

AN EXCAVATION AT BODRIFTY, MULFRA HILL, NEAR PENZANCE, CORNWALL

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For The West Cornwall Field Club

The excavation at Bodrifty was undertaken because the site seemed to offer a chance to confirm the dating of the Late Bronze Age Settlement at Trewey on Zennor Downs. In addition, surface indications at the lower end of the site suggested a Courtyard house; so the possibility of some evidence which might show a stage in the development of this latter culture was also a reason for the excavation.

The work was carried out under the direction of the then President of the West Cornwall Field Club, the late Rev. C. B. Crofts, F.S.A., in 1951-4, and by the writer in 1950 when the President was ill and, in 1955, after his death. The work was voluntary with the exception of one paid labourer during one season, and was done by members and friends of the Club. The time spent on the work seems long but this was due to the inaccessibility of the site to many workers, which meant a short working-day; moreover, two seasons were extremely wet ones.

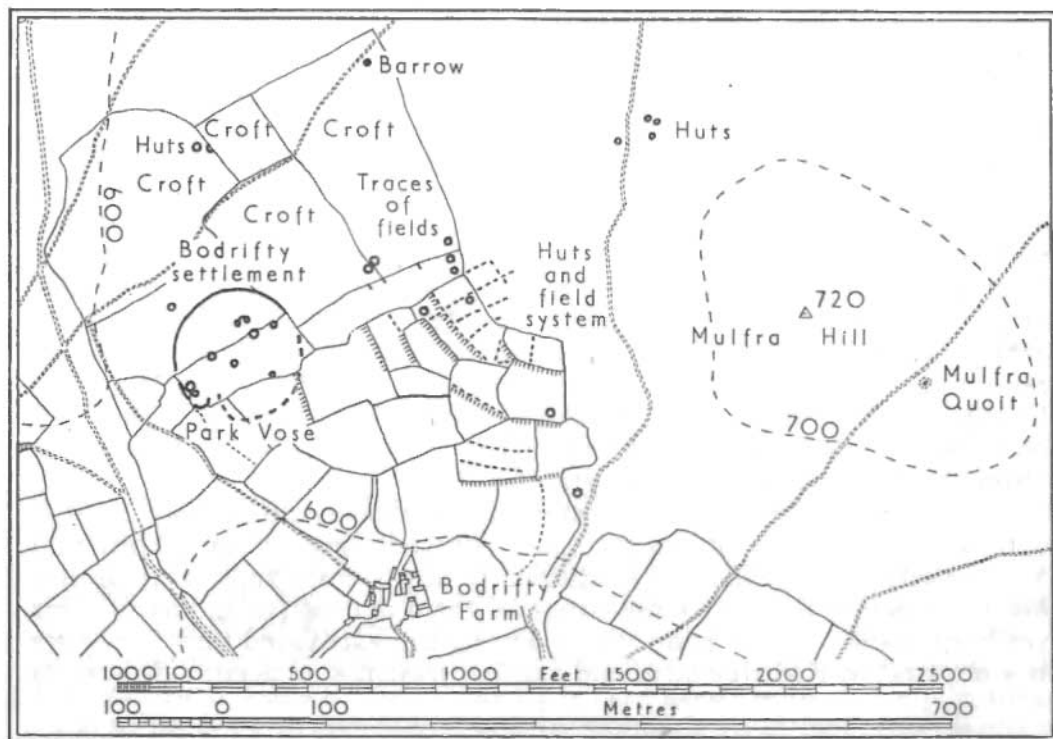


Fig. 1. Plan of the Settlement at Bodrifty Farm, Mulfra Hill

(A map of Cornwall showing the position of Bodrifty will be found on page 79; *An Excavation at St. Mawgan-in-Pyder, North Cornwall*, Appendix A.)

THE SITE

The settlement excavated at Bodrifty lies on the western confines of the farm of that name and is situated on the spreading, low, westerly slopes of Mulfra Hill, Gulval.¹ Thus it is almost on the watershed of the highland area of West Penwith and is adjacent to the ridgeway, sometimes presumed prehistoric, which traverses the peninsular from the tin-bearing area at St. Just to St. Ives and St. Erth,—the latter on the Hayle-Marazion Valley route between the Atlantic and the English Channel. The Bone valley and that of the Trevaylor River give access by gentle stages to the Channel at Mount's Bay four miles away; the Bosporthennis stream descends more rapidly through the old, worn cliffs of the Pliocene sea to the coastal plain, reaching the Atlantic at Porthmeor cove, two miles distant. The excavated cliff castle at Gurnards Head² is about half a mile to the north-north-east.

Thus, the Bodrifty area is admirably situated to receive influences by trade and immigration from overseas and this, no doubt, accounts for the richness of the archaeological remains there; Mulfra 'Quoit' (chambered tomb) is near the top of the hill above the excavation and the 'Nine Maidens', a stone circle, tops the opposite ridge; a string of barrows runs north-north-west from Mulfra Hill along Porthmeor Common, almost to the sea; two Scillonian passage graves, hut-circles, a second stone circle and half a dozen Courtyard houses lie within a mile or two; the nearby cliff castle of Gurnard's Head has already been mentioned and Trenow quarry, the source of the stone for Group III axes, is six miles distant.

The granite of the area in which the excavated settlement lies is extremely acid and of the fine-grained type which extends from Mulfra to the outskirts of St. Ives.³ This differs from the coarser, porphyritic kind, in weathering into relatively small blocks as can be seen in the valley at Bodrifty, and also at Chysauster and Trewey which are in the same geological area. The harder granite resists decay better than the fine and results in much larger blocks and boulders as seen on Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor. It is this inability to resist change that has given Mulfra Hill its name—'bald'⁴, for it lacks the wild, fantastic rocks that form the 'tors' on the hills of the harder granite.

The higher parts of the area are still open moorland and are covered with a loose growth of coarse grass, heather, gorse, blackthorn and occasionally dwarf willow. Traditionally there were trees near Mulfra but there is now no surface indication of them and no pollen analysis has yet been made. There is no spring among the excavated huts but there is a fine one on Bodrifty farm and another near the adjacent ridgeway in

¹ O.S., 1 in., Sheet 189 (New Pop. Ed.); 6 ins. Sheet 68 N.W.; 25 ins., Sheet 68.5; Nat. Grid Ref. 445354. Air photographs 3 G/TUD/UR 209 Pt. III, 5242; 540/518, 1954, 4209.

² *Arch. Journ.*, xcvi (1940), 96-111.

³ It is less coarse than that used in some of the Dartmoor huts.

⁴ Cornish *mol* = bald; *mol fre (bre)* = bald hill.

one of the Ventonigga farm fields.¹ The district must have been suitable for settlement for the Bodrifty hut-circles and enclosures covered a considerable part of the western side of the hill, and a Courtyard house village later occupied much of the southern end of the hill. About 150 B.C. some of the hut-circles and enclosures were enclosed in a pound (discovered from air-photographs) and it is these that were excavated. The fields of the prehistoric field-system cannot be traced with certainty within the pound but can be faintly seen on the eastern boundaries of the modern farm and extending beyond them on to the open moor. Elsewhere they are obliterated by the modern field-walls, though a few of the old lynchets can be seen. The presence of former hut-circles in the adjoining crofts is strongly suspected.²

The work of excavation was greatly hampered by much loose stone left lying about haphazardly fifty years ago, when the farmer sold the stone to a contractor in Penzance. As well as the confusion resulting from the rejected stone, much was taken from the hut-circle walls and the pound-wall was left in a completely ruinous condition.

The Excavation

The method of excavation was to clear to the 'rab', the clay-like subsoil that overlies the solid granite. This varies in colour from shades of red-brown to grey according to the amount of leaching that has taken place. Frequently, stones large and small, and very firmly fixed, project at odd angles from the coarser part of the rab—'fast in the rab' is the local expression. Such stones persist because of the exceptional hardness and consequent resistance to weathering. When this level is apparent, the excavator can be reasonably sure that the limit of occupation has been reached. The upper part of the subsoil is often crumbly and of finer or coarser texture dependent upon the extent of disintegration affecting the fragments of granite lying above. The occupation level is usually here; it is darkish in colour, sometimes a brown-black but not uniformly so, nor is it always consistent in colour or texture over the whole of the 'floor'. Above lies tumbled stone from the walls, together with the roots of bracken, heather and gorse which often form a thick, mat-like layer. This is topped by a rich modern humus. The total depth of the filling does not, as a rule, exceed 18 ins.

The chronological placing of finds in such zones would appear to be relatively simple but this was not so; the bottom of the occupation layer was most difficult to separate from the rab, producing, like the 'floor' itself, sherds of earlier and later date haphazardly. It is considered that this confusion is due to the re-making of the 'floor' of the hut-circle, from time to time, by the spreading and tramping down of fresh rab; (such a method of re-making wet and dirty floors was in use recently in this

Venton — *fenlen* = spring.

² Some of these suspected sites are shewn on the site plan.

locality). This would account for the presence of artifacts in what would otherwise have been termed 'rab' and for lack of uniformity in colour and texture in the hut floors, for these could vary according to the age of the infill. The cleaning-out of the floors is also suggested by the difference in the level of the set of the grounders of the hut-circle walls and the floor last inhabited. Grounders are normally set a short distance into the rab and the floor level would be slightly above this. But the level of the building of the walls is now several inches *above* the excavated floor; it is suggested that the discrepancy is due to the clearance of the

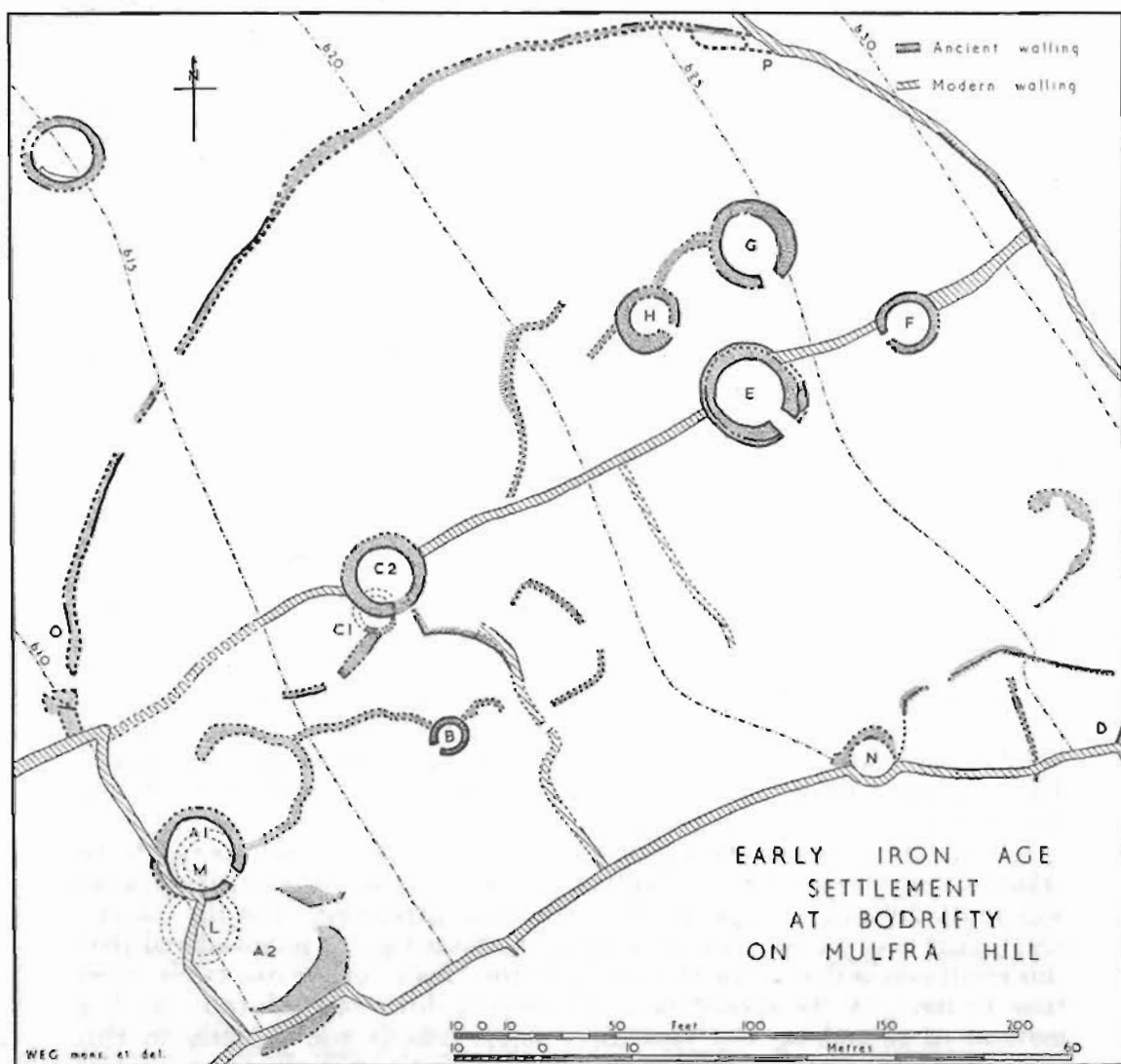


Fig. 2. The Early Iron Age Settlement.

floors as they became dirty and re-making with fresh rab, resulting in the lowering of the floor level each time it was remade.¹

The overburden having been removed and the walls stripped of their heavy growth, the layers remaining were taken down in spits of 4 to 6 ins. in depth over the whole area of the hut-circle except in AI and CII which were excavated on the quadrant method.² Loose stones were removed but any that appeared 'set' were left, as likely to be part of internal structures.

STRUCTURES REVEALED

The decision to excavate at Bodrifty was made in 1949 before the Early Iron Age A pottery had been found on Dartmoor³ or Bodmin Moor.⁴ It was realised that both large and small hut-circles were existent on the site and that this difference in size had a chronological significance.⁵ Accordingly the meticulous examination of both types of huts was a most important feature of the excavations. Nine hut-circles were excavated, five large and four small ones. These were the best-preserved. Many others must have been destroyed for faint traces of them can be seen from air-photographs and field-work. Some of these, less ruined than the others, are noted on Fig. 1. Both large and small dwellings have some characteristics in common; all are cut back slightly into the hillside; walls are double with an earth and stone core and have facings on both sides built carefully of 'moorstone' (surface granite) in the 'drystone' method. But the larger hut-circles have much thicker walls of a different appearance from those of the smaller ones; their doorways are much wider, are well paved and open to the south-east whilst doorways in the small ones are narrow and open to the south-west. The smaller huts here do not possess drains (? water channels), post-holes or internal hearths; their shape tends to be elliptical.

