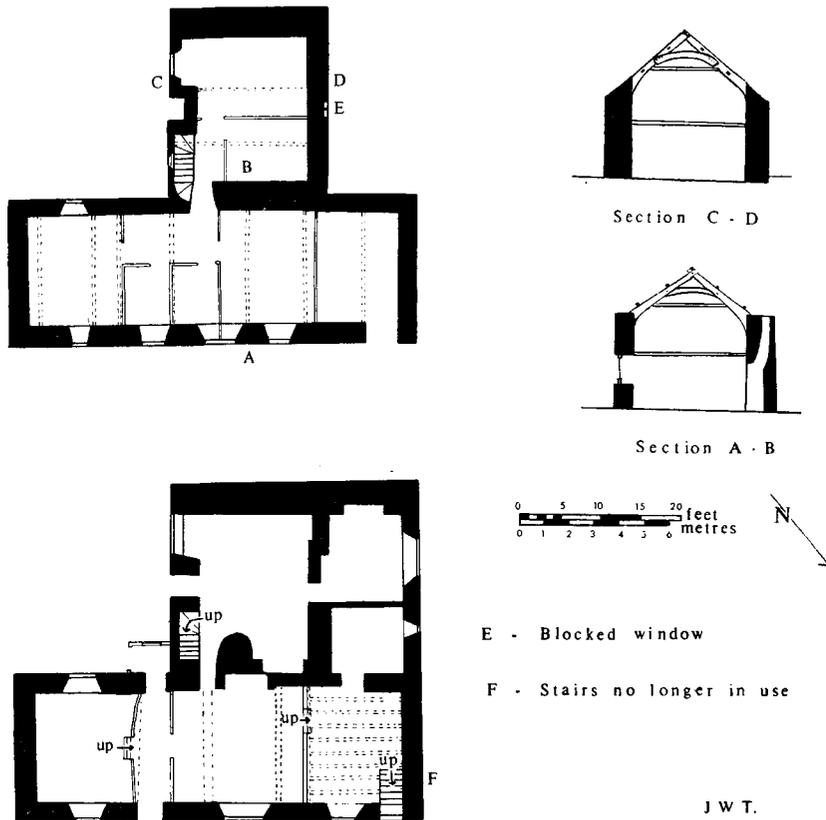


FIG. 90
EAST DIZZARD, ST. GENNYS, CORNWALL
Plans and sections of farmhouse (p. 282)

was occupied from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries, but no clear reason for its decay was apparent. Further excavation may show some relationship between the platform-house settlement and the first phase of the 'modern' homestead; pestilence was rife in Bodmin, but it is likely that there was a more general cause such as worsening of the weather which might have made much of the ground waterlogged or unworkable. There are houses on the moor in the same state as that at Garrow prior to its excavation, whereas in more-favoured areas, such as Blisland and St. Gennys, this type of house has lasted to the present

TABLE

LIST OF MEDIEVAL HOUSE AND FIELD SITES IDENTIFIED IN CORNWALL †

PARISH	PLACE	O.S. 1 in.	O.S. 6 in.	HOUSE	FIELD	Nat. grid	R.A.F.	AIR-PHOTOGRAPH
ADVENT	*DEVIL'S JUMP	186	20 NE	Yes	Yes	102798	3G/TUD/UK/137.	Pt. 2. 5016, 5070
"	GOOSEHILL	186	15 NW	In aerodrome	—	148844	106G/UK/1498	
"	LOUDEN	186	21 NW	Yes	Yes	137803	"	1498, 4282
ALTARNUN	BRAY	186	15 SE	Yes	Yes	185822	CPE/UK/2149,	3020, 3032
"	BROCKABARROW	186	21 SW	—	Yes	160745	3G/TUD/UK/137.	Pt. 3. 5488
"	CARNEGLOS	186	21 NE	—	Yes	202771	"	Pt. 2. 5144
"	HENDRA	186	21 NE	Yes	Yes	205796	"	Pt. 2. 5032
"	PALMERSBRIDGE	186	21 SE	Yes	Yes	192776	"	Pt. 2. 5142
"	TREBURLAND	186	21 NE	—	Yes	236794	"	Pt. 2. 5030
"	TREBURLAND	186	22 NW	—	Yes	227793	"	Pt. 2. 5030
"	TREWINTMARSH	186	21 NE	—	Yes	212803	CPE/UK/2149,	4024
BLISLAND	CARBILLY	186	20 SE	Yes	Yes	124756	3G/TUD/UK/137.	Pt. 3. 5186
"	CARKEES TOR	186	21 SW	—	Yes	135765	CPE/UK/2149,	5131
"	CARWEN	186	26 NE	Now a cowshed	—	111738	3G/TUD/UK/137.	Pt. 1. 5285
"	CATSHOLE DOWNS	186	21 NW	—	Yes	168786	"	Pt. 1. 5026
"	POLDUE	186	26 NE	Still inhabited	—	119730	"	Pt. 5. 5287
"	POLSTRODA	186	26 NE	Now a barn	—	112729	"	Pt. 5. 5287
CARDINHAM	BELLARMIN TOR	186	26 NE	—	Yes	132708	"	Pt. 5. 5388
"	CORNER QUOTT (N)	186	26 NE	—	Yes	126707	"	Pt. 5. 5388
"	GT. CARE HILL	186	27 SW	Yes	Yes	143713	"	Pt. 5. 5380, 5388
"	TOPTON	186	27 SW	Yes	—	142709	"	5389, 5390
"	FERRABURY	174	10 NE	—	Yes	096910	"	Pt. 5. 5390
GULVAL	CARNAQUIDDEN DOWN	189	68 NW	—	Yes	479357	3G/TUD/UK/209.	Pt. 1. 5306
"	TRINK HILL	189	68 NE	—	Yes	507375	3G/TUD/UK/210.	Pt. 2. 5738
"	TRY FARM (near)	189	68 NW	—	Yes	435357	39/TUD/UK/209.	Pt. 3. 5038-9
GWENNAP	TRESUDDERN	190	63 NE	Yes	—	732409	106G/UK/1663,	4069
LANDRAKE	MORVAH	186	45 NW	Yes	—	358599	3G/TUD/UK/144.	Pt. 1. 5004
LANREATH	TREVOLLARD (Higher)	186	43 NE	Yes	—	166576	CPE/UK/1794.	4048
LESNEWTH	TREWORLD	174	19 SE	Yes	Yes	123902	"	
LINKINHORNE	CARADON	186	28 NW	—	Yes	267715	39/TUD/UK/137.	Pt. 5. 5010
"	SHARPTOR (slopes)	186	36 SE	—	Yes	237738	"	Pt. 5. 5393
LISKEARD	TREVEDDOE	186	61 A	Yes	—	204613	CPE/UK/1794.	3119
MADRON	VENTONEGA	189	67 NE	—	Yes	444355	3G/TUD/UK/209.	Pt. 1. 5314
MINSTER	*VENDOWN	186	10 SE	Yes	Yes	106886	106G/UK/1498.	4160
MORVAL	CUTPARRET	186	44 NE	Yes	—	282594	No air cover available	
"	†TWINAWAYS	186	44 NE	Yes	—	277586	"	
MORWENSTOW	RECTORY FARM	174	1 SW	Yes	—	207151	3G/TUD/UK/158.	Pt. 1. 5004
NORTH HILL	BASTREET DOWNS	186	22 SW	—	Yes	246765	3G/TUD/UK/137.	Pt. 2. 5203
"	HAWKSTOR DOWNS	186	28 SW	—	Yes	254704	"	Pt. 5. 5207
"	KINGBEARE COTTAGE	186	22 SW	Yes	—	173749	"	Pt. 3. 5256
"	RIDGE	186	22 NW	Round	Yes	244778	"	Pt. 3. 5038
ST. BREOCK	TRENEAGUE	185	25 SE	Still inhabited	—	987713	CPE/UK/1999,	2049
ST. BREWARD	BUTTERSTOR	186	21 NW	—	Yes	155784	3G/TUD/UK/137.	Pt. 5. 5079
"	EAST ROSE	186	20 SE	Still inhabited	—	116762	"	Pt. 1. 5184

