The Editor's Farewell

After 22 years of serving as Honorary Editor I feel that I wish to retire. I have asked the Council if I may lay aside my duties and they have kindly agreed. This, then, is the last volume that I shall edit. These years have seen many changes; at present inflation is an inimical problem which frustrates and compromises many projects. In relinquishing my duties I wish my successors all possible success in tackling these problems.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Editorial Committee; to the Council; to Roger Peers; to Friary Press Ltd and their staff; to the authors of reports and articles; and to everyone who has helped over the last two decades. It has often been observed that the Proceedings are the *sine qua non* of a local society; FLOREANT HAEC ACTA IN AETERNUM!

James Stevens Cox

Notes to contributors

A pamphlet giving advice on presentation and layout for articles for the *Proceedings* in future may be obtained from the new Editor, Mr. W. G. Putnam, Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Cranford Av., Weymouth, Dorset DT4 7LQ. Contributors are urged to prepare their material for publication in the light of this advice; failure to do so will lead to considerable extra work and delay.

Contents

(Illustrations in italics)

Hubert Stephen Lowry Dewar
1892 - 1976

Our member H. S. L. Dewar died at Dorchester Hospital, Dorset, on 11 January 1976, aged 83 years.

Like his uncle G. A. B. Dewar, the Hampshire naturalist, H. S. L. Dewar was the offspring of a south country squire of Scottish descent. He was born at Doles House, near Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire, on 14 May 1892, the younger son of A. W. Dewar and F. W. R. Dewar (née Matthews). At the age of thirteen he discovered and excavated the Blagdon Barrow at Doles Wood. This early experience shaped his later career. The story of the dig was later to be written up in the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club (vol. X, pt. 2).

After completing his formal schooling at Seafield Park Engineering College, Fareham, H. S. L. Dewar matriculated at Jesus College, Cambridge. But action, rather than academe, called; after a year he left Cambridge and went to India. From this time onwards he consistently used his Christian name Stephen in preference to Hubert. He became a tea-planter in Assam and familiarised himself with the tribal customs of the Nagas. Soon he was proficient in several Indian dialects and when, on the outbreak of World War I, he reported to Whitehall for duty, he was sent back to India where his talents would be fully used. He was commissioned as a lieutenant, I.A.R.O., attached to the I/XIXth Punjabis and saw active service on the East Persian borders operating against gun-runners, spies and the Damani tribesmen of the Sarhad.

There were many adventures in Assam. Once his residence was a mud hut in the Mikis Hills; the occupant of the next hut was suffering from leprosy. On one occasion H.S.L.D. came face to face with a cobra; a silent confrontation ensued and after a few minutes the hamadryad made way for the patrician tea-planter. And there was a bout of malaria.

In 1926 he returned to England with his first wife. For a short while they lived at Wareham but then moved to Catcott near Bridgwater. H.S.L.D. soon became deeply interested in Somerset archaeology and assisted at many excavations, including those at Catsgore and Littleton. The great triumphs came when he collaborated with Professor Godwin in the excavation of the Neolithic and Bronze Age timber roadways in the Brue Valley, Somerset; and when he directed, in collaboration with C. A. Raleigh Radford, the excavations of the Low Ham Roman villa. The discovery of the 'Dido and Aeneas' pavement caught the attention of the public and with his lectures, articles and broadcasts H.S.L.D. educated the public in archaeology while many of today's 'discoverers of archaeology' were still in their swaddling clothes.

In 1957 the Dewars settled at 'Driftway', 52 Bridport Road, Dorchester. H.S.L.D. plunged into Dorset archaeology with zest. The following years were filled with creative activity — the winning of the Mansel-Pleydell prize for an essay on mills; the participation in several rescue digs; the editing of the Rackett papers; the writing of monographs on archaeological and folklore themes; the discovery of the Christian mosaic at Hinton St. Mary.

Stephen Dewar was twice married; first to Onie Curran Franklin (m. 2 March 1919); and after her death to Catherine Dorothy May Harris (m. 28 February 1967), who survives him. Both his wives took a keen interest in his activities and were a source of great help to him.

Stephen Dewar's interests were many and various. He contributed articles not only to archaeological proceedings but also to the Proceedings of the Royal Anthropological Society, the Morning Post, the Manchester Guardian, Chamber's Journal, Truth, and the National Review on matters anthropological, economic and political. He was a Fellow of the Geographical Society and later of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He saw life whole and clearly. His interest was in mankind and he had a cold contempt for professional academics who attempt to 'compartmentalise' knowledge. His was the rare ability to illuminate archaeology with the insight of an economist and the experience of a well-travelled anthropologist. He had the habit of asking awkward questions which exposed the sham and inspired proper reflection. He cared little for convention or orthodoxies but went his own way, confident in his own reasoning. At times this seemed akin to a disdainful aloofness but it was rather the expression of his natural patrician reserve and his quest for intellectual rigour; a detestation of cant and clichés is not snobbery. His dignified carriage, his tall frame and his precise, high-pitched Anglo-Indian intonations all marked him out as a notable character in Dorchester.

H.S.L.D. was a man of distinct personality. He was distinguished by an achievement all his own and an effective enthusiasm for humanity. The whole strength and ardour of his active life was passed to the utmost of its natural powers, within the necessary limits of occasion and circumstance, in making his enthusiasms effective.

There can be no tears in the death of such a man. For a while the broken ties of flesh and blood will feel the shock of severance but his achievements and influence will have a permanent place in British archaeology.

James and Gregory Stevens Cox

The Status of the Dartford Warbler in Dorset 1963-1974

by Bryan P. Pickess

INTRODUCTION

The population of the Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* in Dorset was brought dangerously near extinction by the severe winter of 1962/1963. It had already suffered a major setback because the previous winter was almost as harsh. Ash (1964) considered that it was the heavy snowfall of January 1963, that was responsible for their demise, as it smothered them at their roosts. Since 1963 Dorset has not been affected by a severe winter and snow fall has only been slight. With the succession of mild winters the population has slowly recovered and by the end of the 1974 breeding season had possibly reached its highest level in the County since the 1930's.

This short paper outlines the recovery of the Dartford Warbler in Dorset since the 1962/1963 winter, together with comments on the future of the species in the County. The types of habitat favoured by this species in Dorset is fully described by Bibby and Tubbs (in press).

POPULATION

Unfortunately there is very little information available as to population size before 1960. In that year 63 pairs were located, which probably represented about 75% of the total population (Boys, 1961). After the disastrous winter of 1962/1963 only four pairs were located (Robertson, 1964). Two pairs were found on the N.E. heaths and the others in Purbeck. In view of the difficulty of locating these birds, often at least six visits are necessary even to establish the presence of a pair, so at very low densities pairs could easily be overlooked. It would seem likely therefore that one or two more pairs avoided detection but even so the population was brought to a dangerously critical level.

In 1966 an attempt was made to ascertain the breeding population. Sixteen pairs were found but at least one site known to have held Dartford Warblers the previous year was not visited. The total population in 1966 was unlikely to have exceeded 25 pairs (Tubbs, 1967).

From 1966 onwards an accurate picture of the population is known for Purbeck. However, from the rest of the Poole Basin heathland the information is very incomplete. The population had recovered by 1974 to such an extent that most of their still remaining habitat was again recolonized and their numbers were fast approaching 300 pairs (C. J. Bibby, *per comm.*). In the far west of the county breeding was suspected in 1972 and proven in 1973 and 1974 (C. R. Macdonald, *per. comm.*).

In Table I, the breeding pairs for Purbeck is given and by piecing together the incomplete information for the other Poole Basin heathland a good idea of the population can be determined. It can be seen from these figures that the Dorset population has been almost doubling every two years, excepting for 1970.

TABLE I

ESTIMATED BREEDING POPULATION OF DARTFORD WARBLER IN DORSET 1963-1974

	Year	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
Purbeck	No. prs.	2	3	7	10	16	29	38	38	54	62	101	127
Rest of Poole Basin*	No. prs.	2	?	?	6	4	2	?	10	19	40	20	157
West Dorset	No. prs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Possible maximum Dorset population†	No. prs.	c.5	c.8	<12	<20	<30	<50	<60	<65	<90	<130	<170	<300

* Very incomplete figures taken from the Dorset Bird Report in Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc. Vols. 85-95.

† By following the trend of the Purbeck figures and using the total count for 1974, the possible population has been postulated for the whole period under review.

CONSERVATION

Heathland unfortunately has a poor public image, often at best described as wasteland. Moore (1962) estimated that in 1960 there was about 25,000 acres of heathland remaining in Dorset. By 1973 the figure had been reduced to nearer 15,000 acres (Rippey, 1973) and heathland is still disappearing at a considerable rate.

The loss of heathland has been brought about by rapid urbanization, especially in east Dorset, together with extensive afforestation, mineral winning and marginal farming. This onslaught has resulted in few large tracks of heathland remaining and a considerable fragmentation of what is left. Already pressures are mounting on much of the surviving heathland (see Dorset County

Council, Growth Study Report, South East Structure Plan, 1974). The implications to wildlife in part of the area considered in the Structure Plan, together with suggestions on how they could be best safeguarded has been made by Teagle (1974).

Although fire is the perpetuater of heathland, with the continuing reduction of heathland, fire is an ever increasing hazard to Dartford Warblers. Since 1963 there is hardly a major piece of Dorset heathland that has not been burnt to some extent. Fires usually occur during the spring and summer when they do the maximum amount of damage to the fauna. Not infrequently before the burnt area has had chance to recover fully, it gets burnt again. The effect of excessive burning is to encourage less desirable species such as Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and Bristle Bent Grass *Agrostis setacea* to become well established and so further reducing suitable habitat for Dartford Warblers. Most fires are started accidentally and usually due to human carelessness.

To what extent there is movement between the New Forest and Dorset populations of Dartford Warblers is unknown. As Moore (1962) suggests, it is these N.E. heaths which could provide a bridge between the Purbeck and New Forest populations. The loss of these heaths would isolate the two populations.

If we are to retain our heathland fauna of Dorset, then much greater safeguards must be made to ensure the future survival of this very important habitat. As yet only a very small acreage of heathland form nature reserves, none of which are owned and so their future is not secure. There is a need for positive steps to be taken to protect the few remaining large tracks of heath in the County before it is too late. We are already on the brink.

The future of the Dartford Warbler in Dorset is therefore far from assured. It is faced with the unenviable prospect of a continued erosion of its habitat, plus too frequent burning of the heaths that remain and always the threat of a severe winter. Maybe at its present population level it could survive one severe winter but two could bring it back to the 1963 level or possibly even worse.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Colin Bibby for his helpful comments during the preparation of this paper and supplying the 1974 population figure. Detailed population figures for some Purbeck sites were kindly supplied by Peter Hawkins.

SUMMARY

The Dartford Warbler population was brought to the verge of extinction by the 1962/1963 winter. With a succession of mild winters the population has recovered to such an extent that in 1974 it was approaching 300 pairs.

The future of the Dartford Warbler in Dorset is very precarious, being faced with continued erosion of its remaining habitat and always the threat of a severe winter.

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Cliff Erosion and Beach Development: The Case of Shipstal Point, Dorset

by V. J. May

(Senior Lecturer in Geography, Bournemouth College of Technology)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are particularly due to Bryan Pickess, the Warden of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve at Arne, Dr G. W. A. Sparrow, who helped interpret the geology of the cliffs, and several generations of students who have surveyed beaches and cliffs.

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INTRODUCTION

Many studies of cliff retreat and beach development have been made which assess the relationships between the intensity of cliff retreat and the nature of beaches (King 1971). Rarely, however, is it possible to identify the source of the material forming the beach sufficiently accurately to relate beach changes to cliff changes directly. This has been possible at Shipstal Point which lies in the eastern part of the parish of Arne in Dorset on the southern side of Poole Harbour. Shingle and sand beaches extend to north and south from a common source of beach material, the eroding cliffs at the Point itself.

Using documentary evidence in the form of early maps and charts, aerial photography and tacheometric surveys, it has been possible to describe the evolution of these beaches and to assess the importance of the cliffs as a source of beach material.

GENERAL ENVIRONMENT

Shipstal Point lies between Arne Bay to the north and Middlebere Bay to the south, and faces the deep Wych Channel (Figure 1). Small waves are generated from the south in this channel, but the largest waves occur with winds from the north and the east. Although the prevailing winds have been from the south-west, there has been a tendency in recent years towards more north or north-east winds. Significant wave action can only occur with high tide levels, since the beaches rest on wide gravel and mud flats. Precipitation averages 750 mm annually, most occurring in the winter half of the year. A low wall and groynes have been built to protect the northern part of the headland where there are two cottages. The shoreline can be divided from south to north into four inter-connected units (Figure 1):

(a) the southern spit and saltmarsh in Middlebere Bay
(b) the cliffs
(c) the walled and groyned section
(d) the northern beach and saltmarsh in Arne Bay.

THE SOUTHERN SPIT

This low spit of coarse quartzose sand is about 80m in length and comprises two distinct zones. The first, the major part of the spit, is colonised by *Eulymia* and *Agropyron pungens* and is changing little. The second zone, at the distal end, is a low thin spread of sand on former saltmarsh. It differs from the main spit by lacking vegetation and by continuing to spread southwards. The spit does not appear on any early maps or charts, but cannot be dated exactly. Borings show that it rests on former saltmarsh colonised by *Spartina townsendii*. Middlebere Bay was colonised by *Spartina* about 1914 (Hubbard 1965). Most waves approach this beach from the north or east because of the shelter afforded by the extensive saltmarsh to the south (Figure 2). Until the colonisation of the former mudflats of Middlebere Bay by *Spartina*, waves would have approached this area from the south. With the prevailing south-west winds, net beach movement would have been to the north. The spread of *Spartina* provided a firm base for the beach itself and altered the pattern of wave refraction so much that the most common movements of beach material are now towards the south.

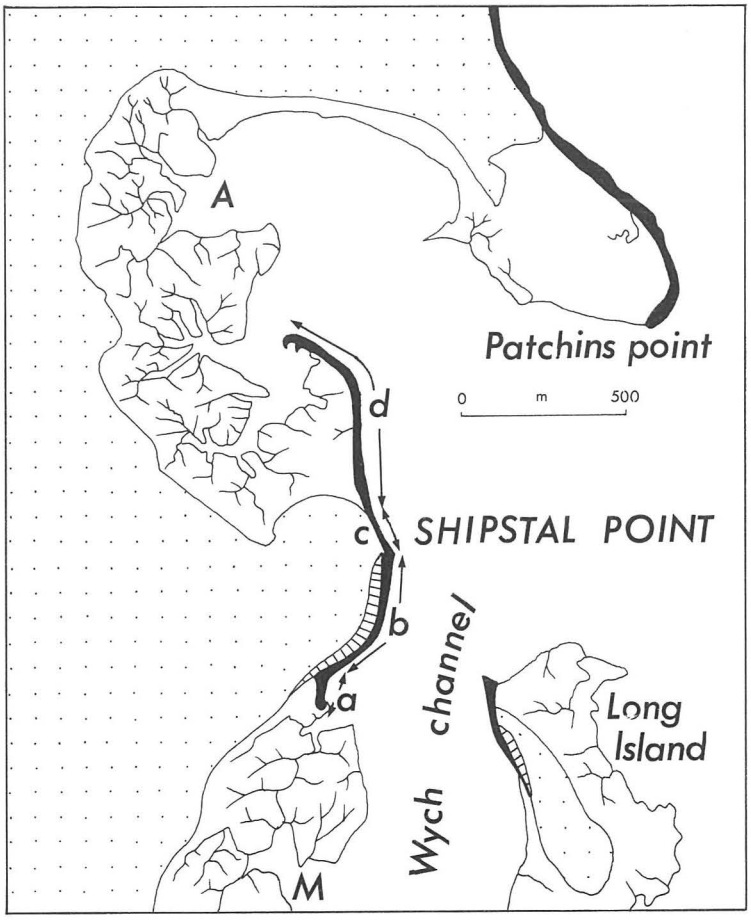

Fig. 1. The location of Shipstal Point.

Key: Dotted areas — land above high water mark. Black — shingle or sand beaches. Shaded — active cliffs. A — Arne Bay. M — Middlebere Bay. a — southern spit. b — the cliffs; c — the wall and groynes; d — northern spit.

THE CLIFFS

The cliffs are cut into interbedded quartzose current-bedded sands and ball-clays, and can be divided into three distinctive groups:

(a) a southern group of low-angle slopes colonised by gorse (*Ulex* spp) and not affected by marine erosion of the foot of the slope (Figure 3a & b)
(b) a middle group of steep, gravel-capped cliffs affected by some cliff-foot erosion (Figure 3c & d)
(c) a northern group of low-angle slopes which lack a gravel capping but are affected by some cliff-foot erosion (Figure 3e & f).

The southern group of slopes are former cliffs which were once eroded by the tidal waters in Middlebere Bay but are now protected by the extensive saltmarshes. Their steepest slope unit ranges between 22 and 29 degrees in angle but little debris reaches the shoreline because of the colonisation by grasses of the cliff foot. In contrast, on the middle group of cliffs, much gravel

and sand moves downslope to the beach, as the slopes are affected by rainwash, gullying and small rockfalls. During the storms of January 1974, much of the cliff foot was deeply eroded and so sand from the lower cliff also reached the beach. The northern cliffs lie at angles between 27 and 40 degrees, with the slope cut across sands and a narrow band of ball-clay. A low free-face occurs at the cliff top. Partly covered by gorse and heath derived from the cliff top, these cliffs are eroded by complex systems of rills and small gullies. Much downslope movement of slope debris, however, occurs as a result of recreational trampling. Slope transport processes, therefore, supply the beach here with some clay and much coarse sand. During the summer of 1971, for example, it is estimated that about 25m^3 of debris reached the beach. Of this, 20% (4.68m^3) was removed by marine action between 23 September and 6 October. In contrast, about 70m^3 was removed by direct marine action during January 1974. The former processes are more characteristic than the latter, and until the storms of January 1974 progressive lowering of slope angles had been the tendency on the cliffs.

The role of vegetation on the cliffs appears to be twofold. First, the presence of vegetation provides a degree of cohesion to surface particles which is otherwise lacking. Second, most visitors who scramble on these slopes avoid the gorse and heath hummocks so that trampling damage is concentrated. Most rapid slope erosion occurs in association with most concentrated recreational trampling.

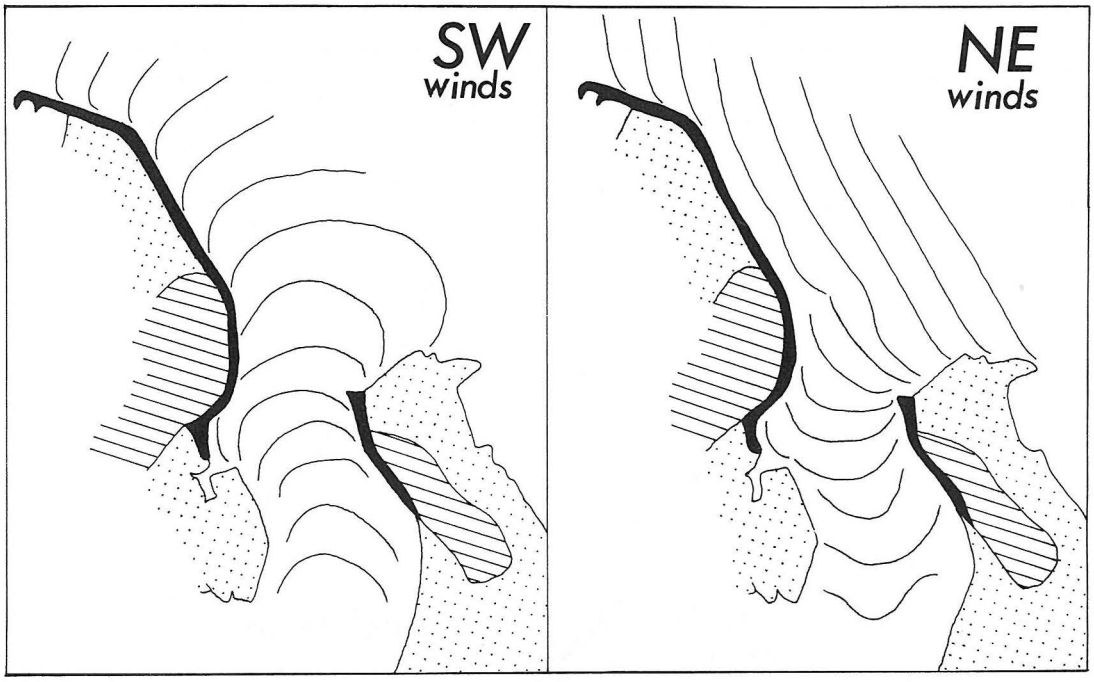

Fig. 2. Wave refraction at Shipstal Point, based on air photographs.

Key: Dotted areas — saltmarsh; Black — beaches; Shaded — land above high water mark; Continuous lines — selected wave crests.

THE WALL AND GROYNES

The two cottages at Shipstal Point are protected by a wall rather under 2m in height and a series of low groynes. At the southern end of the wall, the sand beach is narrow (about 0.3m), but large numbers of oyster shells cover the more extensive lower beach. Their origin has not been satisfactorily explained. The groynes trap small quantities of sand moving mainly northwards from the beaches below the cliffs. To the immediate north of the groynes, there has been considerable retreat of the shoreline. Since the main supply of beach material is from the beaches to the south, a beach will be maintained in front of the wall whether the groynes exist or not. The groynes merely retain the beach to the detriment of the northern beach, where erosion has outflanked the defensive wall.

THE NORTHERN SPIT

This low ridge of sand and gravel extends for some 385m along the edge of the southern saltmarsh in Arne Bay. At its distal end, the spit is mainly of sand and rest, on unconsolidated mud. Several recurves formed on this mud have sunk into it because of their greater weight. At the proximal end, a complex area of low isolated ridges and gravel spreads lies behind the present sand ridge (Figure 4). The former cliff line is colonised by Silver Birch, gorse and bracken. At its foot a deep deposit of estuarine mud, over 1m in depth, is dominated by *Juncus maritimus*. Two low ridges of sand and gravel are dominated by *Agropyron pungens* and *Scirpus maritimus*. From the northern end of the more seaward of these ridges, there is an extensive area underlain by gravel resting on former saltmarsh, and characterised by less luxuriant vegetation, particularly *Limonium vulgare*.

Mackenzie's chart of 1785 and other maps and charts dated before 1900 show a single ridge projecting into Arne Bay from the northern side of Shipstal Point. This is probably represented today by the innermost ridge. Arne Bay was colonised by *Spartina* Between 1898 and 1915 (Hubbard 1965) and although it cannot be confirmed it is likely that the second ridge and the gravel spread developed on the extended saltmarsh during the early part of the twentieth century. Borings confirm that the form of this relic beach ridge is similar to that of the southern spit which has developed on the edge of the saltmarsh.

The present beach ridge in Arne Bay rests on the edge of the *Spartina*-dominated saltmarsh and has a patchy cover of *Agropyron pungens, Halimione portulacoides, Silene maritima,* and *Beta vulgaris* on the inner 75m. There are two predominant trends in this northern ridge. First, a slow movement of sand landwards covers the edge of the saltmarsh and at the same time exposes older saltmarsh on its seaward side where erosion occurs. Second, there is rapid transport of sand along the ridge from south to north. Table 1 reveals the extent to which the ridge has lengthened since 1952. As this transport of sand northwards has taken place, the beaches at the proximal end of the ridge have narrowed substantially because transport from further south has been inhibited by the groynes and reduced by some slowing of the rate of cliff erosion.

CONCLUSIONS

The beaches at Shipstal Point owe their present form to:

(a) the supply of sand and gravel from the erosion of low cliffs, a supply which varies markedly from time to time.
(b) the existence of firm stable foundations, i.e. the *Spartina*-dominated saltmarsh
(c) the control of wave approach directions by Patchins Point to the north, Long Island to the south-east and the saltmarsh in Middlebere Bay to the south
(d) the substantial changes in shoreline configuration, wave patterns and cliff erosion which have followed the spread of *Spartina* in both Arne and Middlebere Bays.

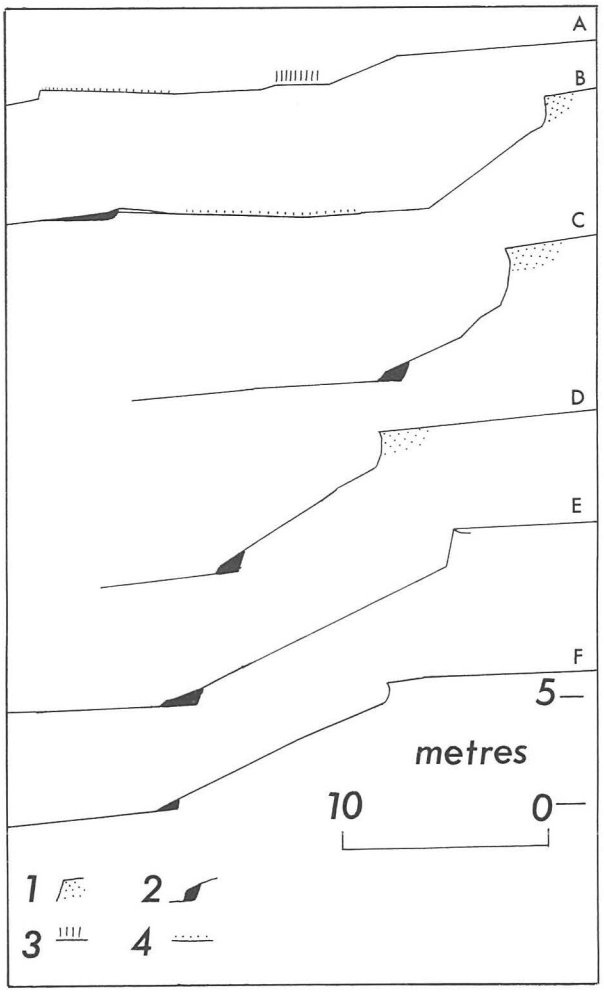

Fig. 3. Cliffs at Shipstal Point.

