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### Other publications available

The Annual Reports of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee for 1990 and 1991 are now out of print, though copies can be provided for libraries at cost price. However, subsequent volume are available (see below) and can be ordered from **Julie Jones/Vanessa Straker, Department of Geography, University of Bristol, University Road, BRISTOL, BS8 1SS**. Cheques should be made payable to 'University of Wales Lampeter'.

**3. Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee Annual Report 1992**

78 pages, 36 figures and plates. Price £6.00 (postage included)

**4. Archaeology in the Severn Estuary 1993: Annual Report of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee**

131 pages, 48 figures and plates. Price £6.00 (postage included)

**5. Archaeology in the Severn Estuary 1994: Annual Report of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee**

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123 pages, 54 figures and 15 plates. Price £6.50 (postage included)

**7. Archaeology in the Severn Estuary 1996: Annual Report of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee**

121 pages, 41 figures and 27 plates. Price £6.50 (postage included)

#### Also available:

*Available from: CBA, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA. Cheques should be made payable to 'CBA'.*

**The Gwent Levels: the evolution of a wetland landscape**, by Stephen Rippon (1996). 148 pages, 58 figures and plates. Price £24.00 (postage included).

**Excavations at Caldicot, Gwent: Bronze Age Palaeochannels in the Lower Nedern Valley**, by Nigel Nayling and Astrid Caseldine (1997). 348 pages, 163 figures and plates. Price £32.00 (postage included)

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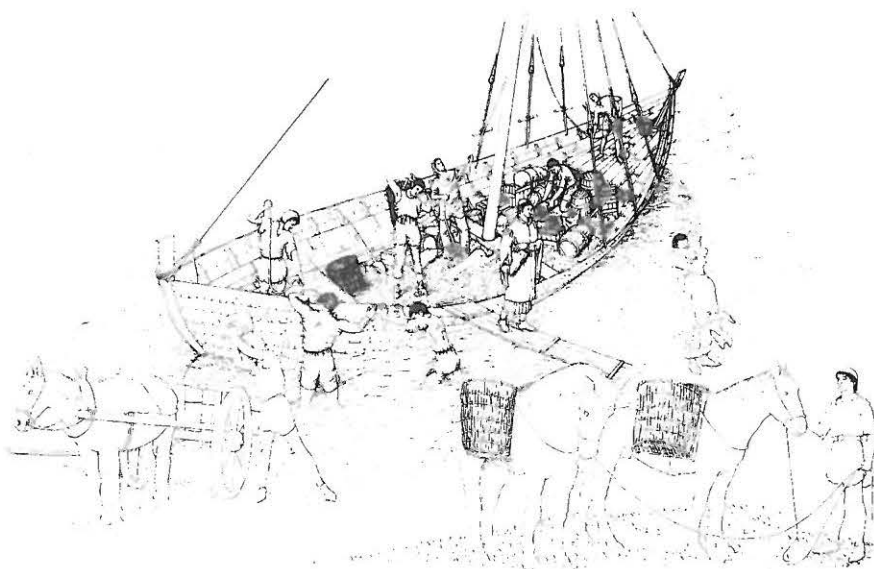
## Research Report 115 THE MAGOR PILL MEDIEVAL WRECK

*Nigel Nayling*

In 1994 the distorted timbers of a medieval boat came to light at Magor Pill, on the coast of the Gwent Levels, when storms washed away the sediments which had covered them since the boat ran aground about 700 years ago.

This report charts the complex and difficult excavation and recovery of the boat and its cargo of iron ore. Back in the laboratory the boat was dismantled and the individual timbers studied in detail to provide an accurate picture of the methods, raw materials, and tools used in the boat's construction and subsequent repair.

Models of the boat were made, and these, together with assessment of contemporary documents and iconography, point to the Magor Pill boat being a double-ended vessel built in the Northern European tradition and adapted to meet the demands of trading in the Bristol Channel. Analysis of the sedimentary environmental and historical data suggests that the vessel foundered close to the mouth of a tidal tributary near an established landing place known as *Abergwaitha*. The boat's discovery emphasises the importance of creek ports both in the Severn estuary and beyond during the medieval period. ISBN 1 872414 86 9 174pp, 133 figs



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## Derek Upton

On the 18th of April 1998, the University of Wales conferred an honorary degree on Derek Upton in recognition of his contribution to archaeology and natural history in Wales, a contribution which has also been acknowledged by the award, in September 1997, of an Honorary Fellowship of the University of Wales College at Newport. Derek is the only Honorary Member of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee. His discoveries were instrumental in the establishment of the Committee in 1986 and he has done more than anybody else to further its objectives. More widely he has helped to establish the potential of prehistoric intertidal archaeology in the British Isles.