day some, such as East Dizzard (PL. XXIX, c; FIG. 90), still inhabited³³ and others in use as barns or shippens.³⁴

There is some comparable material from Cornish excavated settlements. The first known examination was made in 1868 at Smallacombe, St. Cleer, by J. T. Blight, an early worker among Cornish antiquities. He described the houses and made a plan showing them much overlaid by later buildings, possibly connected with tinning operations.³⁵ In 1891-2, the Rev. S. Baring-Gould excavated a group of platform-houses at Trewortha, a few miles from Smallacombe. Nine

³³ East Dizzard, O.S. 1 in. Cornwall, 174, Nat. grid 169989; Poldue, O.S. 1 in. Cornwall, 186, Nat. grid 119730.

³⁴ Polstroda, O.S. 1 in. Cornwall, 186, Nat. grid 112729; Carwen, O.S. 1 in. Cornwall, 186, Nat. grid 111738. East Dizzard and Twinaways are mentioned in Domesday Book—probably the head-farmsteads of trefs.

³⁵ J. T. Blight, 'Notice of enclosures at Smallacombe, Cornwall,' *J. Roy. Inst. Cornwall*, III (1868), 10.

TABLE—continued

PARISH	PLACE	O.S. 1 in.	O.S. 6 in.	HOUSE	FIELD	Nat. grid	R.A.F. AIR-PHOTOGRAPH
ST. BREWARD	*GARROW	186	21 NW	Yes	Yes	146780	" " " " Pt. 1. 5077-8
	GARROW GATE	186	21 NW	—	Yes	147798	" " " " Pt. 2. 5023
	LEAZE	186	20 NE	—	Yes	134768	" " " " Pt. 2. 5131
	MAIDEN TOR (by river De Lank)	186	15 SW	—	Yes	153811	106G/UK/1498, 4282
	PALMERS	186	20 SE	—	Yes	104777	3G/TUD/UK/137. Pt. 2. 5127
	ROUGHTOR	186	21 NW	—	Yes	147803	106G/UK/1498, 4282
	ROWDEN	186	20 NE	—	Yes	114791	3G/TUD/UK/137. Pt. 1. 5172
	*TRESWALLOCK	186	20 NE	Yes	Yes	104781	" " " " Pt. 1. 5172
	WHITEHEADS	186	20 SE	Round hut	Yes	122767	" " " " Pt. 2. 5129
	ST. CLEER	*SMALLACOMBE	186	21 SE SW	}Yes	Yes	239748
TRESIBBET		186	21 SE	—	Yes	204746-7	3G/TUD/UK/137. Pt. 5. 5247
*TREWORTH		186	21 SE 21 SW	}Yes	Yes	228762	" " " " Pt. 3. 5203
WETTON		186	28 NW	—	Yes	234707	3G/TUD/UK/137. Pt. 3. 5053
ST. CLEMENT	VINEYARD	190	58 SW	Yes	—	836453	
ST. GENNYS	†EAST DIZZARD	174	7 NE	Still inhabited	—	169989	3G/TUD/UK/208. Pt. 2. 5096
	TRESMORN	174	7 NE	Yes	—	159977	
ST. JUST-IN-PENWITH	BARTINNEY	189	73 NW SW	}Possibly	Yes	398295	106G/UK/1663. 4314
	CARNYORTH	189	67 SW	Yes	—	392329	3G/TUD/UK/209. 5396
ST. KEVERNE	MAINDALE	190	81 SE	—	Yes	782199	3G/TUD/UK. Pt. 3. 5233
ST. MARTIN BY LOOE	BARBICAN HILL	186	53 NW 53 SW	}—	Traces	257537	CPE/UK/1794. 3032
	HAY	186	53 NW 53 SW	}Yes Destroyed recently	—	261537	CPE/UK/1794. 3032.
ST. NEOT	BRONGELLY	186	27 NE	Yes	Yes	202727	3G/TUD/UK/137. Pt. 3. 5295
	HIGHER LANGDON	186	21 NE	—	Yes	207732	" " " " Pt. 5. 5341
	LOWER LANGDON	186	21 NE	?Round hut	Yes	217725	" " " " Pt. 5. 5341
"	PENKESTLE DOWNS	186	27 SW	—	Yes	174705	" " " " Pt. 1. 5394
	STUFFLE	186	27 NE	—	Yes	181722	" " " " Pt. 5. 5342
	WORTH	186	27 NE	Yes	Yes	202705	" " " " Pt. 5. 5398
SANCREED	BOSLOW	189	67 SW	Yes	—	395326	3G/TUD/UK/209. 5396
	BOSWENS	189	67 SE	—	Yes	407333	" " " " 5397
TINTAGEL	BOSSINEY	186	10 SW	Yes	Yes	067893	
	WILLAPARK	186	10 SW	—	Yes	066893	
VERYAN	RESKIVERS (near)	190	94 SW	Yes	—	921445	106G/UK/1663. 3015
WARLEGGAN	CARBURROW TOR	186	27 SW	Yes	Traces	157706	3G/TUD/UK/137. Pt. 5. 5371
	TRESLEA DOWNS	186	27 SW	—	Yes	137685	CPE/UK/1999. 4103
	WARLEGGAN DOWNS	186	27 SW	Yes	Yes	159702	3G/TUD/UK/137. Pt. 5. 5372
ZENNOR	YEO FARM (near)	186	27 SW	—	Yes	146686	CPE/UK/1999. 4103
	CHYKEMBRO COMMON	189	68 NW	—	Yes	446367	3G/TUD/UK/209. Pt. 1. 5314
	KERROW	189	68 NW	—	Yes	453378	3G/TUD/UK/209. 5309
	PORTHMEOR COMMON	189	68 NW	—	Yes	448365	3G/TUD/UK/209. Pt. 1. 5314
	TRENDRINE HILL	189	61 SW	—	Traces	476386	3G/TUD/UK/209. Pt. 1. 5032