Key: 1 — gravel capping to cliffs; 2 — cliff foot erosion during January 1974; 3 — *Juncus maritimus* and *Scirpus maritimus*; 4 — *Spartina* saltmarsh.

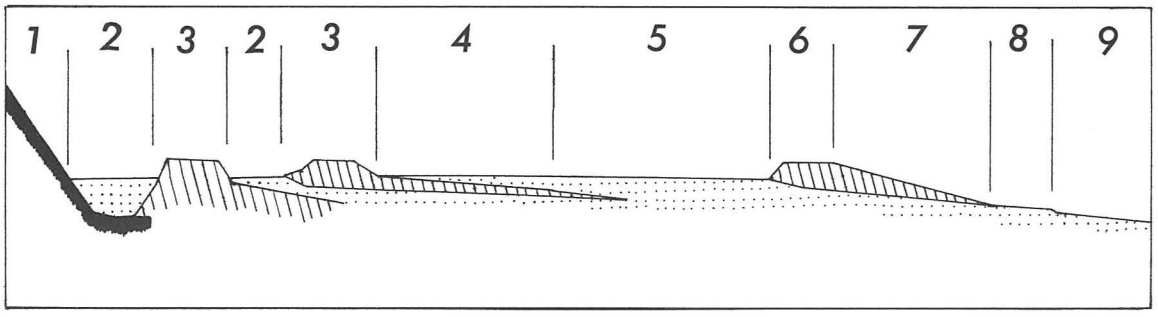

Fig. 4. Diagrammatic cross-section of northern beach ridges.

Key: Numbers refer to surface characteristics as follows: 1 — Old cliffline with birch, gorse and bracken; 2 — estuarine mud with *Juncus maritimus*; 3 — gravel and sand ridge with *Agropyron pungens*, and *Scirpus maritimus* on margins; 4 — gravel spread with low plants including *Limonium vulgare*; 5 — *Spartina* saltmarsh; 6 — contemporary beach ridge with patchy *Agropyron pungens, Silene maritima, Halimione portulacoides,* and *Beta vulgaris*; 7 — unvegetated shingle and sand beach; 8 — *Spartina* rhizomes in exposed former saltmarsh; 9 — gravel and mud with *Ulva* and *Enteromorpha*; Dotted areas — estuarine mud; Black — Bagshot beds; Shaded — sand and gravel.

Whereas the southern spit has achieved a state very close to equilibrium with wave regime and longshore sediment transport, the northern spit continues to adjust its form to changing sediment transport from the cliffs and a more variable wave approach

pattern. The distal end continues to widen and develop recurves, whereas the proximal end narrows due to reduced sediment supply. The significance of Shipstal Point for coastal studies is that the behaviour of the beaches confirms the frequently proposed but rarely substantiated hypothesis that drift of beach sediment in opposite directions is possible on adjacent parts of the shoreline. Furthermore, there can be little doubt of the relationship between beach development and erosion of the cliffs. Slope processes combine with marine erosion to supply sand and gravel to the upper beach whence it is spread to the spits.

Joseph Pentland — a forgotten pioneer in the osteology of fossil marine reptiles

by JUSTIN B. DELAIR* and WILLIAM A. S. SARJEANT†

Discoveries of the bones of fossil marine reptiles in the Liassic (lower Jurassic) rocks of Dorset and Somerset, England, certainly occured before 1728, for plesiosaur vertebrae from the Lias near Bridport, Dorset, were included in the catalogue of John Woodward's collection of fossils(1). (The Woodwardian collection is still among the treasured scientific possessions of the University of Cambridge.) Finds of fossil reptile bones, most often of ichthyosaurs(2), were thereafter made with increasing frequency throughout the remainder of the eighteenth century. It was not until 1814, however, that proper scientific investigation of any of this material was attempted. The two most prominent figures in the early history of the study of fossil marine reptiles were Sir Everard Home(3) and the Reverend W. D. Conybeare(4), both of whom published several papers on this topic. It was Home who was responsible for the earliest scientific descriptions of ichthyosaurian osteology(5), but it is in Conybeare's papers(6) that the most original and perceptive deductions are to be found. In consequence, Conybeare has come to be regarded as the originator of many ideas still current concerning the interpretation of ichthyosaurian osteology and ecology.

However, a series of recently discovered letters addressed to the eminent geologist William Buckland(7) in the years 1820-1822 reveal that their author, Joseph Barclay Pentland (1797-1873), an Irish naturalist now remembered (if at all) only for his geographical observations in Peru and Bolivia, was the true originator of many of these ideas. These letters make it clear that he was in correspondence not only with Buckland, but also with Conybeare himself. They were purchased in 1970, at the instigation of the second author, by the University of Nottingham from the bookseller Anthony D. Lilly of Hythe, Kent; their history is not known. The letters are now lodged in the Manuscript Collection of Nottingham University; a full transcription of them is to be published shortly(8). Before discussing Pentland's contributions in this field more fully, it is necessary to briefly review the state of knowledge of ichthyosaurs up to 1820,(9) when the earliest of these letters was written, and to provide a few biographical details concerning Pentland, in order that the role he played in these historic researches may be properly appreciated for the first time.

The first discovery of any significance occurred in 1803, when a large but imperfect skeleton was discovered in the Lower Lias near Weston, Somerset. Although subsequently preserved at Woodchester Rectory in Gloucestershire, it was never adequately described; contemporary writers usually referred to it as some kid of fossil "crocodile"(10). The present whereabouts of this skeleton (if it survives) is unknown.

Much more important historically was the discovery by the young fossil collectors Joseph and Mary Anning, in 1810, of the skull and greater part of a large skeleton in Lower Liassic strata exposed on the foreshore east of Lyme Regis, Dorset(11). All these bones were dug up and sent to Bullock's Museum in London the following year, to be later purchased for the British Museum and put on display first at Bloomsbury and subsequently at South Kensington; in the course of these wanderings, however, the skull became dissociated from the other bones and is the only part of this skeleton that can now be identified (reg. no. 1158 BMNH). In his initial description of this skull(12). Home regarded it as that of a gigantic "fish" or "crocodile", a judgement in which other contemporary writers(13) concurred.

The next discovery of any significance was in 1813, when an immense skull was encountered in Lower Liassic strata at Keynsham, near Bath, Somerset(14). From longhand notes about this find made in 1819 by the Bristol geologist, George Cumberland,(15) it seems that this skull was also regarded as that of a fish. The same conclusion was arrived at with regard to another skeleton (now lost or misplaced) found in 1818, in strata of similar age at Watchet, Somerset, by a Mr. Morgan of Bristol.(16)

In 1818, however, Charles Konig(17) of the British Museum proposed the new name *Ichthyosaurus* on the basis of separate material unquestionably of the same animal as that described by Home(18). Konig was evidently aware that this was a reptile, however superficially fishlike its form; and indeed he seems to have regarded the creature as nearer to the lizards than to the crocodiles.

Scarcely a year later, however, Home riposted with the proposal that the Lyme Regis specimen, together with those from Weston, Keynsham, Watchet, and various other localities then beginning to yield skeletal remains of lesser importance, should henceforth be named *Proteosaurus*(19). (The principle of priority in taxonomic nomenclature was not established at this early date.) His reasons for putting forward this proposal were outlined in a second paper published almost simultaneously(20), in which he figured a further large skeleton then lately found at Lyme Regis by Mary Anning.

In 1820, however, Henry De la Beche(21) briefly reviewed the then extant British ichthyosaur material and, obviously accepting Konig's name for the animal, distinguished — without properly defining — three species, which he named *Ichthyosaurus communis, I. tenuirostris,* and *I. platydon*(22). Conybeare's and Buckland's views on ichthyosaurs were briefly mentioned in this paper. By that date, therefore, Conybeare had begun his studies of ichthyosaurian osteology and must have already discussed his work with his friend Buckland, who possessed a first-hand knowledge of most of the material then extant. Thus, when Pentland first entered the scene, those who had interested themselves in these early remains were very much divided as to how they should interpret them and even as to how they should name them.

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The early life history of Pentland is obscure. He was born in Ireland and an obituary notice[23] states that he was early left an orphan[24]; it is clear from his letters, however, that he was brought up by relatives and still depended on them for financial support at the time the letters were written. He was educated at Armagh, "the best classical establishment in Ireland"[25], and afterwards at the University of Paris, where he studied mineralogy and crystallography under Haüy[26] and chemistry under Gay-Lussac[27] and Thénard[28]. Subsequently he was instructed in geology at the Ecole des Mines under Cordier[29], Brochant de Villiers[30] and the elder Brongniart[31]. He then went on a tour of central and southern France, in the course of which he became increasingly interested in geology and palaeontology. Recognizing that a knowledge of zoology was an essential prerequisite for the latter discipline, he thereafter (probably in 1818) commenced studying with the great comparative anatomist Georges Cuvier[32], daily working long hours in the laboratories in the Jardin du Roi and coming to be Cuvier's trusted assistant and personal friend.

In an era in which naturalists found it fashionable to cultivate and display acquaintance with as many aspects of science as possible, Pentland's knowledge was remarkable not so much for its comprehensiveness as for its profundity and sound foundations. Certainly he was outstandingly well qualified, in terms of the scientific training then available, for his studies in vertebrate palaeontology — far more so than most of his contemporaries. The opinions he was able to offer to Conybeare — via Buckland or directly — were therefore authoritative, a fact evidently recognised by Conybeare and, one suspects, by Buckland also. The high quality of most of Pentland's deductions concerning the osteology, anatomy and probable habits of the Jurassic marine reptiles is made evident by the extracts from the letters to Buckland which follow.

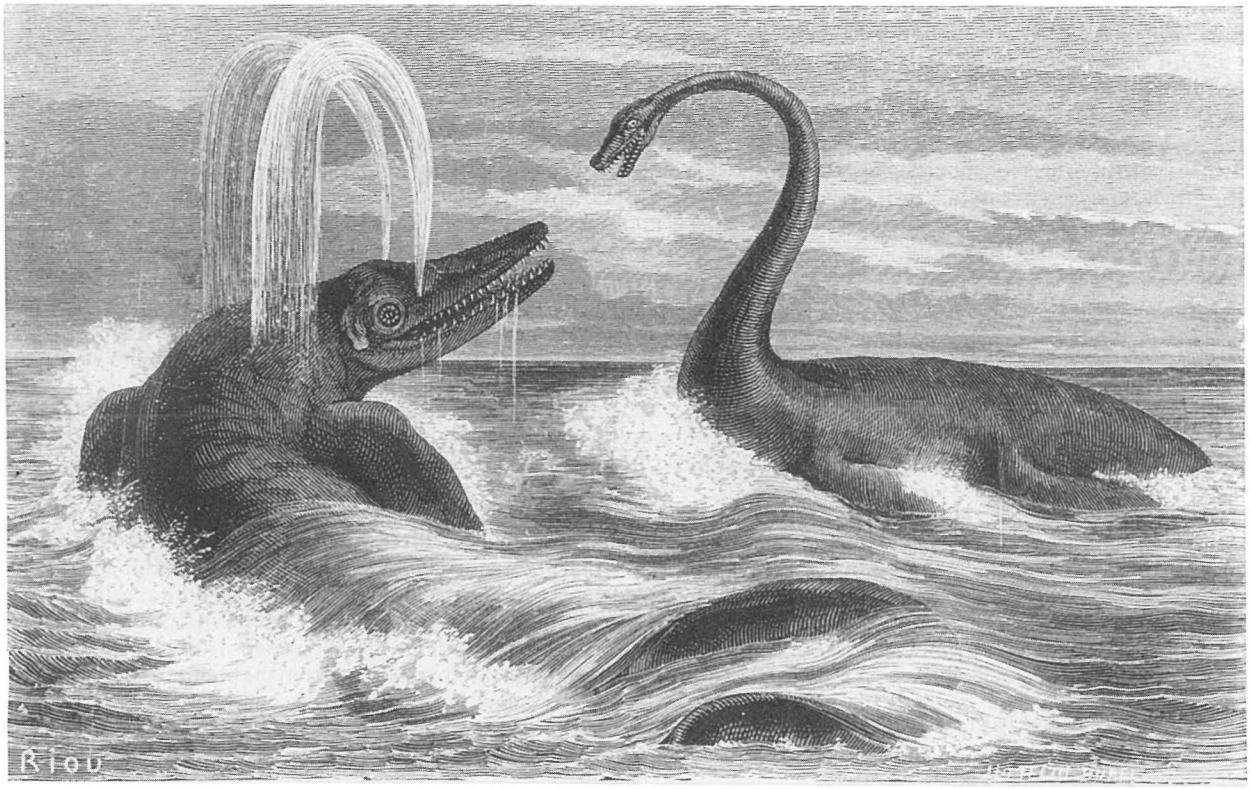

Figure 1. "Ideal scene of the Lias with Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus" (reproduced from Figuier, 1864, pl. XV), illustrating Pentland's concept of a water-spouting *ichthyosaurus*.

Letter dated 20th June, 1820

"My Dear Sir,

I have just received your two letters with that of Mr. Conybeare enclosed, which I shall send back to you as soon as Mr. Cuvier has read it.

I am very glad that Mr. Conybeare and Delabeche are using all their efforts to make known the fossil remains of the Lias, but fear they are not sufficiently au fait of the Osteology of the Saurian Tribe ["which" deleted] and especially that of the head, which is the most difficult point of Comparative Anatomy, to establish that concordance between the lost and living species which Mr. Conybeare seems to suppose in his letter. You know that we have a good many specimens here, many of which we owe to your kindness[33], and from every consideration, I am sure that the fossil species approaches much nearer to the family of Lacertians of Cuv. [Cuvier] or to that family which embraces or contains all the Saurians except the single genus Crocodilus . . . but if we wish to search to what particular class of reptiles the fossil animals have belonged and not remain contented that they are merely Saurians, the examination of the Sternum and of the Sterno-Humeral System clearly prooves that they approach very near to the Monitor, Iguana and Lacerta genera. The form of the extremities and composition of the principal locomotive organs will finally prove that the Ichtyosaurus[34] forms a distinct family in the Saurian orders, much nearer allied to our common lizard, Monitor, etc. than to the crocodile, but distinct by being entirely adapted to an aquatic abode."

Pentland, thus, had already correctly perceived that *Ichthyosaurus* represented an hitherto unknown reptilian group requiring adequate segregation from existing groups. His suggestion that *Ichthyosaurus* be placed in an entirely new *family* of its own did not go far enough; later researches necessitated the creation of a new *order* for its reception. However, it should be noted that the "family", as used by early nineteenth century naturalists, was conceptually a very much larger systematic grouping than it has become today.

Pentland then discussed the position and functions of the nasal opening in the ichthyosaurian skull:—

"As to pretended resemblance between the nasal opening of the Proteosaurus with those of the Porpess I think that there must be some mistake. The Porpess, like all other Cetacea, have but one large nasal opening divided by a bony septum, and through which the Animal blows the water which he is obliged to take into his mouth with his food; it is the only way of his getting rid of it. . . Although the researches of Cuvier on the Ichtyosaurus have been inconsiderable, we can easily, and I think with strong probability of certainty,

pronounce on the position of the exterior nasal opening. These orifices are placed immediately before and a little on the inside of the orbit; we have here three specimens with those orifices very well marked. Now such openings can only be one of three things, either the Lacrymal canal, 2nd the infra orbitary foramen through which passes the infra orbitary nerve, 3rd or the opening of the nostrils."

After effectively disposing of the first two possibilities, Pentland then discusses the third, ". . . that the two openings before the eyes of the Ichtyosaurus must be the nostrils, every circumstance concurs in favouring. Placed partly in the intermaxillary and limited posteriorly by the Superior part of the nasal bones (which differs from that of the monitors and Iguanas a little I must confess, because in these latter it is the inferior part of those bones which limit posteriorly the nasal openings). Indeed to constitute the exterior opening of the nostrils it is by no means necessary that the nasal bones should enter into their composition, as the Gavial (Crocodilus gangeticus) has those apertures entirely formed in the intermaxillary bones, whereas the other Crocodiles have them formed laterally by the intermaxillary and superiorly by the nasals . . . finally all researches that we have hitherto made to discover the nasal openings at the extremity of the upper jaw([35]) have been unsuccessful, although we have two specimens in which those parts are perfectly preserved; and if such openings existed we must I think have discovered them, as we at the first did not doubt of their existence from analogy, and although Sir Everard Home has given a section of the head([36]) where he thinks the nasal canals should be, I am sure nothing conclusive can be admitted from his plate and much less from his description! . . .

"I beg you to substitute intermaxillary for maxillary in speaking of the nasal openings; those openings are placed almost entirely in the intermaxillary bones in the Ichtyosaurus, as I said, but limited superiorly by the nasal, so that now I have not the least doubt as to their identity in the Ichtyosaurus, as I have, I think, shown that the openings before the eyes cannot be the Lacrymal canals and their position in the intermaxillary prooves beyond doubt that they cannot be the infra-orbitary holes which are *always pierced in the Maxillary . . .*"

Earlier in the same letter, Pentland notes:—

"It is not probable that the Ichtyosaurus had the Sense of Smelling much developed because it was essentially an aquatic Being; and that this sense was much inferior to that of the living Sauria. The Crocodile is the species in which this organ occupies the greatest extent; in the other reptiles it is much less developed and the olfactory nerve much smaller, the difference arising from the manner of procuring their food ["and of obtaining it" deleted]; but in the genera especially aquatic, that is those which never quit the Aqueous element, the sense of smelling is entirely destroyed as in the Cetacea, or very little developed and serving rather towards respiration as in the Turtles (Chelones Brongn.); such was, I presume, the use of the nasal openings of the Ichtyosaurus."

Pentland also discussed the teeth of *Ichthyosaurus* and some of the bones of the pectoral girdle in the same long and complex letter, writing that:—

". . . The dentition of the Ichtyosaurus is the same as that of the Monitor, Iguana, etc., and consequently I am convinced in separate alveoli, however there may exist of both kinds . . . I need not tell you that the laws of analogy are strongly in favour of the supposition that the dentition of the Ichtyosaurus is the same as in the Monitors, etc."

Pentland's views were obviously of great interest to both Conybeare and Buckland, and induced them to cut and polish sections of Ichthyosaur jaws in an attempt to investigate ichthyosaurian dentition more deeply. By the summer of 1821, they had sent some of these polished sections to Pentland, for, in a letter dated 3rd July 1821, we find him writing:—

"My Dear Mr. Buckland,

I am extremely obliged to you for sending the specimens of Ichtyosaurus with Mr. Conybeare's paper([37]), both of which have arrived safe. Your polished specimens of the teeth are most interesting and proove beyond a doubt that my opinion was correct in holding out that the dentition was different from that of living Crocodiles, and approaching nearer to that of Lacerta however as I suspected and which I mention in my letter to Conybeare . . . The dentition is also different ["also" deleted] from that of those latter in so much as the tooth never was united to the bottom of the alveolas by a horny medium, at least so far as I am enabled to judge by all the specimens I have seen, for if you remark the inferior part of the tooth is separated on all sides from the bone in which it is implanted by a layer of calcareous spar, sometimes extremely thin . . . There remains but the one difference between the Lacerta and Ichtyosaurus, namely that the teeth were never intimately united by a bony medium to the jawbone, but retained most probably in the long maxillary furrow by the ligamentary matter of the gums, as in Dolphins, supposition which their dislocated nature in the greater number of specimens renders still more likely."

Pentland had thus perceived clearly the unusual method of attachment of ichthyosaur teeth — in a common groove, not in separate sockets. He also comments on the way of life of these reptiles:—

"As to your question if the Ichtyosaurus ever came on shore, I must say that he never did as far as we can judge by analogy. These analogies are founded on his resemblances as to the principal locomotion organs with the Cetacea, which once ashore can not get back to the water, but die on the sand for want of food . . . As to his breaking his back, this is not possible because of the greater elasticity of the intervertebral substance, allowing much greater motion than in land animals. Besides you know than [*sic:* presumably "that"] fish, when brought out of the water, never are subject to such an accident, though they execute much more violent movements when dying than the Ichtyosaur could simply driven ashore."

Despite the fact that he so frequently disagreed with Conybeare's conclusions, Pentland clearly viewed the latter's work with respect, for he comments:—

"On the whole, Mr. Conybeare has published an excellent paper, as much superior to those of Sir E. Home as one thing can be to another. His manner of treating his subject matter has really astonished me, when I consider the opportunity of studying the living species which he had in his power."

In another letter to Buckland, written only the day before, Pentland summarized his conclusions concerning the affinities of the *Ichthyosaurus* as follows, at the same time requesting that no acknowledgement of his assistance be made in any paper published by Conybeare:—

"I enclose at last a part of my reply to Mr. Conybeare. The ideas contained therein are for the most part my own, and have requested Mr. C. not to speak of any communication in his papers, at least not to cite my name, for very particular reasons. You will be so good as to request him to do so yourself . . . The principal object of the enclosed letter is to show that the Ichtyosaurus is a Saurian much nearer allied to the Monitor and Iguana and Lizards than to the Crocodile, in proof of which the organs of sense and general conformation ["and" deleted] speak in favour of. I have only spoken once or twice of Sir E. Home's ideas, which I then show are ridiculous, as coming from a man placed in the centre of Science and at the head of such a superb Anatomical establishment as the Hunterian Museum([38]); in my next letter (which will be in a week) I shall show that the opinions of Sir E. Home's, who at one time wished to make a fish and at another an Ornithorynchus([39]) and at another a Proteus of the Ichtyosaurus, were as unfounded as ridiculous, that those who wished to make a Dolphin of it did not understand the simplest laws of animal organisation, ["Had" deleted] and that Mr. Conybeare in wishing to transform ["it" deleted] into a Crocodile the Ichtyosaurus (which resembles more to the other Saurii) did it from a total ignorance of the Osteology of the monitors, which he had no opportunity of studying. You will besides see by my letter that the first and all essential organs of the animal are constructed on the same model as in animals actually

existing, but that the secondary points of organisation are *sui generis*, and authorise the establishment of a new family of Saurii ["in" deleted] which the Ichtyosaurus should form the type of."

These excerpts from Pentland's letters show that he was generally far in advance of most of his contemporaries, especially those in Britain, with regard to understanding reptilian osteology; that, even with comparatively meagre material at his disposal, he was able to correctly diagnose the true affinities and probable mode of life of the *Ichthyosaurus*; and, still more significantly, that he recognized that it represented an entirely distinct reptilian group. Indeed, Pentland seems to have been the very first to have grasped this last important fact. His identification of the nasal openings in the ichthyosaurian skull and of the positioning of the teeth in a separate maxillary furrow were particular manifestations of his astuteness and accurate observation, both these points being accepted by Conybeare who incorporated them into his paper of 1821(40). Of additional interest is the reference (in Pentland's letter of 2nd July 1821) to the hitherto unknown fact that Conybeare, and probably also Buckland his close associate, initially regarded the *Ichthyosaurus* as a fossil "crocodile", an early interpretation completely omitted from Conybeare's published papers.

Pentland's discussion of the function of the nasal openings in the ichthyosaur skull, through which, he implied air or water was probably expelled was almost certainly the earliest indication that ichthyosaurs might have behaved in that manner(41). The idea of water-spouting ichthyosaurs soon found its way into early reconstructions of those reptiles — one of the most popular being the woodcut by Riou (Fig. 1) figured by many nineteenth century authors, including Figuier(42). Kinns(43), and Zimmermann(44) — such representations undoubtedly being a direct outcome of Pentland's very original observations.

In terms of the history of discoveries of ichthyosaurs, it should also be noted that Pentland mentions, in his letter dated 20th June 1820, that he had studied ichthyosaurian jaws received at the Jardin du Roi the previous July (1819) from Col. Birch, who, with Mary Anning, was the earliest important collector of Liassic fossils at Lyme Regis. Birch's collection, which was sold by auction and dispersed in 1820, included the skeleton found at Lyme by Mary Anning: after being figured by Home in 1819(45), this skeleton was preserved in the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, surviving there until destroyed by bombing during the Second World War. It is also relevant to note that, since most of Col. Birch's specimens were from the Lias formations on the Dorset coast, it is highly probable that the jaws sent to Paris were likewise from that horizon and vicinity. Hitherto it was not known that any French scientific institution acquired any of Col. Birch's Liassic saurian fossils; it remains questionable whether any of these have survived and can now be identified.

No less important than his involvement with *Ichthyosaurus* were Pentland's contributions towards elucidating the osteology of *Plesiosaurus*. According to George Cumberland(46), the first plesiosaur remains found in Dorset were discovered in the Lias at Lyme Regis by Mary Anning in 1818. This was not in fact the first Dorset discovery of plesiosaur remains, for (as already mentioned, p. 1) vertebrae of this reptile had been found at Bridport prior to 1728; and indeed, a large part of a plesiosaur skeleton had been found even earlier (by 1719) in the Lias much further north, at Elston, near Newark, Nottinghamshire.(47) Moreover, *Plesiosaurus* bones were apparently found in 1818 also in "the Lias of Fulbeck, in Lincolnshire, at the base of the Oolite escarpment" according to Blake(48) (though we have been neither able to discover the source for this statement nor to locate any such bones in any British collection). However, it was Mary Anning's discovery that stimulated scientific study of these marine reptiles, the identity of the earlier finds not being recognised until much later; and, in addition to various plesiosaur bones then owned by Henry De la Beche of Lyme, and Messrs. Birch, Miller, Johnson, Calcott and Brackenridge of Bristol(49), Mary Anning's specimens were the focal point of Conybeare's initial notice on this reptile in 1821.

Although from the start it was obvious that *Plesiosaurus* was an entirely new fossil animal, impossible to confuse with fishes, dolphins, or crocodiles, some difficulty seems to have been experienced by Conybeare in correctly determining the more highly modified bones in its skeleton. Once again, Pentland was successful in identifying these problem elements. In his aforecited letter of 20th June 1820, he wrote:

"As to Mr. Conybeare's new Animal, I will not pretend to judge, but the disposition of the Bones of the arm seem to put beyond a doubt that it is very different from the Ichtyosaurus . . . let us come to your fossil. From the sketch [Buckland had apparently sent Pentland a drawing of the pectoral bones] I clearly see that the bone can only be the Coracoid apophysis; it forms its connexion with the Scapula, its forming with this bone the glenoid cavity to receive the head of the Humerus, all concur in establishing the correctness of my opinion, so that if you have any influence with Mr. Conybeare you would do well to suggest to him to correct the fault he is about to commit in calling it the Clavicle.

