

CONGRESS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES,

November 28th, 1920.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ANCIENT EARTHWORKS AND FORTIFIED ENCLOSURES.

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REPORT

OF THE

EARTHWORKS COMMITTEE.

THE archaeological world is beginning to resume its normal activities, though excavation work and the general work of Societies is hampered by the high cost of labour and printing. The Report from Ireland also shows that the disturbed state of that country has greatly affected archaeological work there.

Reports from England and Wales seem to show that the destruction and damage to earthworks, which it was feared would result from military entrenchments and other activities due to the war, have not materialized—at any rate to the extent anticipated. The only case brought to notice in the present Report is one of some slight damage to the ramparts of Poundbury, in Dorsetshire, which was used as a camp for German prisoners of war.

Two cases referred to under the heading of “Destruction” point to weaknesses in the “Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act,” which detract very much from its usefulness. The case of Penmaenmawr, where the hill-fort is undergoing rapid destruction under a lease granted to a quarrying company, emphasises the fact that the Act contains no provision for the payment of compensation to the owners of any ancient monument, who would suffer pecuniarily if it were taken over by the public. In the other case, where Bokerley Dyke, on the borders of Dorsetshire and Hampshire, is suffering greatly from the burrowing of rabbits, it is not clear whether this would constitute “neglect” within the meaning of Clause 6 of the Act, which would justify the Ancient Monuments Board in taking action for the preservation of the dyke. There can be little doubt that the

dyke ought to be regarded as an ancient monument within the meaning of the Act ; but action in the case would no doubt be difficult, owing to the fact that two counties and some three owners are involved, and that the ravages of rabbits are very difficult to check.

As regards preservation, the Devonshire Association and the other bodies concerned are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts to save Dartmoor from exploitation and its antiquities from destruction. The appointment of a Committee by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society to watch over the ancient monuments of the county deserves to be mentioned and imitated. We may also congratulate the National Trust upon its acquisition of the "Giant" of Cerne Abbas. Although this is outside the classes of earthworks with which the Committee is concerned, its preservation seems deserving of mention.

Mr. G. Simpson's work on the Vallum of the Roman Wall shows that there is still much to be learned about monuments which have been studied for generations, while reports of unrecorded earthworks from Somersetshire and Wiltshire, and of fresh facts with regard to known earthworks in Hertfordshire and Sussex, show that there are discoveries still to be made in counties that have been worked for years.

In spite of labour difficulties, exploration has been fairly active, especially in Wales, where work has begun on the important site of Segontium. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society has appointed a Committee and inaugurated a fund for excavation ; the Somerset Earthworks Committee, which was appointed just before the war broke out to carry out excavations of earthworks in the county, has at last been able to commence operations by the exploration of a long barrow at Murtry Hill ; and a Committee has been appointed to examine the site of the Roman station at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, though up to the present the work has not been begun.

Besides this, further work in Somerset, carried out by the Messrs. Bazell, has shown that a camp, which the Victoria County History describes as a hill converted into

a camp merely by scarping the sides, has, in fact, been defended by dry stone walls of great strength, though these have fallen into ruin and become overgrown with turf.

In addition to the above, work has been continued at Hengistbury Head, Margidunum, Ilkley, and elsewhere.

A monograph on The Earthworks of Bedfordshire, by Mr. Beauchamp Wadmore, has been published by subscription.

Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, Archaeology Officer of the Ordnance Survey and Hon. Secretary of the Congress, and Dr. Wm. Martin, F.S.A., late Hon. Secretary of the Congress, have been appointed members of the Committee.

The Committee has to deplore the loss of the late Mr. George Clinch, F.G.S., Assistant Treasurer of the Congress of Archaeological Societies and Librarian of the Society of Antiquaries, who rendered valuable assistance in the preparation of the Bibliography attached to its Reports and in many other ways. It has, however, to thank Mr. A. E. Steele, of the Staff of the Society of Antiquaries, for revising and amplifying the Bibliography attached to the present Report, as well as the secretaries of affiliated Societies and other correspondents who have furnished the information upon which the Report is based.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

PRESERVATION AND RECORD.