‡ Some grid references are approximate

* Village

† In Domesday Book.

houses were discovered and a small quantity of pottery,³⁶ which was considered by the excavator insufficient to date the site. He says: 'With regard to the relics found in the settlement, it is not possible from them to determine its age, further than that it dates from after the Roman conquest.'³⁷ E. M. Jope considers this pottery 'closely comparable' with that found at Beere, Devon,³⁸ so that Garrow would be contemporary with both sites.³⁹ A third excavation was made at Ven-down, Minster, in 1955 (PL. XXIX, B).⁴⁰ This was useful as it touched on the

³⁶ A few of the sherds are at Launceston and Plymouth museums: cf. *Med. Archaeol.*, II (1958), 136, fig. 32.

³⁷ S. Baring-Gould, 'Ancient settlements at Trewortha marsh,' *J. Roy. Inst. Cornwall*, XI (1892), 68 ff.; XI (1893), 290.

³⁸ *Op. cit.* in note 15; see also air-photographs, *ibid.*, pls. xii, xiii.

³⁹ See pottery report, pp. 285 ff. below.

⁴⁰ D. Dudley, 'Recent archaeological work in Cornwall,' *Proc. West Cornwall Field Club*, I, no. 4 (1955-6), 147.

problem of the supersession of the circular by the rectangular house. There was a small group of oval houses and some fields.⁴¹ One house (49 ft. by 45 ft.) was partially excavated; it resembled the platform-house to some extent, being cut back into the hillside and having a heavy revetment at the lower end. The walls, 2 ft. to 3 ft. high, were much damaged and were made in dry-walling with small, slate slabs. A paved entrance with two steps led downward into the house from the SE. corner. Evidence of burning suggested a central hearth. Finds included 52 sherds of pottery similar to that found in the Garrow platform-house.⁴² Large hut-circles standing in medieval fields are known, but do not seem to belong there; they could be remains from an earlier age, or, possibly, from the bothies said to have been set up to house the 'summerers' pasturing cattle on the moor, and if so their date could be fairly recent. At Brongelly, for instance, where there are one or two of these large hut-circles in the fields, the medieval homestead consists of two platform-houses set in a small enclosure on the lower margins of the fields.⁴³ Nothing yet known in Cornwall suggests a development from the circular house towards the medieval rectangular form, but rather the long-continued survival of the hut-circle; the pottery at Vendown could have been a purchase at a local market.

Excavation in Cornwall has revealed few rectangular house-forms. The late Bryan O'Neil excavated a Roman villa—the only one in Cornwall⁴⁴—and, also during the Roman period, two rectangular rooms were intruded into the courtyard-house site at Goldherring, near Penzance.⁴⁵ C. A. Raleigh Radford discovered the plan of a dark-age 'hall' at Castle Dore⁴⁶ and R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford excavated a village-site at Mawgan Porth, N. Cornwall, dated about the tenth century.⁴⁷ The Mawgan sites included a room which housed both man and beast under the same roof, but the plan was complex and not a single unit like that at Garrow. A. C. Thomas has published a plan of three superimposed early houses at Gwithian.⁴⁸ The first excavated houses to have a real resemblance to the Garrow plan were two found on Tintagel Head by C. A. Raleigh Radford;⁴⁹ the larger measured 40 ft. by 20 ft. and had its entrances in the centre of its longer sides. The few fourth-century sherds found showed that it preceded the foundation of the monastery in A.D. 500.

There are long gaps between long-houses at Tintagel, the inhabited ones of 1086⁵⁰ and the excavated example at Garrow. The excavations in the widespread

⁴¹ Another site of this kind occurs at Great Care Hill, Cardinham.

⁴² It is not unusual to find hut-circles levelled by being set back into the hillside, but none are very large.

⁴³ O.S. 1 in. Cornwall, 186, Nat. grid 202727. This is a site where the fields run diagonally across the hill slopes.

⁴⁴ B. H. St. J. O'Neil, 'The Roman villa at Magor farm,' *J. Roy. Inst. Cornwall*, xxiv (1933-4), supplement.

⁴⁵ West Cornwall Field Club, excavation proceeding.

⁴⁶ C. A. R. Radford, 'Report on the excavations at Castle Dore,' *J. Roy. Inst. Cornwall*, n.s.1 (1951), appendix.

⁴⁷ R. L. S. Bruce-Mitford, *Recent Archaeological Excavations in Britain* (1956), p. 173.

⁴⁸ A. C. Thomas, *Med. Archaeol.*, III (1959), 315, fig. 105.

⁴⁹ C. A. R. Radford, *Tintagel Castle* (Ministry of Works official guide-book, 1935), p. 7.

⁵⁰ Cf. note 33.

long-house village-sites in England have not determined the origin of the type.⁵¹ Indeed much work remains to be done in both lowland and highland regions before the development of the long-house and its allied forms is likely to be fully understood.

THE POTTERY

By E. MARIE MINTER

The site produced remains of domestic pottery dating from the thirteenth to the early twentieth century and consisting mainly of cooking-pots and bowls or pans. It was recovered from the interior of house 1, from the drain on the exterior and from the S. entrance of the house, and also from the barn to the south-west of the house.

Sherds of coarse domestic pottery dating from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century were found in and on the floors and in the occupation-material over them in both the house and the barn. A rim of a bowl of early fourteenth-century date came from the drain outside the house. Part of the handle and rim of a seventeenth-century jug was found in the layer covering the remains of the peat stored in the upper part of the house after the period of occupation and immediately below the heavy fall of stones representing the collapse of the house-walls. On these stones, but crushed by a further small fall, was a large pan, or Cornish buzzza, with internal yellow glaze, belonging to the late seventeenth or eighteenth century. Sherds from the seventeenth century to the early part of the present century were recovered from the soil and from the turf and bracken roots covering both the house and barn.⁵²

THIRTEENTH- TO FIFTEENTH-CENTURY POTTERY (FIG. 91)

This pottery was in the main well-preserved but somewhat fragmentary and no complete vessel could be reconstructed. Sixteen sherds were found around the hearth in the living-room; 102 sherds were found in the byre, mainly against the manger but spreading thinly to the centre of the floor; 17 sherds were recovered from the drain outside the house; two lay on the stones of the cross-passage and ten outside and in the S. entrance of the house. Two sherds were found on the floor of the barn and three in the layer over the floor. The pottery included rim-sherds of three cooking-pots, a rim-sherd of a large vessel with a channel for lid-seating, 11 bases, rim-sherds of four bowls, part of the lower portion of a vessel probably a jug, a segment of a shallow dish, and decorated sherds from two vessels, one probably a cooking-pot, the other a bowl. No evidence has so far been found to suggest the making of domestic pottery on the site. It is therefore probable that this was bought in the nearest market town, Launceston.