"Those two bones alone are sufficient to prove that the Plesiosaurus belongs to the same division of Sauria as the Monitor, Ichtyosaurus, etc. but to that subdivision or at least near to that family which contains the Ichtyosaurus ["which" deleted] or especially aquatic. The structure of the foot sketched by Mr. Conybeare would seem to point out a species of passage from the Living Lacerta with clavicles or furcular bones to the Ichtyosaurus and establish a kind of link between the Sauria actually existing and the inhabitants of former worlds. The name of Plesiosaurus is a very good name I think, perhaps a little too relative; would it not be better to give some other name which would express either some peculiar structure in the animal, or one relative to its high antiquity, while retaining the termination *Saurus*, which I think has been very happily chosen . . ."

Conybeare seems to have been impressed by Pentland's comments on the formulation of reptile nomenclature, for in 1824, when he described a more complete specimen collected at Lyme Regis by Mary Anning, in which the unusual length of the neck was clearly evident, he named it *Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus*(50).

So far as is known, no public acknowledgement of Pentland's contributions to these studies was ever made by either Conybeare or Buckland, both of whom evidently preserved the secrecy requested by Pentland himself(51). As a consequence, Conybeare has been credited with a degree of percipience and insight into reptilian osteology truly remarkable in one who had not had extensive opportunity for anatomical researches. Thus it is surely proper, without in any way detracting from the importance of Conybeare's own work in vertebrate palaeontology, that Pentland's contributions to the early studies of these important groups of fossil reptiles should, after 150 years, be at last made known.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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(1) J. Woodward, 1728, *A Catalogue of the Additional English Nature Fossils in the Collection of J. Woodward, M.D.* London (published posthumously): see p. 84, nos. n. 9x.

(2) For details of these discoveries, see J. B. Delair, 1969, "A history of the early discoveries of Liassic ichthyosaurs in Dorset and Somerset (1779-1835)", *Proc. Dorset nat. Hist. arch. Soc.*, **90:** *115-127.*

(3) Sir Everard Home, F.R.S. (1756-1832), a surgeon of catholic interests; brother-in-law of the yet more distinguished surgeon and museologist, John Hunter.

(4) William Daniel Conybeare (1787-1857), a cleric who became an enthusiastic and competent geologist; author of many important early works on English stratigraphy and palaeontology.

(5) E. Home, 1814, "Some Account of the Fossil Remains of an Animal more nearly allied to Fishes than to any other Class of Animals," *Phil. Trans. r. Soc., Lond.,* **104**: 571-577; 1816, "Some further Account of the Fossil Remains of an Animal, of which a Description was given to the Society in 1814," *Phil. Trans. r. Soc., Lond.,* **106**: 318-321; 1818, "Additional facts respecting the Fossil Remains of an Animal on the subject of which Two Papers have been printed in the Philosophical Transactions, showing that the bones of the Sternum resemble those of the Ornithorhynchus paradoxus." *Phil. Trans. r. Soc., Lond.,* **108**: 24-32.

(6) W. D. Conybeare, 1821, "Notice of the Discovery of a new fossil Animal, forming a link between the Ichthyosaurus and the Crocodile, together with general remarks on the Osteology of the Ichthyosaurus," *Trans. geol. Soc. Lond.,* 1st ser., **5**: 559-594; 1822; "Additional Notices of the Fossil Genera Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus," *Trans. geol. Soc. Lond.,* 1st ser., **2**: 103-123.

(7) William Buckland (1784-1856), Victorian scientific polymath: first Professor of Geology at the University of Oxford, and, later, Dean of Westminster.

(8) W.A.S. Sarjeant and J. B. Delair, 1975 "An Irishman in Cuvier's laboratory: the letters of Joseph Pentland, 1820-1824." *Bull. Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) Hist. Ser.* (in press).

(9) Delair. *Op. cit.:* 119.

(10) Only the bones of ichthyosaurs had, by this date, been recognized for what they were, Those of the plesiosaurs, the principal marine reptilian contemporaries of the ichthyosaurs, remained undescribed and were not accorded a distinctive generic appellation until 1821 (see later discussion).

(11) *Idem.:* 120-121.

(12) Home. *Op. cit., 1814.*

(13) J. A. DeLuc, 1814, [Fossil crocodile], *Monthly Magazine,* **37,** pt. 1: 94; J. Middleton, 1812, "Continuation of the Account of the British Mineral Strata," *Monthly Magazine,* **34,** no. 2: 568; J. Parkinson, 1811, *Organic Remains of a Former World,* London, 3 vols. (**III,** 263, 280, 35c); Rev. J. Townsend, 1813, *The Character of Moses established as an Historian, recording events from the Creation to the Deluge,* Bath, 2 vols. (**I**: 275-276).

(14) Delair, *Op. cit.:* 122.

(15) George Cumberland (1752-1848): for a biographical account, see G. Keynes, 1970, "Some uncollected authors. XLIV: George Cumberland 1754-1848", *The Book Collector,* **19,** no. 1: 31-65.

(16) Delair, *Op. cit.:* 122-123.

(17) Karl Dietrich Eberhart König [later known as Charles Konig] (1774-1851), Keeper of the Department of Natural History at the British Museum.

(18) 1818, *Synopsis of the Contents of the British Museum,* 13th edn., London.

(19) 1819, "An account of the fossil skeleton of the Proteosaurus," *Phil. Trans. r. Soc., Lond.,* **109:** 209-211.

(20) 1819, "Reasons for giving the name Proteosaurus to the fossil skeleton which has been described," *Phil. Trans. r. Soc., Lond.,* **109:** 212-216.

(21) Henry Thomas De la Beche or Delabeche (1796-1855), pioneer investigator of the Dorset Lias and, later, first Director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

(22) H. T. De la Beche, 1820, "Some additional remarks concerning several species of Proteosaurus which have been discovered," *Ann. Philos. Lond.,* 15: 57.

(23) *The Athenaeum,* Sept. 6 1873: 309.

(24) A single mention of his "parents" in one letter presumably refers to *foster*-parents.

(25) Pentland, in his letter to Buckland of 3 July 1821, furnished this comment and the other details of his education here quoted.

(26) Rene-Just Haüy (1743-1822), distinguished mineralogist and crystallographer.

(27) Louis-Joseph Gay-Lussac (1778-1850), distinguished chemist, renowned for his studies of the expansion of gases.

(28) Louis-Jacques Thénard (1777-1857), colleague of Gay-Lussac; discoverer of hydrogen.

(29) Louis-Antoine Cordier (1777-1861), Professor of Geology at the Jardin du Roi.

(30) Andre-Jean-Marie Brochant de Villiers (1772-1840), Professor of Mineralogy at the Ecole des Mines.

(31) Alexandre Brongniart (1770-1847), Professor of Mineralogy at the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle; distinguished palaeontologist and stratigrapher.

(32) Georges Léopold Chrétien Frédéric Dogobert [called Georges] Cuvier (1769-1832), Professor of Anatomy at the Jardin du Roi, Paris.

(33) Buckland had sent Cuvier several specimens, and drawings of others retained in Britain, originally from the English (mostly Dorset) Lias.

(34) In all his letters Pentland consistently spelled the name this way, instead of as *Ichthyosaurus.*

(35) Of the *Ichthyosaurus.*

(36) 1820, "On the mode of formation of the canal for containing the spinal marrow, and on the form of the fins of the Proteosaurus," *Phil Trans. r. Soc., Lond.,* **110:** 159-166. pl. xvi.

(37) W. D. Conybeare, *Op. cit.,* 1821.

(38) So named after its founder, John Hunter. It was housed in the premises occupied by the Royal College of Surgeons at Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, but was severely damaged by enemy action in May 1941.

(39) The correct modern spelling of this name is *Ornithorhynchus.*

(40) *Op. cit.*

(41) Cetaceans actually exhale gases containing much water vapour. If the exhalation occurs before the animal surfaces, sea water may be displaced, but the apparent water spout is usually caused by condensation in cold conditions.

(42) L. Figuier, *The World before the Deluge,* London, Istell, Petter & Galpin, 1864 (p. 157, fig. 131). Revised edition, London, 1867 (pl.XV).

(43) S. Kinns, 1882, *Moses and Geology or, the Harmony of the Bible with Science,* London xxiii, 494 pp. (280, pl. xi).

(44) W. Zimmermann, 1883, *Wunder der Urwelt,* (inside front cover).

(45) *Phil. Trans. r. Soc., Lond.,* **109**, pp. 212-216.

(46) *Op. cit.,* p. 346.

(47) W. Stukely, 1719, "An Account of the Impression of an Almost Entire Skeleton of a Large Animal in a very hard stone from Nottinghamshire," *Phil Trans. r. Soc., Lond.* **30,**: 963-968, pl. 1.

(48) Rev. J. F. Blake, 1878, "History of the Restoration of Extinct Animals," *Proc. geol. Ass.,* **5,**: 91-103.

(49) Col. ?John Birch, previously mentioned; I. S. Miller (?); James Johnson, who lived near Hotwells, Bristol; D. N. Calcott (?) — probably the Rev. Catcott, a naturalist whose name appears in literature very variously spelled ("Catgall," "Calgott" etc.); and George Brackenridge, who lived in Wells Street, Bristol.

(50) W. D. Conybeare, 1824, "On the discovery of an almost perfect skeleton of the Plesiosaurus," *Trans. geol. Soc. Lond.,* 2nd ser., **1:** 381-389.

(51) The reasons for his desire for obscurity are not made clear in the letters. One may, however, deduce that his relatives, although prepared to finance Pentland during his residence in Paris and studies in natural history, nevertheless considered his activities to be not altogether respectable!

Barrow Digging on the Ridgeway at the Time of Trafalgar

by Humphrey Welfare

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Williamson, R. J. T. & Whalley, J. L. (1888). *'History of the Old County Regiment of Lancashire Militia'*. (1888).

Tucked into a copy of Greenwell's *'British Barrows'* purchased in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1971 was a folded piece of paper bearing the annotated pen-and-wash drawings reproduced as Plate 1. The transcription of the major part of the text is as follows:

Plate 1. Drawing of an urn found in 1805. Scale 3/4 size of original drawing.

'This is an exact drawing of an urn found by Capt. Hollingshead and Levy of the Roy(a)l Lan(cashire) Mil(iti)a during the period of their encampment at Weymouth in a Roman Barrow in the month of October 1805. The urn contained a number of Bones which appeared to be in very small pieces some of which are enclosed. From the Barrow being one of the largest kind no doubt can be Entertained but that they are the Bones of a Roman chief — the spear head was found in an adjoining Barrow but no Remains of Bones. The urn appeared to be made of a species of bad clay and was very soft on its exposure to the atmosphere but by degrees it became harder.'

Below this was added:

'The width of the urn at the top is	10½ inches (0.263m)
The width of the urn at the bottom	6 inches (0.152m)
Height	11½ inches (0.293m)
Breadth of the border	3½ inches' (0.093m)

Along the right-hand edge of the paper is a further caption:

'This is the exact size and shape of the spear head which is of Copper. The cross lines denote where it is broken.'

It must be noted that in Plate 1 the original piece of paper is reproduced at a scale of ¾. We have no means of knowing how exact the pen-and-wash drawings are, although they appear to be competently executed and must be taken on trust. On that assumption the urn may be identified as a Wessex Biconical, conforming to the proportions and characteristics outlined by Smith (1961, 98-9) and Calkin (1964, 41). These vessels were usually well-fired and buff or pinkish in colour: sixteen of those studied by Calkin bore impressed decoration, 'almost invariably vertical corded chevrons, lattice or hatched triangles. Some again have corded lines below the rim or on the rim bevel.' It is by no means certain that in this case the decoration was cord-impressed but examples of the employment of other methods are rare.

The 'spear head', broken into three pieces, measures 0.115 m in length and, as drawn, has a maximum surviving width of 0.022 m. We cannot be sure what proportion of the original object is represented, but if the surviving fragments were indeed unassociated in barrow material (that might have suffered a previous disturbance), then the likelihood of the object being incomplete when unearthed in 1805 increases. Positive identification is impossible: The drawing could depict the tip of a bronze rapier or the blade of a dagger, but tantalizing as this is, insufficient detail is provided on which to base even the most guarded of typological suggestions.

It is interesting to note that Hollingshead and Levy did not realise that the 'Bones which appeared to be in very small pieces' were the result of cremation. Although indeed few laymen today would recognize cremated bone, the idea may well not have crossed their minds since the practice was unheard of in Britain until the judgment, brought about in 1884 through the efforts of Sir Henry Thompson and Dr William Price, that cremation was a legal process.

Unfortunately little can be said about the location of these two barrows. The militia was encamped at Weymouth and Hollingshead and Levy, no doubt impressed by the density of the barrows on the Ridgeway in comparison to anything that they may have experienced in Lancashire, are unlikely to have strayed further to pursue their investigations and to satisfy their curiosity. The barrow containing the cremation in the biconical urn was 'one of the largest kind' a fact also indicating the Ridgeway since special barrows (that is the bell, disc, pond and multiple-bowl types, the overall average diameters of which are nearly twice that of bowl barrows), are much more common in this group than elsewhere in the county (RCHM, 1970, 424). Further, Calkin made it clear that the Ridgeway forms a significant, though minor, concentration of Wessex Biconicals (1964, 41) and Smith tentatively noted the tendency for biconicals to occur rather frequently as secondaries in bell-barrows (1961, 114). About one hundred of the Ridgeway barrows have been dug into but Calkin was able to secure details of only a small proportion of these excavations (1967). The objects discussed here were unknown to him until three months before his death in April 1972 when he was informed of them by the writer through the kindness of R. N. R. Peers.

Captain Abraham Levy had gained his commission in the 1st Royal Lancashire Regiment of Militia on March 8th 1803 and is listed among the officers at Danbury Camp, 7 km E.S.E. of Chelmsford, on July 20th 1804: the most junior officer present that day was Captain J. Blundell Hollingshead who had received his commission on December 9th 1803 (Williamson & Whalley, 1888, 178).

On July 28th 1805 the regiment left Portsmouth in three divisions, arriving in Weymouth early in August. There it attended upon the Royal Court and on August 12th was inspected by George III who presented the regiment with a pair of kettle-drums (ibid., 182-3: Cowper, 1939, 333).

It must have been during this period that Hollingshead and Levy became aware of the barrows in the vicinity that fired their curiosity. The regiment was, however, to remain at Weymouth for less than two months, since by orders dated 27th September it was to strike camp on October 7th and to make a five-day march in three divisions to Exeter, St Thomas's (a parish on the W. side of the city) and Honiton. 'Towards the latter end of October general leave was granted to the Officers, and furloughs to the men . . . Several changes and appointments had lately taken place in the Regiment . . . There were now only three Field Officers, several Officers being about to leave in consequence of indisposition . . . and Captain Blundell Hollingshead had sent in his resignation' (Williamson & Whalley, 1888, 184). Thus it was most probably during late October after the regiment marched westwards, and not strictly 'during the period of their encampment', that Hollingshead, now a civilian, and Levy who was presumably on leave, made their investigations into the barrows of the Ridgeway. They were ignorant of the events of the 21st off Cape Trafalgar, news of which did not reach London until November 6th.

Hollingshead was replaced by a Lieut. Beswick in January 1806 and thereafter disappears from view. Abraham Levy, however, remained in the regiment and returned to Weymouth the following spring. There are no indications of the course of Levy's career after 1806: he had disappeared from the Roll of Officers quartered at Berwick-upon-Tweed in March 1812 (ibid., 188, 195). Certainly he was not a casualty in the Napoleonic or Peninsular campaigns in which the regiment served (Cowper, 1939, 528) and although he could have applied for a transfer to a regular regiment, since he appears neither in the Army Lists nor in the regimental histories he probably tendered his resignation and re-entered civilian life.

Church and State in Dumnonia

by W. Stuart Best

Throughout Europe churchmen were closely involved in government at least from the time of Constantine I. As the Western Empire gradually fragmented into semi-barbarous states the role of the Church in government greatly increased, for bishops' houses and monasteries became almost the only places where education could be obtained.

There are very many examples of the general situation such as St Martin of Tours in the 4th century and Bishop Sidonius Apollinaris(1) in the 5th. St Martin had, of course, been an officer in the army at first; Sidonius Apollinaris held responsible official positions before ordination. The Emperor Anthemius, indeed, appointed him Prefect of the City of Rome just before his being elected Bishop of Clermont. He headed the protracted resistance of Clermont to the Visigoths over a period of years, and was exiled and imprisoned in consequence.

For the first example from Dumnonia, however, it is necessary to go back a little farther, and to a more famous figure, that of St Germanus of Auxerre. The link with Dumnonia is, perhaps, rather far-fetched. Although St German's church in Cornwall is very ancient there is no evidence that he himself founded it, or ever visited Dumnonia. He was, however, almost certainly responsible for the Classis Britannicus (the fleet in the English Channel) based at that time on Armorica, soon to become Brittany, and so for the sea passages between Armorica and Dumnonia, as for the rest of the English Channel.(2)

On a number of occasions he interceded with the Imperial authorities for rebellious Armorica, and was, indeed, so engaged when he died; and when he visited Britain in 429, and probably again in 447, his business seems to have been partly to aid the British bishops in their struggles with the followers of the great heresiarch, Pelagius, and partly political. His earliest biographer, Constantius, writing as early as 480 A.D., describes his rallying and commanding a peasant army against raiding barbarians with complete success.

The British ruler, Vortigern, may well have himself been a supporter of the teachings of Pelagius, and so aroused the enmity of St Germanus, which is depicted in such lurid and unlikely stories in the Historia Brittonum of Nennius.(3)

In the following century the only contemporary literary evidence, the works of Gildas, do not throw much light on the subject of this paper; but there are two episodes which ought to be included.

In the Letter to the Princes of Britain Gildas accuses Constantine (most probably of Dumnonia) "in the habit of a holy abbat amid the sacred altars" of murdering two royal youths, with their two attendants.(4) This is rather mystifying, and whether a later admonition throws light on it is a matter of conjecture for, in addressing Maglocunus (Mailgun of Gwynnedd), Gildas refers to that king's temporarily "vowing thyself before God a monk with no intention to be unfaithful", but returning to power and worldliness.(5)

There was a later, though quite early, tradition that this same Constantine ("of Cornwall") ended his days as a monk; but it seems more likely that this was a prince of the same name in Scotland.

In the 6th century also, the very early 7th century Life of St Samson of Dol relates that the saint took up the case of a deposed prince in Britanny, Jonas, and his son Judual.(6) The first had been "handed over to death" and the second imprisoned. The saint is represented as travelling to "King Hiltbert" (Childebert) (the Merovingian king) and achieving the reinstatement of Judual. The rival of Jonas is described as "an unjust and unprincipled stranger (who) has come to be judge over the land."

Now in the late 9th century Life of St Paul Aurelian by the monk Wrmonoc there is mention of a King Mark who "is also called Quonomorius" (quem alio nomine Quonomorium vocant).(7)

It is said that he ruled over four races, each speaking a different language.(8) His palace at "Caer Bannhed" seems certainly in Dumnonia, and the saint attended him there immediately before crossing the sea to Armorica.

Near Fowey is Castle Dove a P.R.I.A. hill-fort reoccupied in post-Roman times. Raleigh Radford excavated it and established the existence of a large timber hall of the period. Nearby was a memorial stone (not now *in situ*, but not far off at Four Turnings) bearing an inscription probably of the 6th century A.D. Macalister read CIRUSINIUS . HIC. IACIT . CUNOWORI . FILIUS,(9) etc. It certainly seems to refer to the Cunomorus of the Vita Aureliani.

Norah Chadwick suggests that this person could be identified with the "tyrannus" Conomorus of 6th century Armorican Dumnonia mentioned by Gregory of Tours in the Historia Franconum, and also with the "unjust and unprincipled stranger" of the Vita Samsonis;(10) and Professor Rachel Bromwich suggests that Cunomorus might have borne joint rule in Dumnonia and Brittany.(11)

He is represented in the Life of Paul Aurelian as an admirer of the saint, requiring his presence at a great council, and urging him to become bishop of his realm. Whether he was the friend of St Paul or the enemy of St Samson, he is certainly an example of the interaction of Church and State.

With the late 7th and early 8th century we come to firmer ground. In 705 St Aldhelm, then Abbot of Malmesbury, wrote a letter to King Gerent of Dumnonia (by then reduced to not much more than Cornwall) exhorting him and his Church to observe the Roman date of Easter and form of tonsure for priests and monks.(12)

He addresses the king in complimentary terms, but includes a long and bitter denunciation of the customs and behaviour of the Welsh Christians across the Severn. Bede refers to a letter from Aldhelm "against the error of the Britons in not celebrating Easter at the proper time, and in doing several other things not consonant to the purity and the peace of the Church; and by the reading of

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1 Sidonius Apollinaris and His Age. C. C. Stevens. p. 100

2 Studies in Early British History. Norah Chadwick. pp. 229-31.

3 Historia Brittonum. Nennius. 32 ff.

4 Epistola, 28.

5 Epistola, 34.

6 Vita Samsonis LIII ff.

7 Vita Pauli Aureliani VIII.

8 Canon Doble suggests that this was lifted from Bede (E.H.III.6) St Paul of Léon (Cornish Saints Series) p. 35.

9 Corpus Inscriptionum Insularum Britanniarum. Vol. I i p. 466.

10 Studies in British History, p. 122.

11 Ibid. p. 230.

12 Hadden & Stubbs, Early Eccl. Charters, Vol. I.

this book he persuaded many of them, who were subject to the West Saxons, to adopt the Catholic celebration of our Lord's resurrection.''([13])

It may be that Aldhelm first circulated this letter among the British Christians of Somerset, Dorset and Devon, and then addressed a copy to King Gerent. The West Britons had been under pressure from Ine of Wessex and may have perceived a threat in this appeal, for, although it seems to have had no effect on the Cornish Church, King Gerent presented an estate at Maker, on the west side of the Tamar, to the Monastery of Sherborne (where Aldhelm was appointed Bishop in 706). Immediately after Aldhelm's death, however, in 710, Ine resumed the offensive against the West Britons, and overran a strip of South East Cornwall between the Tamar and Lynher rivers.

Another politico-ecclesiastical move then took place for Ine presented an estate in this area, referred to as Linig, which must have been near and included Halton, on the west bank of the Tamar([14]) to Glastonbury Abbey. A cell of the Abbey was planted there, and it might well have been designed to spread Saxon ecclesiastical influence in Cornwall.

However, the Cornish defeated the West Saxons on the Camel Estuary in 723, and the Glastonbury monks departed.

I admit this is an inference from the Glastonbury tradition of Saints Indract and Dominica and nine companions who were murdered near Glastonbury in Ine's reign, after having spent a number of years by the river Tamar. In the parish of St Dominick in this area there was a chapel of St Ildract or Indract. Indract is a Celtic name, so it is possible that the foundation goes back to an earlier period; but there is no reason why there should not have been British monks under the Saxon Abbots of Glastonbury in the reign of Ine: it is, in fact, likely.([15])

If Ine's attempt to infiltrate the British Church in Cornwall failed, Egbert, a century later, was more successful. In 815 he ''harried in Cornwall from east to west'' as the A.S.C. expresses it. The Cornish made a raid across the Tamar ten years later, but were repulsed by the men of Devon; and finally, in 838, Egbert routed the Cornish, in alliance with the Danes, on Hingston Downs, near the modern Plymouth.

During this period Egbert gave three great estates at strategic points in Cornwall to the Bishop of Sherborne, ''that from thence he might every year visit the Cornish people to correct their errors, for hitherto, as much as they could, they used to resist the truth, and not obey the apostolic decrees'': so says the ''Bodleian MS'' an eleventh century document dealing with events in the reign of Edward the Elder ([16]), with obvious errors and anachronisms, but valuable.

The three ''vills'' were Polltun, Caelling and Landwithan. Polltun is Pawton in the heart of the incredibly extensive possessions at that time of the monks of St Petroc, midway between their original monastery at Padstow (Petrocstowe) and Bodmin, to which they moved some time during the Danish incursions. Pawton was probably their biggest and richest manor (totalling 44 hides when Edward the Confessor died). Landwithan, now Lawhitton, included at that time Dunheved, where Launceston's ruined castle now stands, the N.E. gateway to Cornwall.

Charles Henderson thought that Caelling was Caellewic, probably Kelly in Egloshayle([17]), but it is now generally thought to be Callington, the S.E. gateway to Cornwall.

They were all strategically placed, Lawhitton and Callington militarily, and Pawton ecclesiastically. ([17a])

Early in Athelstan's reign there appears to have been a somewhat mysterious and unexplained subversive movement in West Wessex which induced the King to end the division of Exeter between separate Saxon and British communities, and ''expel'' the latter (the precise meaning of this is obscure). He then marched through the length of Cornwall and brought it politically and ecclesiastically, fully within the kingdom of Wessex. He appears to have confirmed and reconstituted the endowments of the monastery of St Buryan in the far West, and of Probus, nearer the centre, of the county. Henderson([18]) says that the probably supressed monasteries at Gerrans, ([18a]) Penryn Gulval, St Winnow, Mawgan and elsewhere, to endow a new diocese of Cornwall, which he established with its Bishop's seat at St Germans.

With Athelstan comes the end, strictly speaking, of Dumnonia if indeed, the term cout oe accuratelly used after Hingston Downs! Cornwall as well as Devon was now fully integrated into Wessex (though it did not, like Devon, become English). Yet it is interesting to follow the continuing story a little further.

About 980 A.D. St Dunstan wrote to King Edgar about the three manors given to the diocese of Sherborne by Egbert. At the creation of the see of Crediton by Edward the Elder, the ''Bodleian MS'', in the passage referred to, states that the manors were transferred to the new diocese which briefly included Cornwall until the creation of the Cornish see by Athelstan.

In his letter St Dunstan says that the estates ought to have been transferred to the ''Shire Bishop'' and asked for this to be done. Both dioceses were absorbed into Exeter when that diocese was created in 1050, at which time Leofrick was bishop of both.

