PART I

THE PREHISTORIC AGES

1. Antiquities and Monuments of the Stone and Bronze Ages: Editorial Note

The Salisbury, South Wilts and Blackmore Museum's collections of flint implements start their record with the Palaeolithic, and occupation in the ensuing Mesolithic Age has been attested not far from Blandford :[1] but the supreme archaeological interest of the Wiltshire and Dorset chalk country begins with the Neolithic Age. In addition to seeing the Museum collections at Salisbury,[2] the Institute took cognizance of several of the region's many Neolithic long barrows—collective tomb mounds of the Windmill Hill culture[3]—first near Stonehenge, and then by visiting, out of the thirty-one in Cranborne Chase, the very large one at Pimperne[4] on which Professor Piggott spoke, and the model and finds in the Farnham Museum illustrating General Pitt-Rivers's excavation, in 1892, of Wor Barrow on Handley Down.[5]

Here were also seen the models and finds illustrating the General's excavations of round barrows of the ensuing Bronze Age.[6] The Institute saw the famous group of round barrows on Oakley Down,[7] and the great concourse of them around Stonehenge.[8] Of Stonehenge itself a brief account is given below by Professor Piggott, preceding Dr. Stone's article on the adjacent Cursus.

The Knowlton Circles, also visited under Professor Piggott's guidance (fig. 1) represent a smaller religious centre evidently of the same general period. This remarkable group of earth circles[9] lies on a low shelf of chalk upland (about 180 ft.) near the river Allen. At least the three most visible circles, which adjoin each other roughly in a line, seem to be ceremonial monuments of the same general category as the original Stonehenge, though in the absence of excavation it is not possible to say whether timber uprights were ever present in them or not. The South Circle is the largest (D. 750 ft.); though scarcely visible east of the main road, it can be seen west of it, in the plantation behind Knowlton Farm, as a curving

[1] *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, vii (1941), 145-6: 4 m. N. of Blandford, 1½ m. SE. of Iwerne Minster.

[2] Including those from Dr. Stone's excavations at the Easton Down flint-mines near Winterslow: *W.A.M.*, xlv, 350; xlvi, 225, 563 (and cf. 218).

[3] See in general the Ordnance Survey Map of Neolithic Wessex, and Mrs. M. E. Cunnington's list in *W.A.M.*, xxxviii (June, 1914), 329; also A. H. A. Hogg in *Norfolk & Norwich Arch. Soc.*, xxvii, 315 ff., 325-9, with map, fig. 4, for a survey of the evidence for burial-rite: normally inhumation, but 'platform' cremation (as at West Rudham, Norfolk) at her Tilshead 1 and 2, Knook 2, Bratton 1, (probably) Sherrington 1 (O.S. Map, nos. 89, 87, 94, 109, 98) and Winterbourne Stoke 53; for Murtry Hill (O.S., no. 127) see *Proc. Somerset Arch. Soc.*, lxvii, 39.

[4] O.S., no. 159; Sumner, *Earthworks of Cranborne Chase*, 75-6, pl. xlvi.

[5] O.S., no. 170; Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations in Cranborne Chase*, iv, 58-135; simplified plan, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, i (1935), 119.

[6] *Excavations*, ii and iv.

[7] Sumner, op. cit., 48-50, pl. xxx; Crawford and Keiller, *Wessex from the Air*, 174-83, pl. xxxi: now islanded and in some cases engulfed by ploughing. See Dr. Stone below, pp. 10-11, with fig. 2.

[8] See Dr. Stone below, pp. 9, 16-18, with figs. 1, 4, also Mr. L. V. Grinsell's thorough survey, 'The Bronze Age Round Barrows of Wessex', in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, vii (1941), 73-113; and on barrows in general, his book *The Ancient Burial Mounds of England* (Methuen, 1936).

[9] Sumner, op. cit., 46-7, pl. xxix; S. and C. M. Piggott, *Antiquity*, xiii (June, 1939), 154-5.

ditch with marked external bank. The Central Circle is the best-preserved; the ditch is irregular, the bank again external (D. 300 ft.) and of bold profile. Within this is the ruined church of Knowlton in its churchyard; it has architectural

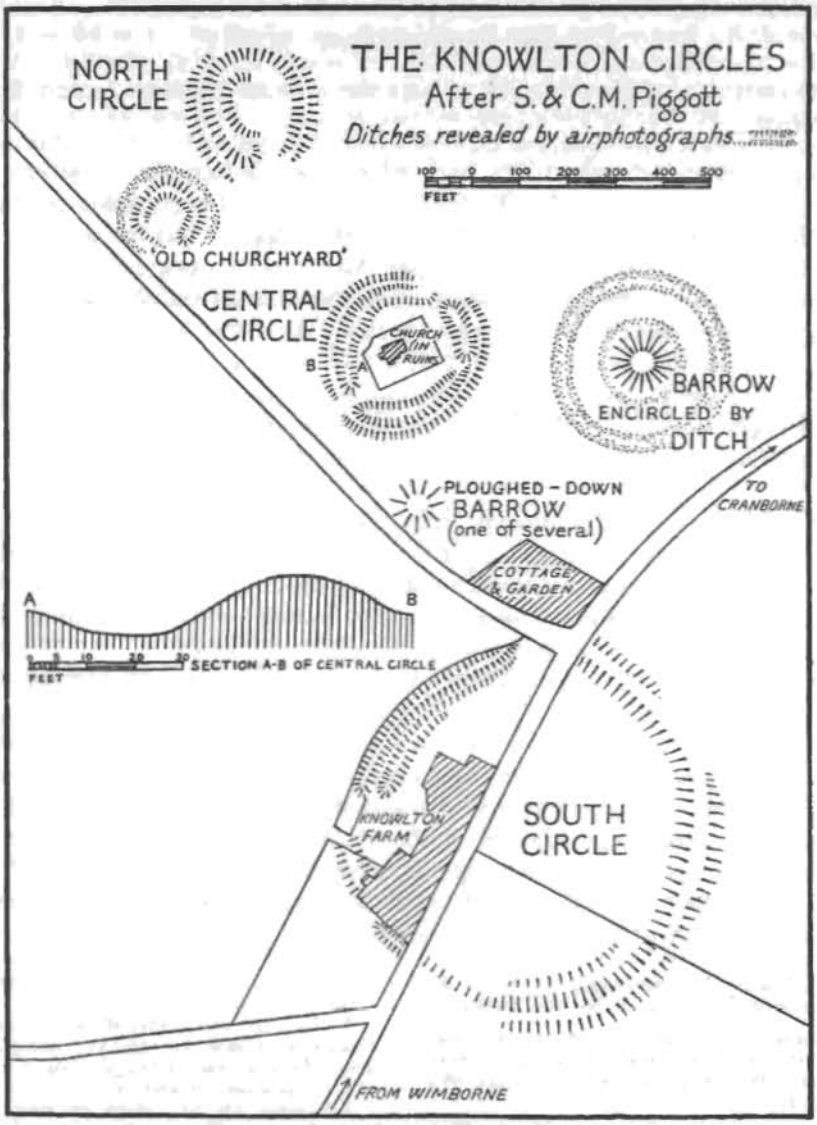

FIG. I. PLAN OF THE KNOWLTON CIRCLES, DORSET
After S. and C. M. Piggott, 1939

features from the twelfth century to the sixteenth. The North Circle beyond it, much ploughed down, is of the same type with ditch and external bank, but in shape rather an oval (D. 200-225 ft.). Between this and the lane, the earthwork called ' Old Churchyard ' seems of a different class, being subrectangular and with bank internal to its ditch. Nearer the main road is one of several ploughed-down

round barrows in the neighbourhood, and east of the Central Circle is a fine tree-covered barrow, 20 ft. high and 125 ft. across, which air-photography shows to have been ditch-encircled, the outer ring-ditch (D. 325 ft.) thus making a fourth in the group of circles, with this barrow as a probably original central feature. It is plainly Bronze Age ; but the question of the relationship between sepulchral and ceremonial monuments in general is beginning to be seen to have Neolithic as well as Bronze Age aspects.[10] There formerly existed near Place Farm, Tisbury (p. 168), a ceremonial monument consisting of an embanked stone circle with the unusual feature of a large standing stone at its centre, but nothing now remains of it.[11]

Mr. Hugh Shortt is here publishing several antiquities in the Salisbury collections coming certainly or probably from barrows, both of the Early or Middle Bronze Age, and even also of the Late Bronze Age, when the region was settled, probably in the eighth century B.C., by a new people of Continental origin, whose sepulchral pottery is distinguished as the ' Deverel-Rimbury ' class of bucket or barrel (and sometimes globular) cinerary urns.[12] Many of these were seen in the Salisbury and Farnham Museums, including those excavated by General Pitt-Rivers at barrow 24 on Handley Hill, secondary to its original interment and grouped in an ' urnfield ',[13] recalling those of the well-known Continental range of ' Urnfield cultures ' with which the immigrants were related.[14]

Of particular interest in this region are the remains of this people's habitations and their evidently pastoral enclosures and linear earthworks. The finds from the Thorny Down settlement[15] and the Boscombe Down East enclosure,[16] excavated by Dr. Stone, were seen at Salisbury, and at Farnham those made by General Pitt-Rivers in the ' South Lodge Camp ' (Rushmore) enclosure and that on Martin Down, with the adjacent linear ditch.[17] This ditch forms part of the complex of such in north-eastern Cranborne Chase known as Grim's Ditch, lately studied by Mrs. Piggott,[18] which consists of long lengths of boundary-ditch more or less enclosing an area altogether of some 16 square miles, probably for cattle-pasture. The main northern and southern limbs of the complex come close to the Roman earthwork Bokerly Dyke (below, pp. 62-78), and are in part shown on the map, fig. 12, on p. 64 ; the southern limb may be as late as the Iron Age, but the whole complex shows a unity of purpose.

Finally, it is worth recalling that in Tisbury parish was found a Late Bronze Age hoard of seven gold bracelets and part of another, with a gold ' dress-fastener ' of Irish type, which is now in the British Museum,[19] and should not be forgotten in any assessment of the Deverel-Rimbury culture in the region.

[10] See Dr. Stone below, pp. 10 ff., 16-19.

[11] O.S., no. 133 ; Goddard, *W.A.M.*, xxxviii, 332 ; Colt Hoare, *Ancient Wilts*, i (1812), 251.

[12] See Mrs. Piggott's list in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, iv (1938), 185 ; further urns, e.g. *Archaeologia*, xc (1944), 48 ff., Crichel and Launceston Downs, Dorset.

[13] *Excavations*, iv, 147 ff., pl. 295 ; plan reproduced by Crawford in *Antiquity*, i (1927), 430.

[14] Cf. the Report (*Occ. Pap. Univ. Lond. Inst. of Arch.*, 6, 1945) of the 1944 London Conference on ' Problems and Prospects of European Archaeology ', pp. 50-3.

[15] *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, vii (1941), 114-33.

[16] *W.A.M.*, xlvii (1936), 466 ff.

[17] *Excavations*, iv, 3 ff., 185 ff. ; ditch, 190.

[18] *Antiquity*, xviii (June, 1944), 65-71 (with Sumner, op. cit., 58-62, pl. xxxiv). For North Wiltshire comparisons, see her paper in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, viii (1942), 48 ff. ; for the Andover-Salisbury-Amesbury region, Hawkes in *Proc. Hants Field Club*, xiv (1939), 143 ff.

[19] *Bronze Age Guide*, 51-2, fig. 37.

2. Stonehenge : A Summary Note

By STUART PIGGOTT

The literature of Stonehenge is notoriously vast ; but reference need only be made here to the long-familiar official guide by Mr. Frank Stevens entitled *Stonehenge To-day and Yesterday* ; this was published in 1924 (2nd ed., 1929) by H.M. Stationery Office, since Stonehenge is in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works, while nearly 1,500 acres of the surrounding downland are owned and cared for by the National Trust. Excavation at Stonehenge itself, first undertaken in 1901 and then methodically pursued over the south-eastern half of the site from 1919 to 1926 by Colonel Hawley and Mr. Newall for the Society of Antiquaries, has provided much evidence for its interpretation. But the true story of the monument is only now emerging gradually, in the light of comparison with such more or less analogous sites as are from time to time explored elsewhere. Its emergence cannot yet be called complete. There can be no question, however, that Stonehenge is to be understood as a composite structure, the building and rebuilding of which were spread over a number of centuries of prehistoric time. What follows is necessarily a much simplified account of this succession (plan, fig. 2).