Stratification and Dating. The sherds from the bottom of the occupation-layer, on the floor and in some instances embedded in the soft decaying rab surface of the floor, include convex bases and sherds from the rim and body of a cooking-pot. The fabric and texture of these sherds resemble closely that of cooking-pots from Beere in North Tawton, Devon,⁵³ and sherds from Vendown, a deserted medieval village in north Cornwall.⁵⁴ The rims are of characteristic medieval form and comparable rim-forms can be found in Devon⁵⁵ and Somerset⁵⁶ as well as elsewhere in the south-west of the country. The

⁵¹ J. G. Hurst, 'The medieval peasant house,' *Report of Viking Congress at York, 1961*, forthcoming.

⁵² I am grateful to Mr. J. G. Hurst of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments for his help with the pottery and for discussion of the dating.

⁵³ *Op. cit.* in note 15, p. 126.

⁵⁴ D. Dudley, 'Recent work in Cornish archaeology,' *Proc. W. Cornwall Field Club*, 1, no. 4 (1955-6), 147.

⁵⁵ S. E. Rigold, 'Totnes castle,' *Trans. Devon Assoc.*, LXXXVI (1954), fig. 3, no. A (Iva, 60).

⁵⁶ H. St. George Gray, 'Excavations at Burrow Mump, Somerset,' *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Soc.*, LXXXV (1939), fig. vii, p. 7.

fine hard buff ware of the portion of a jug (no. 10) with heavy internal rilling, from the bottom half of the occupation-material in the byre, would not be out of place in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

Sherds of a bowl with a lip (no. 3) were found in the occupation-layer in the byre. The sharp angles of the rim-flange and body of a bowl (no. 2) from the drain outside the house, assigned to the early part of the fourteenth century, have become rounded in this bowl; the side slopes in a slack curve to a base, probably convex. Traces of a white-painted band remain on the body. The ware is similar to that of the cooking-pots, but better fired, producing a harder fabric. The shape, together with the lip and the use of white paint, suggest a late fourteenth- or early fifteenth-century date.

The sherd with groove and incised wavy-line decoration and a horizontal applied and stabbed strip (no. 9) came from the top half of the occupation-layer in the byre and belongs to the fifteenth century.

The rim of a flanged bowl (no. 4) was found in the top of the occupation-layer over the hearth in the living-room under the remains of the peat stored there when it had ceased to be used as a dwelling-house. This bowl bears a close resemblance in form and fabric to bowls from the St. Germans kilns⁵⁷ belonging to the fifteenth century, where bands of white paint both inside and outside the bowls are a common feature of the decoration.

Sherds found at the S. entrance of the house include two (no. 8) with shallow horizontal grooves and incised wavy-line decoration also represented at Beere.⁵⁸ The soft fabric with an ochreous exterior surface resembles pottery from Trewortha⁵⁹ and Beere.

Pottery from the drain below the S. entrance includes a fragment of a thin everted rim with flattened top and small internal bead, part of a convex base and body-sherds of soft brown fabric, a few sherds of soft grey ware with orange-red surfaces, and the rim of a bowl (no. 2). This rim-form is possibly early fourteenth-century.

A base-herd of a cooking-pot resembling those from the house, and a segment of a shallow dish (no. 11) came from the floor of the barn. At the bottom of the deposit covering the floor was the rim of a vessel with a channel for lid-seating (no. 12). Vessels of a similar shape were common over much of England during the fifteenth century,⁶⁰ and the similarity of the fabric to that of sherds from the house suggests an early date in that century for the Garrow vessel. Near this vessel was a rim-herd of a straight-sided flanged bowl (no. 13). By comparison with bowls from the St. Germans kilns it may be considered as also of the fifteenth century, but possibly a little later in date than the vessel with the channel for lid-seating.

Fabric and Technique. The pottery is of fine clay containing particles of mica and grit; the grit is generally angular but some of the larger pieces are rounded. Most of the sherds attributable to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are poorly fired; the surface layers are orange-red or brown and approximately 1 mm. thick; the core is light grey; the fabric is soft and friable. A few sherds and one bowl (no. 2) are better fired and the surfaces are harder and slightly rough or harsh to the touch. With the exception of the vessel with channel for lid-seating (no. 12), the sherds assigned to the fifteenth century are harder and better fired. The surfaces are buff, brown and reddish-brown and are like sand-paper to the touch.

The pottery is wheel-thrown. Internal rilling can be seen on many sherds and is particularly noticeable on the jug (no. 10). Traces of light rilling are also visible on the outer surface of this vessel; the shallow lines are of irregular depth and broken at intervals around the pot.

⁵⁷ Unpublished.

⁵⁸ *Op. cit.* in note 15, fig. 31, nos. 37, 37A.

⁵⁹ *Op. cit.* in note 37 and *op. cit.* in note 15, p. 136, fig. 32. I am grateful to Mr. J. Barber for permission to examine sherds from Trewortha in the Plymouth Museum.

⁶⁰ E. M. Jope, 'Medieval notes,' *Oxoniensia*, xiv (1949), 78; see also p. 147, note 78, above.