BERKSHIRE.—Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, F.S.A., reports the following unrecorded earthworks:—

————— Hampstead Marshall. Two “tumuli,” shown as such on the O.S. maps, in Hampstead Marshall Park, are wrongly marked. They are actually castle mounds.

————— Crookham. A square moat, the site of Crookham Manor.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.—A small earthwork situated on the right bank of the River Llŵchwr, near Llandennech, was reported to the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society at the Annual Meeting, on the 9th September, 1920.

————— Llanllwni. The statement in the last Report that felling of timber had shown that an earthwork at Llanllwni had no enclosure, and must be classed as a simple mound and ditch, has been found to be incorrect. Further clearance of timber has revealed the existence of a bailey, previously hidden by dense undergrowth, and the work remains classed as “mount and bailey.”

CUMBERLAND-NORTHUMBERLAND.—At a joint visit of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological Society and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-on-Tyne to the Roman Wall in September, 1920, Mr. G. Simpson pointed out in the vallum, the earthwork which runs behind the stone wall at varying distances, a series of depressions which occur over considerable stretches at roughly regular intervals, and appear to correspond with a partial filling up of the fosse of the vallum in the line of the depressions, as though they had been caused by the construction of gaps in the vallum, with corresponding causeways over the fosse.

DEVONSHIRE.—The Devonshire Association, in co-operation with certain other societies and public bodies interested, successfully opposed the Bill for the Incorporation of the Dartmoor and District Hydro-Electric Supply Company, which proposed the exploitation of Dartmoor and the destruction of several of the pre-historic remains thereon.

DORSETSHIRE.—The “Cerne Giant,” a figure incised on the turf of a hillside at Cerne Abbas, has been presented to the National Trust for preservation.

GLoucestershire.—Mr. O. G. S. Crawford reports many unrecorded barrows, including fifteen Long barrows and fifty Round barrows, which are not marked in the O.S. maps (1903 edition).

Hampshire.—New Forest. Mr. Heywood Sumner, F.S.A., has found an oval earthwork in Sloden Wood, with spread and wasted banks, much hidden by fern and undergrowth. It was apparently an enclosure surrounding the sites of two pottery kilns.

———— Mr. O. G. S. Crawford also reports many unrecorded barrows from the County (including the Isle of Wight), both Long and Round.

Hertfordshire.—Mr. G. E. Cruickshank, F.S.A., and the Hon. Sec. have found traces of a sunken way, which appears to have run from the "Devil's Dyke" at Marford, on the River Lea, two miles from Wheatthampstead, to "Beech Bottom," near St. Alban's, and to have continued thence to an apparently unrecorded bastion-like earthwork at St. Alban's close to the River Ver and opposite Verulamium. A sunken way appears to have run also from the ford at Marford for some distance to the north of the Lea.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE-SHROPSHIRE.—Mitchells Fold, a stone circle on Stapeley Hill, on the border of these two counties, has been handed over to the Office of Works, through the influence of Sir Offley Wake-man, for preservation as an ancient monument.

SOMERSETSHIRE.—The attention of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society has been called, through Dr. Philip Jones, to a circular earthwork, apparently unrecorded and not marked in the O.S. maps, situated a little to the east of Cranmore Tower, near Leigh-on-Mendip. The earthwork, which presents some unusual features, is close to the ancient road along the Mendips, which probably follows a pre-Roman trackway.

SUSSEX.—Mr. H. S. Toms reports that there are indications that an earthwork on Waterpit Hill, about a mile north of Falmer, which now consists merely of a bank and ditch, may be the remains of a large enclosure, probably an old manor boundary. Traces found by Mr. A. Hadrian Allcroft show that the enclosure may have had an original circuit of some seven miles.

———— Dr. Eliot Curwen reports that he has made representations concerning a fine stretch of what he regards as a "Celtic" Road with a Circus on Park Brow, Sompting, to the farmer who farms the land, with a view to staying further depredations by flint-pickers.

WILTSHIRE.—Mr. O. G. S. Crawford reports the following unrecorded earthworks, besides many barrows hitherto unrecorded :—

———— East Knoyle. A square moat.

———— Chicklade. A square camp in Great Ridge Wood.