The *first phase* is represented by the encircling ditch, about 320 feet in diameter, with the bank within it and entrance towards the north-east, and by the circle of round holes along the inner foot of the bank, now marked in white chalk. These have been named ' Aubrey Holes ', after their seventeenth-century first discoverer ; and while some have believed them to have originally held upright stones, the evidence should be accepted as showing that they were in fact the sockets for a ring of timber uprights, the ' Aubrey Circle '. It is possible, though at present not directly demonstrable, that at the same time there was also a timber setting of some kind in the centre of the circle. There is evidence for dating this first phase in the earliest part of the British Bronze Age, as conventionally defined : that is, the period of the arrival in the region of ' B ' Beaker people, immigrants from the Continent at a date which current chronology would place towards 1900 B.C. It may even be slightly earlier.

The *second phase* is marked by a grandiose reconstruction in stone in the inner area, involving the erection of a central group of circles and horse-shoe settings with a maximum diameter of 100 feet. The stones are carefully dressed to shape, and the larger ones, sarsens from North Wiltshire, are lintelled continuously in the outer circle, and in pairs in the horse-shoe of so-called ' trilithons ', while there is also a circle and a horse-shoe setting of smaller stones, geologically foreign to Wiltshire and identifiable as derived from the Presely Mountains in Pembrokeshire. These ' blue stones ' are uprights, which in their present arrangement are not lintelled ; but two of them, being former lintel-stones re-used, imply the existence of lintelled structures in some earlier setting, at Stonehenge or elsewhere. To the same period of reconstruction belong the Heel Stone, an outlying standing sarsen outside the original north-eastern entrance, and the ' Avenue ', which leads up to the same entrance, demarcated by two parallel ditches each with its bank, for over a mile westward from the direction of the river Avon at West Amesbury. A large number of cremation-deposits may be associated with this second-phase reconstruction :

they were placed in the inner margin of the old encircling bank and in the disused 'Aubrey Holes' within it. These cremations could be assigned to the Wessex Culture, the introduction of which by fresh Continental immigrants marks the culmination of the Early Bronze Age in this region at a date perhaps as early as 1600 B.C., but more probably around 1500 (though not after about 1400 in any case), and leads on into the Middle Bronze Age. But recent evidence from the Oxford region and elsewhere suggests that cremation-cemeteries associated with timber

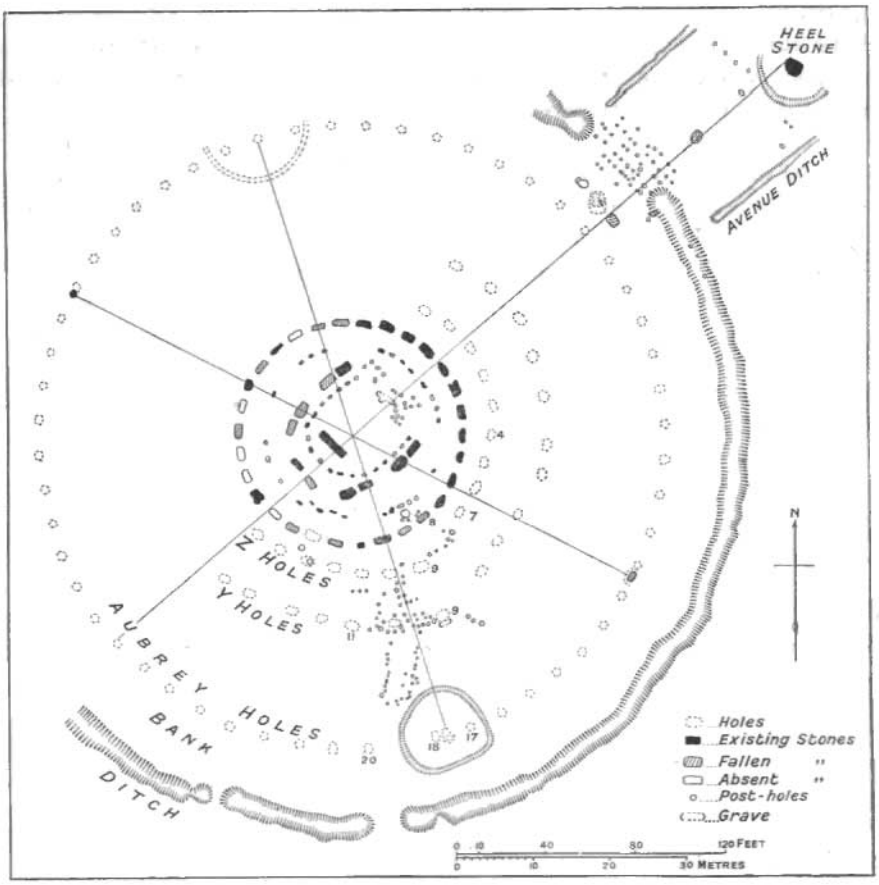

FIG. 2. PLAN OF STONEHENGE

After T. D. Kendrick, from the Society of Antiquaries' excavation plans, 1919-26
(*By permission of Methuen & Co. Ltd.*)

circles may in fact be late Neolithic, and the Aubrey Holes and the cremations at Stonehenge may, accordingly, together form a unit of pre-Beaker date.

The *third phase* at Stonehenge is evidently later, and appears to belong to the Iron Age. It is represented structurally by the 'Y' and 'Z' Holes. These are holes for two circles of timber (or, less probably, stone) uprights, which surround the lintelled sarsen circle, and were dug when one at least of its stones (8 on the plan) had fallen (so that there is no 'Z' Hole between 7 and 9). Pottery found

in these holes is for the most part no earlier than the first century A.D., or than the preceding few years at most (below, p. 32). The re-constitution which they imply would then be the sole link at present perceptible between Stonehenge and the Celtic priesthood of the Druids, which flourished in that period. Of Roman age the site has produced a scatter of mainly coarse and fragmentary pottery, but nothing structural. The numerous post-holes found by the excavators have not been covered by any one accepted explanation or dating. The Stonehenge exhibit in the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum displays all the chief aspects of the monuments.

Of the surrounding concourse of barrows—a few are long barrows, but almost all are round—many are of the bell and disc types characteristic of the Wessex culture, and most may be assigned to the Middle Bronze Age (as at present defined).[20] Particularly fine[21] are the Normanton and Winterbourne Crossroads group to the south and south-west of Stonehenge, and the row beginning some 600 yards to the north-west near the earthwork called the Cursus. On this remarkable work, Dr. Stone has written the ensuing article, which makes an important contribution to the study of Stonehenge in general.

[20] See Dr. Stone's map, p. 8, fig. 1.

[21] See chaps. I and VI of Mr. L. V. Grinsell's *The Ancient Burial Mounds of England* (Methuen, 1936).

3. THE STONEHENGE CURSUS AND ITS AFFINITIES

By J. F. S. STONE, B.A., D.Phil., F.S.A.

Of all major prehistoric earthworks in Great Britain the Cursus, surprisingly enough, has received the least attention, and that in spite of its close proximity to Stonehenge. To Stukeley[1] we are indebted for the discovery in 1723 of the Greater Cursus, situated about half a mile to the north of the stone circles. His description of the earthworks and surrounding features is still the most complete on record, a record we should thankfully acknowledge in view of subsequent depredations by forestry and the plough. And to Colt Hoare,[2] nearly a hundred years later, we are equally indebted for drawing attention to the Lesser Cursus, a somewhat similar but smaller earthwork which lies about 700 yards to the north-west.

The shape of these works, situated on open undulating downland (pl. I, *a*), induced Stukeley and Colt Hoare to liken them to racecourses; and it is to the former's vivid imagination that we owe the term Cursus as a description of their outward characters, a view not accepted whole-heartedly by Douglas.[3] But Stukeley went further, and saw in the larger 'a most noble work, contriv'd to reach from the highest ground of two hills, extended the intermediate distance over a gentle valley: so that the whole *cursus* lies conveniently under the eye of the most numerous quantity of spectators. To render this more convenient for sight, it is projected on the side of rising ground, chiefly looking toward *Stonehenge*. A delightful prospect from the temple, when this vast plain was crowded with chariots, horsemen and foot, attending these solemnities, with innumerable multitudes!' And again: 'The east end of the *cursus* is compos'd of a huge body of earth, a bank or long barrow, thrown up nearly the whole breadth of the *cursus*. This seems to be the plain of session, for the judges of the prizes, and chief of the spectators. The west end of the *cursus* is curved into an arch; like the end of the *Roman circus's*. And these probably the chariots ran round, in order to turn again. And there is an obscure barrow or two, round which they return'd, as it were, a *meta*.'

His vivid but uncontrolled imagination even went so far as to ascribe certain ancient British coins, bearing the stamp of horses or chariots, as prizes dispensed for horse racing at the Cursus.[4]

[1] William Stukeley, *Stonehenge* (1740), 41.

[2] Sir Richard Colt Hoare, *Ancient Wiltshire*, i (1812), 158.

[3] James Douglas, *Nenia Britannica* (1793), 173.

[4] I am indebted to Mr. H. de S. Shortt for drawing my attention to Stukeley's proof copy of his *Twenty-three Plates of the Coins of the Ancient British Kings*, posthumously published without letterpress by his son-in-law, Richard Fleming. The copy, belonging to Mr. A. Keiller, F.S.A., is full of Stukeley's manuscript notes, dated 1762. Mr. Shortt has supplied the following extracts from this work, and remarks that most of his attributions, as well as deductions, are of course at fault:

'*Plate I*. The reverse of these coins is a rude essay tow'd making a horse, the general stamp of all British coins, for they were all originally made for prizes, rewards of conquest at the races celebrated on all public acts of religion. There in this Tab. coin 4, is the wheel, intimating a chariot race, underneath in the exergue of the coin, is a representation of the rails or barriers erected for that purpose, the like in No. 9.

'*Plate II*. In this plate we see *bigas* to

Thus Stukeley convinced himself that this earthwork formed an integral part of the ' solemnities ' practised at Stonehenge, and he records and illustrates what has never subsequently been confirmed even by air photography, a bifurcation of the Stonehenge avenue, the right wing approaching the southern ditch of the Cursus at a distance of about one-third of its length from its eastern end. Colt Hoare appears to have accepted the existence of this wing, since he illustrates it on his original plan of the Stonehenge environment (pl. II).[5] Unfortunately Stukeley's standards of measurement were expressed, somewhat cumbersomely, in ' Druid cubits ' ; but for the convenience of those unversed in such a measure he considerately appended a table for the purpose of its conversion into the more usual English feet. We need not, however, review his measurements ; these have been more accurately recorded by the Ordnance Survey.[6] Suffice it to say that his keen eyes and powers of observation recorded the essential features, and it is now for us to focus our attention upon a type of earthwork, the mere situation of which calls for investigation and a less fanciful interpretation.

Historically, but without comment other than one of scepticism, we must also recall that in 1906 Lockyer published his astronomical analysis of Stonehenge and other British stone monuments.[7] In this he considered the Cursus and, having ascertained that its orientation did not coincide with the summer solstice orientation of the Stonehenge avenue, he proceeded to compare it with the stone avenues of Dartmoor. He remarked that ' It is roughly parallel to the avenues at Merrivale, and I think, therefore, was, like them, used as a processional road, a via sacra, to watch the rising of the Pleiades ', and proceeded to deduce its date of construction as 1950 B.C.