Ethelred granted to the Bishop of Cornwall ''from love of Christ, and of the holy confessor, Germanus, as also of blessed, excellent Petroc,'' that he should rule his diocese ''as other bishops do'', and that the monastery of St Petroc should always be subject to him and his successors.

The first point, if separate, could possibly refer to continuing traditional irregularities in the Cornish church — the second points to the special position of the monastery at Bodmin. Its territorial possessions had been, as Henderson demonstrates, amazingly extensive in pre-Saxon times: it seems to have swallowed up much of the lands of the monasteries of St Perran, St Crantoe, of Tintagel (which came to an end in the 9th century([19])), and of other North Cornish religious houses. As late as the time of Edward the Confessor it held some 26 manors, including seven miniature ones, and even after Robert Mortmain's depradations recorded in Domesday it retained seven in Cornwall and one in Devon, which enabled it to flourish as an important and quite wealthy foundation until the Dissolution.

Athelstan's immediate successors before Edgar all stayed there, as can be seen in the Manumissions of St Petroc of the 10th and 11th centuries, fortunately preserved in the margins of an Irish book of Gospels acquired by the monastery([20]). The recorded

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13 E.H. V, 18.

14 H. P. R. Finberg, Trans. of the R. Hist. S., 5th Series, Vol. 3, 1953.

15 There is a good discussion in Canon Doble's ''SS Indract & Dominic'', Cornish Saints Series.

16 ''. . . ut inde singulis annis visitaret gentem Coraniensem ad exprimendos eorum errores: nam antea, in quantum potuerant, veritate resistebant, et non decretis apostolicis obediebant.'' See, inter alia, Pedlar's Episcopate of Cornwall, 1856.

17 The Cornish Church Guide, 1927.

17a Egbert also regranted, or confirmed, the grant of, Maker.

18 Cornish Church Guide, op. cit.

18a Finberg (op. cit.) points out that ''RDS'' which was later part of the great episcopal estate of Tregeare (with Gerrans and other places) was granted to Sherborne.

19 Raleigh Radford: Interim Report on the Excavations at Tintagel.

20 Published by Haddon & Stubbs, op. cit.

witnesses to these manumissions show that in the 10th and 11th centuries the Abbots all had Saxon names, but the majority of the other clergy had Celtic. The wealth and importance of the monastery of St Petroc no doubt benefited from the royal favour and, with the enormous prestige of the founder in Cornwall and Devon (where he had numerous early dedications, including that of an important church in Exeter), produced the anomalous and independent position of the community in the diocese.

We have come a long way from Bishop Germanus in the last days of the Roman Empire in the West, to a corner of 10th century Wessex, yet there is a thread of continuity, or at least of similarity.

The interaction or cooperation of king and bishop, can be seen throughout. Through the legends of the Historia Brittonum about Vortigern and Germanus we can dimly see the interaction of king and bishop, of theology and politics. In the terse records of the history of Wessex and Dumnonia we see the cooperation of a Saxon king and a British bishop in the persons of Athelstan and Conan. The general theme is clear in Bede's Ecclesiastical History: it would be fascinating to be able to follow it throughout the troubled history of the beautiful but impoverished and obscure Dumnonia.

The Revolts over the Enclosure of the Royal Forest at Gillingham 1626-1630

by J. H. Bettey

The enclosure of the royal forest at Gillingham during the seventeenth century led to fierce protests and to a concerted attempt by the tenants of the royal manor to defy the enclosers and to protect their ancient rights. These riots formed part of a larger movement of protest against the royal policy over the forests in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire as well as in Dorset, and together they were the most remarkable example of popular discontent and dissension in England in the years before the Civil War. Because the protests at Gillingham occurred on a royal manor and within the royal forest, and since they led to various commissions of enquiry and, eventually, to the rioters appearing before the court of Star Chamber, a great deal of documentary evidence survives about the revolts, and the course of events can be reconstructed in some detail. The royal manor of Gillingham was one of the largest in Dorset, including besides Gillingham itself, the village of Motcombe, and extending as far as Bourton and East and West Stour. Seven thousand acres were within the royal forest of Gillingham, which included a park or enclosure of 760 acres, of which the impressive boundary can still be seen, as can also the remains and earthworks of the royal hunting lodge, King's Court, built there in the time of King John.[1] The bounds of the royal forest remained virtually unchanged from the thirteenth century until the enclosure in the seventeenth century, and the extent of the forest can be seen very clearly on the map or 'Plott' made in 1624.(2) A detailed survey of the royal manor of Gillingham was made in September 1609, and shows that there were then 216 tenants in the manor, of whom 168 had rights of common grazing for their cattle and sheep in the forest, as well as rights to pannage for their swine during the autumn. There was also an area of about 1,000 acres of common grazing at the edge of the forest, known as Bailiff's Walk, in which all the tenants had rights of common.(3) The arable lands of the manor were divided into five large common fields, known as North, South, Wodehousefield, Stockfield and Madjeston Field. Slow, piecemeal enclosure had for long been taking place in these arable fields, but a plan for the complete enclosure of the fields in 1586 had been defeated by the opposition of a majority of the tenants. Gradual enclosure of the common arable fields continued slowly through the seventeenth century and was completed in the eighteenth century. As usual in the claylands of Dorset, the edges of the manor were occupied by small, isolated hamlets and farms, the result of individual clearances from the waste land, and still clearly recognisable today from their names and from their small irregular fields.(4)

During the early seventeenth century the increasingly impoverished governments of James I and Charles I began to look to the vast areas of the royal forests in England as a possible source of revenue, and set about the disafforestation of many of them in an attempt to turn them into productive and profitable agricultural land. In July 1625, soon after his accession, Chales I granted a lease of the forest and park of Gillingham to his former tutor, Sir James Fullerton; the lease was for forty-one years at an annual rent of £11, and the lessee was to disafforest, enclose and improve the land. In December 1625 Fullerton was also granted the Crown Stewardship of the manor and forest of Gillingham.(5) Fullerton at once set about the task of converting the forest into farm land; but he proceeded very carefully, and did not immediately try to over-ride the rights of the tenants. In July 1626 commissioners for disafforestation were appointed to negotiate with the tenants over the amount of land each should receive in the former forest as compensation for the loss of the rights of common they had previously enjoyed there. During the autumn of 1626 a great public meeting was held at Gillingham, after due notice had been given, and all of the tenants having rights in the former forest were asked to attend. The meeting was conducted by Sir James Fullerton in his capacity as Crown Steward of the manor,

1 C. D. Drew — The Forest of Gillingham, in E. Roscoe (Ed.) — The Marn'll Book (Gillingham) 1952, pp. 33-37.
L. M. Cantor and J. D. Wilson — The Medieval Deer Parks of Dorset, *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc.*, 87, 1965, pp. 223-227.
J. Hutchins — History of Dorset, 3rd Ed., Vol. III pp. 620-622.

2 The original is lost, but thre is a copy in the Dorset County Museum dated 1816. This is reproduced in Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Dorset, Vol. IV facing p. 41.

3 Public Record Office LR2/214 ff. 1-82.
Dorset County Record Office Photocopy 324, Customs of the Manor of Gillingham, N.D. but from internal evidence late sixteenth century.

4 C. Taylor — The Making of the English Landscape: Dorset, 1970, pp. 96-98, 132.
J. Hutchins — *op. cit.* Vol. III, P. 622.

5 Calendar of State Papers (Domestic) 1625-26, pp. 68, 554, 563.

and it is evident that he handled the business very cleverly, and that the Gillingham tenants were completely over-awed by this powerful courtier and friend of the King. At the meeting the tenants were shown a map on which the bounds of the forest were marked, and they were given details of the proposals for enclosure and of the allotments of land they would receive in lieu of their rights of common. These proposals were accepted by the tenants, who subscribed their names or marks in a book which was circulated at the meeting. It seems highly probable that many of the tenants did not understand the map they were shown, nor grasp immediately the full meaning of the proposals which were made; it was not until after the meeting that they began to realise all the implications of their agreement. Later many of them admitted that they had agreed and signed the book because they feared the King or the Steward, or because they had been told that those who signed would be treated generously. Few were as honest as William Hussey, a copyholder of Motcombe who confessed that he had signed because he saw that everyone else was doing so and 'that he might not be singular', but many other tenants no doubt acted in the same spirit.(6)

Having secured the agreement of the tenants, Fullerton acted swiftly. During the winter of 1626-27 the deer in the park were destroyed, the felling of the trees was begun, and some enclosures were laid out. There is little direct indication of the attitude of the tenants at this time, though there is evidence that a meeting of tenants was held at the house of Francis Abbott at Motcombe to discuss their grievances, and it is clear that many tenants had serious doubts and second thoughts about their agreement; it is also clear that sufficient dissatisfaction with the proposed changes made itself felt for a Commission to be appointed from the court of the Exchequer to enquire into the whole matter. This Commission met at Shaftesbury on 20 March 1627, and by this time the tenants had become thoroughly discontented with the changes which were planned for their manor. Their objections, which were reiterated by all the witnesses who appeared before the Commission, can be summed up under four headings:

1. Objections to the extent of the area to be affected, since they claimed that some of it, and notably the Bailiff's Walk, did not lie within the forest, and should not therefore be included in the enclosure.
2. Dissatisfaction over the amount and quality of the land to be allotted to them in lieu of their grazing rights.
3. Objections to the fact that some of the allotments which were made were a long way from the tenements, that others were made out of existing roads and lanes, and of the fact that others were made without access or were so close to other tenants' houses that 'manie of the tenants are soe shutt up even to their doores that they cannot drive anie Beasts or cattell from their said howses without trespassing those to whome the said waies are soe allotted . . .'
4. Complaints that the roads leading through the forest would be either closed or else made very narrow by the proposed enclosures. This was to be the source of a great deal of ill-feeling over the next few years. In that low-lying area of heavy clay, roads rapidly became so muddy as to be impassable in winter, and if they were narrowed by enclosures so that all travellers had to use the same tracks, then it would be impossible to get to the neighbouring market towns. One witness declared 'Having seen the places allotted for the waies he thinketh it almost impossible if the said Inclosures should go on that the waies leading to the severall markett townes . . . will be passible, for that there are no stones nere to be had with anie Convenience for the makinge and repayringe the said waies'.

The whole feeling of the tenants was summed up by one of them, Mark Hastell, yeoman, who declared that 'If the Inclosures should hold according as it is intended that the same must needs be to the greate hindrance if not to the utter undoing of the moste parte of the Inhabitants of Gillingham.'(7) The unanimous complaints of the witnesses who appeared before the Commission at Shaftesbury on 20 March 1627 left no doubt of the opposition and grievances of the tenants. In an attempt to meet some of these grievances and objections another Exchequer Commission was appointed in the summer of 1627, 'for inquiring into and settling complaints of freeholders, copyholders and inhabitants of Gillingham'. This Commission held a meeting at Shaftesbury on 21 August 1627 and invited all the tenants to come with any 'informations or grievances . . . by reason or Colour of the disafforestation and ymprovement of the said forest.' The announcement of this public meeting, which was read in the churches of Gillingham and Motcombe, was as follows:—

'That any tenant of Gillingham or Motcombe . . . that can complayn of Inconvenient layinge of his Allotment or of the passage or streightening of anie highwaies, wateringe places or any other Cause of complaynt by the Inclosure of the Forest of Gillingham: Let him repaire to his Majesties Commissioners at the Lyon in Shaston upon Tuesdaye the one and Twentieth day of Auguste 1627 by Tenn of the Clocke that day and then and there make good his complaynt that some remedy may be given. . .' The Commissioners evidently treated very seriously the complaints which were made to them, and 'did travel in the forest and did take a Special and particular viewe of all and every the severall grievances in their proper places respectively as they did lye within and about the said forest'. As a result of the complaints they heard, and of what they saw when they visited the forest, the Commissioners produced five very long and closely written pages recommending changes in the original scheme, alterations in the allotments of land which had been made, new routes for the roads and lanes, better access to all tenants' lands, etc.(8)

But in spite of the work of the Commissioners, no notice was taken of their recommendations, and Sir James Fullerton proceeded to carry out the original plan regardless, and continued to press ahead with enclosing parts of the former forest. His actions so enraged the tenants of Gillingham that early in 1628 a group of more than a hundred of them, 'all armed and most of them disguised, in a riotous and rebellious manner', began to tear down the hedges which had been made, filled in the ditches, 'burnt the Plants, sawed in sunder the Rails and Posts, buried them in the Ground, and in Triumph, when the Plants were burning, shot off their Guns and Pistols. . .'(9) Having destroyed the enclosures, they then refused to allow Fullerton's workmen to proceed any further with enclosing the forest ground. An interesting feature of this revolt at Gillingham is how well organised and well led it was. This was no desultory group of angry peasants, but a disciplined band of dedicated men. One reason why the tenants who so readily and thoughtlessly agreed to the enclosure proposals made in 1626, had become by 1628 sufficiently confident to defy Privy Council messengers and a troop of soldiers, was because this riot was part of a much larger revolt extending across Wiltshire and into the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, and it was master-minded by persons from outside Gillingham. The most prominent of these was one Henry Hoskins, a mysterious figure from Wiltshire, who appears in all the revolts and who came to be known as 'the Colonel'. It was no doubt his leadership and personality which created a disciplined force out of a collection of discontented tenants. Other leading figures included John Phillips, a Gillingham tanner of good estate and of some influence in the area, Alford who came to be known as 'the Captain', Morgan Cave, a gentleman from Gillingham who was called 'the Lieutenant', Miller 'the Corporal', and a number of substantial Gillingham tradesmen as well as farmers. The military titles given to some of the rebels is no doubt evidence of the sort of discipline which was imposed. As in riots in the same area two centuries later, when the mythical

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6 Public Record Office E134/3 Chas I E17.
7 Ibid.
8 Public Record Office E178/3732.
9 Acts of the Privy Council 1627-28, pp. 248, 495.
J. Rushworth — Historical Collections 1680, Appendix p. 28.
Public Record Office SP 16/193/66.

figure of 'Captain Swing' gave a unity to what would otherwise have been only a mob, so in the seventeenth century revolt the mysterious figure of the legendary 'Lady Skimmington' was used to provide a focus of leadership which would otherwise have been lacking.(10)

In May 1628 a company of soldiers was sent to Gillingham to suppress the revolt, but instead of doing so they sided with the tenants and refused to take any of them prisoner, a refusal for which their commander was reprimanded later and told that 'it is an insolencie and has given his Majesty great cause of offence'.(11) Letters were then sent down by the Privy Council ordering the rioters to desist, but these were seized and burnt by the rebels, and the messengers were beaten. The resistance at Gillingham continued throughout 1628. In November 1628 the Sheriff of Dorset brought more troops to attack them, but they had used the summer to strengthen their position and were too strongly entrenched to be dislodged, proclaiming in splendid defiance 'here we were born and here we stay'. and binding themselves 'by Oaths to be true one to the Other, and not to reveal one another, and to resist such as should endeavour to apprehend any of them, and to rescue those apprehended'.(12) But the rebels could not for ever defy the royal authority or the royal troops, and in the winter of 1628-29 more troops were sent to Gillingham and the rioters were overcome; but the strength of the revolt is shown in the fact that no less than eighty-seven persons were captured and taken to London. At the end of February 1629 eighty of them were fined and censured by the court of Star Chamber for their part in 'the riotous destruction of inclosures in Gillingham forest': The fines were however, light, for the court must have realised that many of the ringleaders, including Henry Hoskins, had escaped capture, and remained at large, taking part in anti-enclosure riots elsewhere.(13)

The opposition to the enclosures at Gillingham did not cease with the arrests, and intermittent rioting and disturbances continued there during the next twenty years. There were further disputes and riots during the late 1630's, and again in 1642; and there was a further revolt by the tenants in 1651 during the Commonwealth, when Major Desborough was ordered by the Council of State to take a troop of horses to Gillingham to crush the riots there.(14) Those who protested against the enclosures being made by Sir James Fullerton obviously had many influential friends and well-wishers in Gillingham and the surrounding district, and this made it very difficult for the authorities to deal effectively with them. For example, in 1631 both Henry Hoskins and John Phillips both returned to Gillingham, and William Whitaker, one of the Dorset justices of the peace obviously found it impossible to take effective action against them for he complained that Henry Hoskins '. . . is now lately returned to Gillingham and seeketh agayne by all the means he cann to drawe company to him, to pull downe all the hedges and fences made upp in the Forest of Gillingham . . . This Hoskins hath lately gone from Gillingham into the Forest of Braydon in Wiltes, wheare the Lady Skimmington (as they call her) with a great number of Rebells are now pulling downe and defacing all the Inclosures of that Forest. This Hoskins with som others have much laboured that Lady and her company to come to Gillingham Forest, to pull downe all the Inclosures there, and have promised to give them assistance of Men, money and victuals . . . There is also one John Phillips, a Tanner of Gillingham of good estate, but one that is a principal agente and actor in labouring to destroy and pull downe all the Inclosures of Gillingham Forest. This Phillips was very lately accused to mee for pulling downe some of the inclosures (in the day time) and for digginge upp the posts and Rayles, and cutting the Barrs, Gates and posts into smale peeces, and threateninge the pullinge downe of all the Inclosures. Thereon I presente a warrante for him, and at the first he denyed it, but the facts being proved by sufficient witnesses then hee confessed it, and said hee did it to trye his tytle and right of common in those groundes. Thereon to prevent further risinge and sturres, by these tumultuous assemblies in these partes, I purposed to binde Phillips to answer his offence at the next Assizes, and in the meane tyme to bee of good behaviour, which Phillips refused to doe, or be bounde, and thereon I committed him to the Gaole to prevent further trouble. But Phillips was presently bayled by some other Justice, and is come whome again to Gillingham which doth much more animate him and other of his Adherents'.(15)

A feature of the stirring events at Gillingham is the fact that in spite of all the riots and disturbances, these violent proceedings are not reflected at all in the manorial court rolls. There are no references at all to the riots, and at the height of the disturbances the court proceedings continued unperturbed, lands changed hands, offenders against manorial rules and customs were punished, two men were presented and fined for playing bowls on the sabbath, and the wife of Gilbert James was reported for being 'a common scold and disturbor of her neighbours', and was sentenced to be 'three several tymes washed in the Tumbrell'. The only impact of the changes which is apparent in the court proceedings is that after 1629 properties changing hands in the court were no longer described as having rights of common in the forest, but as having an allotment of land in lieu of the former rights of common there.(16)

One unlooked for effect of the enclosure of the forest at Gillingham and the obstruction or narrowing of many of the roads which had formerly gone through the forest, was that travellers found it very difficult to get to Shaftesbury market, and for a time business at this very important market declined. It is clear that by 1632 a substantial part of the forest had already been enclosed, or at any rate the roads had been blocked, for in that year Lord Stourton who owned the dues paid at Shaftesbury market complained bitterly of the effect which the difficulties of travel were having on the market. Again, a Commission was appointed to enquire into the matter. The Commissioners took evidence from numerous witnesses from Shaftesbury, Gillingham and the surrounding area, and all agreed that the market had been badly affected by the enclosures at Gillingham. One witness stated that '. . . at this tyme there is greater store of corne vented in that towne (Shaftesbury) from the hill country into Blackmore and some partes in Somersetshire than in any three towns in this County, besides, for that this town standeth in the midway between the hill and the vale'. But he declared that this important market was now in serious decline because of the difficulties of travel through Gillingham. Another Witness, Nicholas Elliott, an innkeeper of Shaftesbury, stated that many of his guests complained that the roads were now 'deepe and dangerous for travellers and their cattle in the winter tyme by reason of the inclosures in the late forest of Gillingham', and that the market at Shaftesbury was in consequence 'much impaired . . . for that the west country men cannot come to the said market to vent the commodities which the hill country men bring to the said market'. Another complained that

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10 Public Record Office SP 16/193/66.
D. G. Allan — The Rising in the West 1628-1631, Economic History Review, 2nd Ser., Vol. V, pp. 76-85.
E. Kerridge — The Revolts in Wiltshire against Charles I, Wilts. *Arch. Mag.* 57, 1960, pp. 64-75.

11 Calendar of State Papers (Domestic) 1628-29, p. 135.

12 Acts of the Privy Council 1627-28, pp. 248, 359, 371, 495.

13 Calendar of State Papers (Domestic) 1629-30, pp. 175, 552.
Public Record Office SP 16/159/28.
The fines were granted by the Court of Star Chamber to Sir James gfullerton, but many were never paid; in 1639 ineffectual attempts were still being made to secure payment — Public Record Office E134/14 Chas I E24.

14 Public Record Office E134/11 Chas I M23; E134/11 Chas I M37; E317/ Dorset 6.
House of Lords Journals VIII, 1642, p. 200.
Calendar of State Papers (Interregnum) Vol. XV, 1651, p. 78.

15 Public Record Office SP 16/193/66.

16 Dorset County Record Office D407 Gillingham Court Rolls.

unless something was done to improve the roads the town of Shaftesbury would be ruined. There was no doubt some exaggeration in all this, but it is clear that the Gillingham enclosures had made travel through that area much more difficult, especially in the winter time. The Commissioners went to inspect the roads and agreed that they were inadequate. They suggested some alterations but there is no evidence that these were ever carried out.

The enclosure of the former royal forest and park at Gillingham has left very clear evidence in the landscape, and the whole landscape history of the area can be deduced from the relict features. The small, irregularly shaped fields of the farms around the edge of the former forest, and the curving shapes of the fields resulting from the piecemeal enclosure of the strips in the former common arable fields in the south and south-west, contrast with the much larger, more rectangular fields which were made during the 1630's in the area of the former forest in the north and north-west of the parish. The origin of these fields in the former forest is made the more obvious by the number of late seventeenth century farm houses and buildings in the area, and by the total absence of any earlier features; also by the farm names such as Forest Farm, Park Farm, Kings Court Farm, Forest Side, etc. The name of one of the former common arable fields survives as Madjeston Farm. The area of the former park is still remarkable for the way in which it is completely free of any roads, though the railway passes through it; but all the roads leading east and south-east from the modern town of Gillingham follow the circuitous route around the park boundary, and the limits of the former park are still very apparent in the landscape.(18)

Early Dorset Nonconformity

by G. J. Davies

The history of Nonconformity may be clearly compiled during the late Seventeenth century, but earlier in that century, beset by repression and persecution, the documentary evidence is slight, and the open declaration of nonconformist belief suppressed, so that the historian is faced with a shadowy beginning to what was later to become an impressive movement opposed to the Anglican Church. Nonconformity became Puritanism divorced from the Church. Puritans, especially under the later Tudors and early Stuarts, were still members of the Church of England. They were radical in belief, challenging orthodoxy, and behaving in a wayward fashion, but still members of the State Church. Only when radicalism drove them to contumacy, or the point of rebellion, did Church courts take action to suppress and punish.

During the Interregnum it was the Anglican Church which suffered. Bishops were banished from the House of Lords, the use of the Book of Common Prayer became a penal offence, extemporaneous prayer became fashionable in public worship, and orthodox Church ministers were often ejected in favour of Puritan candidates. When the Restoration took place in 1660, the Anglican Church was restored alongside the monarchy. From Breda in Holland, Charles Stuart indicated some degree of future tolerance when he issued a Declaration which promised consideration for 'tender consciences.' But, as the Episcopal Church strengthened after 1660, intruded Puritans were ejected. The House of Commons, firmly episcopalian in its religious outlook, supported the Church, and the full weight of State authority was brought to bear on the problem of radicalism in Church belief and practice.

Puritans made one last attempt to achieve a compromise. The Savoy Conference of 1661 was held, and the Puritans requested modifications of the Book of Common Prayer. The Bishops saw no need for concessions, and after fruitless and often bitter debate the conference broke up without achieving anything. The unrelenting pressure of the restored Bishops, supported by Crown and Parliament, continued, and in 1662 the Act of Uniformity (14 Car II. c.4) established the use of the Revised Prayer Book and ordination by Anglican Bishop compulsory.

Charles II made one last attempt to gain toleration for Catholics and Presbyterians, to whom he owed so much. Late in 1662 he issued a declaration announcing his intention to exempt from the penalties of the Act peaceable persons whose conscientious scruples prevented them from conforming. The accompanying bill introduced into Parliament was bitterly opposed, and, fearful of the consequences of toleration for Catholics, the House of Commons rejected it. The Cavalier Parliament had thus divided England and made the Anglican Church politically as well as religiously sectarian. Those who refused to conform to the Act of Uniformity did so because they acknowledged Rome, or, more usually, because they could not accept the Anglican Revised Prayer Book.

The documentary evidence for numbers and distribution of early non-conformists is to be found in Episcopal Returns of 1665, 1667, and 1676, and several volumes of State Papers Domestic, together with State Papers Entry Books.

The Episcopal Returns, made by order of the Primate, Archbishop Sheldon, present us with a picture of the despised and persecuted non-conformists by their persecutors, the Anglican Bishops. Penal statutes had been passed before the first return had been demanded, and in 1665 we have information of the 'whereabouts' of those ejected in 1662 but still active. The 1669 returns, much fuller, report the congregations ('Conventicles') still in existence, their principal supporters ('Abettors'), numbers attending the conventicles, and some attempt to describe their social status and financial position. The 1676 returns are concerned with numbers and distribution, but give no details regarding individual ministers, nor the owners of premises where worship continued to be held.

The Returns, from 1662 to 1976 should give us a complete history of early nonconformity if they were complete, detailed, and contained the same information; unfortunately, they do not. The 1665 Returns give us information of only a small number of ejected nonconformist ministers. Other sources confirm that larger numbers than are shown in the 1665 Returns were

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17 Public Record Office E178/5256.