HUT-CIRCLE B

The hut-circle is small, slightly elliptical and 9 ft. 6 ins. by 9 ft. in internal diameter. It is connected on the N. and S.W. with low banks of earth and stone, now in a very much damaged condition. It does not appear to have had any alterations in structure generally, but a short stretch of the W. wall appears to have been robbed and rebuilt. The hut-circle is built on a slightly-sloping granite outcrop, the lowest part being levelled by rough cobbling set in grey, leached soil. The walls are double, 3 ft. wide with a rubble core and faced on both sides with small slabs about 2 ft. 6 ins. high, most of which are set upright. The entrance is narrow and opens to the S.W. There is no evidence for a roofing-post. The building has a neat, compact appearance. The floor was sealed by a layer of fine rab which contained nothing but one quartz crystal. Sherds were found among and below the cobbles together with a fragment of flint and a few specks of charcoal. Some sherds showed in the baulk which ran across the hut, in the sections outside the walls, and this led to the trenching of the ground to the E. and N.E. of B although there were no visible

¹ See Plate II

² AI was excavated by Mr. A. Guthrie. See under Hut-circle A.

³ *Trans. Devon Assn.*, 86, 52-5.

⁴ D. Dudley, unpublished, 1951.

⁵ *P.P.S.*, (1952), 52-5.

remains. Much pottery was found of both periods of the Early Iron Age, but no structures. Immediately outside the E. wall of B there was a small much-burnt area with fine charcoal and pottery of the Early Iron Age A, similar to that found inside the hut-circle. A suggestion was made that a lean-to—possibly to shelter cooking-hearths—may have existed to the N.N.E. of B, the roof resting, at the back, on the wall there extended from B. At the front, posts would be necessary to hold up the roof, but the holes for these were unconvincing. It is thought that the hut is an Early Iron Age A hut-circle and that in the later period it may have been used as a storehouse.

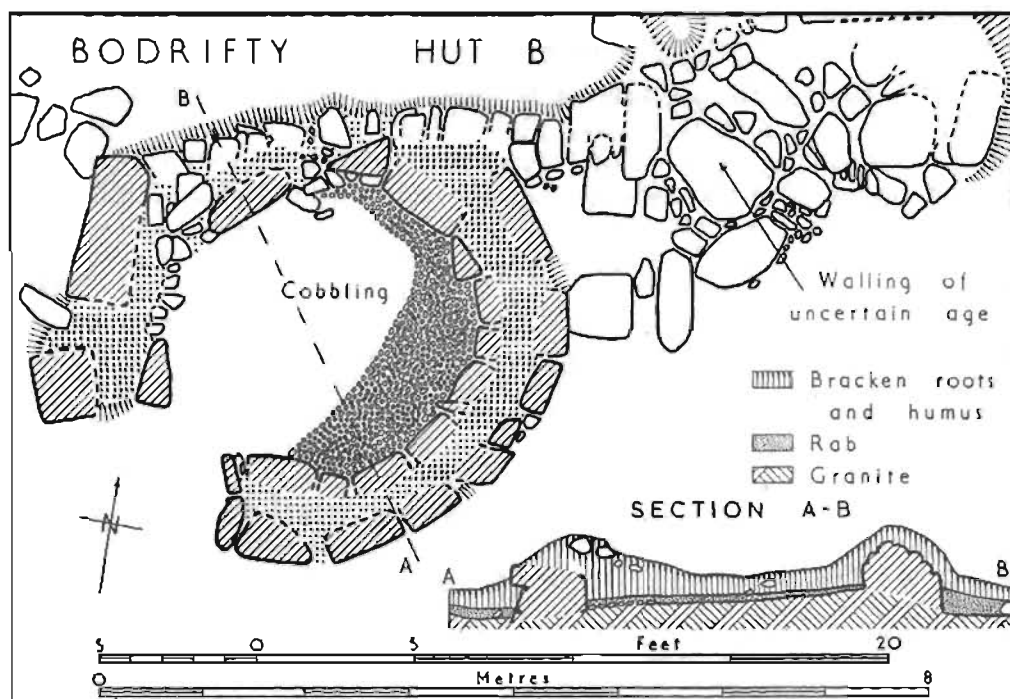


Fig 3. Hut-circle B

HUT-CIRCLE CII

This is a large one, circular, (23 ft. internal diameter) and has a fine appearance. Its high (4 ft.) double walls are built of stones selected for their usefulness in the horizontal position as opposed to the vertical placing of the wall-stones in B. Occasionally, a stone is placed vertically—perhaps to prevent slip—but the general aspect is totally different from that afforded by the building in B and earlier work elsewhere. The floor was one of those that had been made up from time to time with consequent disturbance of its stratification and structures. There were some indications of an interesting hearth in the centre. Part of this had been set with plain sherds of the Early Iron Age (S.W.B.), with a stone as a hob standing near it. Elsewhere, the hearth showed some remains of a white, clayey material (possibly the product of decayed felspars from the granite) in which were lying some sherds of rouletted S.W.B. type. This sort of pottery was found in Hut-circle A1 also, and indicates that these two huts were the latest to be occupied. Other finds were few; some pottery of both Early Iron Age A and S.W.B. were found together with a rather poor saddle-quern, and a highly-polished piece of quartz porphyry which some suggest was used for the preparation of leather.

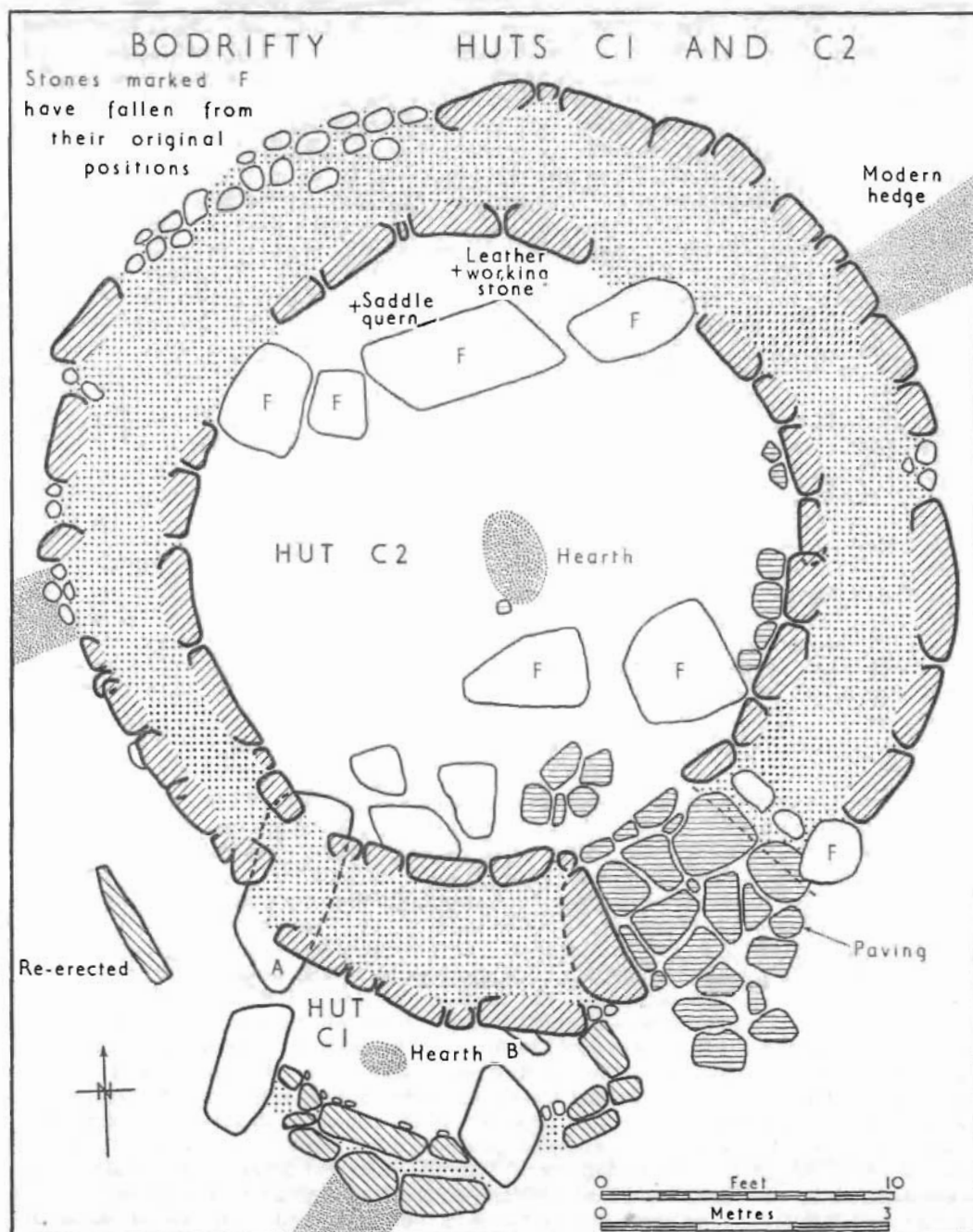


Fig. 4. Hut-circles C I and C II

But the most interesting aspect of this hut was that excavation showed it was built over an earlier one, CI. A short stretch of the wall of CI still remains to the S.S.W. of CII. Its build recalls that of Hut-circle B, for it has the same neat appearance and is about the same width and height and of the same construction. In further support of the existence of this earlier hut-circle, two stones marked A and B (fig. 4) can be seen projecting from the wall of the later hut; A runs across the line of the present CII wall; A forms a 'througher', a device rarely used by these builders for they did not possess the tools which would enable them to cut the moorstone to a desired size.¹ B, a rather shapeless stone, protrudes awkwardly from the base of the later wall, completely spoiling the run and appearance of an otherwise excellent piece of Early Iron Age building; there seems to be no reason to use such stones as A and B in such an unusual manner unless they were lying about on the other site, conveniently to hand. There is, also, some evidence to show that A aligns with some stones, F, still set in the rab, inside CII. The curve thus made could continue across the floor to the S.E. side of the present paved entrance; thence it might run to the remains of CI, outside the present hut-circle. The walling of the S.E. side of the entrance is unusual; a much worn block now forms the corner-stone. This can scarcely have been the original one and may be out of place owing to partial collapse of the wall. Doorways as a general rule stand the passage of time well; the poor condition of this one could be the result of building on an insecure foundation, i.e. the walling of the older hut-circle. The paving of the entrance at this side, too, is irregular as if laid on an uneven base. Another suggestion for this small hut is shewn on Fig. 1.

In hut-circles where rebuilding is thought to have occurred there are large stones lying about, or projecting from the walls; these unattached stones appear to serve no definite structural purpose—possibly they are 'left-overs' from the rebuilding of the dwelling. They may have been left to serve as seats or working places in the new hut. The sherds found at the lowest levels of what are taken to be the earlier wall-stones and in the filling of the S.W. side of the entrance, i.e. on the site of the older hut-wall, belong to the Early Iron Age A. The small area of CI outside CII contained a much-ruined hearth which had seen considerable use. It produced pottery of the Late Bronze Age A and Iron Age S.W.B. types, including some of the rouletted sort like that found on the hearth inside CII.

HUT-CIRCLE F

One of the best preserved, almost circular with a diameter of 15 ft. Its doorway is narrow and opens to the S.W. It produced very little; a few sherds of both 'A' and 'B' wares, a small flint knife and a very much corroded iron object—this last at a rather high level. There were no post-holes, hearths or drains. Its floor had been refilled with rab. The walling is the most interesting thing revealed, for it presents a mixture of the normal building of the Early Iron Age on this site with some of an earlier date; the curve of the wall on the N.N.E. (like that in a similar position in Hut-circle E) has a somewhat 'megalithic' appearance. The stones of which it is built are large blocks, irregular in shape, which do not fit together well. To counteract the resulting weakness, the interstices have been filled by the insertion of wedgelike stones (Pl. IIA). This recalls the building in Hut-circle 3 at Trewey in Zennor.² It is there dated to the Late Bronze Age. Here it may be a hang-over (which occurs in the ceramic material) from an earlier age. In Hut-circle E (fig. 5) the argument for this type of walling having an earlier date is helped by the position of a large, well-triggered wallstone T, 4 ft. high, which lies aslant the direction of the present wall. A well-used hearth which produced good sherds of Early Iron Age A pottery lies on the outer side of this old walling stone,—another external hearth. The dilapidated condition of the wall here, compared with the remainder, suggests that it is built on insecure foundations, i.e., on remnants of the older hut-circle wall. The use of blocks of stone, rather than those pieces which would have given an even horizontal appearance, as obtains elsewhere in this hut-circle, also marks it off as belonging to another period.

¹ Dartmoor, R. H. Worth (1953), 152.

² Arch. Journ., xcvi (1941), 105.