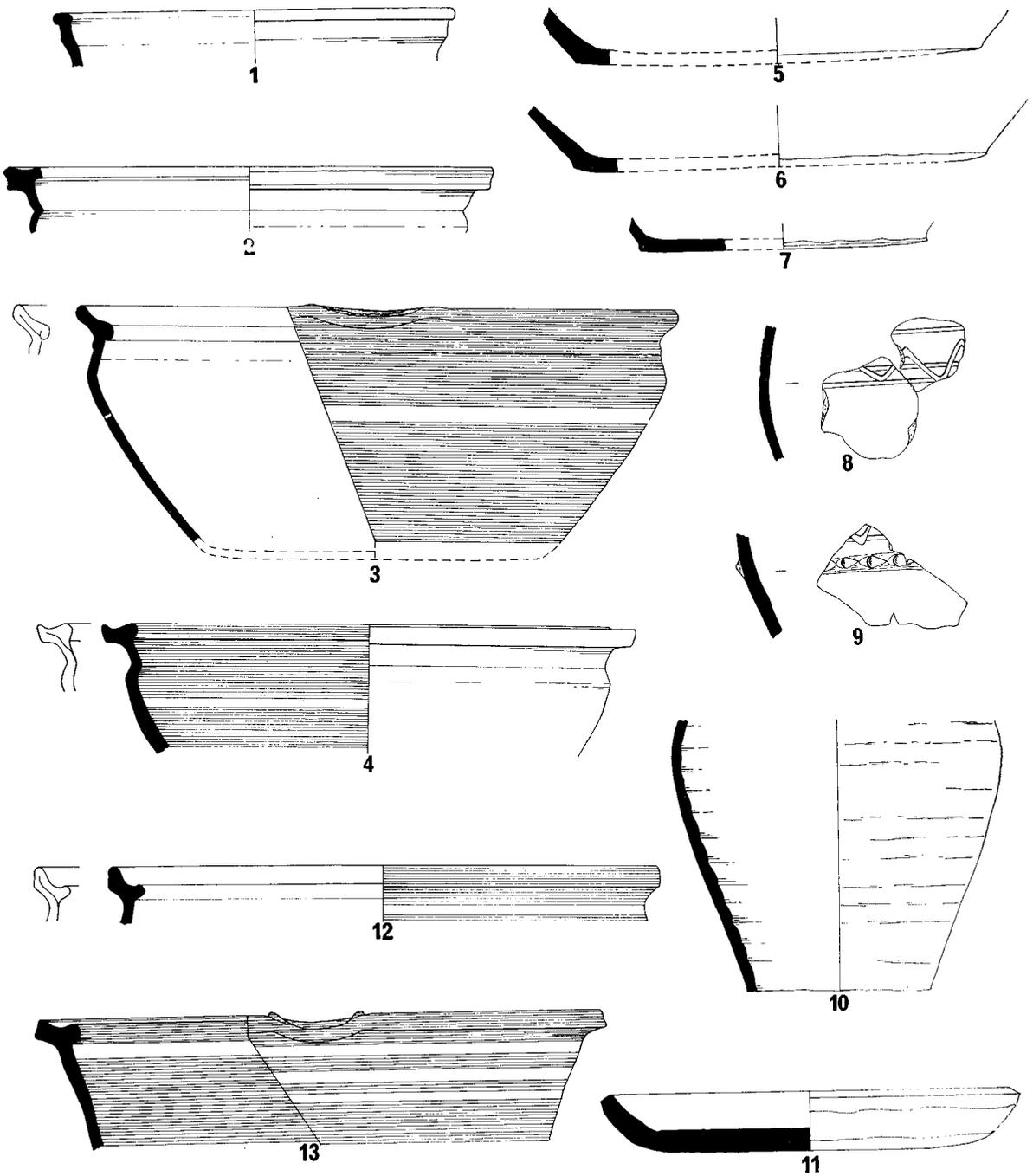


FIG. 91

GARROW TOR, CORNWALL

13th to 15th-century pottery from house 1 and barn (p. 292 f.). Sc. $\frac{1}{4}$

An insufficient amount of each thirteenth- and fourteenth-century rim survives to allow of the diameters given being other than approximate, since the curvature of the rims of this period tends to be irregular and the forms are therefore often more oval than circular.⁶¹ It is probable, however, that the diameters of the fifteenth-century rims are more accurate, since in the St. Germans material, where large pieces of the rims survive, they are more truly circular. This is possibly due to increased knowledge of materials and technique.

The impossibility of reconstructing any complete vessels precludes definite knowledge of the shapes of the cooking-pots or bowls, but a general idea can be gained by comparison of the Garrow pottery with that from other sites in Cornwall and Devon. This would suggest that the cooking-pots with their simple everted rims and moderate basal angles resemble in form those from Totnes⁶² and Beere.⁶³

The twelfth-century bowl from Exeter⁶⁴ has hitherto been the sole example of this class of vessel in Devon and Cornwall. The excavation of the fifteenth-century St. Germans kilns, however, produced a large group. The bowls from Garrow are, therefore, of particular interest and provide a useful link between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries for these vessels in the west country.

The heavy rim-flange of the fourteenth-century bowl (no. 2) may have evolved from the clubbed rim seen on thirteenth- and fourteenth-century vessels. The shape of the bowl resembles that of a cooking-pot to just below the girth, when the side curves in abruptly. Bowls of this shape are found in the St. Germans kilns, but the severity of the angles has become softened. These bowls are of medium depth with convex bases. The rims of two bowls (nos. 3 and 4) show the formation of the flange by an inward fold-over of material.⁶⁵ The flange of one particular bowl (no. 3) shows in the fracture how the potter made the flange by folding the clay inwards and then, by turning the clay inwards again between the two sections of the flange, formed the heavy internal bead. Rim-flanges formed in this way can be seen on twelfth-century vessels from the Clarendon hotel, Oxford,⁶⁶ and from Ascot Doilly,⁶⁷ on thirteenth-century cooking-pots from Beere in Devon,⁶⁸ and also on fifteenth-century bowls from St. Germans in Cornwall. The straight-sided bowl (no. 13) from the barn also has a flanged rim, but it is not possible to see in the fracture whether it is formed by a fold-over of clay. Examples of straight-sided bowls are also found at St. Germans.

The lips on two of the bowls (nos. 3 and 13) are made by smoothing back the inner side of the flange against the outer side and pulling the curve thus formed slightly outwards and downwards. On the St. Germans bowls the lips are opposite each other and their appearance suggests their purpose was as much for lifting as for pouring. If no evidence of the lips remains, it is difficult with material from a domestic site to distinguish between flanged-rim bowls and cooking-pots in which the upper parts are of similar form, unless there is sufficient depth of profile to show the abrupt inward curve of the bowl to the base.

Many of the sherds show that the pots were wiped with a wet cloth or smoothed with the hands while the clay was still plastic, leaving a thin film of clay over the grit, which protrudes slightly and gives the surface a pimply appearance after firing. This thin skin has broken away where it covered the larger pieces of grit and some of these have

⁶¹ *Op. cit.* in note 15, p. 127.

⁶² *Op. cit.* in note 55, figs. 3, 4, 6.

⁶³ *Op. cit.* in note 15, p. 128, fig. 30.

⁶⁴ G. C. Dunning and A. Fox, 'Twelfth-century pottery from Exeter,' *Antiq. J.*, xxxi (1951), 182, fig. 1, no. 14.