18 Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Dorset Vol. IV, pp. 27-36, 48.
Dorset County Record Office Tithe Maps of Gillingham and Motcombe.

ejected, and we can hardly believe that having been ejected because, on principle, and in view of their strength of faith, they could not conform to the demands of the Anglican Church, they then denied themselves the opportunity to continue to minister to the needs of those they had previously served. The 1669 Returns though fuller, include ejected nonconformist ministers and others who were not ejected from the Church because they were never in it. The Returns include conventicles held, despite the penal law of the Conventicle Act. We can confirm that the 1665 Returns present an incomplete picturre of the strength of nonconformist activity within the diocese. The Census documents of 1676 have nothing to tell us about teachers or ministers, nor of the owners of premises where worship continued to be held. Comparisons of documents is therefore only possible to a limited extent because information is most complete regarding ejected ministers, but incomplete regarding the numbers of conventicles held, because that is dealt with only in 1669. Even where ejected ministers are concerned we must exercise care in interpretation because many of the ejected ministers in Dorset mentioned in the 1665 Returns, about whom the 1669 Returns are silent, secured licences in 1672. We cannot infer that in 1669 they were inactive. Indeed, the entire interpretation of the Episcopal Returns must be qualified by the knowledge that Bishops were anxious to prevent a picture of disloyalty and unfaithfulness in the diocese and therefore suppressed 'official' information regarding nonconformist activity. This is confirmed by our knowledge that large numbers of nonconformists were ejected from their livings in 1662 when they publicly declared that their faith prevented them from accepting the Book of Common Prayer. Many would not be mentioned in the Returns because, under persecution, it would be natural for them to hide their activities and avoid publicity.

The evidence from the State Papers concerns the licences granted under the terms of the 1672 Declaration of Indulgence. Volumes 320 and 321 of the State Papers Domestic of Charles II contain memoranda of application for licences, and receipts for them when they were taken from Whitehall. The three Entry books, numbers 27, 38A and 38B of the State Papers Domestic, show registration of ecclesiastical appointments, licences granted and an index.

The information contained in these volumes is invaluable because it identifies many active groups of Dorset nonconformists in 1672. But we recognize that the list is by no means exhaustive. Quakers did not acknowledge that any man had the right to grant licences of permission to do what their consciences and faith declared should be done. Quakers, a dynamic force in early dissent, are not shown as a significant number in the licence applications among the State Papers. Anabaptists had been associated with the uprising of Thomas Venner in 1661, and were still associated in the public mind with anarchy and violence. Indeed, the association of nonmconformity and disloyalty to the State is amply shown by the activity of the county militia which was entrusted with the task of internal security and was active in the persecution of conventicles. The Dorset lieutenancy arrested a Hampshire dissenting minister named Ellis who, to avoid imprisonment, took refuge on the Isle of Purbeck. The interception of 'treasonable' correspondence in 1666 prompted the Dorset militia to search the houses of those who failed regularly to attend Church, and this led to the arrest of several nonconformist ministers. The militia were always particularly active when dealing with nonconformist ministers or meetings. On some occasions they acted with great brutality, as when they searched Christopher Lawrence's house at Combe, where, failing to find Lawrence himself, they 'did a great deal of mischief in the house, and broke a great number of pots and bottles full of preparations for Medicine and Surgery into which Mrs. Lawrence, having a good insight, us'd to practice among the poor gratis'.

Nonconformists were always suspected of plotting the overthrow of the State. The close alliance of Anglican Church and State made such suspicions inevitable, and when evidence was available, suspicions were confirmed. In 1685, at the time of Monmouth's Rebellion, an Anabaptist teacher, Sampson Lark of Lyme Regis, acted as a Captain of Horse in Monmouth's army, and suffered execution. Amos Short of Lyme Regis, and John Kerridge, 'a sober, learned and honest man', both known nonconformist teachers, were arrested and imprisoned even though there was no evidence to connect them with the Rebellion. The Militia maintained a constant vigilance, and were quick to suspect and diligent in the search for evidence.

Persecution had not always been directed against the Dissenters, or nonconformists. During the Interregnum many Anglican clergy had been ejected from their livings, and, in some cases, suffered hardship. Some, like James Lukin of Puddletown and Edmund Osbourn of Maiden Newton, lived to be re-instated; but others, like Samuel Norrington of Charmouth and John Douch of Stalbridge who 'used to come and knock at his own door for a piece of bread', were left in poverty. While 'intruders' occupied the livings it was natural for dissenting congregations to be formed, and, before 1660 we have evidence of many such congregations active in Dorset. At Bridport, Dorchester, Shaftesbury and Wimborne Minster there were active groups formed around Puritan ministers. At Lyme an active group was formed which later moved to Lough Wood on the Dorset-Devon border in order to avoid persecution. At Melcombe Regis and Winterborne Whitchurch groups of Baptists and Presbyterians were inspired by leaders like John Wesley, grandfather of the Methodist founder. Few were as fortunate as the group at Charminster, whose leader, Samuel Hardy, was protected by the Trenchards.

When Charles II took the throne in 1660, and the Episcopacy was restored, it was natural that these intruders, appointed during the Interregnum, should be among the first to be ejected in favour of an ordained minister. Some, like William Oake of Clifton Maubank, William Benn of All Saints', Dorchester and Amos Short of Lyme Regis, were deprived of their livings and left without means of support. Others, like Henry Parsons of Burstock became school teachers. Generally, however, the ejected ministers continued their work among the former parishioners, though they often moved from the area. Hugh Gundry of South Mapperton preached in Devonshire, Benjamin Way of West Stafford retired first to Dorchester, then moved to Bristol while continuing his work as a nonconformist minister. Thomas Crane of Rampisham settled at Bedminster and Richard Downe of Winterborne Monkton went to Bridport. Bravely, George Thorne of Melcombe Regis, despite persecution, remained in his former parish. But, perhaps the most impressive story is that of John Pinney, an intruder at Broadwindsor, who so impressed the restored Anglican, Thomas Fuller, that he allowed Pinney to remain as a curate until, voluntarily, he went to Dublin as a nonconformist minister.

In 1662 the Act of Uniformity (14 Car II c.4) sealed the fate of the nonconformists still occupying Anglican Church livings. In its preamble the Act spoke of there being one uniform order of common service and prayer in the reign of Elizabeth I '. . . and yet this notwithstanding, a great number of people . . . do wilfully and schematically abstain and refuse to come to their parish churches'. To once more render uniformity in religion, on one Sunday before St Bartholomew's Day in 1662, 'openly and publicly before the congregation' the minister had to read aloud a declaration which began 'I . . . do declare my unfeigned assent and consent to everything contained and prescribed in and by the "Book of Common Prayer . . ." From the 24th of August, 1662, therefore, all nonconformist preachers were considered unordained laymen and were, ipso facto, deprived of their livings.

From the date of the 'Bartholomew Act' the law had created a new body of people now to be described as 'Nonconformists'. It would be a mistake to think of these as a homogeneous group, and even at the time, contemporaries recognized fundamental differences between the sects. Bishop Gilbert Burnet described nonconformity and its sects, and wrote that 'the dissenters are divided into four main bodies, the Presbyterians, the Independents, the Anabaptists and the Quakers. The two

required to hinder any tumult or disturbance, and to protect them in their said Meetings and Assemblies. Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the .....day of .....in the 24th year of Our Reign, 1672.

By His Majesties Command

Licences had to be applied for or 'desired' in person, or through some authorized proxy, at Lord Arlington's office at Whitehall. It is difficult to determine exactly how many licences were issued, but a reliable estimate of 1,508 'teachers', mainly Presbyterian, has been made. Generally, Quakers did not apply. When we realize that the period of license issuing was slightly less than eleven months, we appreciate that it was barely enough time for the nonconformists to organize the application and collection of licences. Though this period provides evidence of nonconformist activity, it does not allow us sufficient conclusive evidence to assess with accuracy the numerical impact of nonconformity on society.

Licences issued to persons (Dorset)

Some nonconformists travelled to Whitehall to collect their own licences: Richard Harris of Shaftesbury, Joshua Churchill of Dorchester, and John Hodder from Hawkchurch. A memorandum in the State Papers Domestic, volume 320, shows that Richard Harris applied in person only a little over a month after the Declaration of Indulgence was issued. A similar memorandum for Joshua Churchill shows that he too applied within a month of the Declaration. Benjamin Devenish's licence was granted to Joshua Churchill on Tuesday, April 16th, 1672, and Churchill's handwriting appears a number of times as a recipient of the licences for William Benn, Benjamin Way, and Philip Lamb. Obviously, one applicant appeared for several licences. This should come as no surprise because a nonconformist 'teacher' had to travel extensively to meet the needs of the conventicles. In Churchill's case we know that he assisted Mr. Benn at Dorchester, had friends on Fordington, from which he was ejected in 1662, attended 'a constant conventicle' at Fordington following his ejection, and taught at Donhead St. Andrew, Wiltshire when the penal laws prevented his appearance at Fordington.

John Hodder's name appears on a number of Dorset licences: Edward Dammer, James Hallett, Widow Woolfrey, and John Damer. Graduating from Wadham College, Oxford in 1642, he became Rector of Hawkchurch until his ejection in 1662. Thereafter he became the centre of a small colony of ejected ministers, and Bishop Seth Ward reports him as being a centre of nonconformist activity in Thornecombe. Hodder's name appears as the last on the list of those who signed the Address of Thanks dated 10 May, 1672. Possibly he waited in London to receive the Address and appended his own name immediately before its submission.

Some Dorset conventiclers obviously made use of the services of those who were prepared to remain in London and apply for, and take receipt of, licences. Doctor Owen, late Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, made application for some Dorset licences. He interested himself in the licences for which he applied, and correspondence between the Dorset conventiclers and their proxy in London obviously took place because an intriguing note appears in the State Papers:

'Doct^{r} Owen Desires that if y^{e} place for Mr George Thorne of Weymouth and Milcombe Regis bee not yet expressed in y^{e} Licence to be at y^{e} house of William Gillett: It may be now menconed to be at y^{e} Late Mr John Arthurs now in the possession of James Bud, Grocer: or in some Roomes of that House. Because upon second thoughts they have thought it fit not to have it at William Gillets.'

Richard Prowse, a Devon man, applied for thirty six licences, one of which was for Dorset. John Hickes, a Yorkshire man, applied for five hundred and fifteen licences, among them four Dorset applications. The career of John Hickes is interesting because he had received his University education in Ireland, but had spent the greater part of his ministry in Hampshire and Somerset until his execution at Glastonbury for his part in Monmouth's Rebellion.

There were five Addresses of Thanks following the Declaration. One of these Addresses was from Dorset, and it is full of servile loyalty to Charles II. Interestingly, all the addresses are from the south and west: Dorset, Exeter and Devon, Dartmouth, Cornwall and Wiltshire. It may be that this is an indication of the strength of nonconformity in these areas. Thirty eight names are appended to the Dorset Address, including many of these who applied for Licences.

The Declaration was a short lived respite for the nonconformists because, not being a Parliamentary Statute, it was subject to the hostile scrutiny of the Parliament which met in 1673. Parliament demanded the cancellation of the Declaration, and Charles II, desperate for taxation to carry on the war against Holland, was forced to consent. Many declared that the Licences issued in the eleven months of Royal Indulgence were still valid after the Declaration was withdrawn, and for two years no clear understanding was reached. The matter was eventually referred to the Bishops, and under pressure from them, on Feb. 3rd, 1675, Charles issued an Order in Council, followed a week later by a Royal Declaration, to nullify the 1672 Declaration of Indulgence. From that time, until the Declaration of 1687, Nonconformists had no locus standi and they preached or met at their peril.

One further source of information concerning the Dorset nonconformists exists: the Episcopal Returns of 1676. These returns, made in the same manner as the earlier returns, are incomplete. In the William Salt Library at Stafford the summary for Dorset exists, and this shows that of inhabitants above the age of sixteen years (59,000), 1,600 are known to be 'Dissenters'.

During these troubled years, from the Restoration of 1660 to the Toleration Act of 1688, we are presented with an imperfect and even confusing picture of Dorset non-conformity. The distinction between 'Presbyterian' and 'Congregational' was not sufficiently well defined for us to be assured that a real sectarian distinction exixted. We know, for example, that Richard Downe, the Congregationalist of Bridport, received a licence as a Congregationalist, but had received his ministry in a presbytery. Indeed, the terms appear to have been used somewhat indiscriminately, and within each description there was considerable variation. Allowing for this imperfect understanding of differences, we have a sufficiently clear picture to be assured that the County, though having fewer non-conformists than Devon, had large numbers of dedicated conventiclers and active teachers. The generation of the Restoration saw the climax of intolerance in the name of religious uniformity, and Royal declarations granting toleration were opposed largely because dissent, of whatever nature, from the Anglican Church, implied disloyalty towards a State Church supported by the Crown in Parliament. The effect of such opposition towards toleration was effectively to deny legal recognition of all religious congregations outside the Church of England. Oppression and persecution dim the evidence, but we know that Dorset was, throughout the period, a significant centre of non-conformist activity.

Licences issued to persons (Dorset)

Henry Backaller	House of Sarah Kerridge, Wotton Fitzpaine	Pres.
Samuel Ball	House of John Collins, Morden	Pres.
Robert Bartlet	House of James Hanne, Over Compton	Cong.
William Ben	House of Philip Stansby, Dorchester	Cong.
John Price (Brice)	House of Eleanor Floyer, Whitechurch	Pres.
Edward Buckler of Bradford	General, Preaching Licence	Pres.

Joshua Churchill	His house at Dorchester, and that of Benjamin Devenish, Fordington	Cong.
Ambrose Clare of Beaminster	General, Preaching Licence	Pres.
William Clarke	House of Rebecca Hastings, Winfrith parish	Cong.
William Craine of Beaminster	General, Preaching Licence	Pres.
Edward Dammer	House of John Bingham, Stickland	Cong.
John Devenish	His house, Pulham	Pres.
John Dibman	of Dorchester	Bapt.
Richard Downe	House of John Golding, Bridport	Cong.
Edward Downer	House of Henry Williams, Puddletown	Cong.
Jeremiah Day	House of Robert Cartisse, South Perrott	Bapt.
William Eastman of Shaftesbury	General, Preaching Licence	Pres.
Jeremiah French	His house at Bradford Abbas	Pres.
Francis Gie	of Dorchester	Bapt.
William Gilbert	His house at Bothenwood	Pres.
John Gill	His house at Hawkchurch	Pres.
John G(r)offe	House of Ruth Rokeclife, Stalbridge	Pres.
James Hallet	House of Richard Woolfryers, Winterbourne Kingston	Cong.
James Hallet	House of John Dammer, Cerne	Pres.
George Hammond	House of John West and John Marsh, Dorchester	Pres.
Peter Ince	His house at Thornhill	Pres.
William Ireland	House of Robert Cartisse, South Perrott	Baptist
Peter Jule	Childockford (Chideockford)	Baptist
John Kerridge of Lyme	General, Preaching Licence	Pres.
John King	His house, Wimborne	Anabaptist
William King	House of Joan Toop, (Maiden) Newton	Pres.
Philip Lamb	His house at East Morden	Cong.
Henry Martin	His house at Tarrant Munckton	Pres.
Zachariah Mayne	His house, Dalwood	Pres.
John Maynard	of Corfe	Bapt.
Thomas Miller (also entered under 'Somerset')	of Hushe	Bapt.
John Milward	House of George Milward, Farnicombe	Pres.
William Minty	The Malthouse of Mr Aire, Poole	Independent
Thomas Moore	House of Robert Alford, Sturminster Newton. His house, Milton Abbas	Pres.
James Ously	His house at Wooton Fitzpaine	Pres.
Giles Paris	His house, Shaftesbury	Independent
Henry Parsons	House of Robert Dalliver, called Swillcots, Abbotstoke	Pres.
John Persons	His house, Blandford	Anabaptist
Humphrey Philips	House of Catherine Chafe, Sherborne	Pres.
John Pinney	His house in the parish of Bettiscombe, and that of John Price in the parish of Marshwood	Pres.
James Rawson	His house, Haselbury	Pres.
Thomas Rowe (Roe)	His house, Wimborne	Pres.
Ames Short	His house, Lyme	Pres.
John Short	Lyme	Pres.
George Thorne	House of James Bud, Weymouth	Cong.
John Tucker	His house, Marvey hall	Pres.
Benjamin Walters	His house, Bradford Abbas	Pres.
Benjamin Way	House of William Hayden, Dorchester	Cong.
John White of Morden	General, Preaching Licence	Pres.
John Willis	Beaminster	Pres.
Timothy Sacheverill (also entered under 'Wiltshire')	His house at Winterburn Zelston	Pres.
Francis Bampfield	General, Preaching Licence	Nonconf.

Place Licences issued in Dorset

House of	Humphrey Miller, Abbotsbury	Cong.
House of	Lancelot Cox, Beaminster	Pres.
House of	John Locke, Beaminster	Pres.
Room under the Market House, Beaminster		Pres.
House of	Richard Spicer, Blandford	Cong.
House of	John Paige, Blandford	Cong.
House of	William Sampson, Bothenhampton	Pres.
House of	Elizabeth Hallett, Bridport	Cong.
House of	John Coutines (Cousens?), Bridport	Cong.
House of	Ichabod Hernes, Broadpool	Pres.
House of	Edward Marks, Broadwindsor	Pres.
Barn-house of	Matthew Bragg, Burstock	Pres.
House of	Thomas Beer, chiddiock	Cong.
House of	Robert Scott, Chideockford	Anabaptist
House of	William Toope, Chaldon parish	Cong.

Fig. 1. Dorset, East Lulworth, Lulworth Castle, R.C. Chapel looking North East.

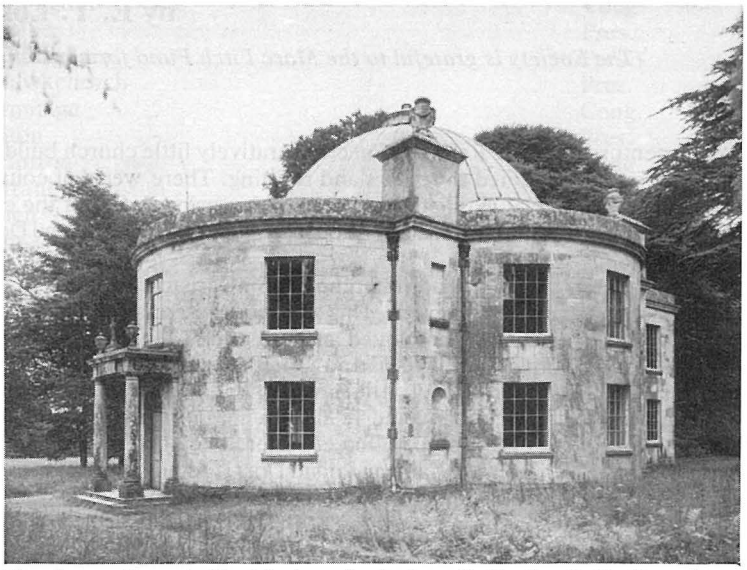

Fig. 2. Dorset, East Lulworth, Lulworth Castle, R.C. Chapel General View.

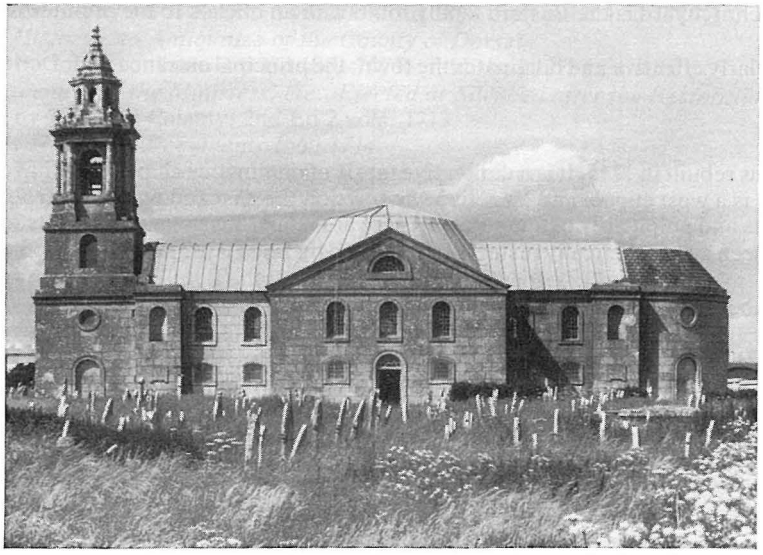

Fig. 3. Dorset, Portland, St. Georges Church, south elevation.

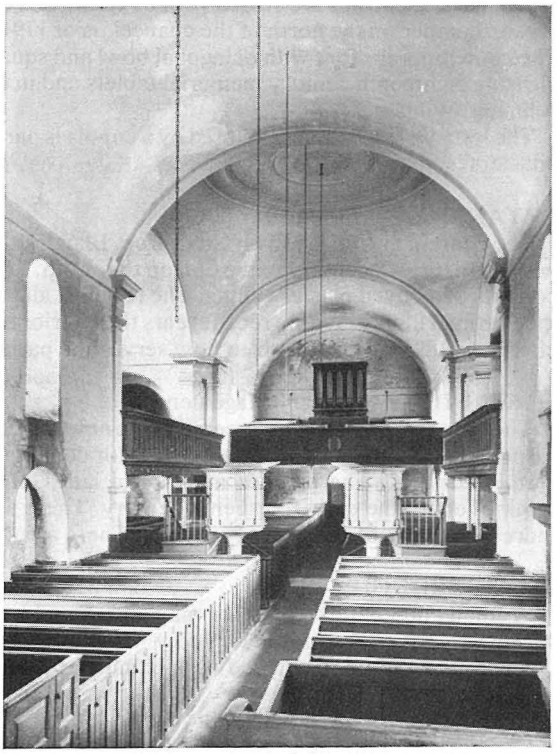

Fig. 4. Dorset, Portland, St. Georges Church, Interior looking west.

with prominent keystones fortunately retain their clear glass. Most of the original fittings have survived and include an attractive reredos which occupies the whole east wall and is carried round the east window, the altar rails, the pulpit with marquetry work on the panels, backpiece and tester, and the font with ornate decoration resembling that at Blandford. There is a mural tablet to Charles Sloper (1727) who was responsible for the rebuilding. The architect was probably one of the Bastards and the high quality of the fittings suggests that they too came from the family workshops at Blandford.

FLEET — Holy Trinity.

The architect was Strickland. The date is 1827 and it replaces the old church to the south-east which was destroyed, except the chancel, by a terrific gale in 1824.

The present fabric is a late example of Georgian Gothick of considerable elegance. It consists of a short apsidal chancel, nave and west tower of Portland ashlar with embattled parapets. The windows are wide pointed single lights. The interior, especially the chancel, is particularly effective. The nave has a low pitched roof of plaster with oblong panels and the chancel is covered by a pretty plaster vault. The present chancel arch is Victorian and unfortunately mutilates the decoration on the west wall of the chancel. There is a rather effective monument to John Gould (1818) showing a young man supporting a young woman beside an urn, while on the right is a female figure with a Bible.

HORTON — St Wolfreda.

The church, on the site of a former small monastic foundation, was rebuilt in 1722 with the exception of the fifteenth century north transept. The most striking external feature is the north tower with massive details and tall pyramidal cap suggesting the influence of Vanburgh who about that time was building Eastbury Park (Tarrant Gunville), an immense mansion which was mostly demolished less than fifty years later. The chancel, tower and transept are of stone and the south and west walls of the nave of brick. It is altogether a very puzzling building. The date 1755 appears on the transept, but this must refer to repair rather than complete rebuilding. The eighteenth century fittings include the reredos with Ionic fluted pilasters and pediment, the pulpit and the boxpews. The church bears a unique dedication; St Wolfreda was the mother of St Edith, after whose birth she became a nun at Wilton and eventually Abbess, her daughter also taking the veil there.

EAST LULWORTH — St Mary (R.C.)

This interesting and original building was erected in 1786 for the Weld family, the architect being John Tasker. The exterior has little to suggest its ecclesiastical use which is explained by the fact that in spite of the First Catholic Relief Act passed in 1778 it was still considered advisable to make Catholic places of worship as inconspicuous as possible. On the other hand the interior is the most impressive and satisfying of any Georgian church in Dorset. It is in the form of a Greek cross with apsidal ends, the ritual eastern one being externally masked by the two-storeyed sacristy. The interior, especially since the removal in 1953 of incongruous Victorian decoration, is a masterpiece. The apses are supported on Tuscan columns, three with galleries and the fourth occupied by the sanctuary. There is a central saucer dome decorated as a sky with white clouds. The altar, altar rails and organ case are contemporary. There are also contemporary altar ornaments and plate as well as a fine collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century vestments. It is worthy of note that the first Catholic bishop in the United States, John Carroll, was consecrated here in 1790.

MILTON ABBAS — St James.

The church was erected in 1786, the architect being James Wyatt. The excellent ashlar masonry and the tower are good examples of Georgian Gothic. Unfortunately in 1888 a chancel and south aisle were added in Victorian Gothic and the original fittings swept away. The late thirteenth century font came from the abbey church.

MORETON — St Nicholas.

The church was rebuilt in 1776 on the old site and is a good example of Georgian Gothic. The north aisle and west porch were added in 1841 and 1848 respectively, fortunately in harmony with the original work. The ashlar masonry and the high quality of the details are worthy of note. There is an apsidal sanctuary and a south tower flanked by annexes which served as pews for the squire and his dependants. The windows have cusped intersecting tracery. The nave has a plaster ribbed vault. Unfortunately the fittings are mid-nineteenth century. There is an attractive mural tablet to Mrs James Frampton (1762), the wife of the rebuilder. The Framptons have held the manor for six hundred years.

POOLE — St James.

The mediaeval church was unfortunately demolished in 1819 and replaced by the present fabric, which consists of ashlar-faced continuous chancel and nave, aisles and west tower. The architects were John Kent and Joseph Hannaford. The style is Gothic with triple stepped lancets and forked tracery windows in two tiers. The roofs consist of plaster ribbed vaults. The arcades have quatrefoil columns formed from whole pine trees. The fine reredos with pilasters of 1736 came from the former church. The mahogany font with attractive decoration is a mixture of Classic and Gothick is doubtless of c.1820. Several of the mural tablets come from the mediaeval church. A few years ago the interior was appropriately redecorated.

PORTLAND — St George.