Description

The Greater Cursus is an extremely elongated enclosure about 3,030 yards long by about 110 yards wide, though towards its western end the width increases to about 145 yards (fig. 1) ; it consists of a low bank and ditch, the former being on the inside. It lies about half a mile north of Stonehenge and is orientated roughly east-west. Its axis, if projected 1,500 yards to the east, strikes Woodhenge and passes the Cuckoo or Cuckold[8] Stone by the way. Though still detectable throughout the greater part of its length, the earthwork has now become very largely obliterated by the plough, and its western end has suffered from extensive

British chariots, contending for the prize of one of these medals, at celebration of the racings on the *Cursus's*, by the Temples, on the anniversary festivals of religion. Some of the *Cursus's* I have particularly spoke of, many more I know of. In coin 4 we see the charioteer. In 4 and 5 the barriers. The obverse of 5 is an embroidered saddlecloth, to be given as a praemium to the horse race victor.

' *Plate III*.5. O. A rich saddlecloth, given by king Minocan, a prize to the victor at horse racing. R. A most miserable attempt to make a horse. The 1, 3, 5, 6 obverses are the rich embroidered saddlecloths, or caparisons, given by the king as *bravia* or tokens of victory at the public horse races. The 1 on reverse points out the distinct Cursus where these games and sports were kept, in the country of the Atrebates.

' *Plate IX*.3. A gold coin of Mr. White's, struck by Cunobeline, for the races at Abury at the vernal Equinox : a serpentine temple.

' *Plate X*.7. A silver coin of Cunobeline's, struck for the chariot races at Stonehenge, Mr. White's.'

5 Loc. cit., plan opposite p. 170.

6 6-inch sheets Wilts LIV S.W. and Wilts LIV S.E.

7 Sir Norman Lockyer, *Stonehenge and other British Stone Monuments Astronomically Considered* (1906), 154.

8 H. C. Brentnall, *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, li (1946), 432.

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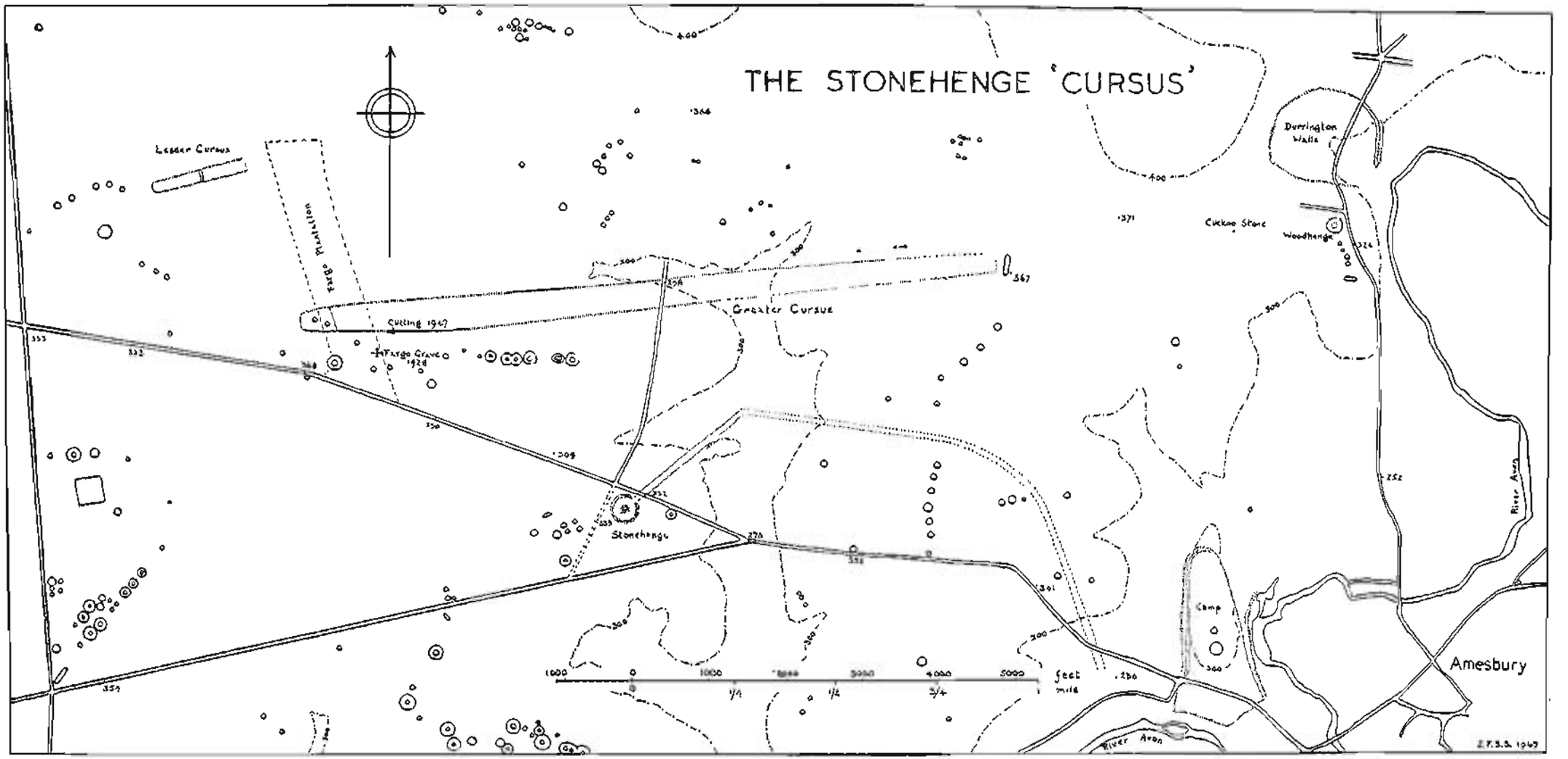
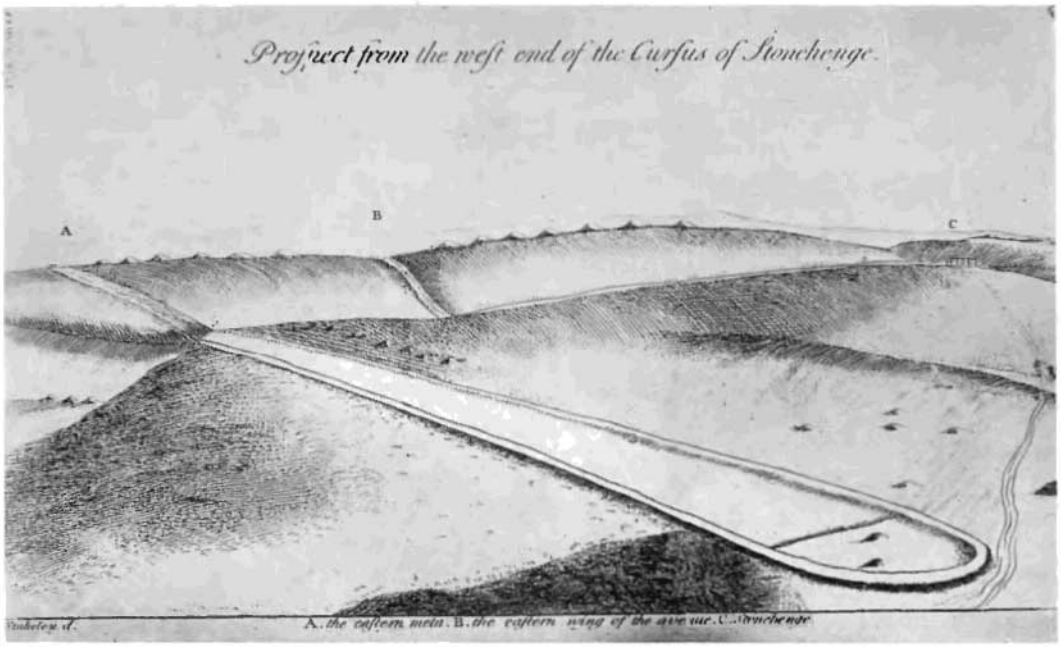
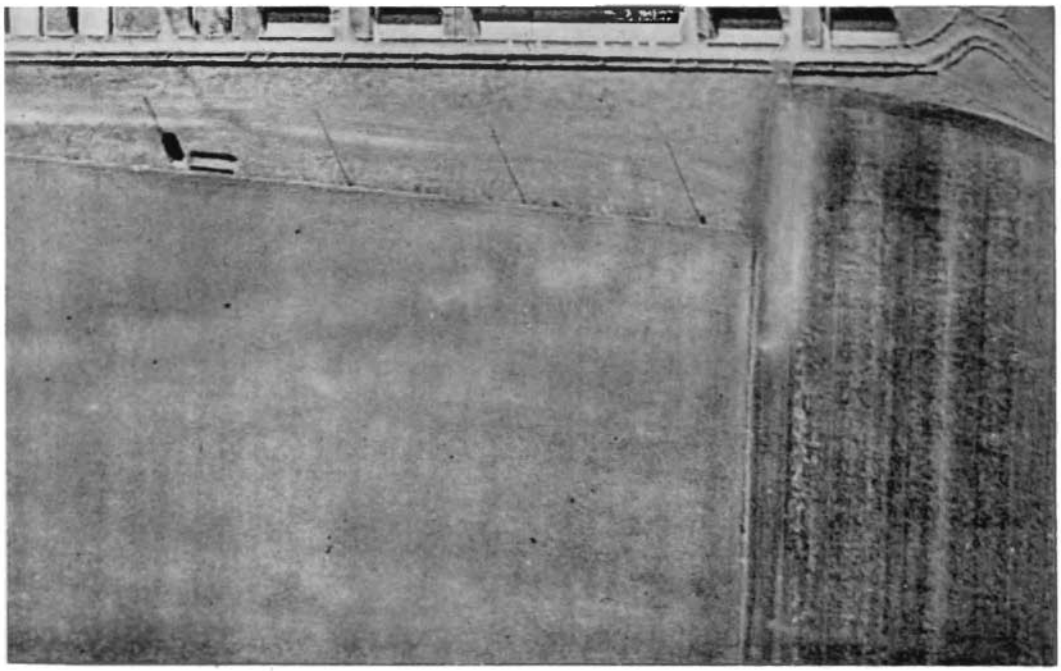


FIG. 1. MAP SHOWING THE STONEHENGE CURSUS (GREATER AND LESSER), THE NEIGHBOURING CIRCLE-MONUMENTS, STONEHENGE AVENUE, AND OTHER PRINCIPAL EARTHWORKS (BROKEN LINE—VISIBLE FROM AIR ONLY), AND LONG AND ROUND BARROWS (MARKED ACCORDING TO SIZE AND FORM). HEIGHTS ABOVE O.D. IN FEET