Professionally Derek worked as a skilled steel technician for British Steel at Llanwern. Walks in the Estuary from childhood cultivated an interest in nature and a hobby collecting military artefacts in the intertidal zone. Careful observation led to a growing awareness that there was also a great deal of evidence for much earlier phases of human activity. That understanding of the area's archaeological potential grew from an intimate lifetime's knowledge of that unique environment. It was not always easy to convince professional archaeologists, with a mindset focused on dryland archaeology, of the significance of what he had found. The extent to which our attitude towards the intertidal zone has changed over the last twelve years is a testimony to the enduring contribution of the amateur in archaeology, as exemplified by Derek. He has worked unselfishly with professional archaeologists and scientists to enhance the understanding of his discoveries and to make sure they were fully investigated and published. His discoveries include the Mesolithic human footprints at Uskmouth, the Bronze Age settlements at Chapel Tump, the palaeochannel site at Caldicot, the Bronze Age and Iron Age sites with rectangular buildings at Goldcliff and Redwick, and the Magor Pill medieval boat. Each find prompted excavations and many of them have now produced substantial publications. The need to create a complete record of Derek's discoveries, and the other archaeological finds from the intertidal area,

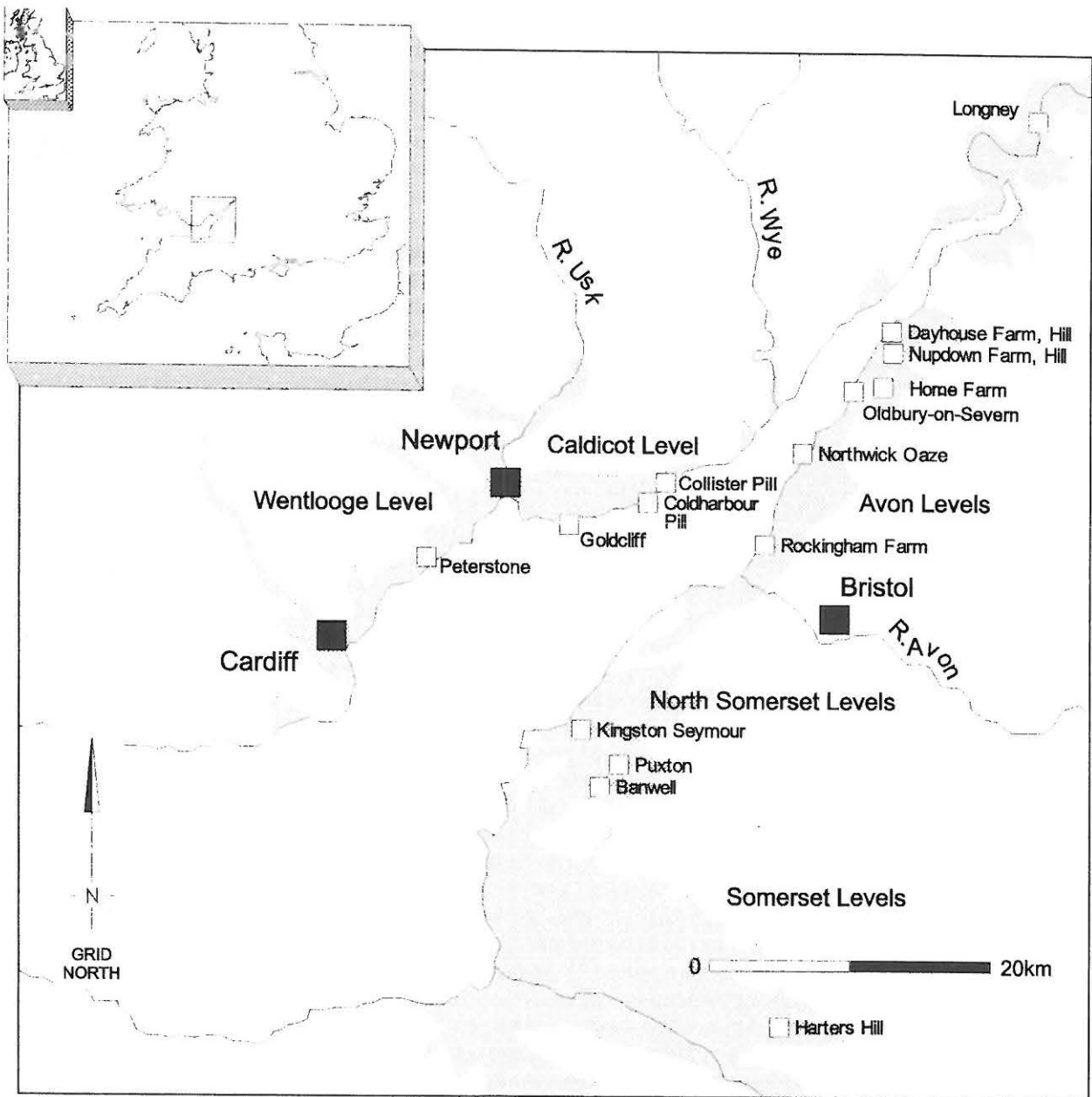
led the Board of Celtic Studies of the University of Wales to fund a sixteen month survey of the intertidal zone which Derek greatly helped and encouraged.

In addition to his archaeological interests Derek has been active in nature conservation, particularly the development and enhancement of the Magor Marsh Nature Reserve of which he is voluntary warden for the Gwent Trust for Nature Conservation. He also advises many organisations on aspects of nature conservation in the Estuary.

To mark the Honours conferred on Derek by the University of Wales the Committee dedicates this volume of *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary* to him with deepest thanks and best wishes for a productive retirement.

*Photograph by Roger James,  
14 Summerhill Avenue,  
NEWPORT, NP9 8FP.*





*The Severn Estuary and the Somerset Levels, showing sites discussed in this report. Greinton and Greylake Fosse are located just to the south of this map.*