WILTSHIRE.—North Savernake. A square earthwork, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles S.E. of Marlborough, just N. of Furze Coppice House. The rampart and ditch outside it are exceptionally well preserved. There are traces of entrances on the E. and W. and a broad flat bank on the N. to the west of and in line with the northern vallum. There are reasons for supposing this work to be the "Evesbury" mentioned in the perambulations of Savernake Forest of A.D. 1300.

———— Collingbourne Kingston. An earthwork at Crowdon Clump, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles S.E. of Easton village. This is a contour work whose vallum partly coincides with a small bank surrounding the clump, but is traceable inside the vallum and ditch on the N.W. and outside it on the N. and N.E. From its position it can be identified with an "eorthburg" mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon bounds of Great Bedwyn. (*See Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, June, 1921, p. 287.)

YORKSHIRE.—The Yorkshire Archaeological Society has appointed an Ancient Monuments Committee to watch over all the ancient monuments of the county, including earthworks.

———— The same Society has protested against the filling in of the ditch of an earthwork on Langton Wold, Malton. The owner referred the protest to the tenant, and no further damage has been done.

DESTRUCTION.

BEDFORDSHIRE.—Mr. Beauchamp Wadmore reports that the course of the brook "Til" at Yilden has been diverted so that the brook now flows within the outer moat of the earthwork known as "Yilden Castle."

CARNARVONSHIRE.—Penmaenmawr. The quarrying away of this hill-fort, to which attention was recently called in the public press, continues. Unfortunately, the terms of the lease granted to the quarrying Company make it impossible for the destruction to be stayed, except upon payment of compensation, which is not forthcoming.

DORSETSHIRE.—During the war, a large hutment for German prisoners-of-war was placed on the eastern slopes of Poundbury, the pre-Roman camp on the outskirts of Dorchester, and the camp itself was enclosed for the use of the prisoners. Captain J. E. Acland reports that, although there has been no serious mutilation of the ramparts, the banks appear to have been lowered or worn away in some places, either by the sentries or by wear and tear.

DORSETSHIRE-HAMPSHIRE.—With reference to last year's Report, which called attention to the damage being done to Bokerley Dyke, on the borders of these counties, by the burrowing of rabbits, Dr. Eric Gardner reports that the destruction is amazing. There are lengths of the dyke where the ditch is filled up nearly to the level with fresh white

chalk, while the corresponding rampart is so riddled that the crest is often only a thin coating of turf over a honeycombed area of vallum.

LANCASHIRE.—Stainton-in-Furness. The enclosure of a "British Settlement" at Stone Close, the gradual destruction of which by quarrying has been chronicled in various Reports, has now finally disappeared. (*See Reports for 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, and 1916.*)

MIDDLESEX.—South Mimms. The last Report contained a description of an earthwork on Warren Gate Farm in this parish (not Warren Green). We regret to learn that the sunken way leading up to the work, which was recorded as a new discovery, has now been ploughed up and filled in.

SOMERSETSHIRE.—Mr. H. St. George Gray reports that the damage due to mining operations within and outside Cannington Park Camp, referred to in the Reports for 1916 and 1919, has now ceased. (*See also under Exploration.*)

EXPLORATION.

BERKSHIRE.—The excavations at Wayland's Smithy, begun in 1919 by Mr. H. G. W. d'Almaine, Town Clerk of Abingdon, under the direction of Mr. C. R. Peers, F.S.A., Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and Mr. Reginald Smith, F.S.A., as mentioned in the last Report, were continued in 1920, by permission of the Earl of Craven, who kindly provided the labour. The attempt to explore a famous legendary site has met with considerable success, and it is now clear that a Long barrow, since denuded, originally covered the cruciform chamber, many stones of which are still standing. The barrow seems to have had squared ends, and remains of a revetment were traced along both sides. The brushwood was cleared and three beech trees felled, as their roots were interfering with the monument. Many of the stones that enclosed the mound were found underground and left uncovered. A report by Mr. Peers and Mr. Reginald Smith, based on a plan by the Rev. C. Overy, was presented to the Society of Antiquaries in December, 1920, and the human bones discovered in the chambers on the edge of the barrow have been examined by Mr. Dudley Buxton.