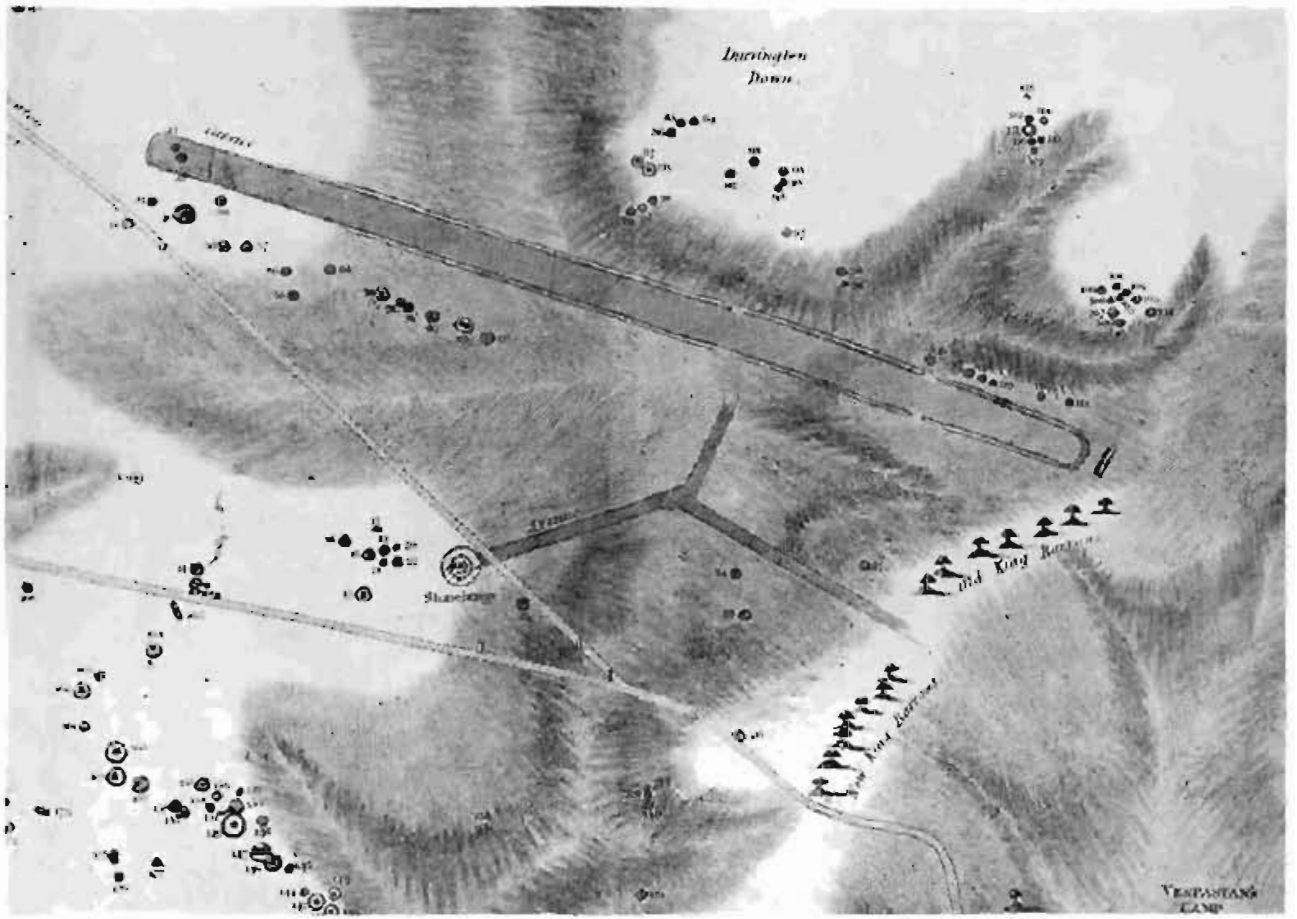
(Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office)



a, SKETCH OF THE STONEHENGE CURSUS BY STUKELEY, 1740



b, AIR PHOTOGRAPH OF EAST END OF STONEHENGE CURSUS, 1922



PART OF MAP OF STONEHENGE AND THE CURSUS BY COLT HOARE, 1812

a

STONEHENGE CURSUS CUTTING, 1947

a, DITCH WITH CAUSEWAY LOOKING EAST

b, DITCH WITH CAUSEWAY LOOKING WEST

By J. F. S. Stone

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a

b

STONEHENGE CURSUS CUTTING, 1947

a, SECTION THROUGH DITCH

b, SECTION THROUGH DITCH AND BANK

By J. F. S. Stone

afforestation, now known as Fargo Plantation. The only unploughed and undisturbed portion clearly visible lies immediately to the east of this plantation, and consists of a short stretch of the southern bank and ditch running here for some 500 yards.

Though sited on gently undulating downland, the centre dips through a small dry valley; and when the work was originally constructed one end was clearly visible from the other. The western end is squarish in plan with rounded corners, but the eastern end is no longer visible and appears to be stopped by a long barrow[9] lying almost at right angles to the axis of the earthwork. Unfortunately this end has suffered from extensive cultivation and tree planting, and the construction of a wide farm track over the barrow renders exact measurement impossible. Colt Hoare shows on his map a closed end just west of the long barrow, a feature opposed to Stukeley's description. Though the Ordnance Survey omits to close the gap on its 1926 edition, it did so on its 1901 edition; and an aerial photograph taken during 1922, before removal of army huts of the 1914-18 war, and subsequent afforestation, proves that Colt Hoare was correct (pl. I, *b*).

The western end, which lies just outside the western edge of Fargo Plantation, has suffered from the erection during the 1914-18 war, and subsequent demolition, of buildings in the immediate vicinity; and a more recent pig farm upon it has not improved matters. The 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, as also Colt Hoare's map (pl. II), shows two round barrows just within this western end. That outside the plantation no longer exists, but was opened by Hoare who found in it a deposit of burnt bones only.[10] The other yielded an inhumation with 'drinking cup', and on the floor of the barrow another of a child. A shallow cist contained a third inhumation associated with a pebble of banded flint ground flat at both ends and a small plain bronze knife-dagger with three rivets.[11] The contents of these two barrows are the only finds ever recorded as having been discovered within the enclosure, which is all the more surprising in this area of congested barrows and earthworks. It would indeed be difficult if not impossible to-day to construct such an earthwork near Stonehenge without impinging upon or including a number of pre-existing monuments, a fact which suggests that the work antedates the construction of the majority if not all of the Wessex Culture barrows in the neighbourhood.

Two other features must be noted. A small and insignificant ditch, now difficult to trace among the trees, runs diagonally across the western end just east of barrow 43. This was included by Hoare in his survey; and he also includes, following Stukeley's description, some gaps or causeways towards the eastern end. Though no longer visible, these are probably of significance as an original feature of the work.

The Lesser Cursus is now almost entirely obliterated by the plough, but is recorded on the 6-inch O.S. map (Wilts LIV S.W.) as an elongated earthwork open at one end, about 400 yards long and 50 yards wide, with a bank running across

[9] (Goddard) Amesbury 42 (opened by Thurnam); account with references by Mrs. Cunnington, *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, xxxviii (1914), 383; *O.S. Map of Neolithic Wessex*, no. 69.

[10] *Ancient Wilts*, i, 165, Barrow 44.

[11] Ibid., Barrow 43; *Devizes Museum Catalogue*, Part I, Stourhead Colln. (1896), nos. 89, 90.

it 220 yards from its western end. An air photograph of part of it is recorded by Crawford.[12]

Affinities

The Stonehenge Cursus is not unique in its outward characters, and it is well to review briefly other examples which appear to approximate to it. At the outset it may be said that reasons can be adduced for referring this class of earthwork to a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze phase connected in some measure with rites attending the construction or use of certain long barrows, and of the earlier ' henges '.

The Dorset Cursus.

A general similarity to the Stonehenge example is shown by the so-called Dorset Cursus in Cranborne Chase, discovered by Colt Hoare ;[13] this prompted him to liken it also to a racecourse, a view somewhat sceptically accepted by Warne.[14] Though it was noticed by Sumner,[15] it remained for Crawford and Keiller[16] to describe it briefly in more modern terms, though they found themselves unable to contribute anything positive towards it, their main interest being centred on the Romano-British village that overlies one end of it.

The earthwork is much larger than that at Stonehenge, being some 3½ miles long, and is composed of roughly parallel banks and ditches separated by about 90 yards. The accompanying sketch plan (fig. 2), based on the relevant Ordnance Survey maps,[17] indicates its general features. Lying astride three hills, its course, though now largely obliterated by cultivation and afforestation, can be followed from Gussage Down to Bottlebush Down and thence almost to Pentridge. The only undisturbed portion now remaining runs from *b* to *c* on Bottlebush Down, and here in places the top of the bank is as much as 8 feet above the present level of the ditch, the horizontal distance covered by the bank and ditch being about 50 feet. As at Stonehenge, the bank is on the inside.

Ackling Dyke (the Old Sarum-Badbury Roman road), in its majestic course across the valley and over the earthwork, proclaims itself of later construction, as also, in its superimposition upon it, does the Romano-British village on Gussage Down. This village has so complicated the picture that it is now impossible, short of spade work, to disentangle its original features at this end, and too much reliance should not be placed on published plans.

On the site it seems clear that in this Cursus we are dealing with two periods of construction, though they are not necessarily separated by any great length of time. On Bottlebush Down, between *b* and *c* (fig. 2), the south-western or ' Gussage Down Cursus ' ends in a well-defined bank and ditch at right angles to its axis, corresponding exactly with the closed ends of the Stonehenge Cursus. Subsequently this cursus may have been extended by the north-eastern addition of what we may term the ' Pentridge Cursus '. If this duality be accepted it follows that in the

[12] *Air Photography for Archaeologists* (1929), 20.

[13] *Ancient Wilts*, ii (1819), 33 ; plan between pp. 32 and 33.

[14] *Trans. Brit. Arch. Assn.*, Gloucester, 1848, 80 (plan after Colt Hoare).

[15] *Ancient Earthworks of Cranborne Chase* (1913), 73.

[16] *Wessex from the Air* (1928), 113.

[17] 6-inch sheets Dorset xv N.E., ix S.E., and x S.W. and S.E.

To face page 10

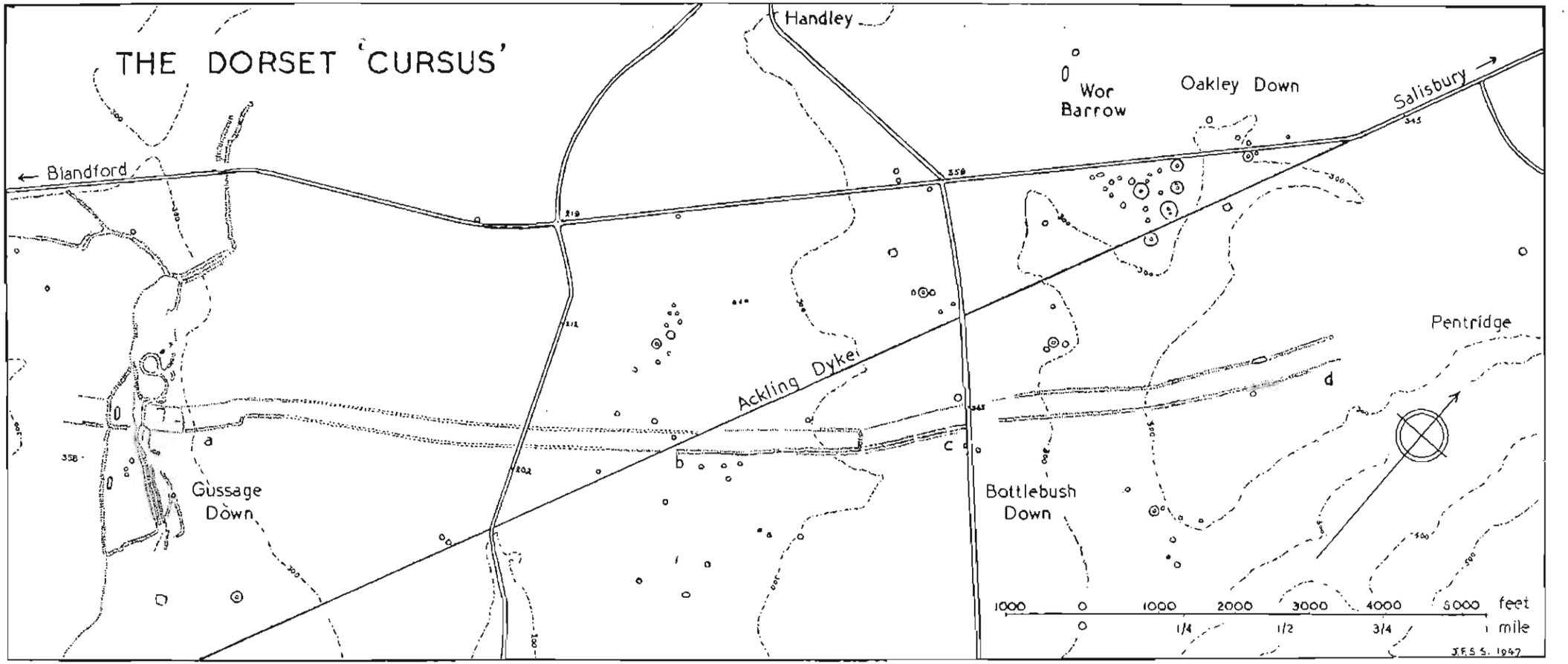

FIG. 2. MAP SHOWING THE DORSET CURSUS (WHOLLY UNDISTURBED FROM b TO c ONLY; BROKEN LINE—VISIBLE FROM AIR ONLY), NEIGHBOURING EARTHWORKS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE GUSSAGE DOWN ROMANO-BRITISH VILLAGE OVERLYING IT AT a, ACKLING DYKE (ROMAN ROAD) CUTTING IT AT b, AND LONG AND ROUND BARROWS (MARKED ACCORDING TO SIZE AND FORM), INCLUDING LONG BARROW ON THE LINE OF THE BANK NEAR d. HEIGHTS ABOVE O.D. IN FEET

(Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office)

primary or Gussage Down Cursus we have an almost exact replica of that at Stonehenge. Its length, width and mode of construction are strikingly similar, and its siting across a valley between two hills renders the whole course visible from either end. But even more remarkable is the fact that if we stand in the closed end on Bottlebush Down the one feature dominating the whole work is the long barrow at right angles to its axis on the skyline on Gussage Down.