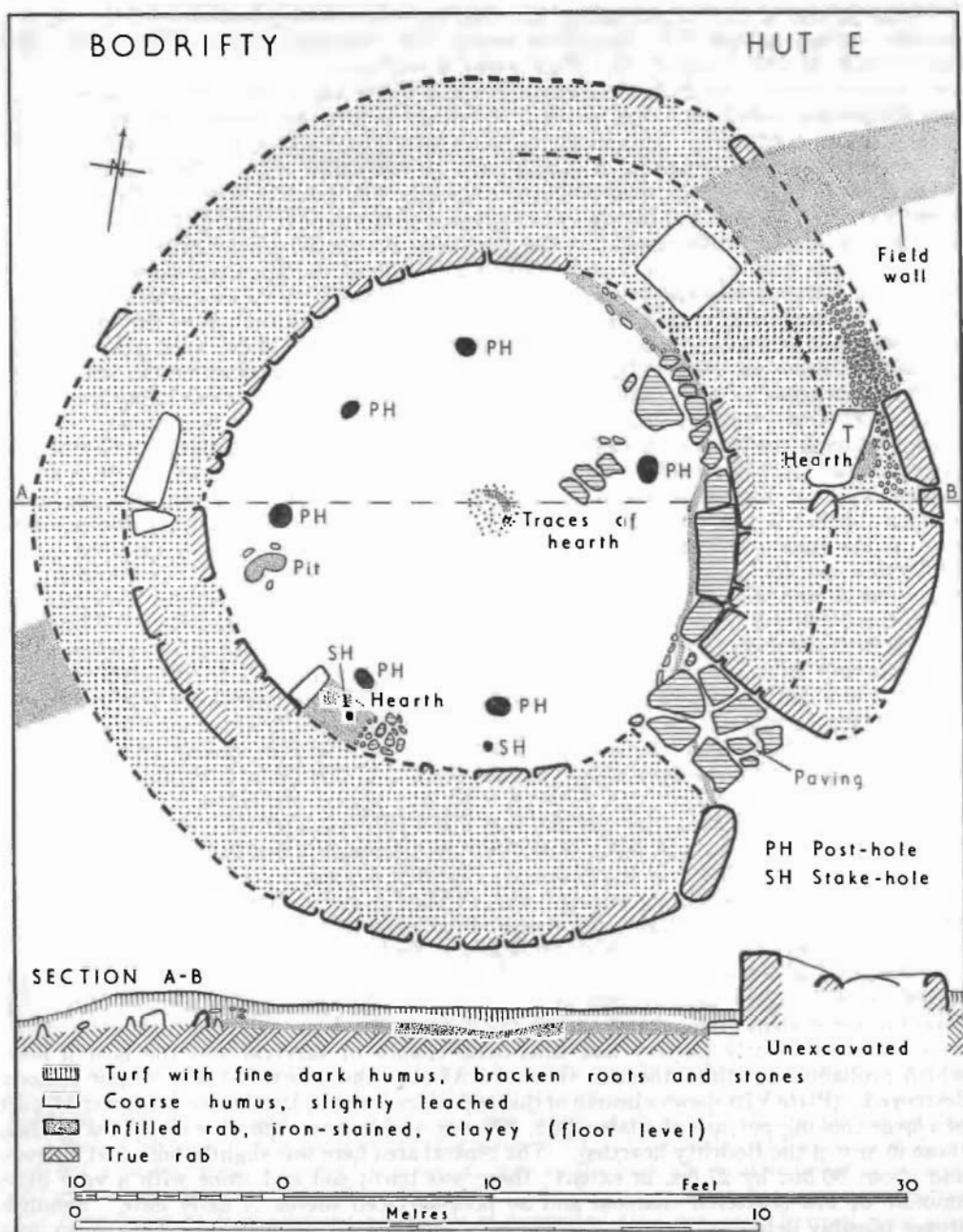


Fig. 5. Hut-circle E

HUT-CIRCLE E

This is one of the largest on the site, having an internal diameter of 25 ft. Except for the walling on the N.E. (described above) the walling consists of fair-sized granite blocks laid on their longest side, thus giving a horizontal appearance. In some places two courses remain but much is missing, especially where the building of adjacent fieldwalls has robbed the hut-circle. The width of the wall, at first, was about 4 ft. with a rubble core, faced on both sides. This width was later increased, making a varying total width of 7—10 ft. the extension having a facing only on the outer side. The entrance, which opened to the S.E., is 6 ft. wide and was originally well paved. The lengthening of the entrance where the width of the wall was increased seems to have been found troublesome—the robbery of much stone, including the gateposts, has caused much confusion here. The sockets of the gate were not found. The upper side of the entrance shows fairly good horizontal building but the lower is completely destroyed. The roof was supported on posts, set concentrically with the walling, in circular or oval holes cut in the rab. These postholes were six in number averaging 13 ins. in diameter, 12 ins. in depth, and were placed 3 ft. from the wall. Thin granite slabs were used as packing-stones and in four holes these remain *in situ*. The sides of the hole were straight and the filling was a fine brown soil with traces of minute charcoal and a few, small, decaying stones. Fifteen sherds found in the holes were disposed erratically and belonged to both the A and S.W.B. phases of the Early Iron Age. Hut-circles like this one, with an inner ring of posts to support the roof, have been found on many sites of both A and S.W.B. cultures, including Maiden Castle,¹ Little Woodbury² and Kestor, Devon.³ In Cornwall they are characteristic of the later pre-Roman settlement at Castle Dore. The form of the roof is well illustrated by the reconstructed drawing reproduced by Dr. Peate.⁴ At Bodrifty the poles, shewn as resting on the ground in Dr. Peate's diagram, would end on the inner edge of the hut-circle wall as in the black houses of the Hebrides. Between two of the postholes and the wall there are two extremely well-cut and well preserved stake-holes; each is 16 ins. from the wall, 8 ins. deep and 4 ins. in diameter. Possibly their use was to support a piece of wattle or a hide, to make a partition here; part of the interior so enclosed was well-paved. The most interesting fact about these stake-holes was the extreme smoothness and hardness of their sides as if they had been used for holding something that moved—(perhaps pivot holes?). Around the western stake-hole the surface of the ground for an area of 36 by 34 ins. was extremely hard and covered with tiny stones cemented together. A first impression of this was that iron-working had taken place here but the 'cement' proved to be an oxide of iron,—natural limonite or 'pan'—a formation due to the extreme wetness of the site and the acidity of the granite. The little stones, if crushed, could have been used to stiffen clay used in pottery-making; at Porthmeor⁵ somewhat similar stones were found though in much greater quantity, on what some thought was a pottery kiln site; no clay or wasters are known here, or elsewhere at Bodrifty.

There is some evidence for a central hearth. Unfortunately, the 'floor' of this hut-circle, particularly in the centre and E., seems to have been greatly affected by the wet conditions prevalent; deposits of pan on the floor, in the drain and as a coating on stones were common. Early pottery had thus little chance of survival and the hearth here, which probably resembled those in G, C and AI (i.e., sherd-hearths) was almost entirely destroyed. (Plate VII shows a hearth of this type excavated at Porthmeor; the sherds, part of a large cooking-pot, are of a later date, 300 A.D. and have resisted the damp better than those in any of the Bodrifty hearths). The central area here was slightly hollowed, uneven and about 36 ins. by 27 ins. in extent; there was burnt soil and stone with a very little amount of fine scattered charcoal and 30 poor-surfaced sherds of early date. Smallish stones possibly delimited the burnt area and a poor hole, 6 ins. wide and 8 ins. deep, was

¹ Maiden Castle, Dorset, Soc. of Antiquaries, Report of Research Committee XII, 95.

² P.P.S. (1940), 30.

³ T.D.A., 86 (1954), 28, fig. 3.

⁴ The Welsh House, vol. 47 of Y Cymmrodor, 49.

⁵ Journ. Royal Inst. of Cornwall, vol. xxiv.

cut into the rab near the centre. It could have held a small cooking-pot but differed greatly from the large, well-made pit which was found in Hut-circle G. No other definitely burnt area existed in this hut-circle; there was a shallow pit, kidney-shaped, 2 ft. long by 16 ins. wide, cut in the rab on the S. side, but it seemed to be more affected by the wet than by fire. There was pan around the margins except on the N. while a white deposit from decayed felspar was spread around for a radius of about 12 ins.; it had not the consistency of clay like the white material in the central hearth at CI.

A kerbed drain 12 ins. wide and cut 8 ins. into the rab lies along the upper edge of the dwelling, where the wall was widest and, probably, wettest. The cover-stones are large and set rather awkwardly in relation to the walling, which has caused some of them to collapse. The drain runs out of the hut-circle beneath the paving-stones of the entrance but it was not detected beyond this point (Pl. VIA).

The acidity of the soil here is responsible for the destruction of bone, metal, leather and wooden objects, but stone artifacts were fairly plentiful. These included a saddle-quern, two mullers, whetstones, rubbers or polishers of various kinds, some flints (mostly unworked), a fragment of haematite, beach pebbles used as pot-boilers, and tiny ones used perhaps as play-things; quartz points, some worked, were common. Early spindlewhorls of clay were found but none of the later flat type. There were 370 pottery sherds, of which considerably more than half belonged to the Early Iron Age A period; there were a few 'strays' of the Late Bronze Age and eight of late Roman provincial wares.

HUT-CIRCLES G AND H

These hut-circles are the most northerly ones surviving inside the Pound. A low bank connects them and is continued on the western side of H. It ends abruptly now but may have had some connection with the wall that lies around part of the enclosure further W. The surface of this enclosure is slightly raised above the general level and has its sides revetted with granite blocks as far as the field-wall. The higher level is probably artificial as there seems no evidence here for lyncheting and, moreover, the fields of the original field-systems are rectangular and not curvilinear as these banks are. Both huts are large. G has a diameter of 22 ft. and H of 21 ft. Both have been very much damaged and very little more than the foundations of their walling now remains. This may be due partly to the builders having made use of the large granite outcrops on the site, laying stones only to join the gaps between them. These outcrops, slanting and rough in surface, must have made poor foundations and the welter of fallen stone that lay in the huts may be due to this and not entirely to the stone-robbers. For some reason the fine entrance to G is scarcely damaged. It is 5 ft. 3 ins. wide, has strong, tall gateposts 4 ft. 10 ins. and 4 ft. 6 ins. high which do not align well (this lack of correct alignment can be noticed also in the entrance to AII); the sockets for the gate can still be seen—the N.E. one in the well-set paving which extends for about 6 ins. into the room. The entrance into H is completely destroyed except for a few vestiges of the paving which extend into the room similarly to that in G. H may have had an inner ring of posts to support the roof but the postholes are not very convincing. G has a near-central posthole and no inner ring for posts.

Despite its wrecked appearance Hut-circle G retained more internal features than any other on the site. There were five hearths or cooking-places. One near the centre was made of a flat granite slab, 12 ins. by 8 ins., set firmly, with another fitting closely against it to form a fireback. The signs of burning were slight. A large sherd of Early Iron Age A pottery with finger-tip ornament was found close to the fireback, a little below it in depth but in the same layer. At Rudh'an Dunain, Skye, a hearth of much the same construction was considered an iron-working place.¹ It is suggested that ore and charcoal were piled against the back and a blast directed on them from a bellows. But much slag was found, whereas at Bodrifty there is none. The only sign of burning at Bodrifty is that the flat stone has broken and is coloured red internally. The remains of a sherd-hearth,

¹ *Scotland before the Scots*, 80 and Pl. XV. 1.

possibly kerbed, 12 ins. by 8 ins. with some of the sherds *in situ*, was excavated near the central post-hole. This is probably the latest of these hearths as the sherds forming it belong to the Early Iron Age S.W.B. type of fabric. On the W. near the wall was a cooking-hole cut in the rab; it measured 15 ins. by 6 ins. and was 6 ins. deep; the sides were partly broken but its shape was slightly oval.¹ In it the base and part of the sides of a pot of Early Iron Age A coarse paste remained on the floor, *in situ* (Pl. IIIc). The bottom of the pot showed bright red colouration, (? haematite); both pit and vessel were quite clean and the filling was only the dark-brown, crumbly occupation soil. It is suggested that this was a container for water or milk and not a cooking utensil. It is noteworthy that the vessel in this pit was of A pottery, the work of a people responsible for the introduction of storage pits into this country. Their general absence here might be evidence for the rebuilding of the huts by the S.W.B. people, who did not use this contrivance—the A pits could have been filled in. Against the wall, a little further S., was an oval hearth, 2 ft. 6 ins. long and 12 ins. at its greatest width. It was cut a short distance into the rab and was delimited at the top and sides by edging stones not very tightly fixed (the wet summer of their excavation may have loosened them). The filling was black, burnt soil, impregnated throughout with charcoal. Early Iron Age A sherds were plentiful in the filling and around the hearth. There was no metal; nor was there any in the next excavated pit. This was a short distance S.W. of the centre. The top was surrounded by a ring of stones which overhung the lip for 2 ins. The pit was oval; its greatest diameter was 17 ins.; it was 11 ins. deep, cut cleanly into the rab with vertical sides. The filling of dark brown soil and stones, tightly packed on the eastern side, was intermingled throughout with fine charcoal and occasional lumps up to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, which is large for Bodrifty. Some pieces of charcoal were pressed down very firmly into the rab at the bottom of the pit; the stones in the filling were quite loose, thus differing from a cooking-hole of somewhat similar shape and size in H. The stones in H formed a lining to the pit and were fast set in the rab. The filling in H, too, was different, consisting entirely of black, greasy soil; there was nothing in it, but sherds of Early Iron Age A were found at its edges. This feature is unique at Bodrifty as is, also, a bead ($\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter) very nicely made in S.W.B. pottery fabric and originally burnished, found also in H.

S. of the cooking-hole last described in G were two saddle-querns about 6 ins. apart. They were of granite and similar in size being 15 ins. long and 8 ins. wide. The milling surface of the southernmost one had not been long in use. Both were associated with Early Iron A sherds. Two spindlewhorls, much better made than those in Hut-circle E and probably of S.W.B. date, had been tucked into a cranny of the walls. Also, near the querns was a pit 2 ft. 6 ins. by 18 ins., stone-lined and clean; the filling was the dark brown soil of the layer in which it was placed—possibly it was used to hold corn. In the same area, in the surface of a very much-decayed stone (36 ins. by 20 ins.) were a number of small stake-holes, from 1–1½ ins. in diameter and 2–4 ins. deep. The sides and bottoms of the holes were firm and at the bottom, black. It was suggested the holes were used to support stakes to hold a screen—the dark colour at the bottom being due to the charring of the ends of the stakes to preserve them. Another suggestion (made by a visitor from Central Africa) was that the holes were for drills used in connection with fire-making. A duck-walk followed the curve of the E. side of the hut-circle; no drain was found below these stones which certainly had the appearance of drain covers.

It is noteworthy that the many discoveries of this site lay in its western half—evidently its working quarters. The lack of finds of any sort on the E. side seems odd; possibly these were the sleeping-quarters; the clean pit with the jar in it was also away from the working quarters.

HUT-CIRCLE L

The existence of this hut-circle was unknown until 1955, when it was exposed in the trenches made in the area AII, during the search for the pound-wall. It was covered,

¹ It was probably deeper originally.