The mediaeval church was abandoned in the middle of the eighteenth century and a new fabric erected on a completely new site in 1758. The architect was Thomas Gilbert, who came from a local family of stone masons; as far as is known it is the only church for which he was responsible. It is a large and imposing structure of Portland ashlar and consists of apsidal sanctuary, nave, transepts and west tower. The tower is most successful and is crowned by a cupola. The lateral walls have two tiers of windows in broad raised surrounds. Over the crossing is an unlit saucer dome. The interior has plaster segmental vaults. The original fittings fortunately survive and exhibit an unaltered example of Georgian liturgical planning. In the centre are the twin pulpits, one for reading the service and the other for preaching. All the boxpews face towards the pulpits. The apsidal sanctuary contains the holy table with seats for the communicants, which would be used for the few occasions when the Communion service was held, probably about once a quarter. It is probable that the pulpits and altar rails came from the old church. There are three galleries. Recently the interior has been carefully renovated and the church is now used again on certain occasions.

WEYMOUTH — St Mary.

The church was rebuilt in 1815 by James Hamilton, who in 1809 designed the imposing statue of George III on the Parade. It is of Portland ashlar and consists of nave and aisles with round columned cupola. The nave has a plaster tunnel vault and the aisles flat

Fig. 5. Dorset, Moreton, St. Nicholas's Church, from east.

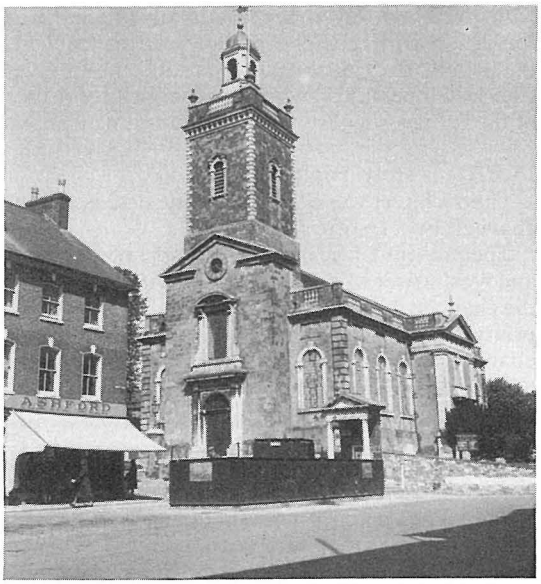

Fig. 6. Dorset, Blandford, Church in Market Place, taken 1945.

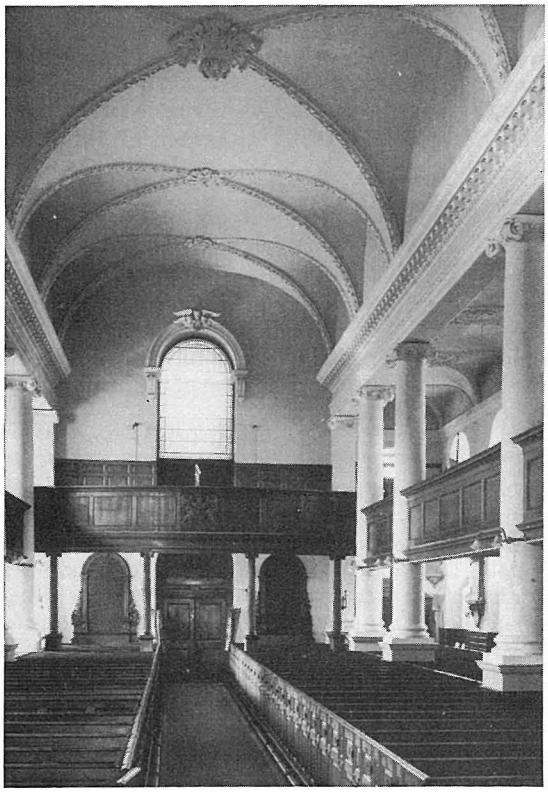

Fig. 7. Dorset, Blandford, Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, interior looking west.

Fig. 8. Dorset, Charlton Marshall Church, interior looking east.

plaster ceilings. The "arcades" consist of quatrefoil columns supporting the galleries. The most striking feature is the reredos with pilasters, incorporating a fine painting of the Last Supper by Sir James Thornhill of 1721 which probably came from the earlier church.

WIMBORNE — St Giles.

The church is in a category of its own since, though completely rebuilt in 1732, it was Gothicised internally by Bodley in 1887, and then, after a fire in 1908, restored and enlarged while retaining as far as possible the Georgian walls and details. The materials are greensand and flint in part arranged chequer-wise. The restoration was carried out by Sir Ninian Comper and though, like all his work, most admirable in itself, one would wish that he had adhered more strictly to the original style in the addition on the north side; twenty years later he would probably have done so. The tower, porch and east and south walls are unaltered. The modern fittings are excellent and the painted glass superb.

The following churches are of mediaeval origin with Georgian alterations and additions.

ALMER — St Mary. The south wall of the nave and the porch were rebuilt early in the eighteenth century, probably by the Bastard firm of Blandford.

CHALBURY — All Saints. This attractive little church is a mediaeval fabric charmingly refashioned and refitted in the eighteenth century and, unlike most Dorset churches, escaped Victorian "restoration".

FIFEHEAD MAGDALEN — St Mary Magdalene. On the north of the chancel is a mortuary chapel of c.1750 containing a large mural monument to Sir Richard Newman (1721), his wife Frances (1730), son Samuel (1747) and three daughters.

FIFEHEAD NEVILLE — All Saints. The nave of this mediaeval church was refashioned in 1736. It exhibits the typical round headed windows; the porch is of the same date.

MELBURY OSMOND — St Osmund. The nave was rebuilt in 1745 and has arched windows with fork tracery. The south doorway has a Gibbsian surround and a round window above.

SYDLING ST NICHOLAS — St Nicholas. The chancel was rebuilt in the eighteenth century and the rest of the fabric attractively refitted. The Victorians did little damage.

WINTERBORNE STICKLAND — St Mary. The nave of this mediaeval church was refenestrated c.1716, the work resembling that at Almer and Charlton Marshall and probably emanating from the Bastard workshops at Blandford. A mausoleum was added on the north of the chancel c.1756 and contains a handsome sarcophagus shaped tomb with black marble top to Thomas Skinner who died in 1756.

A Note on Agricultural Trade at Poole and Weymouth 1815-1914([1])

by Dr. P. J. Perry

Dorset has long been, and remains, a primarily agricultural county; its two principal ports while not pre-eminently agricultural have nevertheless a long and continuing history of involvement in, for example, the grain and fertilizer trades. It is no exaggeration to say that until the county was penetrated by the railways in the 1840s and 1850s the agricultural commerce of the county substantially depended upon its ports, the principal albeit not the sole connection with a wider world, a wider market place, and a more varied source of supplies than the county and its environs could provide.

The period 1815-1914 witnessed many changes in this situation, but not its complete overthrow.

Poole and Weymouth were still active in the grain trade in 1914 as in 1815, perhaps busier. Early in the century their principal activity had been coastwise shipment, mainly of flour and barley from Poole, or flour from Weymouth;([2]) at the turn of the century they were primarily grain importers, mainly of wheat and flour coastwise and oats and beans from overseas at Poole, of barley from overseas at Weymouth.([3]) Certainly quantities had changed, although measurement is difficult since different sources of information are concerned with different aspects — numbers of vessels, quantities and value of cargo — and so too had orientation. Poole for example, traded less actively with a wide range of second and third rank south coast ports and more closely with ports importing foreign grain, London and Liverpool for example in the last decades of the century. Weymouth at the end of the century imported barley from Black Sea ports where in mid-century it was more concerned with Baltic wheat.([4]) A number of more mundane trades connected with farming persisted throughout this period, manure for example, from London and Plymouth in particular, which increased rather than diminished in importance during the period 1850-1914.

The coming of the railway and the steamer had not then destroyed the agricultural trade of these ports, though it had probably diminished its importance in their agricultural hinterlands. Some traffic had been lost almost at once or after a short interval of time; Poole's coastal trade in eggs, butter, meat and wool, the shipment of cattle to Portsmouth, quickly passed to

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([1]) This essay is based on chapter five of the author's unpublished Ph.D. dissertation *A Geographical Study of the Trade of the Dorset ports 1815-1914* (University of Cambridge, 1963).

([2]) Figures for the outward grain traffic of these ports for the period 1819-1823 are contained in *British Parliamentary Papers* (Accounts and Papers), 1824 XVII, p. 89. Grain, meal and flour imported and exported.

([3]) For this period the principal sources are the shipping intelligence column of the *Poole Herald* (from 1846 onwards); *Customs Import Registers* 1873-99 (P.R.O. Customs 23. 1-27, lacking a Weymouth return for 1877); *British Parliamentary Papers,* Annual Statement of Trade and Navigation from 1896.

([4]) This trade was, of course, temporarily interrupted by the Crimean War. See Weymouth Custom House out-letters, 28.1.1858. (These letter-books are now kept at King's Beam House, Marklane, E.C.3.).

the railways better suited to handle such traffic. In the 1880s Poole's export of flour to Cornwall likewise disappeared.([5]) But coastal shipping was still competitive in the grain trade; freight rates could be cut to meet rail competition, and as the orientation of the trade shifted from outwards to inwards with increasing population and changes in farming, the vessels occupied therein could be provided with the *sine qua non* of their survival in the face of competition, a return cargo.([6]) At Poole, clay from Purbeck, at Weymouth, Portland stone, for both of which there was a widespread and increasing demand during this period, fulfilled this role and thus enabled the grain trade to survive.

The steamer itself participated in some of these trades, dominating Weymouth's barley trade for example. Its more important role however was indirect; as the source of imported grain passed from European to North American ports — and as the importance of this trade rapidly increased from 1870 — the trade became the business of larger, and increasingly efficient, steamers and of such ports as Liverpool and London best able to handle them. Thus the coastwise grain trade of Poole after the 1860s shifted from the small ports of Kent and Sussex to London and Ipswich. But the railways were not able to exclude coastal shipping from the role of distributing these grain imports.

The railway was not, moreover, invariably a competitor. Several ephemeral or long-lasting agricultural trades depended on the existence of the railways as a means of distributing overseas imports from Poole and Weymouth. The most fully documented instance is the import of barley from France at Poole in the 1870s. This barley was destined for Bass of Burton-on-Trent, the Midland Railway offering "special rates" for this traffic, and the Somerset and Dorset line making Poole the only south coast port from which such barley could travel the whole journey on Midland metals alone([7]). It seems likely, although there is no direct evidence on this point, that Weymouth's barley trade late in the century was fostered by rail access to the agricultural interior and to the breweries at Dorchester and Yeovil as well as its own. Likewise the growing import of foreign oil cake at Poole late in the nineteenth century was destined for markets in the interior of the county, by this date well served by railways([8]).

At this point a word on quantities is perhaps necessary, despite the problems mentioned above. In the early nineteenth century heyday of grain shipment from the county Poole and Weymouth shipped more than twenty thousand quarters of grain and flour in exceptionally good years, less than ten thousand in the worst years. In the late 1840s Poole shipped about one hundred and fifty cargoes of grain outwards each year, and received about fifty. At its peak in the early 1890s and just prior to 1914 Poole received an average of almost one hundred and fifty British and foreign grain cargoes, principally the former, each year; its outward grain trade declined during this period from about one hundred and fifty vessels a year to next to nothing. However the value of Poole's grain imports from overseas was at a maximum in the 1870s prior to the collapse in prices known as the great depression; grain imports were worth more than £60,000 in 1876, only about £15,000 in the late nineties; volume had no doubt dropped rather less. Weymouth's grain imports were worth about £20,000 a year in the mid seventies, more than £80,000 in such good years as 1905 and 1910.

These figures serve to introduce discussion of the second theme, the impact of agricultural changes. The collapse in prices has already been mentioned; when, in the context of Poole's imports from overseas, a second factor is considered, the decline of the import of foreign barley from the late 1870s, it is evident that during this period of declining cereal production in Dorset the port was receiving more and more grain coastwise, and no more than a relatively steady level of overseas imports of oats and beans. The increase in barley imports at Weymouth from the last quarter of the nineteenth century was also related to the depression and the consequent unprofitability of barley growing in a county formerly renowned for this crop. Moreover Weymouth itself and Dorchester and Yeovil on the Great Western line north from the port each possessed breweries.

The changing character of agriculture was manifest in other aspects of maritime trade; even occasional cargoes of pipes were imported at Poole, in a clay manufacturing area, during the "high farming" decades of mid-century when draining was at the heart of agricultural progress. On the other hand artificial fertilizer was of no great importance except at Bridport in the west of the county in the "high-farming" decades of the sixties and seventies. It is to be doubted however whether agricultural prosperity was a major factor; soluble artificial fertilizers, lime and phosphate for example, are not eminently suitable for coastal shipment least of all in the heyday of coastal sail.([9]) The cake trade however increased markedly in importance, especially at Poole, through both the "high-farming" and depression periods; at the turn of the century Poole imported cake to the value of £20,000 a year, in the years immediately prior to 1914 to £40,000. As with the grain trade orientation had changed, from London and Dover, cake importers and the destination of many clay and stone cargoes, in the fifties and sixties, to the tropical importing ports of Liverpool and Hull, and to Hamburg, from the seventies. Why did the cake trade flourish, the fertilizer trade fail to establish itself? Some suggestions have been made above; equally important fertilizer was an obvious area for economy as arable farming declined late in the century, while livestock farming was increasingly important and economically attractive, not least because of the diminishing cost of artificial feeding stuffs.

The agricultural trade of Poole and Weymouth during the nineteenth century thus serves to demonstrate and exemplify four points which may perhaps be of more than local significance. In the face of railway competition and agricultural change these ports could continue to handle a by no means insignificant, and widely varied, agricultural trade. The coming of the railways had a number of direct and indirect effects, serving particularly to eliminate maritime trade in perishable produce but certainly not in other agricultural commodities. The advent of ocean steamers and the increased dependence of Britain on imported food led to a reorientation of the grain trade of the second and third rank ports away from a wide ranging coastwise and overseas import and export trade to the more limited role of receiving shipments from the principal importing ports, notably London, with several of which Poole and Weymouth had other commercial connections. Changes in agriculture, notably the depression — on a shorter time scale individual seasons([10]) — likewise affected trade, notably in stimulating the import of grain and cake into ports with primarily agricultural hinterlands.

([5]) This trade was probably based on a flour mill opened in 1847 *Dorset County Chronicle,* 25.11.1847). During the middle decades of the nineteenth century Cornwall had a substantial mining population; the most frequent destinations of these cargoes, Falmouth and Plymouth, also suggest victualling.

([6]) See for example P. J. Perry, "Return Cargoes and Small Port Survival: two Dorset examples", *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society,* vol. 89, 1968, pp. 314-317.

([7]) This matter was discussed before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Somerset and Dorset Railway (Extension to Bath) Bill, 1870 (particularly evidence of J. Cosgrove 27.4.1870), and the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the London and South Western Railway, Midland Railway, and Somerset and Dorset Railway Bill, 1876. See also *Dorset County Chronicle* 28.9.1876 and 19.10.1876.

([8]) That corn imported at Poole had an extensive inland market was mentioned in 1895 by H. Burden in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the Poole Harbour Bill (27.3.1895).

([9]) The unsuitability of coastal sail for many agricultural cargoes was mentioned by J. Clampettes in 1846 in his evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Exeter, Yeovil, and Dorchester Railway Bill (18.5.1846). It is doubtful if he was being wholly objective.

([10]) Thus imports were low in 1864 and 1868, high in 1879 and 1880. In 1856 failure of the harvest in Portugal stimulated wheat export from Poole (see *Dorset County Chronicle* 18.12.1856).

Rural Radicalism at Cheselbourne

by Barbara Kerr. Photographs by J. N. Wilson

Today the parish of Cheselbourne with the larks singing above the encircling downland, the village scattered beside quietly flowing streams and the church emerging from a sea of foliage embodies the townsman's dream of rural tranquility. Yet a century ago the radical wind which was blowing through the villages of the Dorset chalkland reached gale force in Cheselbourne so that "the village was regarded as the most Gladstonian in West Dorset" (*Western Gazette*, 1 July 1892). Once Home Rule for Ireland and the disestablishment of the Church were in the air Gladstone's policies heralded, in the eyes of Conservatives and Unionists, an era of:

No Church, no property, no Throne;
No Power that is not his alone —
(*Dorset County Chronicle*, hereafter *D.C.C.*, 1 July 1886)

Far from seeking to abolish private property, the rural Radicals sought to restore to villagers the land of which they believed they had been dispossessed. These enthusiasts were wrongly named Radicals; they were the arch-conservatives seeking a return to the dawn of civilisation when to be landless was to be not a man but a slave. The whole essence of rural radicalism was expressed in a verse of the battle hymn sung by agricultural labourers at the Candlemas Hiring Fair in Dorchester (*D.C.C.* 18 February 1886):

Remembr that ye cannot claim
One acre or one sod
Give back the land, the wretched cry,
Ye stole if from your God.

At this fair some labourers felt themselves to be slaves, as they sought to catch an employer's eye by waiting armed with the tools of their trade: the carter's whip, the shepherd's crook and the hedger's gloves and hook. The question most often asked by the farmer was: "How many have you got?" A father with young sons ensured that the prospective employer had a future as well as immediate supply of labour. If a son wanted to move to better himself the father risked being told by his employer: "Go where your son has gone."

Like most charismatic movements rural radicalism sought to achieve conflicting aims: the redistribution of land, higher wages for agricultural workers and the right of villagers to have a say in the affairs of the nation, of the Church and of the parish. Sympathisers with these aims were often opposed to the large landowners and the clergy of the Established Church; but the real enemy was the large cultivator: the "Poor Farmer Grumps" derided in the Union song. The weakness of rural radicalism was that it sought to redistribute the land at a time when the agricultural depression of the late nineteenth century was turning the ownership of property not, as Arthur Young had hoped, into gold but into Sisyphus' stone continually falling back on to the cultivator.

Both the causes and the many aspects of rural radicalism can best be studied in one parish; and the obvious candidate for investigation is "Gladstonian" Cheselbourne. This parish with Milborne St Andrew and Piddletrenthide formed a triangular area of gorse and radicalism both which flourished on the Chalk downland. The area was as much abhorred by Conservatives as it was favoured by hunting men who in the yet unhedged fields were sure of "a fast forty minutes across country" (*D.C.C.* 4 March 1875). The chief sources used in this enquiry have been the local press and the gravestones around the parish church of St Martin. The use of these signposts to the past is not inappropriate at a time when the centenary of his death brings Hans Christian Andersen to the fore. The story teller found, "the newspaper and the graveyard most exciting things" as he well knew that from these alone could the currents of village life be charted. As far as newspapers are concerned Cheselbourne, having few inquests or festivities and neither murders nor strange paternity cases, made infrequent, but telling, appearances in the local press. But the lie of the graves in the churchyard would have pleased Andersen. Those whose lives were passed in the sunshine lie in the shade; while the headstones of those whose lives were overshadowed by penury absorb the full force of the morning sun. The memorials of successful farmers, of those whose hold on the land was precarious, of incumbents who vainly sought peace in the coombe, and of children all throw some light on the discontents which helped to make Cheselbourne a radical parish.

In the north-west corner of the old churchyard, overshadowed by down-sweeping horse-chestnut boughs, lies the grave of a man who had little taste for obscurity during life. In the break-up of large estates after the First World War, Richard Cave Bennett (1840-1923), who had been able to profit from the fillip which the war years gave agriculture, purchased the Cheselbourne property of Lord Rivers. If the tenants of the Pitt-Rivers family had complained of the rule of King Log, they did not altogether find King Stork, in the person of Richard Bennett and his son, Reginald, to their taste. The ability of the Bennetts to survive, as tenants of the Pitt-Rivers family, the agricultural depression of the 1890s and the lean post-war years was due to their tenacity and perspicacity. Neither father nor son had a sentimental attachment to a golden past when the pace of farming was set by sheep as they leisurely moved across the downland. Though they kept their flock of Dorset Horns until the end of the Second World War, the Bennetts realised that profits lay in dairy farming at a time when a cow was regarded in the village as a luxury for the well-to-do. Though by the 1890s the old ways of farming had little to offer the villagers, they resented the authority with which the Bennetts directed both their innovations and the affairs of the village from their stronghold of Eastfield Farm, once the humble dwelling of a common-field cultivator. The Bennetts were the prime movers at Conservative meetings, and also in the management of the Reading Room and of the Parish Council. The rural radicals had envisaged that the regeneration of the countryside would be achieved by the enfranchisement of the agricultural labourer and by the establishment of county and parish councils. The extension of the franchise to rural areas resulted in a run of Conservative governments; and within two decades the Dorset County Council was accused in the House of Commons as being a collection of "old women" and "the worst County Council in England". (*D.C.C.* 18 March 1909).

The benevolent paternalism of the Bennetts was resented; but the *laissez-faire* policy of the Pitt-Rivers family had reduced Cheselbourne to "a scene of desolation and a byword in the neighbourhood" (*D.C.C.* 20 December 1888). Poor housing was general throughout the Pitt-Rivers property which "having been long held by life tenants" was "notorious for its bad cottages" (*Reports from Commisioners*, Vol. XIII 1868, pp. 1-31, Report by the Hon. E. Stanhope on Dorset). Lord Rivers, who on the eve of enclosure in 1844 held almost a half of the 2581 acres of Cheselbourne, was not the villain of the piece; but the smallholder of land in the common fields, who had desperately tried to balance his farming losses by throwing up hovels and renting them to his

Fig. 1. The Parish Church of St. Martin protected by a wall from flocks on West Down.

Fig. 2. St. Martin's Churchyard Cross with the Baker and Hall gravestones to the right.

even more penurious neighbours. Testimonies to the unhealthiness of these habitations are not lacking in Cheselbourne churchyard. The memorial to Ann Riggs (1867-1871) tells a sad tale often repeated throughout Dorset:

This lovely bud so fair and young
Called hence by early doom
Came just to show how sweet a flower
In Paradise would bloom.

Ann Riggs, Susannah Kingsbury (1825/6-1842), William Trash (1861-1866), and Kate and Robert Tucker (both of whom died under two years of age) would have bloomed longer in this world had it not been for the frequent intermingling of the flows from cesspits with those of the drinking water which in Cheselbourne came mainly from the streams running through the village.

Despite the ravages of contaminated water supplies and of overcrowding, the population of Cheselbourne in 1861 reached a peak of 432 souls. This increase started when the Commons, such as Bramblecombe, were being closed to the villagers' pigs and geese; and when the holdings of manorial tenants, such as the Halls, were dwindling. The epitaph of John Hall (1733/9-1787) suggests that speeding the plough in the golden age of farming was not without its obstacles:

This silent stone this awful Truth declares
The Grave's the end of all our Anxious cares.

By the 1840s John Hall's descendants had transferred their activities from the land to the smithy and timber yard. For those dispossessed of their land but holding a little capital the crafts provided a safe anchorage during the agricultural revival of the mid-nineteenth century. With the onset of the rains and the depression in 1875 carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and builders made their way to the towns where their skills could be used. As the skills of the agricultural labourer were not needed off the land, the shoemaker remained in the village to provide his customers with boots and radical news.

The Bakers were another family of lifeholders who found it hard to keep a foothold in the echelons of the independent. When Robert Baker died in 1809 his children had some reasons to feel apprehensive about the future:

Our dearest friend on earth is gone
The day of his appointed time was come
We hope his change is for the best.

By 1851 only Esau Baker had kept his birthrate of twenty-five acres; his kinsmen were working as agricultural labourers and thatchers. The descent of those who had farmed small common-field holdings was so rapid that the memory of the old days was long kept green in isolated villages like Cheselbourne. In such areas the promise of three acres and a cow seemed a prelude to a return to a state of village life generally recognised as normal. Also, nearly every village had the example of some families who had been able to advance from the tenure of small and scattered holdings, and to encourage others to expect that better times awaited them. The history of the Riggs family in Cheselbourne illustrates this point. While in the 1850s members of Riggs family from the ages of nine to seventy-eight were working in the fields, two held prominent positions in the village: Old Samuel Riggs was parish clerk; and Levi Riggs, a Methodist lay-preacher, farmed 400 acres on which eighteen men and a number of boys were employed. As a prosperous farmer and miller, Levi Riggs was able to provide "a comfortable roof-tree" for visiting preachers at Waterside Farm and also to contribute towards the erection in 1866 of a Methodist Chapel in Cheselbourne. Tucked in the slope of the once common North Field, the small compact chapel was a reminder that all was not lost; labouring men as well as farmers could become lay-preachers. Within living memory the chapel was often too small to hold the congregations and the singing of those outside rolled through the village like a battle cry as, indeed, it was. Noncomformist ministers and lay-preachers in rural areas were often to the fore in supporting the demands of agricultural labourers for higher wages.

Some of the Wesleyan *élan* penetrated into the parish church during a blythe interregnum between the pastorates of Charles Barton and Thomas Beesley. For the Harvest Service in 1895 the churchwardens had a free hand and "were able to decorate the church in a chaste and effective manner"; while a more lively note was struck by a Wesleyan cornet-player accompanying the Anglican organist (*D.C.C.* 10 October 1895).

As an active Methodist Levi Riggs had a more stirring time than old Samuel Riggs who croaked the responses in St Martin's Church. Joseph Arch (1826-1919) considered the "shining lights of the Church as by Law Established were but poor farthing rushlights to the agricultural labourer". On this point many of the Anglicans assembled at the Church Congress of 1886 were in agreement with the labour leader. Dull preaching was cited as the chief reason for empty seats in the church and full ones in the chapel. The Bishop of Exeter, Edward Bickersteth declared: "If you want to warm a church you must know where to put the stove; the stove must be in the pulpit". The heating arrangements in St Martin's were not always satisfactory. The fire did not get into the pulpit until the arrival in 1909 of Charles Watts Whistler. As a former fisherman's chaplain, the author of stirring Viking tales and a man of outstanding geniality, Whistler warmed the church and the hearts of his parishioners; but the population of Cheselbourne had dropped to 194 souls.