⁶⁵ Cf. *op. cit.* in note 15, p. 129; E. M. Jope and R. I. Threlfall, 'The twelfth-century castle at Ascot Doilly, Oxfordshire,' *Antiq. J.*, xxxix (1959), fig. 11, nos. E 13, G 4.

⁶⁶ E. M. Jope, 'The Clarendon hotel, Oxford,' *Oxoniensia*, xxiii (1958), fig. 18, no. z 13.

⁶⁷ Jope and Threlfall, *op. cit.* in note 65, fig. 9, nos. E 4, E 5; fig. 11, nos. E 13, G 4; fig. 14, no. E 21.

⁶⁸ *Op. cit.* in note 15, fig. 31, nos. 35, 36.

fallen out either during firing or as a result of weathering. The convex bases have been worked in the same way, but with greater pressure, so that the grit has been pushed into the clay, leaving the surface smooth and in some instances burring over the basal angle (nos. 5, 6, 7). One of the convex bases shows shallow grooves on the inside made by the fingers as the pot was turned while smoothing the outside. Another has finger-impressions made by putting the fingers on the base against the inner side of the pot during the smoothing process.⁶⁹

No evidence of knife- or tool-trimming can be seen on the surface of any of the cooking-pots or bowls, but it is implied in the section of one bowl (no. 4). The shallow dish (no. 11) has been shaped by this means while the clay was still plastic. The first trimming shows at 7 mm. to 10 mm. below the rim; about 20 mm. below the rim a second trimming can be seen which extends to the base, rounding off the basal angle.

Of the 11 bases found on the site, nine are of the usual medieval convex type; two are flat. All the bases have a moderate angle and range from approximately 7 in. to 10 in. in diameter. One of the flat bases has been removed from the wheel-head by the use of a tool or knife; the other shows concentric marks made by cutting the pot off the wheel-head by means of a wire or string. Both these methods result in a flat base.⁷⁰

Two sherds (nos. 8 and 9) have grooves and incised wavy-line decoration, frequently found on medieval pottery. One sherd (no. 9) has similar decoration and also a horizontal applied and stabbed strip. Bowls with these types of decoration are represented in the St. Germans material. One bowl (no. 3) shows the remains of a white-painted band on the outside; two bowls (nos. 4 and 13) have white-painted bands both outside and inside, and one bowl (no. 13) has a white-painted band on the groove of the rim-flange. A similar band also shows outside on the channel under the flange of the vessel with the rim for lid-seating (no. 12).

Types. Cooking-pots are represented by three rims, a quantity of wall-sherds and at least five base-sherds, soot-blackened by fire. One rim (no. 1), four wall-sherds and a base-sherd (no. 5) are probably from the same pot, and can be paralleled by a cooking-pot at Totnes castle.⁷¹ Two fragments of cooking-pot rims (not illustrated) can also be paralleled at Totnes.⁷²

Bowls are represented by four rim-sherds and a quantity of body-sherds; it is not possible to assign any of the base-sherds to the bowls. The bowl for which an early fourteenth-century date is suggested (no. 2) has a heavy flange with sharp angles; the wall is very thin and the fabric soft and friable. The fabric of the bowl with the lip (no. 3) is harder and better fired; the flange is rounded and the curve of the body slack. The base was probably convex. Traces of a white-painted band remain on the outside. A late fourteenth- or early fifteenth-century date would not be out of place for this bowl. The third bowl (no. 4) has a heavy flange with rounded angles; the fabric is hard and well-fired and the surfaces are uneven and harsh to the touch. The remains of a narrow white-painted band can be seen inside the bowl. The flanged bowl (no. 13) from the barn is straight-sided with part of a lip and three bands of white paint outside and one inside. These two bowls belong to the fifteenth century by comparison with bowls from the St. Germans kilns, where they are one of the main products.

A segment of a shallow dish (no. 11) was found on the floor of the barn. This type of dish, called in Cornwall a 'baker', was used for cooking outside the house. A faggot was lighted on a flat stone slab and when it had burnt clear, the ashes were pushed aside and the food placed on the heated slab. The baker was then placed over the food and the ashes were drawn up around and over it. The fire was relighted or turf heaped over the ashes if greater heat or longer baking time was required.⁷³ This method of

⁶⁹ *Op. cit.* in note 15, p. 127.

⁷⁰ *Cf. op. cit.* in note 66, p. 52.

⁷¹ *Op. cit.* in note 55, fig. 3, no. A (Iva, 60).

⁷² *Ibid.*, fig. 6, no. B (III, 65).

⁷³ I am grateful to Miss I. F. Snowdon of Liskeard for this information.

outdoor cooking preceded the introduction of the cloam oven into Cornwall and continued in use into the nineteenth century.⁷⁴ This dish was probably used in medieval times for baking the bread made in flat round cakes,⁷⁵ the baking being done outside the house as was the custom in parts of west Wales,⁷⁶ where it also seems to have continued into the last century.⁷⁷

The surfaces of the Garrow baker are blackened and polished with use. The original light-brown colour shows only in places on the inside and a thick incrustation of carbon covers a large part of the outer surface and the base. The side is splayed out and fine rotational marks can be seen on the inner surface and are probably the result of holding a piece of cloth or leather against it when rotating.⁷⁸ Inside, on the bottom of the dish, marks are visible of the tool used to make a level surface. The rim has a slight outward slope and, when in use, rested on the inner edge, which has become rounded and polished. The outside has been shaped by knife- or tool-trimming and is smoothed downwards from rim to base; this is indicated by fine lines similar to those on the inner surface. The flat base is approximately 15 mm. thick. The base fracture shows three laminations each approximately 5 mm. thick and running parallel to the inner surface.

Part of an almost identical baker was found in a sixteenth- or seventeenth-century context during recent excavations at Cooksley court, Plymouth.⁷⁹ Shallow dishes have been found at Gunwalloe and Gwithian⁸⁰ in the south-west of Cornwall, and a sherd of a shallow platter in the St. Germans kilns in the east of the county. Part of a large shallow dish was also found in a late thirteenth-century context at Snargate street, Dover;⁸¹ petrographical analysis suggested the north of Cornwall as its place of origin. It is not known, however, whether these dishes were made or used for the same purpose as the Garrow baker.

Part of the rim of a large vessel with a channel for lid-seating (no. 12) and with a band of white paint in the finger-channel under the flange was found in the deposit on the floor of the barn. Parallels can be seen in a group of fifteenth-century vessels from Oxford and the Oxford region,⁸² and large numbers of these rims, but of more exaggerated type, were found in the Potterspurty kilns, Northants.⁸³ Examples can also be seen in thirteenth-century pottery from Ascot village.⁸⁴

POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY (PL. XXIX, D; FIG. 92)

Part of the handle, attached at the rim, of a jug of seventeenth-century date was found in the material over the thin layer of peat which remained from the use of the upper part of the house as a peat store, and was immediately below the layer of large stones representing the collapse of the house-walls. It is of coarse ware; the surface is light red and pitted; the core is dark grey and cindery.