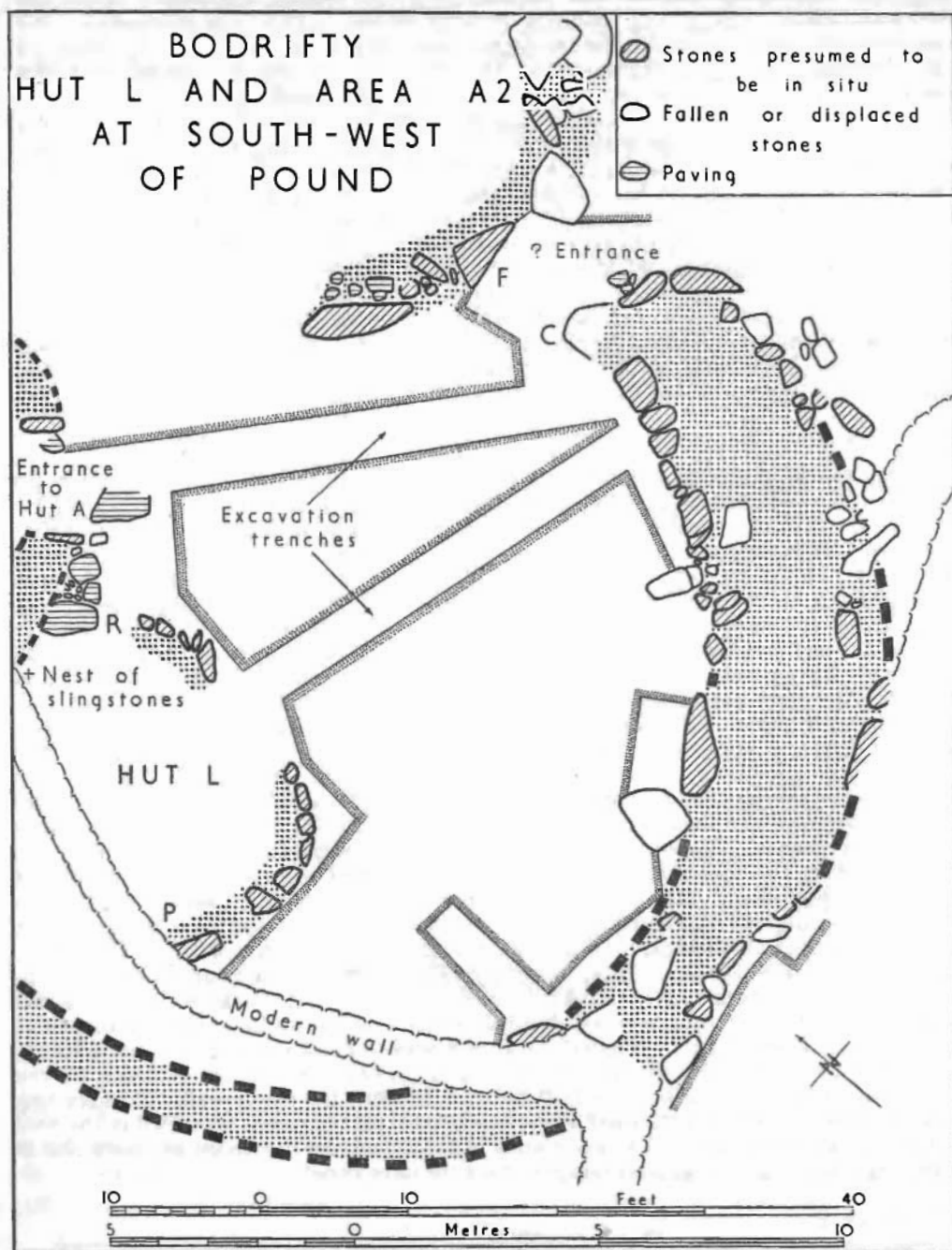


Fig. 6. Hut-circle L and Area A II

completely, with stones—smaller ones (thrown there from farming operations) on top and very large, heavy blocks and boulders beneath them. This conglomeration was stone that had been rejected by the contractors who, fifty years ago, bought the stone on the site for building purposes in Penzance. The chief source of stone hereabouts must have been the pound-wall and it appears likely that it ran very close to, or over, Hut-circle L; for no-one will carry such heavy stone far, and it was evidently left lying about in confusion. The farmer probably built the field-wall here in an attempt to clear the ground, utilising, in some places, the pound-wall remains as the base of his field-wall (Pl. VA). Hut-circle L is naturally greatly damaged but its walls seem to be of the small, neat type observed in Hut-circles B and C I; its diameter is about 18-20 ft. and its shape probably slightly elliptical. Part of its curve can be seen passing under the 'new' field-wall and, in the reverse direction, beneath the high-level paving at R on which the S. wall of Hut-circle AI is built. L thus precedes the building of AI, an aisled round-house of the S.W.B. culture. Excavation of the interior of L was only possible between the great stones and in the few patches of 'floor' that remained open. Considering the amount of space available a fair quantity of pottery (sherds) was found which consisted mostly of fine and coarse wares of Early Iron Age A. There was also fragment of a granite saddle-quern.

HUT-CIRCLE M

Hut-circle M, probably, lay in the lowest level of the present Hut-circle AI, which has been the scene of three occupations—Early Iron Age A and S.W.B. periods and in the 1st century A.D. Its excavated floor presents a complex view of walls and drains, stones and post-holes. It is suggested that the stone X which stands upright in the lowest level, with its 'trig' stones as originally set, and the stone Y, lying next to it, are two wall-stones of the first hut on the site. Slightly to the W. is a third stone Z, larger than many wall-stones here, but a kind frequently seen in hut-circles on Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor. It now lies flat and may have been used as a work-table by the later people, to judge by the number of utility stones found in association with it. This stone could easily have been in the wall of the first hut-circle for very little manœuvring would align it with X and Y. Continuing the curve set by these stones, it might be considered as embracing a curiously displaced stone at V, which projects from the wall but is not a part of it—it could, perhaps, have been used as a seat by the later inhabitants. Below this stone V, a somewhat derelict wall remains, 18 ins. high; it is built in poor coursing. This is continued southwards to form the lowest part of the E. side of the entrance to AI. On top of this small-type walling the large orthostatic doorpost was set. It is no wonder that this side of the doorway has collapsed when the unsoundness of its foundations is realised. Moreover, the corresponding corner of the opposite side of the entrance, is abnormal in construction; the corner is formed not by the orthostatic post (as one might expect) but by an 18 ins. wall of smallish stones. Beyond this odd corner, continuing the curve of the later hut-circle wall, a long heavy block rests on a low wall resembling those just described. There seems to be no reason why such a massive wall-stone should be set thus, instead of being normally bedded, unless this low wall was already there and easy to use as a foundation. Similarly, the next wall-stone of the later hut-circle stands on a better preserved piece of this older walling (Pl. IVA). No further evidence for the run of this earlier wall can be traced—it must lie beneath the newer wall. Possibly this earlier hut-circle resembled the small Hut-circle L, over part of which (as shewn in the note on L) this later one is built. The excavation of the area under discussion produced sherds of the Early Iron Age A in greater quantity than the later variety.

HUT-CIRCLE K

The excavation of this site, which promised to be both interesting and important, was most disappointing. The hut-circle lies within the prehistoric field-system which is situated at the eastern edge of the farmlands, adjoining Mulfra Hill. This is about 200 yards N.E. of the main site. The hut-circle, 16 ft. in diameter, has a most noticeable

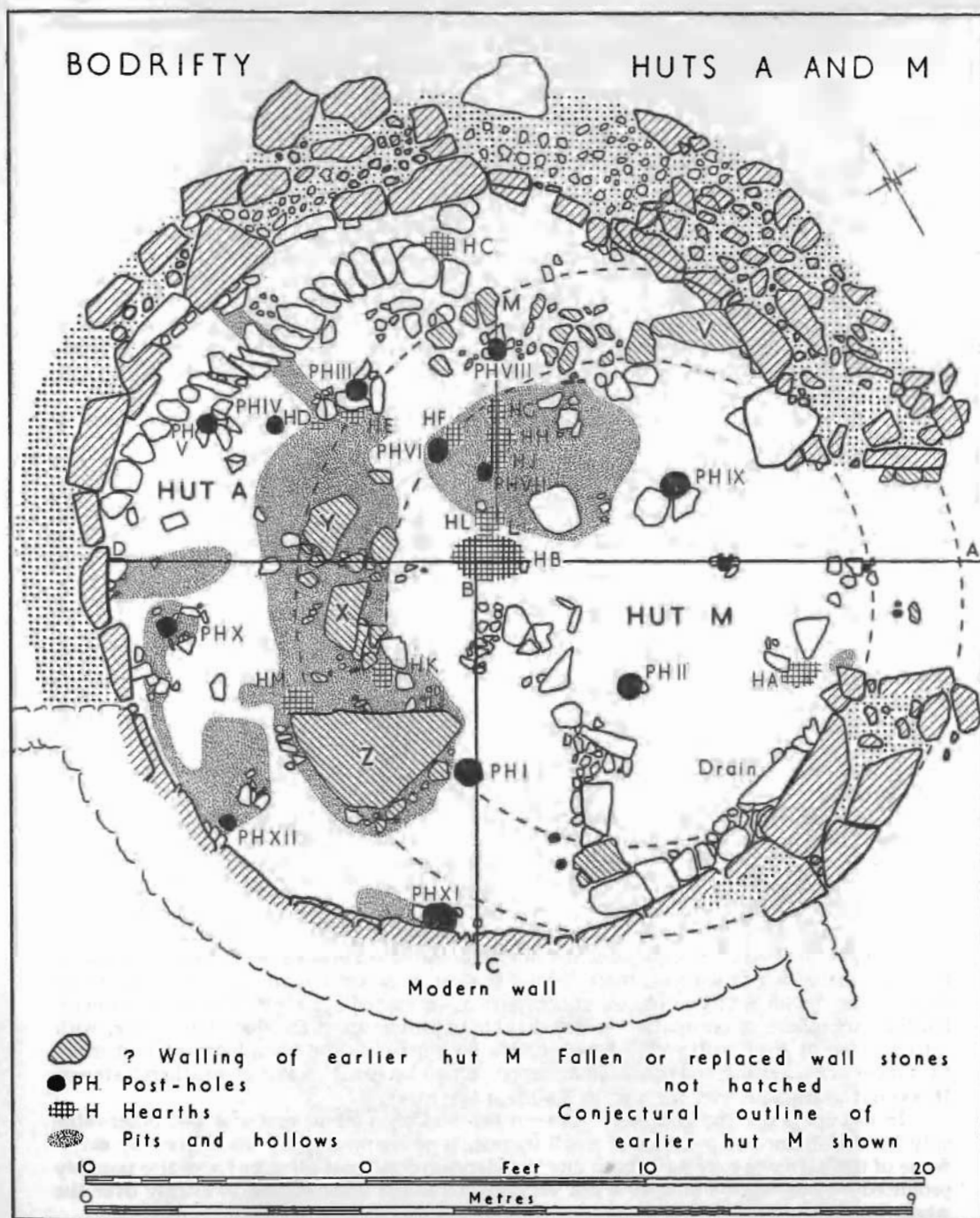


Fig. 7. Hut-circles A and M

gate-post 6 ft. high and this is, probably, what drew attention to it. In 1953 it was found to have been previously examined. The filling below the bracken (which soon grows over a disturbed site) was uniform throughout and, moreover, there was no fallen stone inside the hut. The walls were much damaged, if not recently rebuilt. A modern coin was found on the bottom. However, a few useful facts were gained; the size, general aspect of walling (double, 4 ft.) and the orientation of the entrance indicate a hut of an early period. More important was the contemporaneity of the hut with the field-walls. A few other huts remain among the fields but they are greatly damaged and none yet has been excavated.

HUT A

Position, size and relationships: Hut A is the lowest on the sloping site, and lies in the S.W. corner of the site as it exists, and near the probable original entrance. It now abuts on a modern field-wall whose course is modified to make use of the S.W. side of the hut. Approximately circular, the internal wall is largely built of horizontally-laid blocks of granite, with some vertically placed thinner and larger slabs. On the S.W. side what examination of the field-wall could be made suggested that it may have been double-faced, but within the site there was scant evidence of this.¹ The E. side of the hut, which had been extensively robbed, was less regularly built and of smaller blocks, possibly to relieve pressure of water seeping down the hill. Since excavation the hut has flooded, even in summer, up to 6 ins. deep after rain.

The walls before excavation stood 5 ft. 3 ins. at their highest on the S.W. side, and approximately 3 ft. on the N.E. side; the former when profiled showed late additions, probably repairs to the field-hedge, while the latter, 'skinned', proved to be largely rubble with a heavy cover of blueberry and heath and the humus from their growth, faced only on the inside with large stones. The S.E. sector of the hut held the entrance flanked by large granite slabs approximately 3 ft. wide, 3 ft. 6 ins. high, and resting on rab 6 ins. above the floor of the hut. They were placed so as to form an outer terminal to the rubble of the walls.

To the N.E. of the hut lies a semicircular terrace 40 ft. in diameter, bounded by a stone and earth bank, apparently the natural edge of a cut into the hill. Joining the S.E. side of the hut entrance and the 'gateway' of Area AI, lies a rubble-faced bank, which when sectioned suggested the lower edge of another terrace at a slightly higher level than the semicircular area. This bank, with the modern field-wall, gives the present appearance to AI of having been a courtyard to Hut A, but no evidence could be adduced of its antiquity.

Method of Work: The size of the hut, and its damp site, prompted the choice of clearing in quadrants, leaving one baulk from N.W. to S.E. as a control, and this proved justified when weather and other factors spread the work of examination over several seasons. As found, the hut held six major stones, probably abandoned by 19th-century stone robbers, and of these three were removed, and three restored to the positions from which they had obviously fallen. These stones were marked with a white paint cross.

Occupation levels: Throughout the hut, undoubted occupation levels were impossible to define, being felt in working more readily than seen in section, and the only conclusion that can be drawn is of two phases of occupation, separated apparently by abandonment. During each phase of occupation a considerable churning-up of the floor took place, with introduction of fresh gritty clay from outside for repairs. The abandonment is marked by a layer of darker soft soil occasionally accompanied by small broken or weathered stones. It was not continuous over the hut, as if worn or dug away.

In Occupation I the boundary between rab and occupation material was observable only by the absence or presence of small fragments of charcoal in the hard gravelly clay.² Some of the hardness may have been due to redeposited mineral salts, but was also possibly produced by beating. Finds were not very frequent, but scattered fairly evenly over the whole hut area.

¹ I consider the wall was double-faced, resembling the usual type in the hut-circles. D.D.

² c/f Gurnard's Head, *Arch. Journ.*, vol. xcvi, 101-2 and 106.