The Pentridge Cursus, on the other hand, suggests a derivative work, sited not so meticulously for viewing one end from the other, but nevertheless embodying a long barrow in its construction. Strangely enough this barrow, though originally visible from Bottlebush Down (fig. 2, *c* to *d*), is not set at right angles to its axis, but forms part of the northern bank and ditch. This part of the earthwork is now densely covered with trees, but examination suggests that the construction of the bank and ditch have in no way interfered with the barrow itself.

For its general relationship with the Stonehenge Cursus we should also note that the Dorset Cursus has been sited in what may be termed a sacred district. Later barrows of Wessex Culture type cluster thickly around, in a manner not seen in other parts of Cranborne Chase ; and this suggests the possibility of a timber henge in the vicinity, as yet undiscovered.

The Maiden Castle ' Long Mound '.

As an assumed long mound or barrow this earthwork at Maiden Castle[18] is almost unique,[19] but viewed as a cursus on a small scale it seems more credible. Though it was described by Wheeler as a mound 1,790 feet long, no evidence was adduced for the statement. The earthwork now consists of two parallel ditches 60 feet apart, sections through which were cut from end to end. The eastern end alone was proved to have included a much denuded long barrow between the ditches. The western end on the other hand, for 1,000 feet and probably more, is quite level ; it was not trenched between the ditches. Thus it can be suggested that if the Pentridge Cursus was reduced in scale and the offset long barrow placed between its ditches centrally, the two structures would not differ materially one from the other. In any event it would appear that this so-called ' Long Mound ' is more akin to a derivative cursus than to any known long barrow.

Dorchester, Oxfordshire.

Long parallel ditches 100 yards apart near Dorchester, discovered from the air, have been recorded.[20] These would appear to be analogous to the Stonehenge Cursus and are at present under investigation by Mr. R. J. C. Atkinson ; it is therefore premature to remark on them. All we need note, however, is the presence within the parallel lines of what appears to be a ring of post-holes, and the presence, outside them, of circle-monuments of henge type.

[18] R. E. M. Wheeler, *Maiden Castle, Dorset* (1943), 23, 86, pl. III.

[19] For analogues suggested by Crawford, see *Antiquity*, xii (1938), 228.

[20] Crawford, *Antiquity*, i (1927), 471 ; Leeds, *Antiq. Journ.*, xiv (1934), 414 ; Allen, *Oxoniensia*, iii (1938), 169.

Benson, Oxfordshire.

Leeds has drawn attention to certain elongated rectangular enclosures in the Upper Thames valley, also recorded by air photography, and cites that at Benson as the best preserved example.[21] This is 1,200 yards long and about 75 yards wide, having at any rate one square closed end.

Drayton - Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire.

The other example cited by Leeds[22] is some 880 (or 750) yards long by 75 yards wide. Part of the ditch had been excavated previously,[23] but its significance at the time was not realized. Though 8 feet wide, it is only 3 feet deep, and its approximate date is stated to be established as Early Bronze Age or Neolithic by the occurrence in it of a hearth with flint débris and scrapers. This also has one square closed end, the other having been destroyed by gravel digging, but both this example and the preceding would appear to fall into line with the cursus earthworks.

Stonehenge Cursus Cutting, June 1947

A cutting 5 feet wide was first made through the southern undisturbed bank and ditch, 76 yards east of Fargo Plantation. The ditch cutting was subsequently extended for a further 17 feet (fig. 3) as it was not expected that finds would be abundant in an earthwork having a circumference of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The proximity of the Fargo Plantation flat grave influenced the choice of site ; this grave contained a primary beaker with food-vessel, and in the silting of the ditch a sherd of Neolithic B (Peterborough) ware and a fragment of the Stonehenge bluestone rhyolite.[24] And, during preliminary survey, a well-used flint maul or hammerstone, weighing about 2 lb. and identical with many from Stonehenge, was found thrown out from a war-time trench through the northern ditch of the Cursus inside the plantation ; a further indication that this end might prove productive.

The Ditch.

The ditch varied from 5 to 6 feet in width at the top, and at the base was about 4 feet ; the depth in no place examined exceeding 2 feet 6 inches. Thus the sides were comparatively steep, and the base flat and even. By a fortunate chance a narrow unhewn bridge of chalk was found to intersect the ditch in the cutting exposed, a causewayed mode of construction normally associated with henge monuments of early type (pl. III, *a* and *b*) such as at Stonehenge.[25] There were no surface indications of this feature, although other and larger causeways appear to be present in the air photograph of the east end (pl. I, *b*), a fact noted also by Colt Hoare (pl. II).

The two segments exposed differed markedly in plan, one end being squarish, the other curved ; whilst the base of the former was 3 to 4 inches lower than the latter. Further, the southern edge of the eastern ditch had been recessed for a short part of its length. Thus from the method of digging we may infer that the

[21] *Antiq. Journ.*, xiv (1934), 414, pl. LVII.
[22] Ibid., pl. LVIII.
[23] Ibid., 266.
[24] *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, xlviii (1938), 366.
[25] *Antiq. Journ.*, viii (1928), 161, 166.

ditch was a quarry ditch, dug by gangs of men for the purpose of constructing a continuous bank of chalk to delimit the enclosure, as at Stonehenge.[26]

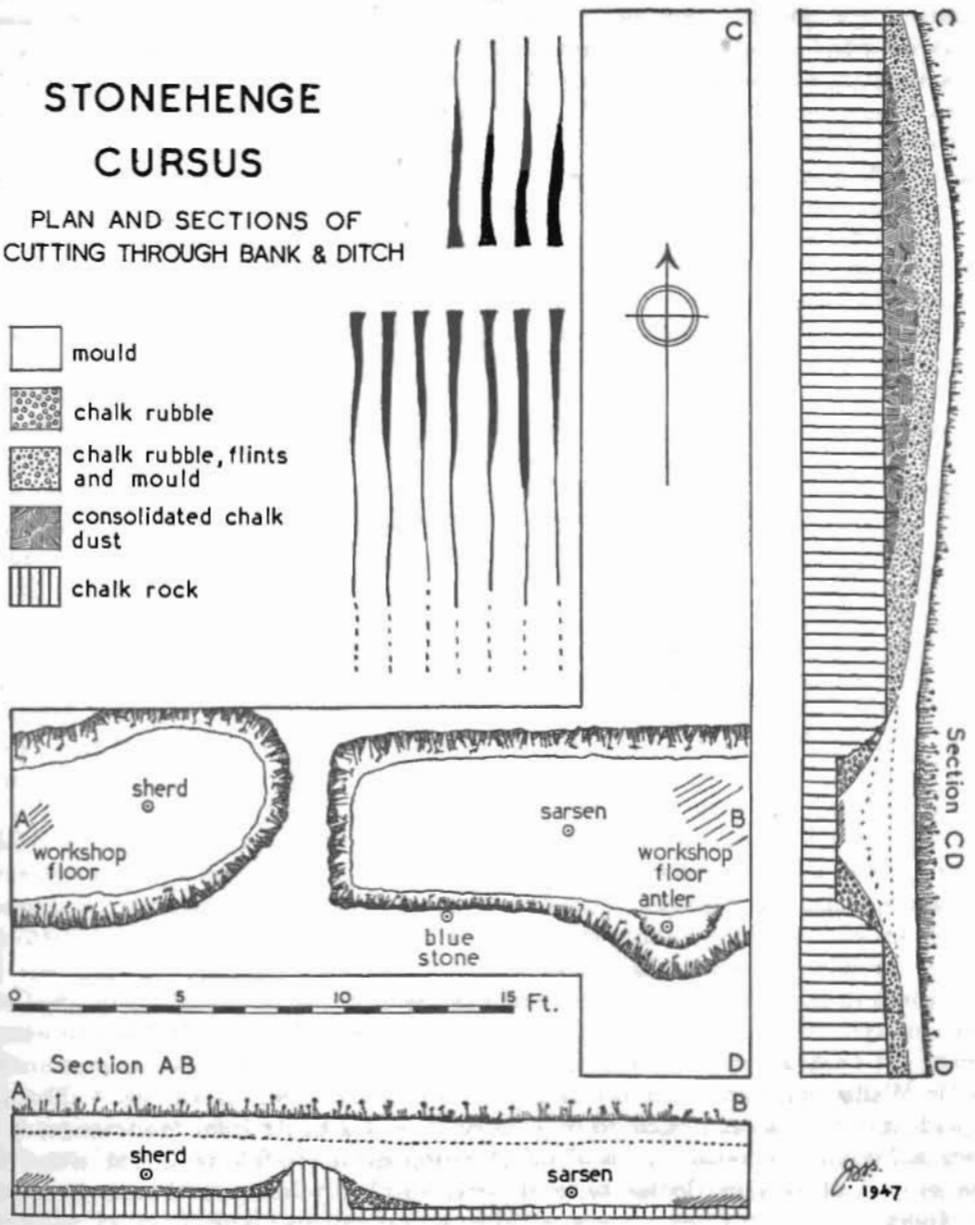

FIG. 3. STONEHENGE CURSUS CUTTING, 1947

Outside the ditch the natural chalk surface lay under 6 inches of decomposed chalk, flints and mould, which in turn was covered by a similar thickness of

[26] Ibid., 165.

unploughed mould. The content of the ditch was therefore all the more surprising. This consisted of pure reddish mould without trace of chalk admixture right to the base, the only distinction being in the top 9 inches of loam, which was darker in colour (pl. IV, *a*). Eighteen inches from the surface, however, a few small scattered flints indicated a temporary rest level (Section CD). Although a little primary chalk rubble had accumulated at the base of the edges of the ditch it would appear that mould had started to form almost immediately and that this had continued unchecked to the present day. It would thus appear that traffic over or along the ditch can never have been a marked feature here. As Professor Hawkes has pointed out, however, we cannot exclude the possibility of a turf wall along the inner side of the ditch, between it and the bank, which would gradually weather back into the ditch and at the same time exclude the entrance of chalk dust and rubble. In view of the absence of a turf line below the bank it is possible that the wall may have been formed from the turf intentionally so moved, and from that from over the line of the ditch itself.