During the critical years when bread prices rose and pauperism increased and when enclosure was followed by High Farming, the Cheselbourne living was held by Charles Birch (1797-1817) and by his son Thomas Wickham Birch (1820-1871). The agricultural tremors during these pastorates caused many country persons, harassed by the collection of tithes and the letting of glebe, to regret their landed interest. Private means, however, enabled father and son to enjoy many of the pleasures of country gentlemen without their anxieties. Both enlarged and embellished the rectory so that the residence built to house George Herbert's low-living country parson assumed an appearance of many roofed opulence. But the rambling "roof-tree" of the rectory did not harbour the parson alone. On entering the North Porch of St Martin's, the visitor cannot fail to notice a stone: "To the memory of four faithful servants in the family of the Rev. Charles Birch and his . . . son the Rev. Thomas W. Birch". Two maidservants and William May, who was seventy in 1841, found a home in the rectory for forty years, while for sixty Mary White mellowed with the building. Happy with these old companions, Birch had no wife to come forward "with soup an' a pudden, an' pill" for ailing parishioners: but he did fulfill an even more pressing need in Cheselbourne. Thomas Birch built and maintained a school on the doorstep of the rectory. The diamond-paned windows of the school, which still stands, were set high to ensure that children were not distracted by the outer world. The rector conducted his life on the same principle.

After two short-lived incumbencies Charles Barton followed Birch in 1873. Coming from the turmoil of Flixton and Urmston, parishes which were rapidly expanding under the smoke of Manchester, Barton hoped to find in Cheselbourne a refuge from radicalism and squalor. But just before his arrival Joseph Arch had taken his stand under Wellesbourne Tree and founded the National Agricultural Labourers' Union which offered a new gateway for the fulfillment of the old longing for land and responsibility. The need for such a union had been put forward a few years earlier by Edward Girdlestone (1805-1884) when vicar of Halberton in Devon.

When Barton arrived, Cheselbourne had the starve-acre appearance of a "village uncared for either by itself or its lord", a description which Thomas Hardy applied to the neighbouring district of Dole's Ash. The new incumbent found among his flock the same despairing apathy that had marked the last of the handloom weavers in his old parish. The fire that might have been in the

Fig. 3. The Rectory with its premises, barn and garden covered two acres in the mid-nineteenth century.

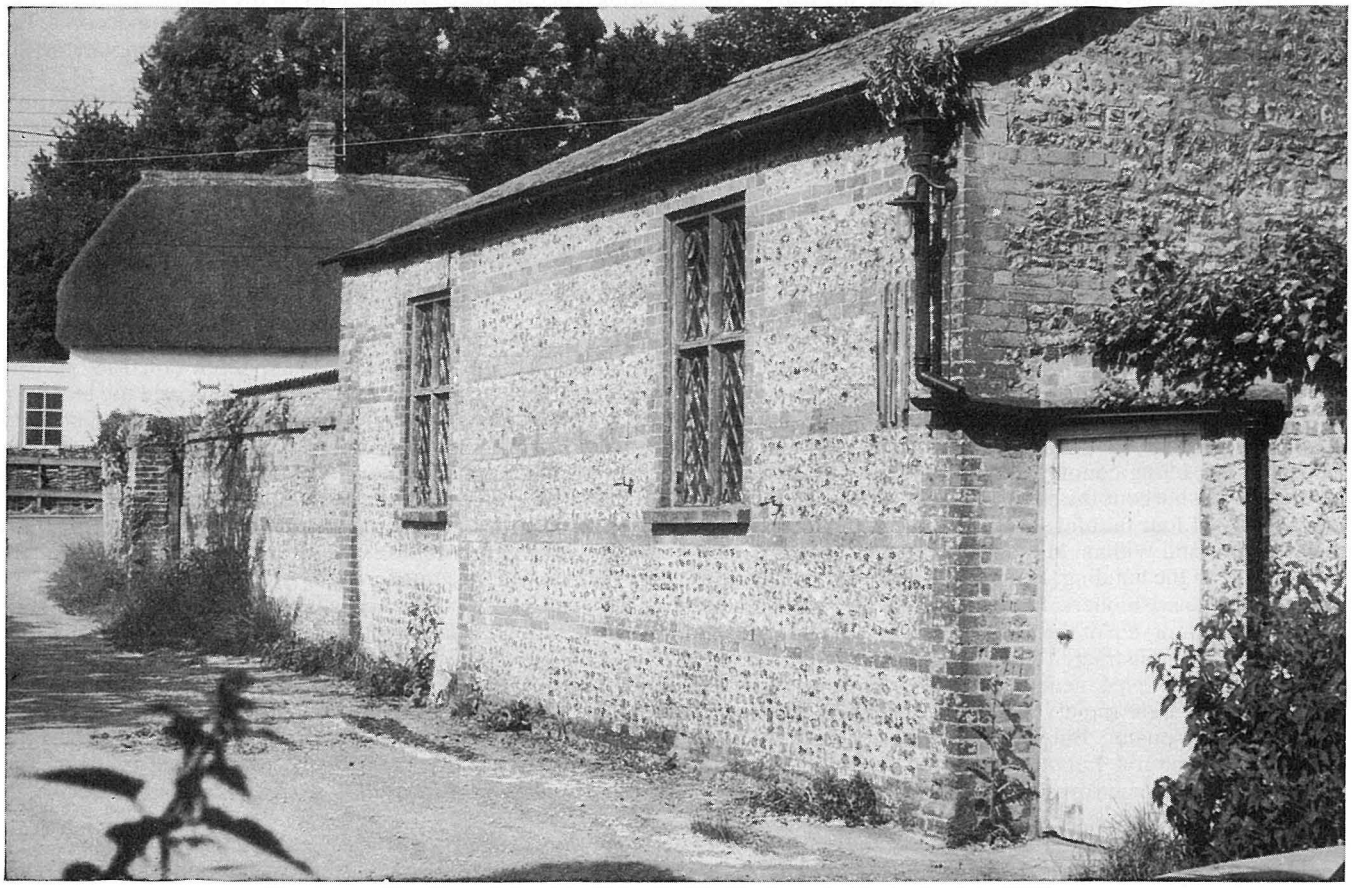

Fig. 4. The Free School built by T. W. Birch probably in the late 1840s.

pulpit was provided by the rural radicals. Perhaps their greatest hour was on the eve of the 1885 election when they brought the agricultural labourer the vote in one hand and the promise of three acres and a cow in the other. It was during this election that the phrase "radical rowdyism" came into use. At a Cheselbourne meeting a working man, speaking on behalf of the Conservatives, was constantly and noisily interrupted by a radical group led by Pain of Piddletrenthide (*D.C.C.* 16 April 1885).

The agricultural labourers' vote produced no political millenium; but the down-to-earth government of Lord Salisbury which stole some of the Radicals' thunder by passing acts to facilitate the provision of allotments and small holdings. These concessions which might have been fruitful in the 1830s and 1840s came too late. Lost causes, however, produce fierce fighters, and when Joseph Arch appeared at Cheselbourne in 1888 he was given a rousing welcome. Jesse Colling's dream of three acres and a cow for every labourer had appeared to Arch as "all moonshine"; and he had little time for Protection the current Conservative panacea for agricultural ills. Old men in Cheselbourne could have substantiated Arch's declaration that "he had not known that during the time that corn was dear employers were good natured enough to advance the wages of the labourers, as they said they would be ready to do" (JWD.CMC. 3 May 1888).

The meeting was presided over by S. T. Pike, a fervent back-to-the-land man. That he was chairman of Small-Holdings Committee shows that there was room for a Radical among the "old women" of the County Council. In his official capacity Pike came down to earth, and he told applicants coming on behalf of co-operative and of other groups: "If societies want their land they must dump down their money". (*D.C.C.* 18 March 1909). It is easy to forget that the back-to-the-land movement was nationwide. An almost mystical belief in small holdings as a panacea for all economic and social ills linked together many who had little else in common. The labourer believed: "I'd keep myzelf from parish . . . if I get a little patch o' ground", the Salvation Army strove to save souls from London doss-houses on the small holdings of their Hadleigh settlement and the vegetarians hoped to establish a meatless Eden at the Methwold colony. The political implications of the movement were not overlooked; Gladstone gave his blessing to "jam-farming" or small fruit-growing concerns, while by 1910 the Conservative candidate for South Dorset took a more positive stand: "I believe Peasant Proprietorship to be far better for the Country than the Radical-Socialistic idea of State Ownership and Tenant Farming" (*D.C.C.* 6 January 1910).

The great strength of Joseph Arch was that having been an agricultural labourer he understood the aspirations of the "poor sons of toil". He organised a union to secure higher wages, but he never lost sight of the basic longing for land: "I consider that granting land is the only practicable way of by which labourers can extricate themselves from poverty and serfdom". Yet Arch well knew that the success of a small holding often depended on the serfdom of the whole family. The Agricultural labourers' Union spent large sums on assisting emigration; but Arch, with the countryman's instinctive distrust of strangers, wondered why the best men should emigrate to make way for "many worthless pauper aliens . . . three of whom cannot do the work of one honest Englishman".

During the contest of 1892 the Unionist candidate for West Dorset, Henry Farquharson, set forth with the intrepidity of a Franklin to visit "the remotest eastern end of his wide and scattered constituency — namely the village of Cheselbourne". Some points raised at this meeting well illustrate a point that is often overlooked during elections:that there is an odd and unpredictable kick in the political pace of seemingly steady-going electors. The reason which one Liberal in Farquharson's audience gave for supporting Home Rule for Ireland would hardly have commended itself to Gladstone, "We don't want to mix up with that lot over there. We have enough to do to look after ourselves". The Home-Rule bogey which most effectively alarmed rural audiences was that if Irish landlords were brought out Irish Agricultural labourers would swarm over England. On the question of employment on the land, a labourer declared in one breath that work was scarce and that "if his master voted for Mr. Farquharson he would not continue to work for him". Though the Ballot Act had been passed two decades earlier voting was not secret in rural areas; electors seldom kept their mouths shut during the disputes and drinking which preceded polling. Well might Arch exhort his followers: "Be united, be sober, and you will soon be free".

The lodestar of many rural radicals was education, but some village electors believed that unless a boy could "hold plough" before he was twelve, he would never make an agricultural labourer. The carrot of free education which the Conservatives were dangling before the electorate did not find favour with one Cheselbourne voter: "We don't want no free education. I get an honest living and can pay my way". (*D.C.C.* 30 June 1892).

In the spring of 1895 the parties were at it again, and Charles Barton died in the aftermath of political rancour. The quiet retirement he had sought eluded him, and the appropriate text on his headstone is: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God". During an election meeting at Cheselbourne, James Christopher asked the inevitable question about small holdings (*D.C.C.* 9 May 1895). That Christopher took the lead in public discussion and was elected one of the parochial school governors (*D.C.C.* 18 March 1909) indicates that times were slowly changing. In the 1850s the Christophers had struggled to survive as agricultural labourers in the shadow of the workhouse. They kept up their spirits by bestowing on their sons names — such as Darius and Willoughby — which would be suited to the positions of importance they might achieve when times got better.

The reason that the Christophers and many of their fellow parishioners were able to emerge from the shadows at the turn of the twentieth century was that during the depression villagers had been steadily leaving Cheselbourne. The craftsmen went to the towns and agricultural labourers moved more freely from farm to farm. On 6 April the waggons loaded with household gear were a usual sight in Dorset villages. Viewing the mounds of dusty bedding and curtains onlookers would shout from their windows: "Keep your fleas to yourself" The more adventurous moved further afield; but not all the long journeys had happy endings. William Rogers, the descendant of a small Cheselbourne farmer, emigrated to Canada early this century. Rogers was determined to "send a few dollars" to his mother whom he was unable to support with the 8s. a week which he earned at Frampton. When war broke out he enlisted, was sent to France and was killed at the Battle of Arras. The Tucker brothers were equally unfortunate. When the daughter of David Trash, an agricultural labourer, married George Tucker who lodged with the Trash family, she was not considered to have done well for herself. As one of the six sons of a rag collector, Tucker had no bright prospects. Two sons of this union determined to escape from the stagnation of Cheselbourne by joining the navy. William at the age of twenty-seven died in *H.M.S. Patrol* on 13 January 1907, and a year later his elder brother, Algie, died in *H.M.S. Bulwark*. The lines on their headstone exactly expresses the bewildered misery of those who lived through the hard times and whose lot the rural radicals strove to improve:

Not now but in the coming years
It may be in the better land
We'll know the reason of our tears
And there sometime we'll understand.

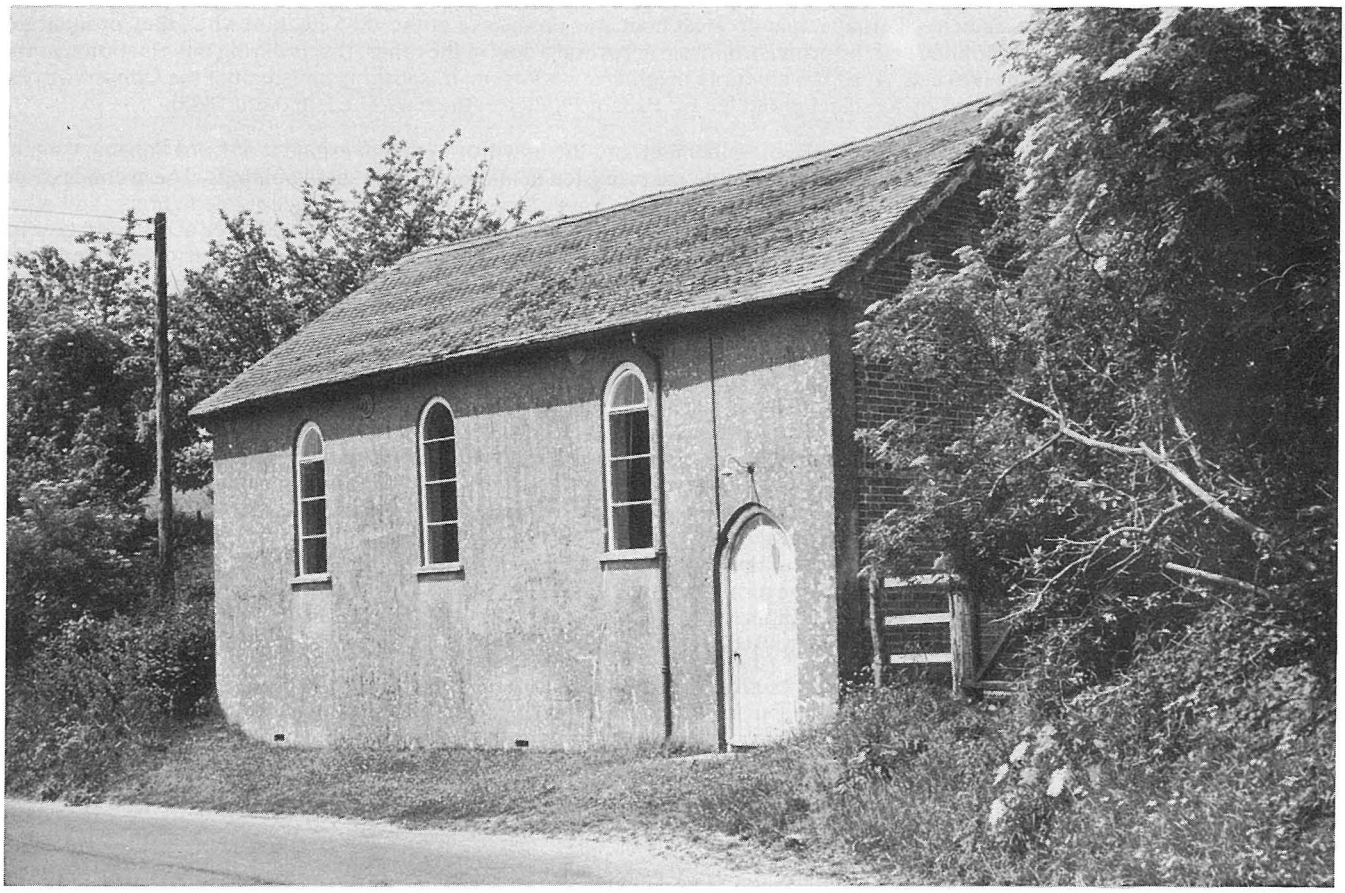

Fig. 5. The Primitive Methodist Chapel erected in 1866.

Fig. 6. Eastfield Farm enlarged after enclosure in 1844.

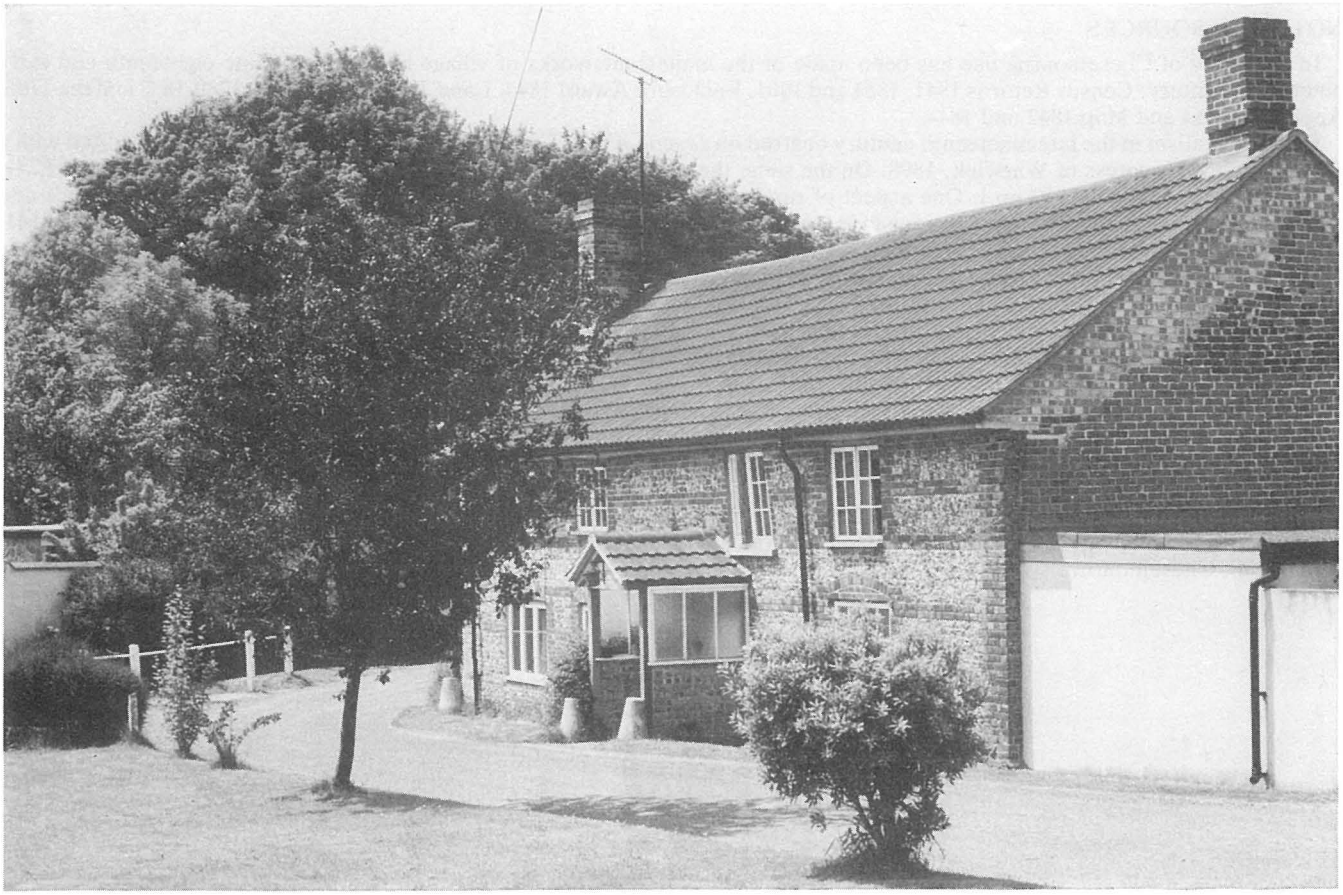

Fig. 7. Northfield Farm built over a century before official enclosure.

Fig. 8. A cob cottage built on a track, now Streetway, once running through North, East and Little Fields.

NOTES ON SOURCES

In the study of Cheselbourne use has been made of the main frameworks of village history in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century: Census Returns 1841, 1851 and 1861, Enclosure Award 1844, Land Tax Assessments 1780-1832 and the Tithe Apportionment and Map 1842 and 1844.

Rural radicalism in the late nineteenth century centred on *Joseph Arch, The Story of his Life told by Himself* and edited with a Preface by the Countess of Warwick, 1898. On the same theme appeared A. Clayden, *The Revolt of the Field* 1874, and F. G. Heath, *Joseph Arch* 1874 (10 pp.). One aspect of rural radicalism is fully covered by J. P. D. Dunbabin, 'The Incidence and Organisation of Agricultural Trades Unionism in the 1870s' in *The Agricultural History Review*, 1968, Vol. 16, part 2, pp. 114-141; and another can be deduced from J. S. Simon, *Methodism in Dorset* 1870. The last word on the man on whom so much discussion centred was said by Thomas Hardy in *Longman's Magazine* July 1883, pp. 252-269, The Dorsetshire Labourer, reprinted by H. Orel, *Thomas Hardy's Personal Writings* 1967, pp. 168-191.

Even more than the written word, far-reaching memories help to recreate the past. For this invaluable aid I am most grateful to Mr. F. H. Bullen of Northfield Farm, Cheselbourne, and formerly of Waterside Farm, which still has the long, steeply pitched roof that inspired J. Simon's reference to Levi Riggs' ''roof-tree''; to Mr. W. Hardy of Longthorns for his account of the Rogers family, and his recollections of the Hiring Fair and the housemoving activities of 6 April, and to Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Whelan, Cheselbourne. Mrs. Whelan (née Curtis) attended Birch's school during the incumbency of the Reverend C. W. Whistler. The school still stands and the small building would provide an ideal setting for the reconstruction of a mid-nineteenth century village schoolroom.

I am also grateful for general information and help given by Miss G. M. Inch of Cheselbourne, Mrs. D. N. Hardwick of Eastfield Farm, Cheselbourne, The Reverend D. B. Pennal, incumbent of Cheselbourne, Hilton and Melcombe Horsey, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Upshall, Cheselbourne.

Cheselbourne Church by A. F. Wilson

Archaeological Notes and News for 1975

Edited by R. A. H. Farrar

INTERIM NOTE ON EXCAVATIONS AT THE CULVER WELL MESOLITHIC SITE, PORTLAND, 1975

Work this year on the Mesolithic habitation site at Culver Well concentrated on opening new trenches in Field 2153, immediately to the north of the previous seasons' excavations, in order to establish the northern limits of the site. This involved excavating a large trench through the lowermost mediaeval strip-lynchet (to be referred to as lynchet 1) and extending the trenches onto the higher field or terrace. The outline of a small structure, probably of wood, was found in the yellow loam constituting the mediaeval and later deposits above the prehistoric layers; it may have been a cattle or sheep enclosure or even a shepherd's hut. A fair quantity of sherds was collected and material suggests a late mediaeval or even 17th century date for the lynchets.

The overall dimensions of the Mesolithic site, as far as now excavated, are 107 by 56 feet (some 32 by 17 metres) and the Mesolithic stone floor (Fig. 1), which forms an important feature of the site, now measures approximately 102 by 12 feet. The floor, described in previous notes in the *Proceedings*, was found to run on into the area uncovered this year; in other words, the habitation area extended some way up the ancient hill-slope at the foot of which the main part of the site is situated. In the northernmost part of the new area the floor was found to lie directly on the natural rubbly loam of the Lower Purbeck beds, while in the centre part of the site it lies on top of a large shell-midden. The spread of stones was found to end abruptly about 5 feet from the slope of the second lynchet (lynchet 2) from the road that forms the northern border of Field 2153. There is some element of doubt as to whether this was really the original limit of the floor, in view of the fact that the topsoil here is only about 6 inches thick above the natural rubbly loam, while plough scars can also be detected on this loam in this particular area. A small section excavated into the slope of lynchet 2 did not produce any conclusive evidence. Some stones were found here but they were probably derivative, as they were tumbled at an angle within the mediaeval loam, and it was not immediately clear whether they had been disturbed from the floor immediately lower down, or perhaps from a continuation of the floor higher up in the third field, not at present available for research. It was also found that a gulley, about 3 feet deep, once existed on the western edge of the floor, and that this helped to drain rainwater away from the main living areas into the larger depression at the bottom of the hill. The gulley may have been completely natural, or perhaps artificially enlarged. It gradually filled up with stiff yellow-brown clay into which some of the stones from the floor slipped.

The gulley and the clay deposit were not found in the northernmost 5 feet of the excavated site; since this absence coincides with the possible termination of the floor, it may strengthen the argument that we have in fact found the limit of the floor here. The ploughed-up stones may then have belonged to a low east-to-west wall to help divert the mud into the gulley. A small *sondage* in the third field from the road, north of the current excavations, could solve this problem. Various features suggested that more hearths may be found along the eastern edge of that part of the floor uncovered this year. Adjoining one of these possible hearths an area of actual living floor was uncovered, to reveal several picks, chopping-tools and pebble pounders *in situ*, suggesting that food was prepared here.

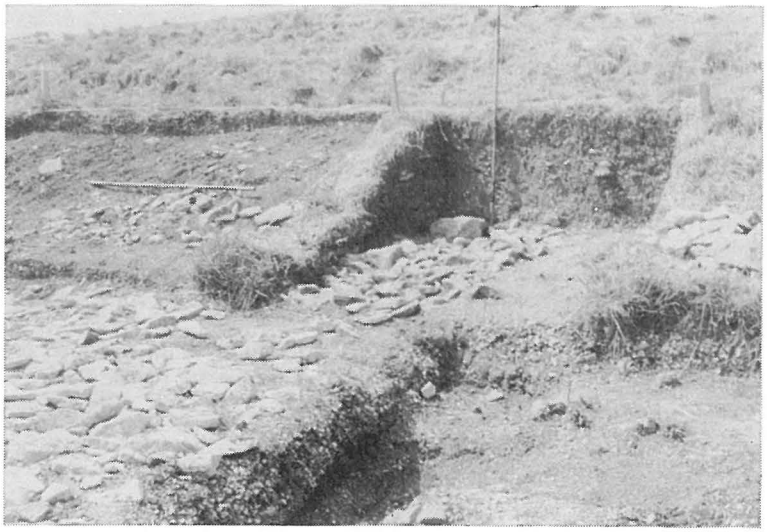

Fig. 1. Mesolithic limestone floor, Culver Well, Portland, below field lynchet (*The large stone to rear covered the ritual deposit, 1974*).