Bodriřty. Hut-circle C II, with part of older hut on left

PLATE II



A. Older type of walling, facing South

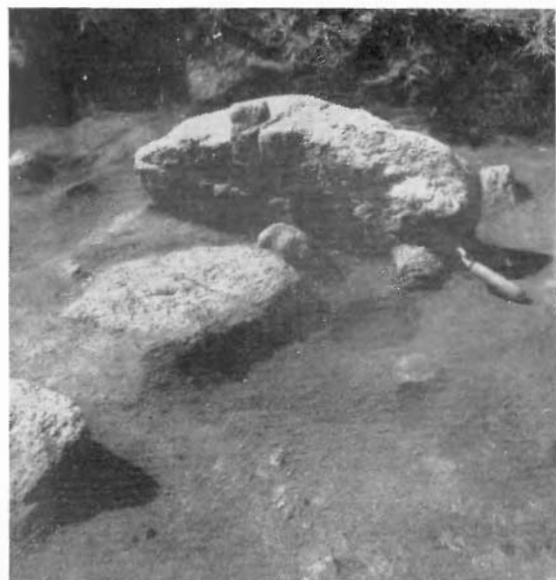


B. Later horizontal walling, facing South

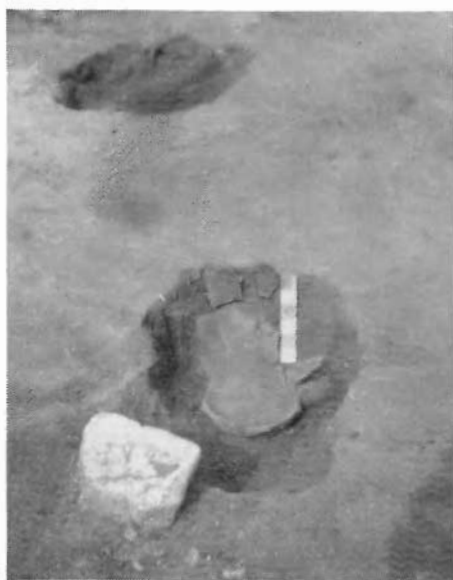
HUT-CIRCLE F



A. During excavation, showing use of natural outcrop in walling



B. Hearth with fireback



C. Storage-pot *in situ*

HUT-CIRCLE G



A. Presumed walling of Hut-circle M in background below large stones, facing North



B. Presumed walling of Hut-circle M in lowest level of A

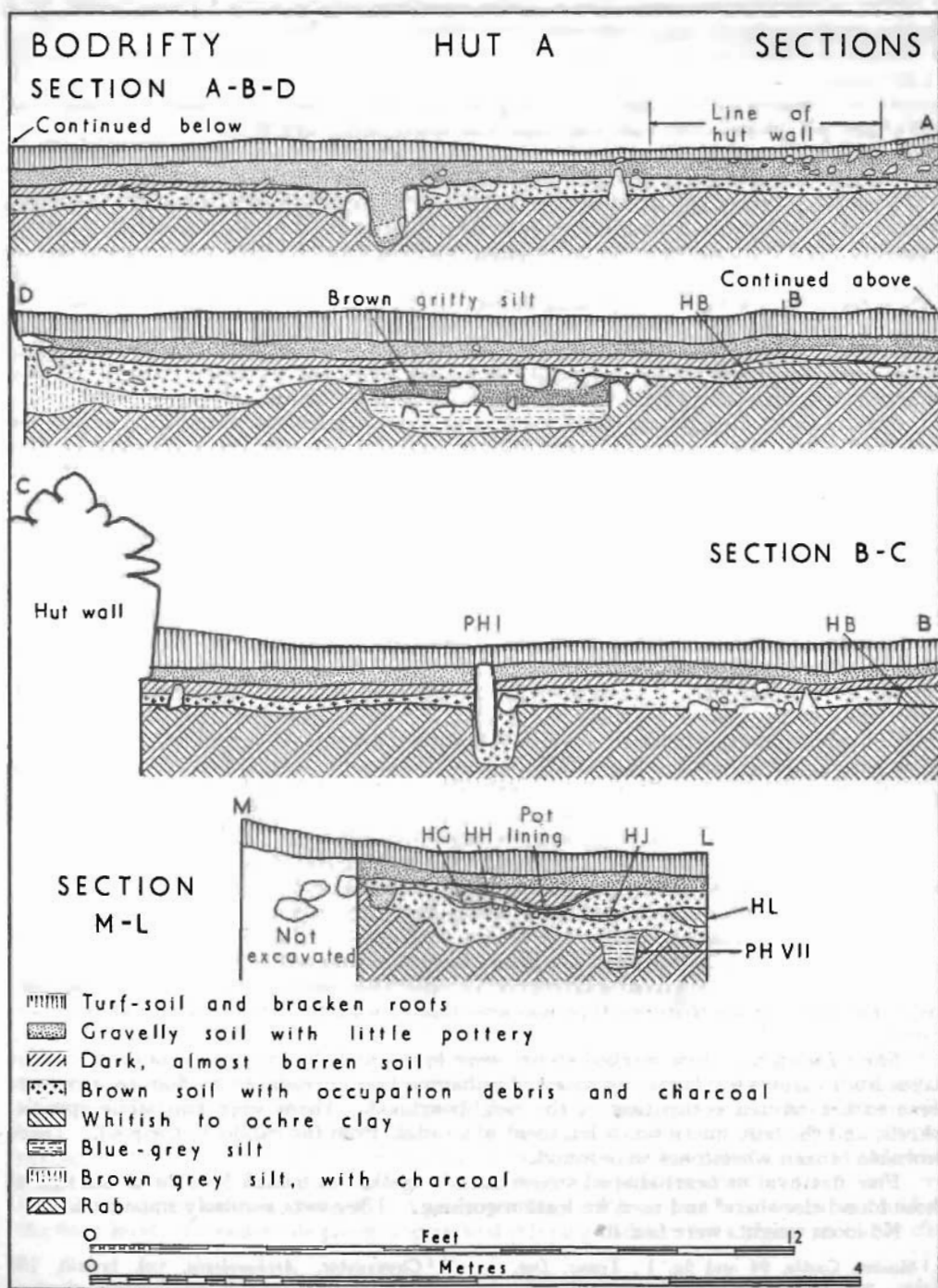


Fig. 8. Sections, Hut-circles A and M

The soil of Occupation II was looser and less clayey than I, while finds were concentrated mainly in the northern half of the hut.

On the W. side of the hut a pit 3 ins. deep ran out from the wall filled with a marked concentration of charcoal and greyish clay which merged sharply into Occupation I.

From the large sub-triangular slab of granite in the W. quadrant, and extending N.E. lay a long pit 10 ins. deep. In this were two large stones which came above the lowest floor level and some small rubble. It was filled with slimy blue-grey silt, completely barren, but becoming gritty at its deepest. The silt merged sharply into Occupation I.

Post-holes: (fig. 7). Roofing a hut of this span suggests the need of fairly substantial posts, and in Occupation I these are evidenced by a somewhat irregular ring of holes varying from 6 ins. to 12 ins. in diameter and 6 ins. to 16 ins. in depth.¹ The ring is incomplete on the W. side, where PHs X, XI and XII lie close to the wall, with PH XI, 10 ins. deep, partly under the walling. Many of these holes were lined with hard iron pan, and all were filled with Occupation I material. PH I had also been filled with a long thin stone (fig. 8, Section B-C). PH II was filled with packed earth for 7 ins. of its depth, but the 9 ins. below was completely hollow, suggesting a packed floor over a stump. PHs V, VI and VII lay apart from the ring pattern but offered no clues to their use.

Post-holes of Occupation II were few, small and insufficient, three occurring in the N.E. half of the hut, and none in the S.W. Only that opposite the entrance was more than 3 ins. deep. The northern one lay over PH III, ringed with wedge stones. A fourth PH filled with small stone lay centrally in the entrance, cut right into the rab.

Four other PHs, all small, were found in the rab, two lying radially 2 ft. apart at the S. of the hut, and two side by side offset from the centre of the entrance suggesting stakes supporting a barrier there.

Pottery was found in the post-holes of both occupations, but was inconclusive for dating.

Hearths: Twelve hearths were noted in the hut at various levels, an unusually large number. They were of four types:

(a) simple charcoal patches with no stone backing—C and D; (b) charcoal with some burnt clay within a stone backing—A, E and K; (c) hollows lined with white or light ochre clay possibly brought from a source to the west, that is said locally to have been used until recently for similar fire-clay—B, F, G, J and L (see section); (d) hollows lined with a large fragment of pot, but dissimilar from the Chysauster example.² Only hearth C, lying on the rab, produced charcoal for analysis, and the wood burnt was stated by the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, to be most probably gorse.

Both hearths H and M were lined with ware of S.W. Iron Age B type. Hearth M, in which very little charcoal or signs of fire was found, held a large assemblage of objects, 25 sherds in all including 2 rims of Glastonbury type, 23 pot boilers (the largest group on the site), and five other stones discussed below. Despite the late date of the pottery this hearth was deeply hollowed in the edge of the pit mentioned above and into the rab. Pot-boilers were also associated with hearth K, where a substantial body of burnt material lay. Pottery of more than one type was associated with all hearths. No burnt bone was found.

Stone Industry: Few worked stones were found and the very small number of flint flakes from various levels may be assessed as having been introduced by floor repairs from some earlier human occupation in the neighbourhood. There were two stone spindle-whorls, and the only quern was a fragment of a saddle from the rubble of the wall. Three probable broken whetstones were found.

Five flat oval or heart-shaped stones found together in hearth M were of the size of those found elsewhere³ and used for leatherworking. They were similarly smoothed.

No loom weights were found.

¹ Maiden Castle, 94 and fig. 1; *Trans. Dev. Assoc.*, vol. xxix, 152; *Ant. Journ.*, vol. xvi, 305 and fig. 1.

² Chysauster, *Archaeologia*, vol. lxxxiii, 256 and Pl. LXXVI.

³ Porthmeor, *J.R.I.C.*, vol. xxiv, App. II, 64; Gwithian, *Pr. W.C.F.C.*, N.S. vol. i, No. 2, 65.

Pottery : In a site on acid soil little remains but pottery and stone objects. Hut A produced more than 900 sherds, but, as on the site generally, the finds proved to be of little use in determining levels of occupation, but only the existence of more than one occupation. Finds included pottery of Bronze Age, S.W. Iron Age A and B, Glastonbury, 1st Century A.D., and late Roman provincial wares.¹ A full appraisal is made elsewhere in the report.

There were some Bronze Age sherds associated with hearths, drains, and elsewhere, usually with pottery of later date. The state and situation of the sherds make it most probable that they were introduced with material for floor repairs.

Iron Age A and B pottery made up the bulk of the finds, but as noted, without providing horizons. There was a slight preponderance of A types in Occupation I and of B types in Occupation II, though, as mentioned above, Glastonbury ware was found in hearth M at rab level.

A small number of sherds of 1st century A.D. ware and Late Roman provincial ware were found, some of the former even under Hearth B, while some of the latter lay in the rubble of the walling behind the S. entrance slab, associated with unidentified metal objects.²

Three spindlewhorls, one globular with a slight neck, one flat, and an unfinished pierced sherd (unillustrated) were found, all of A ware (see fig. 11).

Metal : None was found, except that noted above.

Other features : Drains : On the S. side of the hut an irregular line of slabs and smaller stones ran to the wall and followed it to a small pit by the door. The slabs covered, and the smaller stones lay in, a shallow drain of very irregular boundary, sometimes so as to be almost discontinuous, and completely filled. Some sherds, including Bronze Age, were found in the bottom.

Across a northern chord of the hut lay a regular well-laid line of granite slabs, with a slight fall to the W. wall of the hut.³ No continuous drain could be found under the stones, and the feature was regarded as a duck-walk. Some trace of channel was found at the N.W. end only, where it was narrow, shallow and barren, but appeared to run under the wall. It was cut into the lower occupation level apparently, but might have been a local softening of the ground due to the stone cover.

From the N. wall of the hut ran a shallow, radial drain opening into the long pit before mentioned. It crossed under the line of stones of the duck-walk, and beside the wedge stones of the upper PH III.

A shallow trench joining pits ran along the W. wall, but was capped by hard iron pan.

In Occupation II between the duck-wall and wall at the N. of the hut was a neat ring of five stones in which a round pot could have been rested ; no hearth was near.

The Entrance : Occupation II towards the entrance was increasingly filled with small stones, some of which cut through the modern turf line ; the entrance-way had apparently been deliberately hardened. A mass of small stones in the E. quadrant of the hut was similarly assessed as hardening of the floor below the weak walling here. The lie of the land suggests that seepage from outside would be considerable.

Occupation I ran beyond the entrance (see section), and ended in an iron-pan coated step of 6 ins. up to the country level. No postholes were found outside.⁴

Conclusions : Hut A appears to have been built by people of a south-western Iron Age A culture, using moorstone granite drawn from the immediate neighbourhood. The extreme irregularity of the natural surface suggests that some stone was drawn from within the hut. The pit with blue-grey clay may have been the product of such stone removal, silting up naturally during the construction period, though this presupposes a somewhat long time involved. Dampness caused the building of a shallow drain at the S. side, but this silted up, or was insufficient, and fresh packing material was introduced to build up the floor level. Considerable ploughing up and relaying of floors took place, probably after

¹ c/f. Castle Dore, *J.R.I.C.*, N.S., vol. i, App. 1951 ; Chysauster, *Archaeologia*, lxxxi.

² Possibly these were tankard handles. D.D.

³ c/f. Chysauster Hut 6.

⁴ c/f. Castle Dore, *J.R.I.C.*, N.S. vol. i, App. 1951, 52.

periods of excessive rain, and removal of one of the roof-posts took place at such a time. The people of this occupation spun wool, but if sheep provided any part of their diet no trace remains.

When this phase of occupation came to an end the hut was abandoned and lay open to the weather, subsequently being re-roofed, perhaps only on the N. half, and possibly with a much lighter structure. The probability is that this was the work of people of an Iron Age B culture. As before, considerable ploughing and relaying of floors took place, bringing a considerable quantity of earlier sherds to the surface, and moving contemporary sherds downwards. Pits for some of the hearths penetrated the earlier occupation, their boundaries being obscured at the next scouring. The laying of the northern duck-walk dates from this occupation. The entrance-way and E. sector were hardened by the introduction of small stone rubble. During this occupation the hut may have been a workshop, as indicated by the leather-working stones, and the hearths using introduced light-coloured fireclay must also belong to this period.

After its final abandonment the hut seems to have been used for a short squatting occupation in the 1st century A.D., but no evidence was found of its having been re-roofed for this purpose. A possible squatting occupation, or use by itinerants, may have taken place in the late Roman period,¹ but no pottery or object of any later date was found to indicate use subsequently.

THE POUND

The pound contains many of the hut-circles and enclosures of the settlement, including all the excavated ones, except a small hut-circle lying 200 yards to the N.E. among the remnants of the prehistoric field-system. The diameter of the Pound, which is stone-walled and almost circular, is about 410 ft. and its area 3 acres. The land enclosed is now croft, that is, land cultivated at some time, which has reverted to rough pasture with varying quantities of gorse, heather, bracken and blackthorn. The ground slopes gently to the S.W. The slightly higher level of the Pound on its E. margins is due to turf-cutting for fuel. This has lowered the level 4-6 ins. and though vegetation has gradually asserted itself, it does not seem to reach its old level. The interior has been cultivated in recent rather than in prehistoric times, or perhaps when the settlement was first made. The field-banks are most uncertain in position or date though they might have been worn down or destroyed by the erection of the later hut-circles and enclosures. It is doubtful whether there would be much room for fields after the later buildings had been set up. The surviving hut-circles seem well-placed but the positions of suspected dwellings and enclosures probably made the site, originally, more crowded than it appears at present. Some hut-circles have small enclosures attached to them (fig. 2). The level inside these is generally higher than that outside and the infilled soil is contained by a revetment of granite boulders about 18 ins. to 2 ft. high; they may be related to the original field-walls; a fence on top of this wall would be needed to protect the enclosures—which may have been for cultivation—from stock kept in the more open spaces to E. and W. No spring is now known within the Pound or close to it but there is a very ancient well about 400 yards away.² A pool in AII seems a possibility as a water-supply; an extremely thick growth of blackthorn, which enjoys a damp soil having an acid reaction, existed there prior to excavation, and trenches in the area showed a layer of peat as a definite feature of the sections.