On top of the fall of stones over the cross-passage, but crushed by another but smaller fall, was a large deep bowl, called in Cornwall a *buzza* (PL. XXIX, D, 2; FIG. 92,

⁷⁴ Miss Snowdon's mother, at the age of 14 in 1890, saw a baker similar to the Garrow dish but of larger diameter in the kitchen of her home and its use was explained to her by her mother.

⁷⁵ M. E. Seebohm, *Evolution of the English Farm* (2 ed., revised 1952), pp. 114, 169, 188.

⁷⁶ I. C. Peate, *The Welsh House* (1944), p. 84.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 111.

⁷⁸ Anna O. Shepard, *Ceramics for the Archaeologist* (Washington, 1957), pp. 188, 189, fig. 13 f.

⁷⁹ Unpublished.

⁸⁰ E. M. Jope, 'A late dark-ages site at Gunwalloe,' *Proc. W. Cornwall Field Club*, 1, no. 4 (1955-6), p. 139, fig. 27, nos. 11, 12.

⁸¹ M. M. Rix and G. C. Dunning, 'Excavation of a medieval garderobe in Snargate street, Dover,' *Archaeol. Cantiana*, LXIX (1955), 150-152, fig. 8.

⁸² E. M. Jope, 'Some recent finds of medieval pottery,' *Oxoniensia*, VII (1942), fig. 20, nos. 6-8; *id.*, *op. cit.* in note 60, p. 78, fig. 11, nos. 5-8.

⁸³ E. M. Jope, 'A late medieval pottery kiln at Potterspurty, Northampton,' *Archaeol. News Letter* II (March 1950), 156-7; and see also *id.*, *op. cit.* in note 60, fig. 11, nos. 2-4.

⁸⁴ Jope and Threlfall, *op. cit.* in note 65, p. 264, fig. 19, nos. 5-7.

no. 15), which could be completely reconstructed. It is of soft buff ware and has a yellow internal glaze which covers the whole surface of the bowl from below the inner bead of the rim. These bowls begin in the second half of the seventeenth century and continue in use to the present time. An eighteenth-century date is suggested for this Garrow specimen. In 1960 a large deposit of late pottery recovered from the top-soil covering the interior of house II included a number of these bowls with yellow, yellowish-green and brown internal glaze with a wide variety of rim-form. It is probable that this

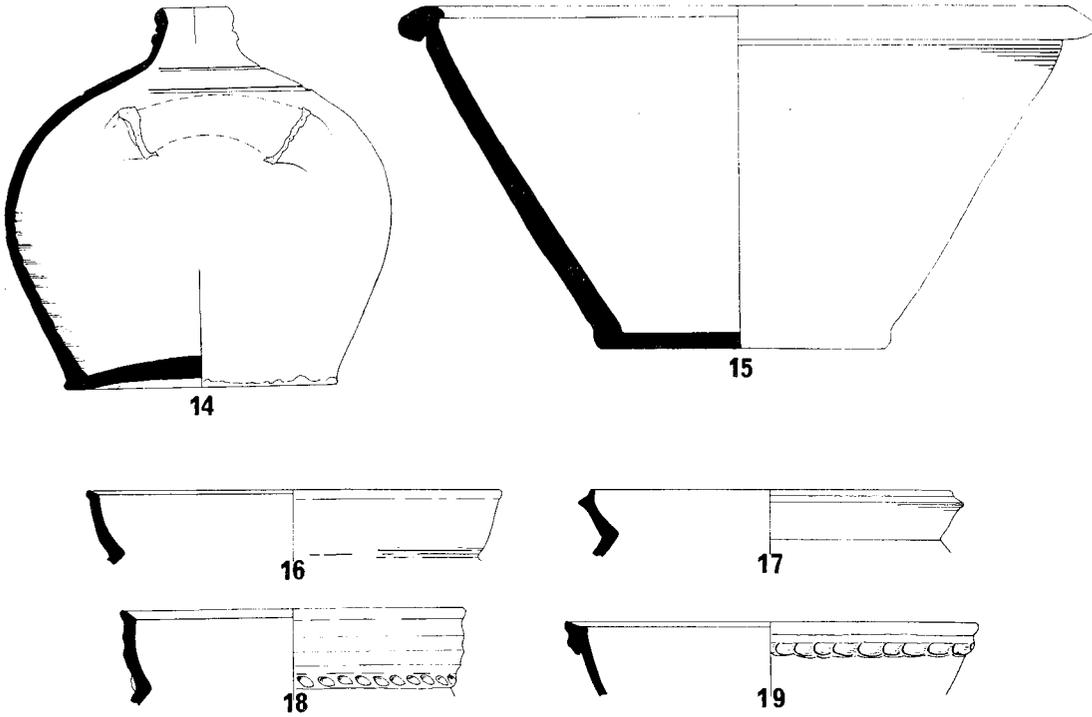


FIG. 92

POTTERY FROM CORNWALL (p. 293 f.). Sc. $\frac{1}{4}$

14 and 15, post-medieval, Garrow Tor, house I; 16, 12th-century, hut in pound near Garrow village; 17-19, 12th to 13th-century, Vendown, Minster

pottery came from the 'modern' farmhouse (PL. XXVIII, D; FIG. 87) which succeeded the long-houses and was occupied up to the second quarter of this century.⁸⁵

Pottery dating from the seventeenth century to the early part of the present century was found in the soil and bracken roots covering both the long-house and the barn, and includes glazed and unglazed sherds and fragments of stoneware.

A bottle-costrel (PL. XXIX, D, I; FIG. 92, no. 14) was found on the ramp outside the lower end of the house. It stood on a large flat stone against the wall near the NE. corner of the house and had been broken by the fall of stones from the house-wall. As the pottery sequence inside the house indicates that the walls collapsed in the seventeenth century, a date not later than then can be suggested, and it may even be earlier. Comparative material for all types of costrels is not plentiful and it is not therefore possible to arrive at a closer dating or to suggest the place of origin.

⁸⁵ A large deposit of similar pottery was recovered from a site in Mawgan in Meneage, near Helston, Cornwall, in 1959, and work on this and the Garrow material is in progress.