CARNARVONSHIRE.—Excavations undertaken at Bryn Gefeilian, near Capel Curig, Bettws-y-coed, by members of the Nant Conway Antiquarian Society, have revealed an early Roman fort, which is being explored.

————— Excavations at Craig Lwyd, Penmaenmawr, have resulted in the discovery of a manufactory of stone axes.

————— The excavation of the Roman fort at Segontium has been begun by the Committee formed for the purpose, as mentioned in the last Report. The ditches and pits outside the fort on the west side are at present under exploration.

CARNARVONSHIRE.—The Cambrian Archaeological Association is continuing the exploration of the hill-fort at Penmaenmawr in advance of the quarrying, which is gradually destroying it.

DENBIGHSHIRE.—The hill fort of Dinorben, Kinnell Park, near Abergele, is being explored by the Abergele and District Antiquarian Association.

DORSETSHIRE.—Dorchester. The making of paths and drains in the German prisoners' camp at Poundbury brought to light several ancient burials, *viz.*, two large stone coffins, one lead coffin, and one burial of a child with a simple bronze torc round the neck-bone, now in the Dorset County Museum. The stone coffins remain *in situ*, and are reported to have contained no grave goods.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, on the initiative of the President (Mr. J. E. Pritchard, F.S.A.), has started an Excavation Fund, and appointed a Committee to carry out systematic excavation work in the county, in order to throw light upon the origin of the camps and tumuli, and to examine the Roman sites.

HAMPSHIRE.—Barley Pound, a Norman earthwork in the parish of Crondall, has been investigated by a Committee of the Farnham Field Club, under the presidency of Brigadier-General White, of Farnham.

———— Hengistbury Head. These excavations have been continued at intervals during the past year by Mr. H. St. George Gray on behalf of the owner, Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge. A considerable amount of trenching has been carried out on the west side of the new "Nursery Garden" and a little south of the shore of Christchurch Harbour, in a part which had been but slightly examined by the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries in 1911-12. Structurally not much of interest has been brought to light except drains cut into sand some 2½ feet below the surface, some pits, and a couple of small hearths. The finds cover the late prehistoric and Roman periods. Hundredweights of pottery of various types have been collected; bronze fibulæ, two Gaulish coins, Kimmeridge shale, portions of querns and crucibles, spindlewhorls, flint implements, and one or two nearly complete pots are among the specimens found.

———— A Twin barrow and a Round barrow at Roundwood, near Laverstoke, have been examined by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford on behalf of the owner, Sir William Portal, F.S.A. Unfortunately the Twin barrow had been opened before, and nothing further was found in it, while the Round barrow contained only a cremated interment with no other relics.

MIDDLESEX —Following out a suggestion made in the Report for last year, the British Archaeological Society, the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, and the South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies have appointed a Committee to consider the question of ex-

cavations at Brockley Hill on the site of the Roman station of Sul-loniaca. The Committee has not yet taken any action.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—Margidunum. Owing to the excessive cost of labour, excavations have been continued only to a limited extent. Dr. F. Oswald has, however, personally explored a portion of the site, and has discovered the flooring—an inferior *Opus Signinum*—of third to fourth century buildings, situated upon the filled in western ditches of the station.

SOMERSETSHIRE.—Buckland Dinham. Following a complete survey of the remains of a mound and stones at Murtry Hill, Orchardleigh, in 1915, excavations were conducted on the site from 28th September to 8th October, 1920, by the Somerset Earthworks Committee (Mr. H. St. George Gray, director; Dr A. Bulleid, hon. sec.). The standing stones of oolitic limestone at the east end were found to rest on rock at a depth of only 1·5 feet below the surface. It had previously been stated that these stones, the largest standing 10 feet above the present surface, penetrated the ground to a depth equal to the height of the stones above the surface. (*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc., Vol. xxi., Part 1, p. 42.*) The remains proved to be those of a much mutilated chambered Long barrow, and some of the finds indicated that the place had been overrun by Romano-Britons. Two large and some three dozen smaller stones (glauconite sandstone), formerly forming part of the chambers, were uncovered. A full record has been made and a report will be issued later.