The curve of the pound-wall as it runs to the N.N.W. coincides as far as P with that of the field-wall. From this point the field-wall continues to the N. but the pound-wall, changing its direction, leaves the field-wall and runs W. and then S. Excavation at this point of divergence shewed a straight joint on the outer side and on the inner, a shapeless mass of stones, medium-sized and small, lying roughly on the presumed course

¹ Only a general scatter of abraded sherds of Late Roman provincial wares was found. D.D.

² On Ventonigga Farm.

of the pound-wall. One stone 3 ft. 6 ins. high alone remains upright. Continuing W. from here the pound-wall can be traced as a bank about 12 ins. high with blocks of stone ('grounders') at intervals. These are set horizontally on their longest side about 6 ins. above the rab—a slight foundation but seemingly characteristic of the construction. Trenches cut on this W. side shew an outer face about 3 ft. 6 ins. high with a breadth of about 3-4 ft.; the wall is unditched and appears to have no inner facing but simply a backing of loose stones and earth. Elsewhere, excavation indicates a double-walled construction which seems more in keeping with the purpose of such a wall and with the large, well-built habitations within it. The large stones are the sort most useful to the builder whether of walls or houses, and would be the first to disappear. This section of the wall cannot be checked any further than the point O.

In the N.E. and E. the line of the pound-wall can scarcely be perceived though loose stone and untidy mounds may mark its line. But where, presumably, it touches the field-wall at D, its long horizontally-laid grounders are visible as it passes into the next field and for a short distance forms the base of the field-wall. At this point the pound-wall disappears, for the clearance of the land as the farm advanced into the moor has obliterated it. Occasionally, at dusk, a faint line seems to shew far out in the field, swinging round to meet the W. arc of the wall—this is indicated very slightly on an air-photograph of the site.¹ An abnormal amount of loose stone, patches of very thick bracken and other growth, and a few banks, visible until 1955, are most suggestive of a settlement area; the reclamation of this field has been made during 1955-6. An echo of the pound-wall can be heard in the Cornish name of this field—Park Vose.²

The S.W. section of the pound-wall is also very difficult to detect, and the task is much complicated by the presence of earlier and later hut-circles and field-walls in addition to the pound-wall—together they form an extraordinary network. When the Bodrifty farmer about fifty years ago sold stone from this site to a contractor in Penzance,³ the whole area and particularly the pound-wall suffered great devastation. Heavy blocks and great slabs of stone, rejected by the contractor, appear to have been left lying about in utter confusion. Subsequently, the farmer partially cleared the ground by adding some of this stone to his old walls and building new ones, thus making the interpretation of the site even more difficult than before.⁴ Trenches cut inside and outside AII (fig. 6) shew great aggregations of stones and among them, traces of the pound-wall; it appears to be double-faced and in some places to have had the field-wall built over it. The curve of the pound-wall traceable in these trenches joins with the horn-like projection which turns northward to form, apparently, one side of a wide, inturned entrance. Unfortunately, there is no evidence for the other side of this feature; the tall gatepost F which seems to face C, its opposite number, at the tip of the horn, is not in true alignment with it; F still stands as it was originally set and is too heavy to have been moved accidentally. Destruction from this point is so complete that it makes the position of this side of the entrance and its swing-out again wholly conjectural. There is no suggestion elsewhere of an entrance.

The nearest stretch of the pound-wall on the N. to A II is at O. (See figs. 2 and 6). The curve of the pound-wall from O, if continued S., would agree with that exposed in the trenches in AII. It would skirt AI closely and cross Hut-circle L. This theory is unchecked in the field to the W. of AI as excavation there was not allowed, but it suggests a reasonable course for the pound-wall to take. The existence of Hut-circle L was unknown until it was revealed in these trenches in AII. It was almost completely filled with great stones rejected at the time of the sale; this implies the proximity of the pound-wall for no one will carry stones of such size and weight any further than is necessary. Careful excavation was made in L wherever possible and a considerable amount of pottery mainly of the Early Iron Age A, including both fine

¹ 54 D/518, No. 4209 (Cornwall).

² *fos* — housewall, rampart, dike = anciently dike in the sense of trench. *Cornish-English Dictionary*, R. Morton Nance, 58.

³ Information from Mr. Mann, Tredinnick,

New Mill.

⁴ O.S. maps of to-day shew different boundaries here from those drawn by George Withiel in 1690 for an estate atlas, now at Lanhydrock.

and coarse wares, was recovered. The wall of L running north, passes beneath the high-level paving on which the S. outer wall of Hut-circle AI is still trigged. Hut-circle L must therefore precede the building of AI, an aisled round-house dated to the Early Iron Age S.W.B. Moreover, the level of this paving is virtually the same, considering the fall of the ground, as that in the (possible) entrance to AI1, which still exists at the foot of the gate-post C. This orthostat is part of the pound-wall so that contemporaneity of the pound-wall with the building of AI is likely, i.e., in the Early Iron Age S.W.B. about 150 B.C.

There is not yet much comparative material for pounds in Cornwall. Only one has been excavated—it was medieval and dated to the 13th century.¹ There are 'concentrics' on Bodmin Moor² and many small and irregular enclosures; the latter are frequently only a few yards across and are more in the nature of cultivation plots, associated with the one or two huts inside them, than 'pounds'. The study of air-photographs has shewn pounds which appear to resemble Bodrifty but they are usually disappointing when checked on the ground. They have suffered much, possibly from the time of the early mediaeval expansion into the high parts of the moor, which was very extensive. The remains of one at Leswidden³ at St. Just-in-Penwith can be traced, and there are several on Stannon Downs, Bodmin Moor,⁴ one seemingly of compound type. These pounds at Stannon, like the hill-forts, lie close to the periphery of the moor. Excavation here might be particularly interesting as showing whether these sites, which appear to resemble Bodrifty, also exhibit features belonging to the south-western culture of the Early Iron Age.⁵

THE POTTERY

The number of sherds, about three thousand, found at Bodrifty was large considering the acid nature of the geological formation there. The majority were plain, mostly rather coarse body-sherds of various sizes but so fragmentary and worn that no complete pot could be restored from them. They were hand-made, except a few which resemble sherds from Castle Dore, said to be finished on a slow wheel or lathe.⁶ There were about ninety rims (mostly in very small pieces) and bases were much fewer. Hut-circle A provided about a third of the number of sherds found. Hut-circle F had a very small number, otherwise they were generally distributed in the excavated sites. This numerical allocation of the sherds, however, did not hold for the varieties of the ware; the earlier kinds were found on all sites but the latest were confined to Hut-circles A and C so that they must have been inhabited longer—or later. The decorated sherds were very few and the main mass of the pottery was much worn, crude and rather uninteresting. Some finer wares of Iron Age A were better made and preserved but neither these nor the decorated S.W.B. sherds were numerous. The large number of heavy sherds may be due to the necessity for storage vessels in a farming community such as Bodrifty. Pits of any sort were scarce and the one certain storage pit found had in it an 'A' vessel of coarse fabric; both vessel and pit were quite clean with no trace of burning; this suggests a container for milk, water or grain. This absence of pits on Cornish sites has been noted previously, for instance, at Blackbury Camp, Devon,⁷ Castle Dore⁸ and at Garrow⁹ on Bodmin Moor.

The series of wares is a long one running from a few sherds in the Late Bronze Age—insufficient in number to denote an occupation—to 'strays' of the Late Roman provincial wares. Coarser and finer wares of the Iron Age A period account for rather more than half the number of sherds found, and nearly all the remainder belong to the Iron Age S.W.B. variety. Among them, ornamented sherds of rouletted type in two hut-circles suggest

¹ On Garrow Tor, Bodmin Moor. Built to enclose a small group of Early Iron Age A hut-circles lying in the midst of strip-fields. O.S. 6 ins., 21 N.W.

² On Ridge, O.S. 6 ins., 22 N.W.; Carburrow Tor, 27 S.W.; Roughtor, 15, S.W.

³ On Leswidden farm, O.S. 6 ins., 73 N.E.

⁴ Near the claypits O.S. 6 ins. 20 N.E.

⁵ The only known find of Iron Age S.W.B. on the moor is the upper portion of a Hunsbury type quern found recently at Bedrawle near Garrow when the De Lank Waterworks were started.

⁶ *J.R.I.C.*, Appendix, 1951, 76.

⁷ *P.P.S.*, 20, Pt. I, 12.

⁸ *P.P.S.*, 20, Pt. I, 12.

⁹ Excavation proceeding.

an intrusion of a later S.W.B. type from the chief S.W.B. wares found here. There are, also, some sherds of large vessels with handles applied directly on the rim, which belong to the 1st century A.D. The rebuilding of some of the hut-circles and the enclosure of part of the site in a Pound is probably the work of the earlier S.W.B. group as its pottery is found on all sites. The scatter of small, abraded sherds of Late Roman provincial type was too poor and too few to afford a clue to the shape and size of their vessels. The few bases were almost all quite flat; the base of the pot *in situ* in the storage pit was slightly 'dished'; a few had a slight 'kick' but there was no omphalos base nor a foot-ringed one. One had been re-used as a lid and another had been mended internally with a rough lump of the clay.

The Late Bronze Age sherds are heavy and very coarse in texture; they are thick—often as much as 12 mm. and contain a heavy backing including small stones, frequently 7 mm. in length and also some shell. The colour is a light pinkish-brown, the surface rough and decorated by diagonal or upright incisions, some deep-cut and between parallel lines. Lugs occur; these are both round, flat, and squarish and are imposed on the wall of the pot, not pinched up.

The earlier Iron Age A sherds are also very heavy, and full of grit and small stones; but they differ in colour, hardness, and better firing from the Late Bronze Age sherds. They are frequently grey but most are a brown-black. In addition to the hard quartz grit there is much shell in the backing which gives the ware a speckled appearance. This might be due, partly, to the wearing of the surface in such a damp site as Bodrifty. The necks of the vessels are mostly upright and the rims flat—a few are everted. The internal bevel is frequent and also occurs decorated with a twisted cord impression. The mouths of the vessels are, in general, wide; almost all the sherds are too abraded and fragmentary to give an idea of the shoulder. Finger-tip and finger-nail impressions occur on a few shoulders and below the rims and incised linear decoration is still found. The finer wares of this period are more interesting, being of a fine, hard, thin paste, usually dark in colour; but some fragments of a light fawn shade, of very fine make, in form resembling the little bowls found at Les Jogasses, were found too. The backing, in general, still has grit and little stones, but the fabric is well-baked and has resisted destruction. On some of these finer pots there is a fairly sharp shoulder; they are undecorated. It seems likely that the Iron Age immigrants to Cornwall were themselves not far from their Bronze Age, or were strongly influenced by the people they found in Cornwall when they settled down; for the ancestry of this pottery is seen in the retention of the internal bevel, finger-marking, and the linear incisions. For the mass of the material one has the feeling that once having forgotten their Bronze Age decorative features, they were insufficiently imaginative to produce new ones. No haematite ware was found with the possible exception of the storage pot found *in situ* in its pit.

This Iron Age A pottery is the first to be found in Cornwall in any quantity.¹ The cliff castle at Maen, near Lands End, produced pottery suggesting Iron Age A influence but the ware generally was of the S.W.B. period.² There is some resemblance, stronger in the fine ware, to the pottery excavated at Dainton, South Devon;³ possibly the settlers there came from a different source; they used haematite or an imitative ferruginous slip, which perhaps links them with settlements further east rather than with the place of origin of the Bodrifty immigrants. There is a general likeness in the earlier Bodrifty sherds—Deveril-Rimbury characteristic—to the pottery from Dartmoor and from sites in the south of England such as New Barn Down; but the Cornish ware is not so heavy or thick and the southern sherds have no shell in their make-up.

At the same time that the 'A' pottery was found at Bodrifty it was excavated, also, on Garrow Tor, Bodmin Moor⁴ and Kestor, on Dartmoor.⁵ Sherds from these three sites

¹ It is stated to have been found at Trevelgne and Kynance Gate but is unpublished.

² *Proc. West Cornwall Field Club*, N.S., vol. i, No. 3, 110.

³ *Proc. Devon Arch. Expl. Soc.*, iv., Pt. 4, 87-9.

⁴ Excavation proceeding.

⁵ *T.D.A.*, lxxxvi, (1954), 52.

are identical in texture. Those at Garrow Tor were found in association with fragments of a glass 'nest-of-eyes' bead; this type of bead is dated to the 3rd century B.C. Ultimately it is of Etruscan origin and must have come to Cornwall by trade, or immigration, from the region of the Marne. A date for the Iron Age A pottery at Bodrifty is therefore given as about 300 B.C. or perhaps a little earlier considering the strong Late Bronze Age affinities.

There were almost as many sherds of Iron Age B wares as there were of the 'A' variety. These 'B' sherds, with the exception of the rouletted and rim-handled vessels, were found on all the excavated sites and at all levels. They differ considerably from the 'A' sherds and are varied in their make-up; some are softer and have weathered to fragments of no use for the determination of form; some are sandy and others very hard and smooth, even burnished; some are almost like terracotta in colour and feel; a few contain mica. In nearly all the paste is much better mixed; sometimes it is extremely fine, at others it contains grit and small stones. There is not so much shell in the backing, and being better fired, no sherds present a speckled appearance. There are four sherds only with the Glastonbury curvilinear type of decoration; the chief ornamentation is rouletted, the instrument used making rather long oblong indentations. There are six sherds bearing slight cordons; none of saucepan form; no true bead rims or countersunk handles. This would suggest a date of about 200 B.C. for the S.W.B. pottery.

Sherds were found in Hut-circle A which belonged to large pots with heavy rim handles. These are applied to the surface of the pot, some are pierced vertically and others horizontally; the opening is perhaps meant to hold a cord for suspension but it would serve for a small finger-and-thumb-hold. In Cornwall this ware was first excavated at Chun Castle in 1925 where it is said to have belonged to a 'squat, wide-mouthed vase'.¹ The description of the ware resembles the Bodrifty S.W.B. material except that the Chun example had some quartz in the backing while Bodrifty has mainly shell. But this pottery has been recently dated at the Carloggas, St. Mawgan-in-Pydar, where it was associated with bronze brooches belonging to the 1st century A.D.²

THE FINDS

POTTERY

Fig. 9

1. Small bowl, base missing. Rim with internal bevel; black, smooth, burnished exterior; inside grey, speckled, hard, fine ware with shell and quartz backing. Iron Age A from occupation level near quern.
2. Fragment of flat rim with very wide internal bevel. Heavy coarse quartz backing with small stones; grey, uneven surface, inside and out. Iron Age A, from occupation layer.
3. Small bowl, base missing. Rim almost flat with slight bevel; rounded shoulder; brown exterior, speckled; hard, fine paste with shell and stone backing. Iron Age A from occupation layer by hearth.
4. Small bowl, base missing. Flat rim with slight internal bevel; fairly sharp shoulder; fine grey ware; smooth outer surface, slightly speckled, ditto interior. Iron Age A; from filling slightly above normal floor level.
5. Fragment of rim. Slightly bevelled; heavy grey paste with shell and quartz backing, rim ornamented with twisted cord; above floor level.
6. Rim fragment, everted. Fine soft red paste; shell and quartz backing, well mixed; smooth surface, now much corroded. Iron Age B; from above floor level.
7. Rim fragment. Bevel; heavy grey paste with quartz, shell and stone backing; diagonal incisions at lower end of neck; surface smooth on both sides. From bottom of floor level.
8. Small bowl, base missing. Flat rim, slightly everted; high rounded shoulder; brown exterior partly blackened by use, fine hard 'A' paste with quartz and shell backing; uneven surface. Iron Age A, from drain.
9. Fragment of body sherd. Brown speckled paste and shell backing; roughly incised chevron; from Pound-wall.
10. Ditto; but incisions well made, from occupation level.