A large part of this costrel was recovered. It was squat in shape with a small rounded mouth-piece; a wide band of white slip, now much worn off, covered the widest part of the body, where two horizontal handles, broken off and now missing, had been smoothed on to the vessel. One handle was slightly higher than the other and they had not been placed directly opposite one another, having a gap of 6 in. between them on one side and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. on the other. It had been badly chipped around the base, owing probably to its use out-of-doors and to the practice of standing it on the flat stone. The base thickens towards the centre and is slightly concave. The lower part of the body shows faint rilling on the outside and heavy rilling inside. A rough wide diagonal 'scar' shows between the handles and an indentation above the basal angle was probably caused by the thumb pressing into and roughening the surface in lifting the vessel when the clay was plastic. The body is unevenly and poorly finished, but the mouth-piece shows considerable skill in making. The costrel has become slightly distorted in the firing, which was to a sufficiently high temperature to produce a non-porous stoneware. Parts of three mouth-pieces somewhat similar to that of this vessel, but in fifteenth-century fabric, have been found at Landulph,⁸⁶ Cornwall, and also part of a stoneware bottle-costrel. This type of costrel, sometimes called a harvest-bottle, was principally used by agricultural workers in the harvest-field, as were the small wooden cider tubs common in the west country up to the beginning of this century.⁸⁷ It also calls to mind the Dorchester pill, a harvest-bottle peculiar to Dorset and made in that county.⁸⁸

CATALOGUE

A. From Garrow: house 1 and barn

FIG. 91

1. Rim-herd of cooking-pot with external bead and grooving on neck under bead; flattened on top and showing wide channel inside with fine lines made by rotational smoothing during throwing, causing a slight turned-over ridge inside rim. From centre of floor in byre.
2. Rim-herd of deep moderate-sized bowl; fairly hard fabric, pimply surface with grey-brown core; strongly moulded flange; very thin walls. From SE. corner of drain outside house near entrance.
3. Rim-herd of bowl with large flange formed by inward fold-over; brown to grey-brown ware; inner edge of flange smoothed against outer edge to form lip; traces of white-painted band on body. Sherds found with this rim but not joining with it suggest a fairly deep bowl with convex base. From occupation-material on floor in byre.
4. Rim-herd of deep bowl similar in form to preceding but of harder fabric. Fine lines show rotational smoothing; flange shows indication of inward fold-over of clay; white-painted band on inner surface. From top of occupation-material over hearth in living-room.
5. Base-herd; orange-red surfaces; grey core; soft powdery fabric; traces of burring-over of basal angle. Probably part of cooking-pot, no. 1 above. From centre of floor in byre.
6. Base-herd as no. 5, but thinner. From floor of living-room.
7. Base-herd; brown to grey-brown ware; noticeable burring-over of basal angle. From floor of byre.

⁸⁶ I am indebted to Canon J. H. Adams who has given me the pottery from this site.

⁸⁷ C. A. Raleigh Radford, 'Two local costrels in the Torquay Nat. Hist. Museum,' *Devon Archaeol. Exploration Soc.*, v, pt. i (1953), 29.

⁸⁸ An example of a nineteenth-century Dorchester pill can be seen in the Fielden collection in the Torquay Nat. Hist. Museum.

8. Sherds with shallow grooves and incised wavy-line decoration; soft fabric; brown exterior surface; orange-red interior; grey core. From S. entrance of house.
9. Sherd of grey-brown ware with hard surfaces; incised wavy line and groove above horizontal applied and stabbed strip. From occupation-material in byre.
10. Half of lower part of vessel, slender and more definite in form than a cooking-pot, probably a jug; thin, well-fired grey ware with buff, slightly pimply surfaces; rilling very marked on interior; light and broken on exterior. From occupation-material on floor of byre.
11. Segment of shallow dish (or baker); splayed sides with outward sloping flat rim; base flat and laminated; surfaces smooth and originally brown; ware coarse, grey to black; the whole dish blackened and hardened by use in the fire. From floor of barn.
12. Bifid rim of large vessel; soft brown and grey-brown ware; white-painted band on outside channel under flange. In material on floor of barn.
13. Flanged rim of straight-sided bowl with lip; red-brown surfaces and grey core; hard fabric with sand-papery surfaces; three white-painted bands below flange on outside, two on inside; white-painted band in grooved top of flange. In material on floor of barn.

FIG. 92

14. Costrel (see also PL. XXIX, D, 1); hard grey stoneware with brown surfaces; small rounded mouth-piece; horizontal handles (missing); upper part covered with remains of white slip. Under fallen wall-stones on ramp outside byre.
15. Large pan or buzza (see also PL. XXIX, D, 2); straight-sided with heavy rounded flange-rim; soft buff ware; internal yellow glaze; base flat. In fallen wall-stones over cross-passage of house.

B. *From hut in pound near Garrow village*

16. Two cooking-pot rim-sherds of the same soft friable ware with orange-red surfaces and light grey core as cooking-pots from house 1. The everted rim with flat inturned top bears a close resemblance to two from Totnes⁸⁹ of twelfth-century date. Other sherds, of the same fabric, include part of the rim and shoulder of a heavy cooking-pot, a convex base-herd and a small handle.

C. *From Vendown, north Cornwall*

17. Rim-herd of cooking-pot; fairly hard fabric with pimply surface; grey-brown exterior, orange-red interior surfaces and grey core. This rim-form is found at many twelfth-century sites and is comparable with a cooking-pot rim of the twelfth or thirteenth century from Plymouth.⁹⁰
18. Rim-herd of cooking-pot; orange-red surfaces and light grey core; fairly hard fabric. The rim is similar to that of no. 16 with finger channels on the exterior. The band of clay with impressed finger-decoration on the neck above the rim-shoulder angle is frequently seen on twelfth- and thirteenth-century pottery and on this vessel suggests decoration rather than strengthening, as on two rims from Beere,⁹¹ on which the frilled band occurs on the rim-shoulder angle.
19. Rim-herd of cooking-pot; soft fabric with orange-red surfaces and light grey core. The decoration below the rim on the exterior does not appear to be an applied strip but has been formed by folding over the clay and pressing it down by using the finger-nail, although evidence for this cannot be seen in the fracture. It brings to

⁸⁹ *Op. cit.* in note 55, fig. 4, nos. 61, 62.

⁹⁰ *Op. cit.* in note 15, fig. 33, no. 51.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, fig. 31, nos. 32, 33.

mind the slanting nail-marks caused by folding and smoothing down the fold-over of the clay, and the less frequently seen knife-slashes on eleventh- and twelfth-century vessels,⁹² and is possibly a development of this technique. The finger-nail impressed ridge gives the impression of an applied and decorated strip under the rim, as seen on two storage-jars from Ascot Doilly.⁹³ Part of the neck and shoulder found with the 52 sherds recovered from the excavation at Vendown is probably from this vessel.

⁹² *Op. cit.* in note 66, p. 52.

⁹³ Jope and Threlfall, *op. cit.* in note 65, fig. 14, nos. E 22, E 23.