Antler picks had been used for hewing out the chalk ; a crown with two tines lay in contact with the chalk on the base of the recess in the southern edge. A seam of flint had been pierced and immediately made use of ; on the base of each segment of ditch exposed, and prior to the accumulation of any silting, two knappers had practised their craft. At A and B (fig. 3, plan) two small but well-defined workshop floors were discovered consisting of some 550 flint flakes of all sizes. The only implements left were a flake trimmed by pressure flaking on one side to form a scraper, and four ' core scrapers ' having well-defined spurs very similar to those from the Stonehenge ditch.[27]

On the southern edge of the ditch, in contact with the original chalk surface and 1 foot below the present surface, lay a piece of foreign bluestone about 3½ inches in diameter. This could conceivably have worked its way down through the action of worms,[28] or it may have been dropped when the ditch was still open. In any event we have here a direct link with the Stonehenge foreign stone circles. The rock has been identified by Dr. F. S. Wallis by microscopic examination of a thin section, as a fissile, lamillar, greyish-green sandstone tinged blue, and consisting of a mass of angular quartz grains of two sizes cemented with micaceous material. Small amounts of muscovite, chlorite, and felspar are present, and scattered fragments of volcanic material also occur. A search through the fragments of bluestones in the Salisbury Museum was rewarded by the discovery of an identical piece described by Judd as an argillaceous flagstone,[29] and found by Gowland during his excavations at Stonehenge.[30] A section of this piece also was examined by Dr. Wallis, who confirmed its exact identity with that from the Cursus.[31] Though superficially somewhat similar to other bluestone fragments from Stonehenge, it is remarkable that Thomas in his detailed petrological study[32] remained silent on the subject of this particular type of rock, so clearly recognized and described by Judd.

[27] Ibid., vi (1926), 19.

[28] *Darwin on Humus and the Earthworm* (1945), 71.

[29] *Archaeologia*, lviii (1902), 112 ; *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, xxxiii (1903), 55.

[30] *Archaeologia*, lviii (1902), 37. Other pieces from the later excavations by Hawley are also preserved there, nos. 233a and 285d.

[31] The rock is quite distinct from the micaceous sandstone of the Altar Stone, examined by Dr. Wallis at the same time.

[32] *Antiq. Journ.*, iii (1923), 239.

Both specimens were accordingly submitted to Dr. K. C. Dunham of the Geological Survey with the request that they be compared with the rocks of the Milford Haven estuary, in view of Thomas's ascription of the Altar Stone to the Cosheston Beds in that region, and of the land route from Presely to the haven outlined by Grimes for the transport of the bluestones.[33] Dr. Dunham reports: 'It is possible to match this rock almost exactly with a specimen from the Cosheston Beds, of Lower Old Red Sandstone age, collected by E. E. L. Dixon from the shore of Mill Bay on the Milford Haven estuary, three-quarters of a mile north of Cosheston, and 100 yards north-west of Millbay Cottage (our slice No. E.8148). Grain-size, mineralogy (including the micaceous minerals and the fresh oligoclase) are closely similar. While this may not, of course, be the exact source-locality, the evidence is quite strong enough to point to the Cosheston-Senni beds of South-west Wales, and to confirm your suggestion that this type of sandstone occurs round the Milford Haven estuary. I showed your slides to Dr. David Evans who knows this country well, and he agrees with the identification. I doubt, however, whether the sandstone is sufficiently distinctive to make it possible to pin-point the exact locality.'

The identification of this second rock from Milford Haven thus lends added support to the view that the Stonehenge rocks were embarked there, and it also proves that the Presely rocks were not the only ones thought worthy of transportation or even, as Grimes has pointed out, that they were of especial sanctity. It is clear that the Stonehenge fragments must be subjected to a much more detailed analysis than has so far been made.

The filling of the ditch contained two artifacts only; a small fragment of a pink sarsen rubber, and a small undecorated hand-made sherd, reddish-brown externally with a black core and filled with flint grit, which unfortunately cannot be identified with certainty.

The Bank.

Although unploughed, the bank was broad and low, being only some 15 inches above the central area of the Cursus. Its position in relation to the ditch, however, was remarkable in that its centre was about 13 feet from the edge, thus leaving a narrow berm 5 feet wide (fig. 3, section CD, and pl. IV, *b*). This accounts for the absence of chalk rubble and rainwash in the ditch. The section, not unlike Section No. 1 through the bank and ditch at Stonehenge,[34] disclosed three layers: undisturbed mould, 6 inches; flints, mould and a little chalk rubble, 8 inches; and consolidated yellow earthy chalk dust, 12 inches. This last layer, presumably the original contents of the ditch, was exceedingly hard and needed a pick-axe to remove it. It contained no chalk rubble and in this resembled the 'compo' encountered by Hawley and Newall in the Stonehenge 'Barrow'.[35] Pockets of this marl-like material occur naturally in the vicinity. Since the ditch had been cut into pure white chalk, the presence of this layer of 'compo' is not easy to explain, as no original turf line was present between it and the chalk rock, and the superimposed layer of flints, mould and chalk rubble had clearly been scraped up from the surface and dumped upon it. This last layer might conceivably have

[33] Ordnance Survey Megalithic *Map of South Wales* (1936), 7.

[34] *Antiq. Journ.*, i (1921), fig. 12 opposite p. 34.

[35] Ibid., iii (1923), 13.

resulted from periodic cleaning out of the ditch; but this is improbable in view of the size of the earthwork and of the two workshop floors on the base.

Relationship of the Cursus to Stonehenge

Circumstances prevented further extension of the cutting; but tentatively we may regard the results as successful in that we can infer, with a high degree of probability, that the Cursus was approximately contemporary with the ditch and Aubrey holes of Stonehenge. Both were originally dug in a somewhat similar manner with similar tools apparently for the construction of a continuous bank, and both contained a similar flint industry in the primary silting. At Stonehenge a few sherds of Grooved Ware were found in the primary silting,[36] and we may therefore for the present attribute the Cursus also to the culture which carries that class of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery.

But the bluestone link clearly calls for more detailed investigation, in view of the known fact that the Stonehenge bluestones were dressed and erected at a date later than the construction of the earthen circle itself. By a fortunate chance the large field bounded by Fargo Plantation, the Cursus, and Stonehenge was under plough during 1947, and this was carefully searched for evidence of bluestone scatter. Contrary to all expectations and normal scatter-diagrams, fragments were found concentrated in the north-west corner of the field, and only one near Stonehenge itself. With Mr. Newall's assistance ten fragments were so obtained, and these have been plotted on the accompanying map (fig. 4) together with other known pieces. The result suggests very intensive activity around the west end of the Cursus, and coinciding exactly with the scatter of flint implements.

Except in and immediately around Stonehenge itself, recorded bluestone fragments are few. The evidence from the three barrows 16, 30 and 42 opened by Cunnington and Colt Hoare has been summarized by Newall[37] and Mrs. Cunnington;[38] and later Engleheart[39] sought to prove that these had been intentionally inserted with the primary burials. But in view of the now proven concentration of surface fragments near Fargo Plantation it seems much more probable that they were scraped up into barrows 30 and 42 by chance. Barrow 16 is susceptible of the same interpretation; Mr. Newall tells me that whilst laying a pipe-line for concrete-mixing at Stonehenge, bluestone chippings were found in the vicinity of the group of barrows of which no. 16 was one. But here we are approaching the bluestone circles of Stonehenge themselves, from which scatter should be expected. Thus Mr. W. E. V. Young has kindly informed the writer of the hitherto unrecorded fact that whilst excavating the Stonehenge car park in 1935 six pieces of rhyolite, two of volcanic ash and two of dolerite were found, scattered over the area as if thrown from the circles and not in a position suggestive of a trimming floor.[40] In spite of all Colt Hoare's barrow diggings, no other fragments are known from excavations.

For surface finds we have Crawford's one small piece near the Avenue,[41] and another found by Newall at Starveall about half a mile south of the Normanton

[36] *Antiquity*, x (1936), 221.
[37] Ibid., iii (1929), 78.
[38] Ibid., 223.
[39] *Antiq. Journ.*, xii (1932), 17.
[40] Mr. Young's notes of all finds made during the excavations have with his consent been placed in the Salisbury Museum.
[41] *Air Survey and Archaeology* (1928), 14.

group of barrows. But of greater significance, and confirming our suggestion of a connexion between the Cursus and the foreign stones, are some notes in Mr. Young's diary dated December 1934. After having surveyed the site of the proposed car park he went 'flinting' in the self-same field. Here he found nothing until he approached the Cursus near Fargo Plantation, when implements, flakes and cores became plentiful, many of the scrapers being of the ' spurred ' variety. He adds:

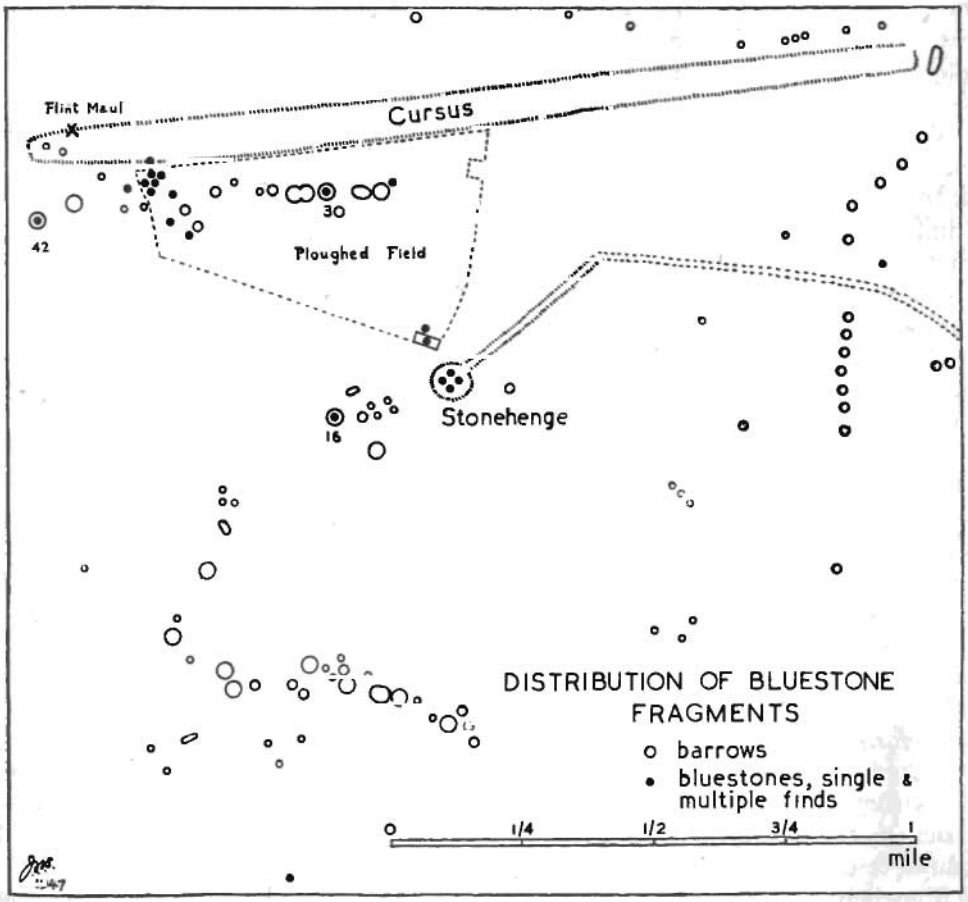

FIG. 4. DISTRIBUTION OF BLUESTONE FRAGMENTS IN THE STONEHENGE AREA. THE NUMBERED BARROWS ARE HOARE'S 16, 30 AND 42. FOR OTHER SYMBOLS SEE FIG. 1

'I also found close to the Cursus several bluestone chips and a small piece of micaceous sandstone.' These finds have not been plotted in fig. 4.

To interpret the presence of this high concentration of bluestone fragments we must first note that they do not represent one type of rock only and hence we cannot infer that one block *en route* for Stonehenge was dressed here. Besides the fragment of blue sandstone from the Cursus ditch itself, Dr. Wallis has by microscopic examination identified the following from the field specimens submitted to him : four pieces of Presely rhyolite, and two pieces similar to each other which may be

described as rhyolitic rocks and which may be marginal modifications of the Presely rock ; also one fragment, thought by the writer to be volcanic ash, but actually a crushed slate with a microcrystalline ground mass of quartz. And we should not forget Mr. Young's specimen of micaceous sandstone, making in all five types of rock similar if not identical with those of Stonehenge. Evidence for the dressing of bluestones at Stonehenge itself is so overwhelming that it seems superfluous to infer the contemporaneous dressing of many of them three-quarters of a mile away. Another explanation is possible, although at the present time it should be treated with caution, especially as no complete petrological examination of all the Stonehenge fragments has yet been undertaken.