¹ *Archaeologia* lxxvi, 221-2 and fig. 8.

² *Arch. News Letter.*, vol. ii., No. 7, 112.



A. Pound wall with modern field wall above



B. Walling of Hut-circle L in foreground, showing infill from Pound wall



A. Hut-circle E, showing drain



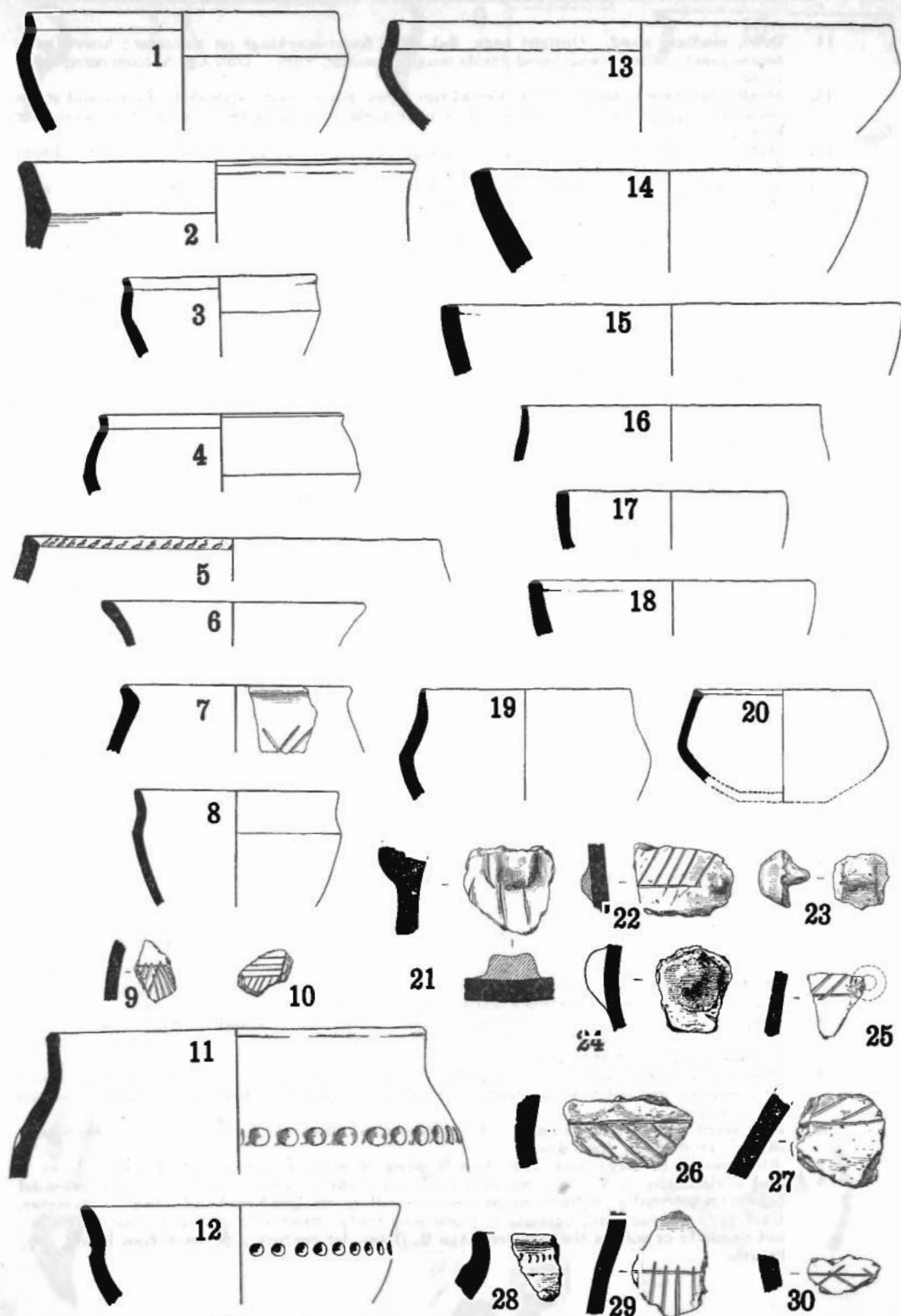
C. Hut-circle E. Small stake-hole



B. Base of wall-stones of A, set above presumed Hut-circle M, facing North



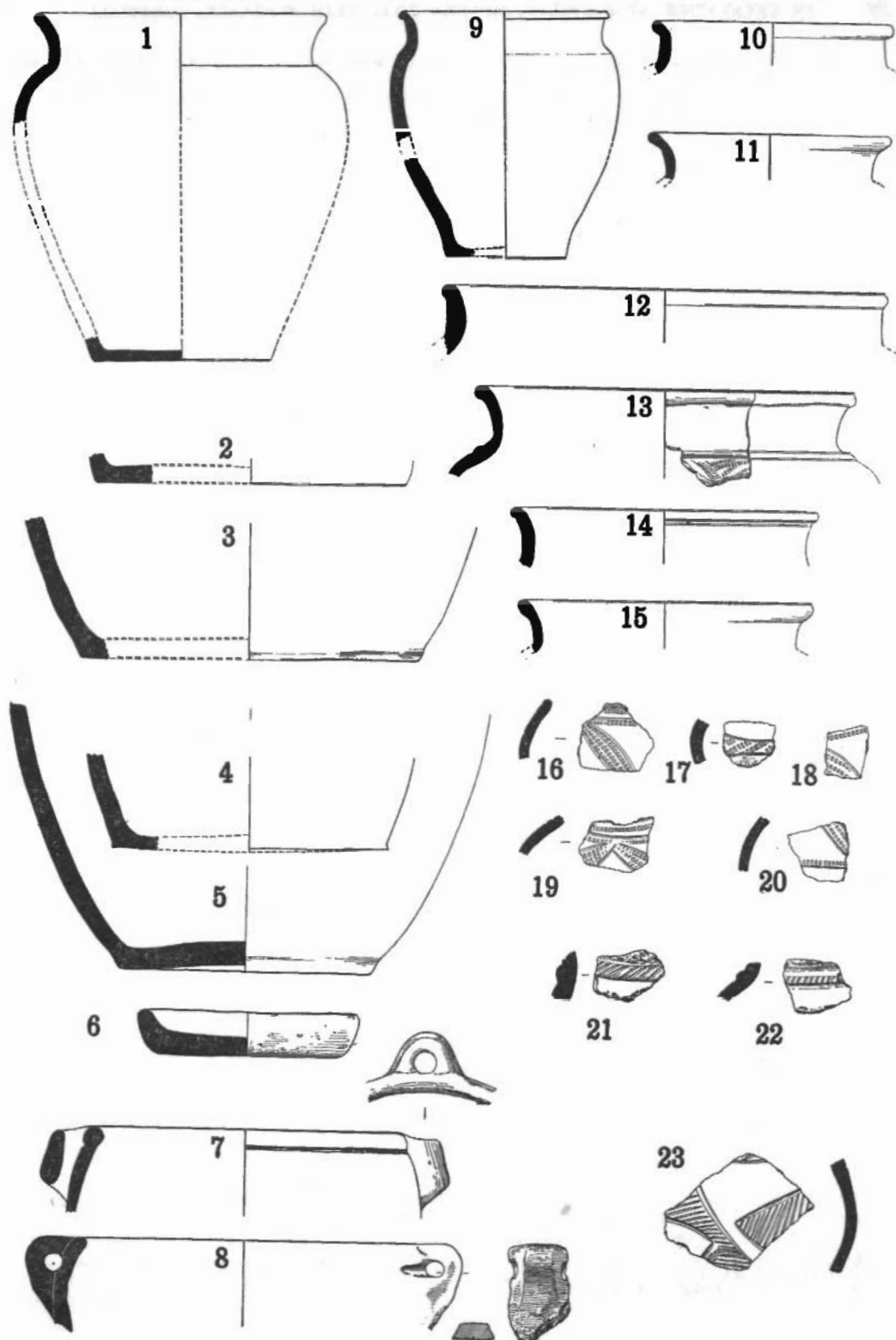
D. Sherd hearth from Porthmoer

Fig. 9. Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Pottery $\frac{1}{4}$

11. Bowl, medium sized. Upright neck, flat rim; finger-markings on shoulder; heavy grey coarse paste; exterior weathered, inside rough; speckled ware. Iron Age A, from occupation layer.
12. Small bowl, base missing. Flat everted rim; grey, coarse paste with shell, quartz and stone backing; corroded surface, blackened; finger-marking on shoulder. Occupation level near hearth.
13. Wide flat bowl sherd, base missing. Coarse, grey ware as 12; upright neck; rim flat. From floor level by hearth.
14. Rim sherd of slanting-sided bowl. Flat rim; very heavy paste of speckled ware; grey with quartz and shell backing. Iron Age A, from floor level.
15. Rim similar to 14. From floor level.
16. Neck sherd of very fine, hard paste. Flat rim; very thin at top; grey, burnished surface; slightly micaceous; backing of shell, quartz and stone, very well-fired. Iron Age A, from drain.
17. } Two rim sherds of small bowl of heavy grey paste, similar to 14; both from occupation level.
18. }
19. Rim fragments; burnt; rim thumbled at top. Iron Age A speckled ware.
20. Sherds of very small bowl, base missing. Flat rim; very fine light brown paste containing shell and quartz, polished surface. Iron Age A, from low level of hut-circle almost filled with rejected stone from stone robbers.
21. Sherd with part of applied lug. Very heavy ware; 7-10 mm. thick; reddish-brown speckled surface outside, brown-black inside; heavy quartz and shell backing; deep, almost straight below lug level. Late Bronze Age, from occupation level.
22. Body sherd with small, round, pinched-up lug. Fairly heavy, 7 mm. to 10 mm. thick; speckled wave ware, chocolate brown with quartz and shell backing; ornamented with lightly incised diagonal line above horizontal line. Iron Age A, from occupation level.
23. Lug of similar paste to 22 but slightly heavier. Red-brown,—a push-in type. Iron Age A, probably floor level.
24. Lug, applied; squarish shape; pinkish-brown in colour; incised line below lug; paste almost similar to 22. Iron Age A or transition from L.B.A.
25. Sherd with diagonal incisions with notch for lug. Similar paste to 22 but burnt black; probably floor level.
26. Rim sherd with rim destroyed. Light brown, soft red sandy paste containing quartz and shell, diagonal incisions below rim. Possibly Middle Bronze Age, occupation level.
27. Body sherd, with deeply incised linear decoration; paste similar to 21. Late Bronze Age, bottom of floor.
28. Rim sherd. Upright, slightly rounded with nail incision below rim; light fawn colour speckled inside and out; heavy paste with shell, quartz and stone. Iron Age A, from paving, floor level.
29. Body sherd of very heavy grey paste similar to 2. Diagonal incisions very lightly made. Iron Age A, from drain.
30. Body sherd similar to 29.

Fig. 10

1. Sherds of wide-mouthed, high jar with upright neck and slightly everted rounded rim. Brown to red sandy ware; backing very fine shell and a little quartz; surface very smooth, blackened interior. Iron Age B, from hearth in floor.
2. Base sherd, flat. Heavy ware, brown speckled with quartz and shell backing. Iron Age A, floor level at entrance to hut-circle.
3. Base (flat) and body sherd. Very heavy ware; pinky-brown with quartz, shell and stone backing; surface rough externally, probably speckled if more corroded, speckled inside. Iron Age A, from hearth between walls in Hut-circle E.
4. Base (flat) and body sherd, very slight crude projection at bottom; heavy, badly made pottery, otherwise like 3. From hut-circle almost filled with stones rejected by stone-robbers; great contrast to Fig. 9, 20.
5. Base and body sherds of large storage jar. Base slightly dished; brown speckled ware like 3; base pinky-red but not from burning (? haematite coating). Iron Age A, found unbroken in pit in rab.
6. Base sherd, flat bottom, rounded. Edges smoothed off to make a lid; heavy speckled paste like 2. Iron Age A, from drain.
7. } Rim sherds of large jars with lugs applied directly to rim, pierced vertically in 7
8. } and horizontally in 8. Rim rounded in 7 and slightly flattened in 8. Slightly indented below rim externally; holes for suspension or handling, straight bored and 1.3 cm. in diameter. Dark brown to light red, burnished; paste very finely mixed with shell and quartz backing; not so sandy or soft as No. 1. Iron Age B, (late), 1st century A.D., from floor level; 8 by hearth.

Fig. 10. Iron Age A and B Pottery $\frac{1}{4}$

9. Sherds giving almost complete profile of high, wide-mouthed jar with flat base. Upright neck and rounded rim; dark chocolate brown, surface corroded but originally probably smooth; fine paste with quartz and shell backing, rather heavier than No. 1. Iron Age B, from low level outside hut-wall, between stones.
10. Rims slightly differing in profile. Similar, dark brown to black; fine, hard, well-mixed paste with quartz and shell backing; well-fired, polished; high upright neck rims slightly keeled; 10 and 12 from occupation layer by hearth. 11 was found in filling above floor level.
11. } keeled; 10 and 12 from occupation layer by hearth. 11 was found in filling above floor level.
12. } keeled; 10 and 12 from occupation layer by hearth. 11 was found in filling above floor level.
13. Rim and neck sherds of jar with high upright neck. Fabric as in 10, 11, 12. Slight cordon high on shoulder below which is zone of rouletted ornamentation; indentations oblong, about 2 mm. on longer side, from floor level by hearth.
14. Similar to 10, 11, 12 but neck slightly higher; from floor level by hearth.
15. Similar to 14 in general, but paste heavier containing small stones; from floor level by hearth.
16. Body sherds of fabric similar to 13 but slightly thinner.
20. 6 mm. thick; rouletted ornamentation in curved bands of similar type to 13 but indentations slightly larger. Iron Age B, all from floor level.
21. Shoulder sherd with slight cordon having oblique indentations; ware chocolate-brown; polished externally, fine shell backing, softer than 16—20. Iron Age B, floor level among paving-stones.
22. Shoulder sherd with slight cordon decorated with cable pattern. Pale brown colour; heavy ware with coarser backing than other S.W.B. sherds; from occupation level.
23. Body sherd with Glastonbury curvilinear incised pattern. Rather gritty coarse ware, surface corroded. Iron Age B, from occupation level.