———— Cannington Park Camp. Further trial excavations carried out at this camp by Mr. C. Bazell, assisted by Mr. M. B. Bazell, have shown definitely that the original fortifications consisted of dry stone walling, carefully constructed, and of great strength. Quantities of shore pebbles, apparently collected for use as sling-stones, were found, as well as late-Celtic pottery and a human skeleton buried in a contracted position. As regards the latter finds, Mr. H. St. George Gray reports that the most interesting piece of pottery is an ornamented handle of rare form, a little larger but precisely of the same type as one found in the Glastonbury Lake Village. (*Plate lxxxix., No. F213, of the monograph on the subject.*) Mr. Gray found that the tibiae of the skeleton were decidedly platycnemic, giving a latitudinal index of 600. Besides the finds at the camp, Mr. Bazell has found a few objects among the burials on the Quarry Hill opposite, which are obviously battle burials, among them a flint arrow-head and an iron spike.

SUSSEX.—Excavations have been carried out by Dr. Eliot Curwen and Mr. E. C. Curwen at a pre-Roman village site on Rewell Hill, near Arundel. (See under Bibliography.)

WILTSHIRE.—The pre-Roman village site (Early Iron Age) at All Cannings Cross, near Devizes, has been further explored by Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Cunnington; among other finds a fibula of the La Tène period was discovered, enabling them to date the site.

YORKSHIRE.—The work of excavation at the Romano-British coast-guard fort at Goldsborough, near Whitby, referred to in the last Report, has now been completed.

———— The Roman fort at Ilkley has been further excavated this summer by Messrs. A. M. Woodward and P. W. Dodd. A granary and what was probably the Commandant's house have been uncovered, a larger and a smaller hypocaust having been found in connection with the latter. The finds of pottery are similar to those of last year, and the coins range over the same period. No tiles bearing stamps have been found. It is hoped to continue the excavations next year.

IRELAND.

Mr. T. J. Westropp reports as follows :

PRESERVATION AND RECORD.

Owing to the very disturbed state of Ireland for so many years, local bodies seem averse to undertaking the preservation of early earthworks, or ring walls. Some forts have been cleared of trees of late years, but Mr. Westropp is not aware of any unrecorded earthworks being brought to light.

DESTRUCTION.

Mr. Westropp has seen some slight cases of injury here and there, but there is no case of destruction within his knowledge.

EXPLORATION.

Co. DOWN.—Excavations have been undertaken in the great fort of Downpatrick, about the age and character of which much controversy has arisen. Pottery, probably of feudal times, has been found, but—so far as Mr. Westropp is informed—nothing very definite to date its origin, as apart from its occupation, has been unearthed.

SCHEME for Recording
ANCIENT DEFENSIVE EARTHWORKS
and FORTIFIED ENCLOSURES.

REVISED 1910.

The classification of defensive works recommended by the Committee in the above Scheme stands as follows:—

- A. Fortresses partly inaccessible by reason of precipices, cliffs, or water, defended in part only by artificial works.
- B. Fortresses on hill-tops with artificial defences, following the natural line of the hill.
Or, though usually on high ground, less dependent on natural slopes for protection.
- C. Rectangular or other enclosures of simple plan (including forts and towns of the Romano-British period).
- D. Forts consisting only of a mount with encircling moat or fosse.
- E. Fortified mounts, wholly or partly artificial, with remains of an attached court or bailey, or showing two or more such courts.
- F. Homestead moats, consisting of simple or compound enclosures formed into artificial islands by water moats.
- G. Enclosures, mostly rectangular, partaking of the form of F, but protected by stronger defensive works, ramparted and fossed, and in some instances provided with outworks.
- H. Ancient village sites protected by walls, ramparts, or fosses.
- X. Defensive or other works which fall under none of the above headings.

Copies of the Scheme, containing 43 plans illustrating the various classes of Earthworks, can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Earthworks Committee. Price 1/- each, 7/6 for 12 copies.

NOTE.—If any Society or individual has spare copies of the Committee's Reports for 1908, and earlier years, the Hon. Secretary would be very much obliged if they would let him know, as copies are very scarce and much sought after.