The Stonehenge ditch is of Grooved Ware date,[42] and, as we have noted, the Cursus is almost certainly contemporary. The Fargo grave ditch yielded a piece of rhyolite and a Neolithic B (Peterborough) sherd,[43] both probably pre-Beaker and derived from the old land surface, though a Beaker date is not thereby excluded. From this it follows that the bluestone fragment in the Cursus ditch, and the many fragments in the field close by, are also of Beaker or pre-Beaker date, and consequently earlier than the Wessex-Culture Stonehenge familiar to us to-day.

The Bowl's Barrow boulder of spotted dolerite proves that this rock was transported to Wiltshire from South Wales at the date of this long barrow.[44] Such a movement of foreign stones in Late Neolithic times is in complete accord with the movement of foreign stone axes, including one of spotted dolerite to Windmill Hill,[45] from Wales and Cumberland,[46] a movement known to have persisted into Grooved Ware times.[47] And two of the bluestones at Stonehenge possess mortises, proving that they had formerly been incorporated in a pre-existing monument. The bluestone chippings found at the west end of the Cursus suggest therefore the existence of a bluestone structure of late Neolithic or Grooved Ware age in the vicinity, possibly within the Cursus itself, which was subsequently dismantled, and where possible incorporated, after further dressing at Stonehenge, in the new circles erected there in Wessex Culture times, i.e. the mature Early Bronze Age. Thus we may have here a clue to the whereabouts of the original Blue Stonehenge postulated by the presence of the mortised bluestones. Though it is as yet unexamined, the existence of the circle of post-holes within one end of the Dorchester Cursus (p. 11) is indicative of a similar association between a cursus and a circle-monument or henge. Whilst the existence of such a structure at the west end of the Stonehenge Cursus is completely unproved, and is likely to remain so for some time, in view of the nature of the ground, it is felt that attention should be focussed on the possibility.

Should this ultimately prove a fact it will follow that a cursus (it seems desirable to retain the name) represents some form of processional way connecting a stone or timber circle with a long barrow or other Late Neolithic ossuary, and is thus

[42] Piggott, *Antiquity*, x (1936), 221.
[43] *Wilts Arch. Mag.*, xlviii (1938), 366.
[44] Ibid., xlii, 432 ; *Antiquity*, iii (1929), 78.
[45] As yet unrecorded, but identified petrologically by Dr. Wallis.
[46] *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, vii (1941), 50 ; xiii (1947), 47 (Reports of Sub-Committee of the S.-W. Group of Museums on the Petrological Identification of Stone Implements).
[47] To be published shortly in *Wilts Arch. Mag.* A pit near Woodhenge recently found contained a remarkable collection of objects including an axe from Graig Lwyd accompanied by Grooved Ware.

the Lowland Zone earthen counterpart or prototype of the stone avenues and alignments of the Highland Zone, for example, the row of stones from a circle on Staldon Moor, Dartmoor, which ends with a small cairn on Green Hill some $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles distant.[48] In some way we seem to have here—if stone and timber circles can be construed as meeting-places or assembly-grounds of the living—the material embodiment of an attempted connecting link between the living and the dead.

Acknowledgments

In the first place I must acknowledge my indebtedness to Professor C. F. C. Hawkes for the inception of this study, made just prior to the Summer Meeting of the Institute at Salisbury in July ; and to the National Trust and their tenants Messrs. Wort and Way for so readily granting permission for the cuttings to be made. The actual excavation would have been impossible but for the active participation of Professor and Mrs. Stuart Piggott, Miss Nancy Sandars, Brigadier E. V. Hallinan and Messrs. A. R. Burn, C. G. Trotman and W. A. Gillett. On a number of points I must also thank Dr. K. C. Dunham, Mr. W. E. V. Young, Mr. Frank Stevens, Mr. R. S. Newall and Mr. H. de S. Shortt ; and especially Dr. F. S. Wallis and the Sub-Committee of the South-Western Group of Museums for the Petrological Identification of Stone Implements for so willingly undertaking the necessary petrological analyses. Acknowledgments are also due to the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office and the Director-General of the Ordnance Survey for permission to publish the aerial photograph.

At the request of the National Trust the finds have been placed on loan in the Salisbury Museum.

[48] *Antiquity*, xii (1938), 446.

4. Notes on Prehistoric Antiquities, previously unpublished, in the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum

By H. DE S. SHORTT,
Curator of the Museum

In making a choice from the Museum's prehistoric collections for illustration and brief description here, I have thought it best to prefer pieces not hitherto published, but for particular reasons noteworthy. Of the six Bronze Age specimens chosen, most come certainly or probably from barrows; and the remaining piece, of the Early Iron Age, comes almost undoubtedly from a hill-fort.

Fig. 1. Perforated axe-hammer or battle-axe of hard stone, an old acquisition (cat. no. Neoliths 1301), L. 4·95 in. (12·6 cm.). Entered as from 'Tedworth, Wilts', meaning evidently (this was an old spelling) the parish of North Tidworth

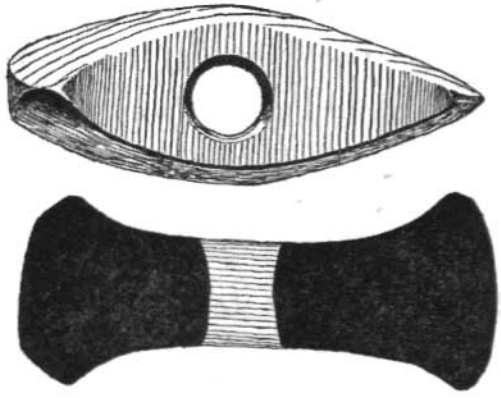

FIG. 1. STONE AXE-HAMMER, N. TIDWORTH. (½)
Salisbury Museum

(South Tidworth is in Hants). Fine dark stone; has been petrologically examined since this note was first drafted: see p. 26. It is of the almost symmetrical-ended form gracefully expanded blade and butt, familiar e.g. from the Hove barrow in Sussex: Curwen, *Arch. of Sussex*, 162-4, pl. XIII, 2, with references; and R. A. Smith in *Archaeologia*, lxxv (1925), 79-81, fig. 2. It may be assigned to the Wessex culture of the mature Early Bronze Age (see Professor Piggott above, p. 5, and in *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, iv (1938), 52 ff., 61, 71, 92). It could well have come from a barrow, but of that nothing is known.

Fig. 2, *a*. Small bronze dagger, of 'triangular' type, but with edges now corroded, nowhere thicker than 1·5 mm.; L. now 6 cm., but originally about 3·5 or 3·6 in. (say 6·5 cm.). Bevelled to a slightly diminished thickness towards the heel: little of this remains, but three quadrangular rivet-holes may confidently be restored, of form shown by the one rivet surviving loose, here drawn beside the blade (L. 5 mm., and 2 mm. square).

Given to the Museum in October 1944 (acc. no. 339/45) by Mrs. Lucy Flower, with written records of its finding in October 1860, inside a pottery urn, in a barrow on Ridge Farm near Chilmark (then the property of her grandfather, Mr. F. King),

which from her precise description (barrow ' by the keeper's house '—the cottage and buildings called ' Woodbine ', still there—' on the south side of Stockton Wood, where it joins Heytesbury Ridings and Great Ridge Woods ') is undoubtedly one not actually in Chilmark parish, but Goddard's barrow 3 in Fonthill Bishop (6-in. O.S. Wilts LVIII SE). Two contemporary documents accompanied it, which

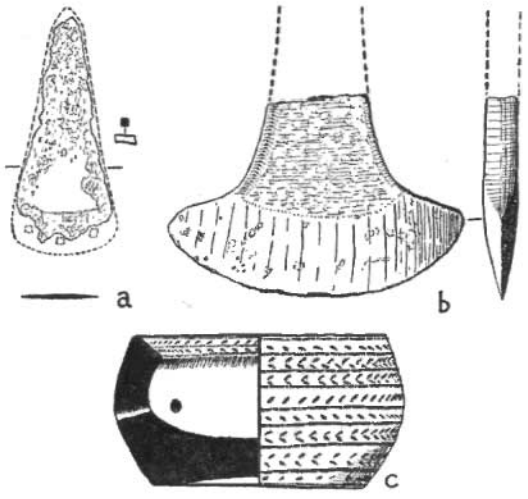

FIG. 2

a, BRONZE DAGGER (AND RIVET) FROM BARROW 3, FONTHILL BISHOP (with the urn, fig. 3 : pp. 20-3)
b, HALF OF BRONZE AXE, FOUND ' ON ' BARROW, LAVERSTOCK DOWN (p. 23)
c, POTTERY PYGMY CUP, CHARNAGE DOWN, MERE (p. 24)
(All ½)
Salisbury Museum

with the consent of my Director, Mr. Stevens, I am here reproducing, as they reveal that the excavation was one communicated at the time to the Archaeological Institute, and that these are in fact the ' relics found in a barrow on the Wiltshire Downs ' which were exhibited to the Institute at its meeting in London on December 7th, 1860, as is recorded in *Arch. Journ.*, xviii (1861), 71.

The excavator was a certain Mr. Thornbury of Fonthill, and his agent for having the finds exhibited to the Institute was W. Burges, the noted architect, by arrangement with the President, who was Albert Way. The first document is a copy, evidently made by Thornbury for keeping with the finds, of Way's reply to the letter in which Burges must have first brought them to his notice. In it is inserted a note also in Thornbury's hand (see below), which records the discovery as follows.

' This reference is to the contents of a Barrow opened on the Down land belonging to Mr. Frederick King in the parish of Chilmark, Wilts, in October 1860. An old Thorn tree had sent its roots through every part of the Barrow, and the Vases were broken into small pieces—they remained however perfectly in their place, so that when the earth had been carefully removed they appeared one Vase placed to cover another, both of unglazed red pottery. In the under Vase (with these markings, and apparently of this

form ' (sketch) ' were a handful of partly burnt bones ; and among them a Bronze Arrow-head, tolerably perfect, although it appears to have gone through the fire. A rivet, or headless nail, is still loosely attached. The upper Vase was without ornament, and appears to have been very shallow. The form of the Wiltshire arrowhead' (sketch).

The second sketch is recognizably our dagger (the preservation of the tiny rivet is a happy addition to it), and the first, showing the urn, is here reproduced photographically, true to its size as drawn by Thornbury, in fig. 3.

FIG. 3. POTTERY URN FROM BARROW 3, FONTHILL BISHOP
(with the dagger, fig. 2, *a* : p. 21)
After the excavator's sketch of 1860 : original now destroyed

Way's letter itself runs as follows :

' Wonham, Reigate.
Nov. 21, 1860.

' My dear Sir,

I am always happy to communicate with you, and delighted if there is any information which I can supply. This little point of " *Dry-as-dust* " is more interesting perhaps than you imagine. The occurrence of Bronze in our earlier Urn Burials is very rare. A little singular pin ' (sketch) ' sharp and flat, of bronze, sometimes accompanies the burnt ashes in the earliest Urns, and we believe it pinned up the cloth in which the ashes were collected out of the burning. I believe this is rather conjectural.

' Bronze arrowheads are very uncommon in this Early Period. An Urn closed by another Urn is also very uncommon. It so happens curiously enough that in a Barrow opened in Lincolnshire by a friend of mine Urns were found with such features of ancient interment. The Barrow was very flat. The Urns one in the other, thus ' (sketch) 'a small Urn inserted in a larger one as a cover. No such instance was found by Sir R. Colt Hoare in Wiltshire. Among the burnt bones of that Barrow was a bronze arrowhead, very thin and decayed. *Arch. Journal*, vol. 8, page 346 ' (sketch).

' The coincidence of the two uncommon facts is remarkable—and I should be much obliged if you could give us a note of the diggings & of the form or kind of ornament on the Urn—also the form of the Arrow.' (At this point Thornbury has inserted the note printed above.) ' We have Urns of two periods, a bronze rather appertains to the later. Bronze is the great landmark of civilization, before History begins. It is of high interest to the investigation of British antiquities—because we believe *all bronze* contains an element from Cornwall. And when we find bronze, of which the date is fixed as early as Joseph in Egypt, it shows that the British Islands were not wholly in Barbarism at that period.