SPINDLEWHORLS

Seventeen spindlewhorls, whole and fragmentary, were found at Bodrifty in occupation levels. They are fairly constant in size but vary in shape, being cylindrical, pear-shaped, biconical and flat. The perforation is generally straight, fairly well made and may be countersunk at one, or both, ends. The later whorls—biconical and flat—are well-made, the others rather crude; this seems a general feature on sites of more than one period. The flat ones, usually of stone, are frequently ornamented, the others are plain—none at Bodrifty are decorated. They are made from the dark-brown speckled, the soft red, and the fine hard pottery; from slate, greisen, and even a flint pebble. The large specimens (unillustrated) seem unsuitable for spindlewhorls and not heavy enough for loom-weights; possibly they could serve to hold a bow-drill and this might account for the irregular borings; they could be made first from one side and then from the other as the hole became too wide for use.

Spindlewhorls are found on many sites in the south-west; at Castle Dore,¹ an Iron Age B site, they are mostly flat, and similarly at Gurnard's Head Cliff Castle,² Milber Downs,³ and at Porthmeor,⁴ a Courtyard House site. At Dainton,⁵ an Iron Age A site, the cylindrical and biconical forms recall those of Bodrifty; at Kestor⁶ and Garrow Tor,⁷ both Iron Age A sites, the spindlewhorls are flat and made of stone. A flat one is known from an Iron Age A level, also, at Maiden Castle;⁸ thus Iron Age A seems to provide the earliest date, at present, for the flat type of whorl, and it appears to continue in use from that time onwards.

The spindlewhorl No. 5 shewn on Fig. 11, is made of the dark brown speckled 'A' ware and is cylindrical in form; there is one made 'in gritty pottery' to be seen at Taunton Museum,⁹ from Ham Hill, and another 'in gritty clay' from Plumpton Plain, Sussex,¹⁰ a Late Bronze Age site, much resembles it; thus the non-flat type may be an earlier kind.

These little objects were long regarded with superstition in the west, and were known as 'adders', 'beads', and 'pisky grinding-stones'.

Fig. 11

1. Pottery, red-brown fine. Globular boring straight and well-made, countersunk. Broken medially.
2. Pottery, light brown, fine, well-made. Similar to 1; biconical; neat straight boring, countersunk at each end.
3. Similar material to 1 and 2. Almost biconical; well-made, straight boring. Broken in two medially.
4. Pottery, light brown speckled, pear-shaped. Flat bottom; well bored, straight and not countersunk.

¹ *J.R.I.C.*, N.S., App. (1951), 72-3.

² *Arch. Journ.*, xcvi (1941), 106-7.

³ *D.A.E.S.*, iv. Pts. 2 and 3 (1949-50), 46-7.

⁴ *J.R.I.C.*

⁵ *D.A.E.S.*, iv. Pt. 4, (1951), 91-3.

⁶ *T.D.A.*, lxxxvi (1954), p. 57 and Pl. 12 (b).

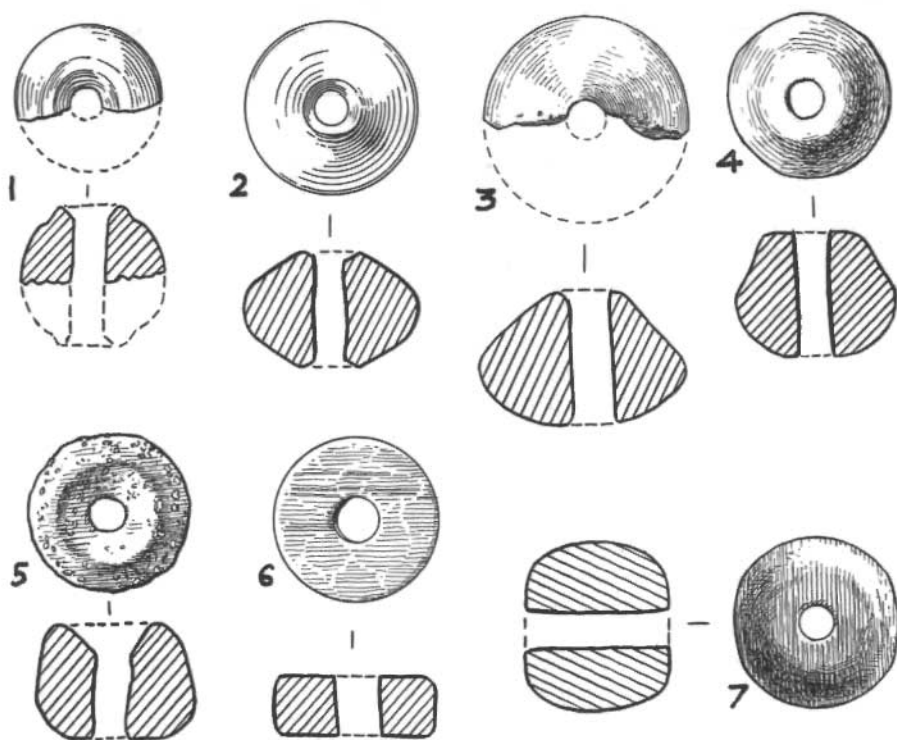
⁷ Excavation proceeding.

⁸ Maiden Castle, 294.

⁹ I am indebted to Mr. St. George Gray for this reference.

¹⁰ *P.P.S.* (1935), 33.

5. Pottery, gritty, speckled. Almost globular; poor boring, countersunk at the top; flat bottom.
6. Greisen, flat sides and edge, carefully bored.
7. Pottery, fine chalk. Straight boring, well-made. Small for spindlewhorl (? bead of Iron Age B.)

Fig. 11. Spindlewhorls $\frac{3}{8}$

SMALL FINDS

The number of small finds which might have thrown light on the life of the dwellers here was disappointingly small. This paucity has been noted on other granite sites in Zennor¹ and on Bodmin Moor² and Dartmoor. The extremely acid nature of the granite soil precludes the finding of articles of bone, leather and wood and though a few objects of iron were found at Bodrifty they were oxidised to a shapeless form. Among these were two finds suggesting tankard handles but their condition makes them incapable of certain identification. Local tradition that the locality was once tree-covered might mean that wood was formerly obtained where none now exists.³

Many stones, large and small and often water-worn, were found. Many of these were imported and probably came from local beaches where most of the varieties of stone can be matched. These stones had various industrial purposes; some were used as whetstones, rubbers, hammerstones, diggers and pot-boilers; some were probably slingstones, such as a little hoard of sixteen stones found in a chink in the Pound Wall; some may have been smashed up for use as backing in the manufacture of pottery; "pretties" perhaps served as counters and other playthings.

Finds of highly polished stones were numerous and it is possible that they may have been used in leather-working; this is particularly suggested by a group of five stones found in Hut-circle A and a small boulder in Hut C which has its entire surface highly smoothed; one of the processes of leather-working to-day is the rubbing of the skin with stone on a stone base. Slate was not common and its use is shown only in a small spindlewhorl and a few roughly-shaped discs for pot-lids.

¹ *Arch. Journ.*, xcvi, 118.

² Excavation at Rough Tor and Garrow Tor, unpublished.

³ Local tradition states that the woodwork in Zennor church is of oak from this locality.

Flint was scarce and very little of it was worked. Artifacts were small; probably because the material obtainable came in the form of smallish pebbles from the local beaches. The most interesting flint find was a barbed-and-tanged arrow head in the Bronze Age tradition from Hut-circle H. A pebble with straight boring could be a spindlewhorl but it is made without regard to the balance of the stone and is more likely to have been an amulet or charm.¹ An interesting surface find was part of a mace-head, having hour-glass boring; this is made of sandstone from a source yet unidentified and is of the same material as a whetstone or small anvil from Garrow, Bodmin Moor.²

On the whole, the stones at Bodrifty apparently used for industrial purposes are inferior in quantity to those found at Porthmeor Courtyard house and suggest a more primitive society.³

CONCLUSIONS

The excavations and fieldwork at Bodrifty fulfilled the original aim of dating the hut-circles and determining their relationship, and revealed the establishment of an Early Iron Age A settlement, soon after 400 B.C., over a considerable area of Mulfra Hill, having resemblance to living-sites at Garrow Tor on Bodmin Moor,⁴ Kestor on Dartmoor⁵ and Dainton, South Devon.⁶ The general absence of storage pits and haematite colouring on the pottery suggest an entry from overseas rather than by land from the east. An Early Iron Age S.W.B. immigration imposed itself upon the earlier settlement, probably in the 2nd century B.C.; its pottery has a general likeness to that at Castle Dore and Milber Downs but its decorated ware is rouletted, not curvilinear, and meagre in quantity.

The Iron Age A settlement, the first of its kind to be excavated in Cornwall, was one of foreigners who grew corn, reared sheep and lived in sturdy huts of medium size, set (most probably) in corners of their sub-rectangular fields. The hut-circles appear to be grouped in the excavated area but this is due partly to a misleading impression given by the modern field-boundaries that enclose it; probably the original settlement looked something like that of Stanton Down on Dartmoor or Black Tor on Bodmin Moor, though on a smaller scale. The enclosure by the later people of the hut-circles, and the development of the modern farm, obliterated all but faint traces of the prehistoric field-system here, and even on the extremities of the farm which are still 'croft' land it is difficult to discern it with any certainty. The fields were very small, about an eighth of an acre, and were divided by banks formed of the stones cleared from the fields, though there is a little building at one hut-circle which is tied in to them; they are slightly lynched and can be traced here and there in the later field-system. The kind of grain grown is unknown for no grain impressions were found; a few flints showed corn-gloss, and the corn was ground on saddle-querns which were in general use. The large quantity of coarse sherds found suggests that corn was stored in large vessels, such as the clean one found in a clean hole in Hut-circle G, or in a stone-lined, shallow depression which is in the same hut. This hut-circle—G—was neither large nor elaborately built yet contained many items of interest, including a possible iron-working hearth; perhaps the floor had not been recently relaid before it was deserted. It does not, as a building, suggest a chief's house.

The Iron Age B people seem to have rebuilt many of the hut-circles (possibly not G) and enclosed them with a wall; this was unditched and not strong enough to resist human enemies and was probably used to keep cattle within bounds. There is no direct evidence for cattle-keeping by these people but it seems likely. There

¹ Similar find at Sperris Croft, Zennor, now under excavation.

² Report of Dr. F. S. Wallis, S.W. Group of Museums and Art Galleries.

³ *J.R.I.C.*, Vol. XXIV, part 4, (1936), 58-65.

⁴ In process of Excavation.

⁵ *T.D.A.*, 86 (1954).

⁶ *D.A.E.S.*, iv. Pt. 4, (1951).

is apparently no extension of the agricultural system, and small enclosures near the hut-circle are walled as if for protection; objects made of bone, leather, or horn would quickly disappear in the highly acid soil of this site, and collections of stones, thought to have been used in the preparation of leather, were found. Perhaps there is here foreshadowed the type of settlement described by Lady Fox in her paper on Hill-slope Forts;¹ these were inhabited by cattle-keeping people of the S.W.B. Iron Age.

The rebuilt huts were more imposing than the older ones. The stone was more carefully selected, and placed to give a horizontal rather than an upright effect; this pattern can be observed, also, in the Pound-wall.

The two largest huts on the site belong to the aisled Pound-house type of dwelling; they were probably roofed like Hut I at Kestor. Hearths lined with sherds are seen to be another late feature and 'drains' are found in almost all hut-circles. The doorways are wide—the reason for this seems obscure, unless stock was kept inside the house. Possibly this feature might be connected with the idea expressed by Lady Fox in her remarks on the apparent separation, in the large Pound-hut at Kestor, of living and working-quarters, so anticipating the plan of the Courtyard house.² Certainly, at Bodrifty clear spaces do occur in the hut-circles. It was considered at the time of the excavations at Porthmeor, that part of the courtyard space was for cattle who were protected by a lean-to roof supported by granite posts, which were found *in situ* in at least two courtyards.³

These Iron Age B inhabitants spun their wool using spindlewhorls of fine pottery and stone, the latter being the flat type which is common in Cornwall on 'B' sites. No loom-weights were found. The sherd hearths were general. At Porthmeor, an iron bloom was found adhering to one of these, about 2 lbs. in weight, but at Bodrifty no iron has been found in connection with them or elsewhere. (Two much corroded objects which look like tankard handles were found but it was impossible to date them).⁴ The hearth shewn (Pl. VIId) was found at Porthmeor where the pottery, being better made, was in a better state of preservation;—the type was almost identical. No other finds, apart from pottery, can be definitely associated with the 'B' period.

The people probably used the sling, for pebbles of regular form and weight abound on the site, and one find disclosed a 'nest' of about twenty stones, tucked away in an odd angle of the wall. Perhaps they played a game with counters made of small round and oval pebbles; these are often perfect in shape and smoothness and cannot have had a utilitarian use—they are most attractive even now. The pottery used is much finer and better and has less shell in its backing than the 'A' wares. The undecorated ware is very plentiful and recalls that of Chun and some at Kynance Gate near the Lizard.⁵ All the decorated pottery came from Hut-circles C and A and suggests that they were inhabited later than the others.

Possibly by the time the decorated ware was in use the other hut-circles were deserted. No Romano-British sherds were found except six rims, at a high level among the bracken roots, and the only other life on the site appeared in the 1st century A.D., in Hut-circle AI, where sherds of large vessels with heavy rim-handles were found. No finds are associated with them and it seems likely that they represent 'squatters' around one of the many hearths there, protected by a lean-to

¹ *Arch. Journ.*, cix, (1952), 1.

² *T.D.A.*, 86 (1954), 50.

³ *J.R.I.C.*, xxiv; App. 2.

⁴ Information kindly given by Dr. J. P. Y. W. Corcoran.

⁵ Excavated by the Lizard Field Club and unpublished.

roof. Sherds of abraded late Roman provincial wares of the 1st century A.D. denote the passer-by but are insufficient in number for an occupation.

The Bodrifty farm of to-day dates from the 14th century and in its field-names can be seen its growth, as it swallowed up the prehistoric settlement. Among them it is interesting to note two which show that, even at so late a date, the ancient remains were sufficiently recognisable to suggest a name for the new enclosures—such are ' Park Vose ' and ' The Round '.

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