' I should like to see the arrow very much.

Believe me yours
Very truly
(signed) Albert Way.'

Upon this, evidently, the arrangement was made for the ' arrow '—our dagger—and a piece of the urn to be exhibited to the Institute. The second document is the letter written to Thornbury by Burges returning to him the specimens after the meeting.

' 15 Buckingham St Dec 7 1860.

' My dear Thornbury Many thanks for the arrow the piece of pottery & your invitation the latter I could not accept as I was out of town when you wrote it. The former made their debut at the Archaeological this evening but I was out of town & am now writing this very late. I expect to be in town next week & I will then arrange for you & I to dine & spend the evening together. I want to hear about Fonthill & how your father & mother are. I remain Yours very truly

W. Burges.

' P S I took the liberty of telling Albert Way the president of the Archaeological that you would give him any additional information he might want concerning the discovery.'

Thornbury's response to this was evidently to write for Way the note printed above (copying it also, together with Way's letter to Burges—which the latter must have lent him—for keeping with the finds). For the printed record of the exhibit, *Arch. Journ.*, xviii, 71, has clearly been condensed by Way from the note supplied by Thornbury and from his own letter to Burges, omitting the reference to Joseph in Egypt, but repeating that to the Lincolnshire find, which was that made by Captain Arthur Trollope in 1850 at Broughton (*Arch. Journ.*, viii, 341 ff., 346): the surviving urns are Abercromby's 76 *b*, 77, and 98, and are in the British Museum.

The finds were then no doubt made over to Mr. King as the landowner, and Mrs. Flower has recorded that ' The broken pottery was put together, & formed a jar like the one in the sketch in the letter.' This did not survive, however, for her to be able to give it also to the Museum. The story may seem trifling, but pleasingly illustrates the manner and method of Mid-Victorian antiquaries.

The dagger itself makes a welcome addition to the small number of those on proper record found with cremation-burials in urns. The urn is in form really more like the Oxfordshire food-vessel of Abercromby's pl. XXIX, 6, though not, perhaps, in the rim, which appears in the Fonthill vessel to be rounded. There is little in the sketch to indicate the method of applying the ornament. It may be twisted cord, but it may be merely scratched. Some urns from the North Riding of Yorkshire, Abercromby, pl. LXXV, 157, have a similar decoration which appears to be scratched, but the Fonthill vessel appears to me to be of the form of a large food-vessel rather than an urn. Presumably it belongs to the earlier part of the Middle Bronze Age.

Fig. 2, *b*, shows the broken half (the break ancient) of a slightly flanged bronze axe, recently given to the Museum (acc. no. 152/46) by Mr. W. E. Wright, who records it as having been found ' many years ago ' by a shepherd, Mr. Williams, now in retirement at West Grimstead, but formerly of Laverstock, ' on ' a barrow on Laverstock Down, almost certainly Goddard's Laverstock no. 1. The metal where broken has a very spongy appearance, full of air-bubbles. The flanges, though slight, are cast, but on the flat surface between them, small circular depressions show the result of hammering. The blade is very widely expanded, to diameter 3·1 in. (7·8 cm.).

The type is known to belong to the period of the Wessex culture (Piggott, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, iv, 79, 83, 86-7, 88-90 ; and cf. 272 ff.). If the axe was brought e.g., by animal action to the surface of the barrow from within it, it may perhaps have accompanied an interment of that culture ; but that is of course conjecture.

Fig. 2, *c*, is a pygmy cup or ' incense-cup ' of reddish pottery, found on Charnage Down, Mere, and given to the Museum by Mr. A. R. White, J.P., in 1925 (acc. no. 4/25, cat. no. B.A. Pottery 181). It is not perfect, but may be restored reliably,

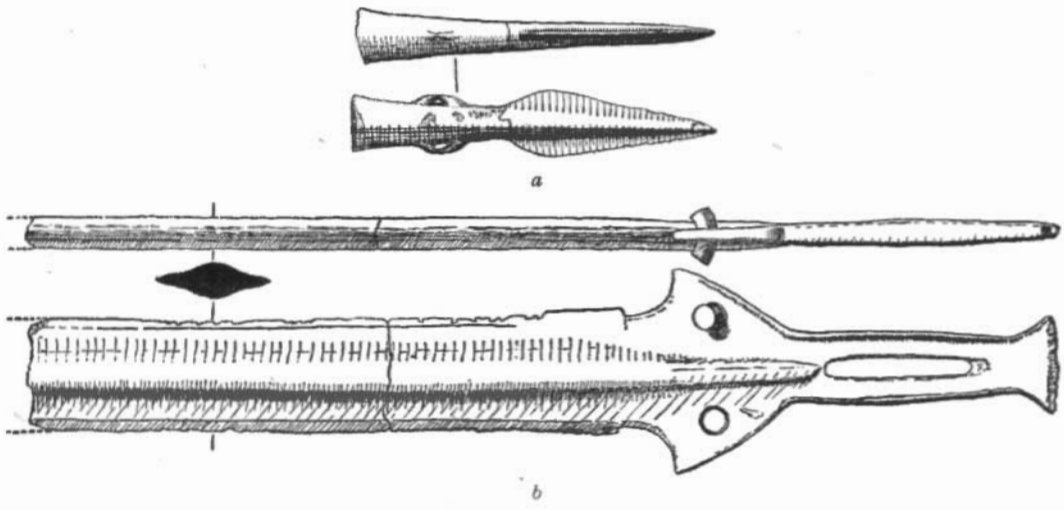

FIG. 4

a, BRONZE SPEARHEAD, ' FROM BARROW ', COOMBE BISSETT OR BISHOPSTONE ($\frac{1}{2}$)
b, PART OF BRONZE SWORD, UPTON SCUDAMORE ($\frac{1}{2}$)
Salisbury Museum

the diameter being 3 in. (7·6 cm.). It has two original perforations, 0·7 in. apart on the exterior, and stab-mark ornament in bands divided by impressed lines as shown. This sort of cup recalls Abercromby, pl. LXXIX, 214 (ornament round foot) and pl. LXXX, 245, 251 (perforations and form), and may be assigned probably also to the earlier part of the Middle Bronze Age. The cup may be believed to have come out of some barrow on Charnage Down.

The next two pieces are of the Late Bronze Age.

Fig. 4, *a*. Small bronze spearhead, L. 3·75 in. (9·5 cm.), cracked across the waist but virtually complete. This is an old acquisition (Cat. Bronze Age Impts., p. 39) and is ticketed ' Tumulus at Coombe Bissett, Feb. 1873. E. Sidford '. It appears to be no. 186 in Goddard's list in *W.A.M.*, xxxvii. But it is recorded that in the 1870's a Mr. Fred Sidford lived at Faulston Farm in the adjoining parish of Bishopstone, and I think the ' E ' should probably be ' F '. On Faulston Down the 1-in. O.S. map marks two barrows as ' Tumuli ', and at the boundary between the parishes this turns into Coombe Bissett Down ; if the spearhead came from one of these barrows the parish will be Bishopstone. There is, however, at least one round barrow in Coombe Bissett parish, on Homington Down, so the matter cannot quite be settled. The Museum has another spearhead (with broken point)

stated to have come from Coombe Bissett (acc. no. 56/1927), and this is of the same type. It was formerly in the museum of East Harnham school.

The type, with leaf-shaped blade and pair of loops on the socket, is Greenwell-Brewis, class IV, and its associations are Late Bronze Age. This was confirmed when a specimen was found in the habitation-site of that period on Thorny Down (*Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, vii (1941), 128-31),[1] and part of another in the Deverel-Rimbury 'urnfield' on Launceston Down, amongst cremated bones inside an urn (*Archaeologia*, xc (1944), 60-1, fig. 6).[2] It looks then as if the Coombe Bissett or Bishopstone

FIG. 5. BRONZE RING-CASTING, APPARENTLY FROM IRON AGE HORSE-BIT, BELIEVED FOUND AT WYLYE CAMP (¾)
Salisbury Museum

barrow whence our fig. 4, *a*, came may have been used for cremation burial in the Late Bronze Age; though, again, this can only be conjectured.

The Museum has also an unpublished specimen, larger, of the type of socketed spearhead with loops at the base of the blade—the 'basal-loop' type, of the same general period—which was ploughed up in 1902 in a field near Amesbury.

Fig. 4, *b*, shows the bronze sword, lacking about half its blade, found long ago on Upton Scudamore Cow Down and recorded in *W.A.M.*, vi, 260; xxxvii, 337 (as 'dagger'); and xlii, 602. Its two breakages and loss of blade seem to have happened since its discovery, and it has also been used as a saw and/or a chopper. Later it was acquired by the well-known Salisbury antiquary and tobacconist, James Brown, and was given by his daughter Miss Brown to the Museum in 1923 (acc. no. 7/1923). It belongs to a distinct Late Bronze Age class of swords, of which that from the Wilburton Fen hoard (Cambs) is typical: Fox, *Arch. Camb. Reg.*, pl. x, 15 (p. 59); and Mr. J. D. Cowen in *Arch. Aeliana*, 4 ser., x (1933), 197-8.

Finally we pass to a piece of the Early Iron Age.

Fig. 5. Bronze ring-casting, greatest width 0·7 in. (1·75 cm.), with transverse perforation of slightly waisted form, central moulding forked on one side, everted lip-shaped terminal mouldings, and flattened under-surface with round, short central peg flanked by a hollow socket of uneven lunate shape. Apparently a side-link terminal from a three-link horse-bit related to the derivative La Tène type discussed by Sir Cyril Fox in *Llyn Cerrig Final Report* (Nat. Mus. Wales, 1946), 27 ff., 31-3, with fig. 15 ('Phase II'); not, however, solid-cast with the

[1] This note should have mentioned the specimen found with two 'Brighton loops', two wire spirals, and a wire-strung amber bead in the Stump Bottom (Sompting) hoard, Sussex: *Antiq. Journ.*, vi (1926), 444-6.

[2] Another, loose, *Maiden Castle*, 186, fig. 53.

body of the link, but presumably attached to it by means of the peg and socket on the under-surface. The everted lip-mouldings recall those on some of the contemporary terrets, and the date would seem to be late in the Early Iron Age, probably not earlier than about A.D. 1. The metal is in part blistered and laminated by corrosion, of a reddish as well as greenish colour, but there is no trace of any red enamel embellishment. The piece is an old acquisition (cat. no. Bronze obj. var. 1), without any original ticket, but forming part of a collection believed always to have been kept together, in which all the other objects come definitely from the hill-fort 9 miles WNW. of Salisbury called Bilbury Rings or Wylye Camp. This typically Iron Age hill-fort may in Mr. Stevens's opinion be fairly safely accepted, accordingly, as the find-spot of the piece. It is an interesting variant of the moulded side-link terminal in this class of bit, and is here published as a small addition to the known material of the late pre-Roman period in the Salisbury region.[3]

In conclusion, I have to thank Mr. Stevens for authorizing and assisting the preparation of these notes, and Professor Hawkes for supplying certain references, and for helping in the final presentation.

The stone axe-hammer from N. Tidworth (p. 20, fig. 1) has in November, 1948 been petrologically examined for the Sub-Committee of the South-Western Group of Museums on the Petrological Identification of Stone Implements, through the kindness of Dr. J. F. S. Stone, F.S.A., and Dr. F. S. Wallis, F.G.S. The Report, dated 8 Nov., 1948, is as follows ;—"Number 399. Macro: fine-grained dark-coloured greenstone. Micro : medium grained rock, composed of labradorite laths, brown hornblende crystals, a little quartz, and patches of chlorite and calcite. A hornblende dolerite." The source of the rock is apparently not established.

[3] Cf. the Bowerchalke enamelled bridle-cheekpiece : *W.A.M.*, xliii, 352 ; M. E. Cunnington, *Arch. of Wiltshire*, 3rd edn. (1938), 133-4.