The main achievement of this year's work was the better understanding of the ecological background of the settlement permitted by the clearance of a much larger area than had previously been possible. As the layers belonging to the various habitation phases can now be correlated, it can be seen that the first Mesolithic settlers at Culver Well lived on the slope of a fairly steep hill at the base of which there was a shallow oval depression, about 20 feet wide and some three feet deep at its greatest, which was filled with clay and perhaps often rather boggy. They camped initially on the natural rubbly loam of the hillside, throwing their mainly molluscan food refuse into the muddy depression until a small artificial mound was formed. They may, shortly after their arrival, have laid down the earliest part of the floor on the rubbly loam in the northernmost part of the site. At least one post, of unknown purpose, was planted towards the edge of the depression, as shown by a hole found previously in Trench 4 below the midden. At some stage in this phase a cooking-pit, 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep, was dug into the natural Purbeck bed about 20 feet east of the depression, as reported in previous interim reports. The main part of the floor was then placed on top of the midden, which helped to drain rainwater away; the floor extended onto the natural loam again south of the depression, in the area adjoining the present road. There may have been another low wall here to break the wind, which seems also at that date to have been south-westerly. All the hearths so far found were along the eastern edge of the floor,

obviously to prevent the smoke from blowing into the shelters in it. The thick deposit of clay in the gulley, shows clearly that during the Mesolithic occupation of the site and probably afterwards, a lot of water was coming down the hillside, and suggests that we are dealing with a wet but possibly warm climate (The Atlantic, c.6000 B.C.), which is also indicated by the two radiocarbon dates of c.5,200 B.C.

Several practical experiments also threw light on the way of life of the Mesolithic occupants. For instance, during previous work on the site, it had seemed as though some stones had formed a fairly straight line near the western edge of the floor, before it tilted downwards on the slope of the shell-midden, and this straight line became more apparent this year on the larger excavated areas. A very simple hut or shelter was built by the volunteers with sticks and grass, using this straight line as the western margin and employing various roughly circular arrangements of stones as post-holes. West of the straight line one tended to roll down the slope when lying down on the grass bed; this suggested that there might originally have been a shallow wall of piled stones in this position, to mark off the sleeping area and to help keep off wind and and rain. The hut was constructed on roughly the same pattern as that used by pygmy tribes north of Brazzaville in Africa. The experiments showed that this was quite a feasible habitation pattern for this site and that a hut about the size of a large double-bed could quite easily sleep two adults and two children; the site could therefore have accommodated about 20 to 24 people in a series of shelters.

The 'ritual feature' of a triangular capstone with objects buried beneath it, found last year, can now be seen to lie towards the northern end of the main part of the floor and within the area shown by our experiments to have been a sleeping area. Two other larger than usual triangular stones were found near this capstone; one had a stone-lined hole under it, which was, however, empty; the other did not cover a hole. The meaning of the feature is still obscure, although it seems to have had something to do with the ethics of living on the site.

SUSANN PALMER

SOME PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN FINDS FROM PORTLAND

A Neolithic Leafpoint from Sandholes

A Neolithic leafpoint of Portland chert has been found at the cliff edge at Sandholes (SY 687690) on the south-east coast of the Isle of Portland (Fig. 2, a). It is typical of the British early Neolithic period, c.3,200-2,900 B.C., as found at sites like Hembury and Windmill Hill causewayed camps. As far as is known, this is the only leafpoint of this particular type yet found on the Isle, although almost identical specimens of Portland chert have been found at Carn Brea (Cornwall) and East Week and Hembury (Devon) indicating folk-movement from Portland (1). The evidence for the Neolithic settlement of the Isle does not seem substantial at present, although it is possible that at least some of the barrows destroyed by quarrying during the early part of the century were of that period. Artifacts of possible late Neolithic age were found by the writer in fair quantity several years ago on a site at Weston (SY 688714), but unfortunately the site was destroyed and the Haylands Estate built on it before there was an opportunity for investigation. Two polished axes of Neolithic types were recently found on the Isle but are at present being sectioned and will be reported in a future issue of the *Proceedings*.

An Ivory Disc from near Culver Well

Half of a small ivory disc (Fig. 2, b) was recently found in plough-soil on the south-east coast at SY 686691 in an area of predominantly Mesolithic associations, not far from the Culver Well habitation site. Dr. I. W. Cornwall, at the London University Institute of Archaeology, kindly examined it and was of the opinion that it was made from a thin section of fossil ivory, horizontally sliced from the surface of a piece of tusk. The object was probably a pendant.

Another ivory disc was found several years ago about a third of a mile away, near Site 1 where Mesolithic and some Late Palaeolithic material was mixed (2). That one too was identified as fossil ivory, but it was made from a slice of ivory vertically cut from the thickness of a piece of tusk. It was thought to be of either Late Palaeolithic date or else made in Mesolithic times from a piece of older fossil ivory. From the evidence obtained from Site 1, it would appear that, at least in some parts of the Isle the Palaeolithic levels were still exposed during the Mesolithic period. Remains of the Pleistocene woolly mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*) have been found in some of the Portland fissures (3). Ivory discs are common in European Upper Palaeolithic contexts.

It is therefore at present impossible to assign either of these discs definitely to one or other cultural context. One can only hope that another will be found during a controlled excavation of a stratified site on the Isle.

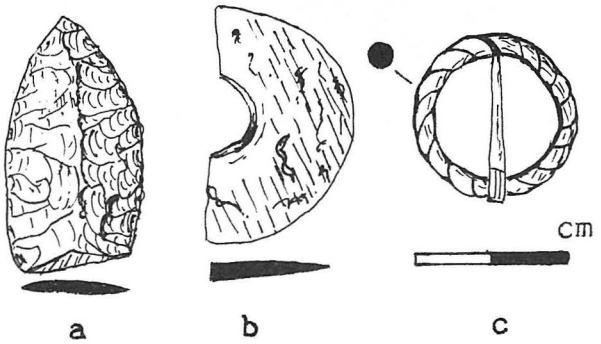

Fig. 2. Prehistoric and Roman objects, Portland.

(1) S. Palmer, 'The Stone Age industries of the Isle of Portland, Dorset, and the utilization of Portland chert as an artifact material in Southern England', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, Vol. 36, 1970, 82-115.

(2) *Proc. Dorset N. H. & A.S.*, Vol. 91 (1969), 172-3.

(3) J. N. Carreck, 'The fauna of the Portland caves and fissures, Dorset', *Trans. Cave Res. Gp. of Gt. Britain*, Vol. 7 (2), 1966, 205-8.

A Roman Penannular brooch from Longstone Ope

The bronze brooch illustrated (Fig. 2, c) was found by Mr. Roy Palmer on the cliff path near Longstone Ope Quarries at approximately SY 688693. The pin became detached from the circular part as it was picked up, but it is otherwise in a good condition. Simple penannular brooches are common throughout the Roman period. Many archaeologists are of the opinion that they served as buckles rather than brooches.

Although very few details are yet known of Roman buildings and occupation sites on Portland, other remains of this period, particularly burials, are fairly common. It would therefore appear that Portland probably played an important role in the Romanization of Dorset.

A Roman stone coffin from Portland.

During August the writer was called to no. 83 Weston Road, Portland, by builders renovating the house. While demolishing some outbuildings in the garden, they had come across what appeared to be a small coffin. It is made of Portland limestone and the external measurements are 27 inches long by 18 wide and 10 high; it was still covered by a heavy limestone lid with slightly irregular surface but averaging 6 inches in thickness. The coffin itself had been fairly roughly chiselled, but the upper surface of the lid, which fitted tightly and exactly, had been smoothed. It was lifted by us. There were no human remains but one or two pieces of blue and white china indicated that it had been disturbed quite recently; the soil underneath it and round it also contained recent rubbish. We came to the conclusion that it had been brought to this address not so long ago and may have been used in the wash-house or garden as a working surface. There is no hole anywhere in the object, so that it could not possibly have been used as a washtub at any time. The small dimensions suggests that it was a child's coffin. There are several similar coffins in the Portland Museum, although this is the only one with the lid. One of these, found at some unknown date, has a hole in the side for drainage, which suggests that at least some of the smaller coffins found on the Isle in the past, were converted for use as washtubs or the like.

The original findspot of this coffin is not known, nor how it came to be at this address. It is now in the Portland Museum.

SUSANN PALMER

INTERIM NOTE ON EXCAVATIONS AT HAMBLEDON HILL NEAR BLANDFORD, DORSET, 1974-5

In 1974 and 1975 two seasons of a campaign of excavation took place to strip just under a half of the interior of one of the class of little understood Neolithic hilltop 'causewayed camps' which is situated on Hambledon Hill near Blandford. In these two seasons a large area of the interior was stripped to reveal a series of shallow features which, together with those recovered in future seasons, will enable us to attempt some reconstruction of the activities taking place within the enclosure. In the causewayed ditch surrounding the site a complex series of fillings took place, commencing with the sporadic deposit of detached human skulls and ending with the partial redigging of the ditch and a rich deposit of what we would call domestic debris.

So shallow are the features of the interior that the need for the excavation in advance of heavy ploughing has been much emphasized by the work so far. Many archaeological traces will have already vanished and many others now only 10 to 20 cm deep will have vanished within the next few years.

R. J. MERCER

A NOTE ON THE DORSET SECTION OF THE SARSEN STONE SURVEY

During 1974 and 1975 a small group of members of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society took part in the survey of sarsen stones which initiated the Evolution of the Landscape Project of the Society of Antiquaries of London. The survey was intended to evaluate possible methods of collaborative research over Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire, while providing information on a subject of both geological and archaeological interest.

For Dorset 117 tally sheets were made out, covering 62 single stones and 55 groups, the latter varying from two to hundreds. Each sheet gave details of position, size, composition, geological situation and relationship to archaeological features. In most cases a 35 mm colour slide was also taken. The distribution of both utilised and natural sarsens was plotted on 1:25,000 ($2^1/_2$ inch to 1 mile) maps and on the 1:100,000 county map. The sheets, slides and maps were formally taken into the care of the Society of Antiquaries at a meeting at Burlington House in May 1975. They are deposited in that Society's library. The Dorset material was supplemented with samples of stone.

While full publication and an evaluation of the survey will be made in the Journal of the Society of Antiquaries the following note may be of general interest.

1. *The "Clay with Flint" Group*

The sarsen stones occurring in association with the chalk are most frequently to be found where there is overlying 'clay with flint' or 'pebbly clay'. The Valley of Stones, at the east end of the Bride valley, is the centre of a concentration where pure sandstone and conglomerates often lie side by side. One important result of the survey was the discovery, in the dry valley to the east of the Valley of Stones and to the south of Hardy's Monument, of another such concentration. This was cleared in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, much of the stone being incorporated in the field walls built to enclose the cleared area. In one wall alone over two hundred and fifty sarsens had been built into the base.

The minor groups of stones along the line of the chalk to the north of the Bride Valley are an extension of this main group, while single stones occur sporadically over the whole of the chalk area of central Dorset. Stones with archaeological associations are concentrated to the east and north of the Bride Valley. Fourteen such sites were noted. Amongst them are those generally described as "chambered tomb" remnants. In the light of the natural sarsen distribution and the evidence from Corscombe (see below) these must be considered suspect unless confirmed by some excavation. Very few sarsens were recorded in the north-east of the county.

2. *The "Reading Beds" Group.*

The stones which form the marked but relatively small concentration in the parishes of West Knighton and Broadmayne are associated with the Reading Beds of the Tertiary formations of East Dorset. Consisting only of sand grains cemented by silica they have a uniform greyish-brown appearance on the outside. Some of these were considered by earlier antiquaries to be of

archaeological significance but there is no such evidence remaining. Much of the stone has been removed as it can be worked into sizeable building blocks. These can be seen in the building of Little Mayne Farm. A similar type of scattered individual stones were reported from the Bagshot Beds in and around Bournemouth.

3. *The "Fullers Earth" Group*

From Toller Down to the north-east of Beaminster a series of sarsens extends northwards through Corscombe and thence to Halstock. These are generally uniform in composition (sand-grain) and external appearance (purplish). The group is concentrated on the low Jurassic plain to the north of the chalk escarpment with outliers on Toller Down. Although none of these stones has been considered other than in its natural situation, several were noted to be upright while others in the vicinity were horizontal. One large stone was found almost completely buried in an upright postion. Here again some investigation is required in the light of the possiblity of 'natural' standing stones.

The thanks of our Society and of the writer are extended to all those who helped with the survey, particularly to Norman Field, who ranged widely over East Dorset, and to Maureeen Jackson who recorded very many stones in the small area round Portesham.

JOHN BAILEY

RING DITCHES NEAR THE DORSET CURSUS AT PENTRIDGE

This summer, 1975, the drought made it possible to observe the crop marks of the Dorset Cursus more clearly than in previous years. The "lines" of the Cursus in the fields opposite Whitey Top above Earthpit's Lane, where it passes through an arable field, could be sited in the field itself at SU 035184 to 036185. They could, however, be better observed from Whitey Top where the visual length was from its junction with Morgan's Lane across three fields towards Bokerley Dyke, where it disappeared as a "parched" crop mark in an advanced corn crop. Mrs White was milking at Whitey Top and she said that the "lines" had been visible at different times since she was a child but never as clearly as this; she had no idea what the lines were but had been vaguely told that they were part of an old race-course.

Two days later (13.7.75), from below Penbury Knoll, at SU 03101705, the Cursus could be seen as a crop mark, leaving Salisbury Plantation and crossing a track, then, as lighter lines, in a ploughed field up to SU 03191780/03191785 where it was lost until it had crossed Morgan's Lane. The last section observed was beyond Bowling Green Lane, but I still could not see the termination. It was from this point that I observed the first ring ditch; later the same day another was seen by myself and a friend, from the path leading from the village of Pentridge to Penbury Knoll. The following day I reported them to John David, the farmer, who told me that this was the first time that the Cursus had been seen clearly since 1921 (the year of the last major drought) and that he and his brother had seen the circles two days previously. There were in fact three ring ditches in the field, and with the farmer's permission they were photographed on 18th July (Fig. 3) and surveyed on the 19th. The first ditch, at SU 03631815, was a clear circle 68 feet in diameter, with a 3 to 4-foot ditch; the second (SU 03581811) was also a clear circle 75 feet in diameter, with a 3 to 4-foot ditch and a mark in the south-west quadrant approximately 14 feet square, possibly an excavation hole (but see below). The third ring (SU 03521808) was not such a clear circle and had an approximate diameter of 72 feet and a ditch about 8 feet wide.

Fig. 3. Three ring-ditches at Pentridge in the drought of 1975. *Photo: James Sullivan.*

These circles are I believe previously unrecorded, or at least unidentified in the modern archaeological records, and lie in an area of much activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. It is possible that they could be Grinsell's Pentridge bowl-barrows 13b, c and d ("Dorset Barrows", 1959, p. 123), the three barrows opened by Hoare and Cunnington. Part of Hoare's description of the barrows is as follows (Ancient Wilts, Vol. 1, pp. 234-5):-

". . . The largest contained two skeletons, and several instruments of iron, viz. a lance-head, two knives, and an article of bone. Tumuli XXXI. No. 1, 2. In the other barrow we found a large sepulcral urn of rude half-baked pottery, and simply ornamented, with its mouth placed upwards, and within it an interment of burned bones. The top of the urn seems to have been covered by two flat pieces of rude unworked flint. Having observed a cavity among the flints, and finding the ground soft, we dug further towards the South, and discovered a large cist, three feet deep; on the floor of which was a smaller urn of that species which I have denominated drinking cups, coloured red, slightly glazed, and of infinitely better workmanship than the larger sepulcral urn. It is rather singular that this cup should have been deposited without its usual attendant, the skeleton".

The cist in the second barrow could possibly be the square crop mark in my second ring ditch. Hoare continues:-

". . . We opened also another barrow on the same side of the ditch, but nearer to Woodyates Inn, which contained many new and curious articles. On making our section, we found the tumulus surrounded with large sarsen stones, and perceived several articles of iron intermixed with the chalk".

These "large sarsen stones" could possibly account for the large ditch of my third circle in that a peristalith would possibly support a larger barrow than the others.[4].

On August 3rd John David told me of another circle in the field south of Bowling Green Lane, at SU 03211827. This was also surveyed. It had a diameter of 75 feet and a ditch approximately 10 feet wide; this site is, I believe, totally unknown. In conclusion I have to thank Mr. James Sullivan for his help, photographic and otherwise.

W. H. HOADE

INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERIES AT REDCLIFF NEAR WAREHAM

A modest programme of excavation was begun in May 1975 at Redcliff Farm, Ridge, on the south bank of the Frome, less than a mile S.E. of the centre of Wareham. Its main purpose is to investigate the working methods of the Purbeck potters producing the black-burnished ware that became so extensively used and copied in Roman Britain, at least in its three main forms — cooking-pots, bowls and dishes.

The excavation, under the aegis of the Society, was made possible by the permission and practical help given by the farmer, Mr. Nigel Barnes, and with the assistance of Weymouth College of Education in the provision of volunteers and equipment. Thanks are due to Phyllis Aylward, Reg Davis, Marianne Gardner-Willoughby, and Rosemary Maw, and equally to Tony Brown, who also discovered the site in 1954, and Anthony Clark of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, Department of the Environment, who carried out a fluxgate gradiometer survey prior to the excavation.

Several interesting series of anomalies were picked up by the gradiometer in both arable fields in which Mr Brown carried out trial excavations in 1954 (SY 935867 and 935866), but in the event neither was available for work this year. Further west, however, Mr Brown had noticed sherds, raw clay and burnt earth in the back-filling of a drain recently dug down the east side of the smaller field (SY 933867) from a boggy patch in its south-east corner slightly below the crest of the low ridge which, near the farmhouse, is cut away dramatically to expose the reddish (Bagshot) sands that give the locality its name. This field was similarly tested, yielding a further series of anomalies avoiding, it seemed, both the higher ground towards and upon the crest, and the lowest bordering on the alluvial flood-plain.

The gradiometer survey in these three fields yielded a variety of anomalies suggesting fairly dense groupings of small, distinct and often somewhat elongated features, both shallow and deep, ranging in strength of reaction from relatively weak (10 gamma) to strong (50 gamma). The stronger would on a site of this nature usually be supposed to betray the presence of kilns or similar fired structures but probes into several with a coring tool failed to bring up indications of such, but produced instead quantities of red burnt earth, such as Mr. Brown and the late Harry Burr have recorded in association with 'ash' and oxidized black-burnished ware, some of it cracked and distorted, in their excavations in the early 'fifties, both here and further west, to the fringes of the village of Stoborough[5].

The westerly of two strong anomalies, apparently distinct but close together on either side of the aforementioned drain, on ground rising at about 1 in 7, was selected for excavation (SY 93360:86713). Apart from a small oven or cooking-hole lined with Purbeck burr-stone in an upper level, about 2.0 m south of the centre of the registered anomaly, no structural features or indications that such might have existed were found in the area of some 11 sq. m stripped. A piece of modern iron equipment with a screw thread, about 10 cm long, found near the surface close to the anomaly centre, could well have affected the reading. On the other hand, the succession of deposits revealed between topsoil and the natural compact yellowish sand, at an average depth of about 1.0 m, was wholly consistent with the picture suggested elsewhere by coring. Below a homogeneous, fine-textured deposit of dark 'sooty' earth, in which the 'oven' had been built, similar layers — more silty or clayey in texture and more richly black towards the base — were flecked with patches or interleaved by lenses of brilliant tile-red earth (Fig. 4).

While these deposits tended to decline northwards in conformity with the slope of the hill, the surface of the natural sand was irregular, falling sharply from a high point 0.70 m below present ground surface in the south-west corner of the excavation to 1.0 m below at the south-east and north-east corners. The impression given is that of a shallow scoop into the hillside, of which we have been excavating the south-west segment, but the area so far stripped is insufficient to permit more positive conclusions.

The thin lamination of the lower deposits towards the north-east does not suggest deliberate manual filling. Analysis of the soils is awaited, but it is not impossible that they are the result of combustion *in situ*, although the natural surface did not present obvious signs of subjection to heat. The intermediate, red-flecked deposits do resemble deliberate filling, unless they were merely disturbed, but the homogeneous upper 'sooty' horizon, which might prove to overlie the area as a whole rather than to be confined within the postulated scoop, is less easy to evaluate. So far as it goes, however, the evidence from past and present

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(4) In March 1976 the farmer reported yet another circle in the triangular field west of Morgan's Lane, approximately 40 yards from the hedge and in line with the other three ring-ditches.

(5) R.C.H.M., "Dorset", Vol. II, 1970, part 3, 592-3; *Proc. Dorset N.H. & A.S.*, Vol. 74 (1952), 95-6, Vol. 76 (1954), 81-2.

excavation, and from coring, does afford some support for the view that neither conventional kilns of fired clay, nor turf-built equivalents involving the use of a proportion of purpose-made kiln furniture such as fire-bars, were normally employed by the regional potters, or potting communities, either in the Roman or the Early Iron Age phase of the Durotrigian industry.

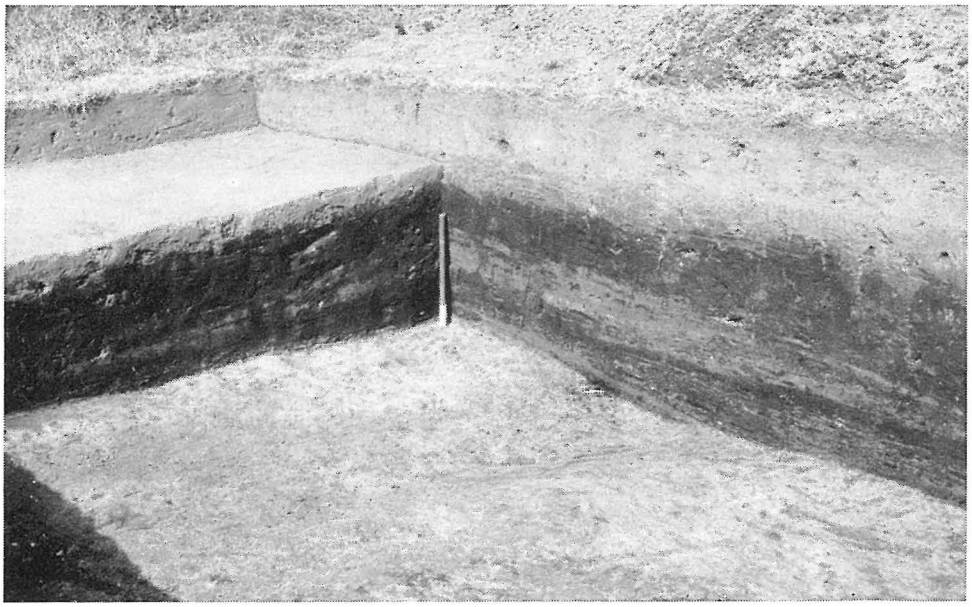

Fig. 4. Deposits of burnt material, Redcliff near Wareham, view north-east (1/2 metre scale). *Copyright: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England).*

A considerable quantity of pottery was found, although not a remarkable one in comparison with that recovered from waster dumps of some other pottery industries. Nearly all of it was black-burnished ware oxidized tile-red to light grey (6), mostly friable from underfiring, and an appreciable amount crazed and distorted. Such sherds as were black were always ostensibly properly fired and may well have come from vessels that were in normal use, or that had been accidentally broken before marketing. The evidence from this and from other Purbeck sites certainly or probably involving pottery manufacture is now sufficient to show that the waster material from spoiled loads was not black. Since we know that the marketed ware was black, two alternative explanations are possible; either (i) the blackening process was a secondary one, carried out only on batches of vessels that had successfully passed through earlier stages of firing, or (ii) it was a preliminary process, the effects of which were destroyed as one of the consequences of misfiring.

Modern primitive potting offers instances of a preliminary process of soot-soaking, and it is known that one of the difficulties is to avoid the burning-out of the deposited carbon during the subsequent main firing (7). This seems an unlikely explanation in our case, however, because it is not easy to see why this should have been a feature of all our misfirings — in other words, why we should not still have a proportion of black wasters.

If we accept the first proposition, that the blackening process was secondary (although not necessarily a distinct operation), two inferences may be made: the success of the main firing must have been established, and the secondary process must have been of a nature free from risks affecting the quality of the product other than its colour, for if either of these conditions was not satisfied black wasters could be expected on occasion. The first of these inferences may lend support to the view that permanent or temporary structures effectively concealing the load from anything more than partial inspection were not the rule in Purbeck, unless the blackening process was not merely secondary but separate, taking place after the successful unloading of a kiln. The second inference, that the process must have been a safe one, may help to make the concept of a separate soot-soaking, at a relatively low temperature, but in reverse order to the modern primitive practice, an attractive one. It also seems to show what the writer has suspected for other reasons, that the black colour of our ware was not the result of chemical 'reduction' of the iron compounds present in the clay, as is generally now assumed, for reduction requires the maintenance of high temperatures such as obtain during a regular firing under oxygen-restricted conditions, and during which spoiling could well occur that would yield black wasters.

The pottery originally recovered by Mr. Brown some 200 m east of the present site included a considerable proportion of 3rd and 4th-century types; there was no sign of any such in the current excavation. The whole series presents a very homogeneous appearance. The only difference of any apparent significance was the first occurrence — in the uppermost Roman level which, as suggested above, may overlie the area as a whole — of the flat-rimmed 'pie-dish' and bowl, and perhaps also of the plain or bead-rimmed platter or 'dog-dish', although there is a possibility that this was present in the immediately underlying deposit as well. It is not yet clear whether this change indicates that we are dealing with two phases of the industry, or merely with the waste of essentially contemporary firings of different ranges of vessel; for there was, throughout, no apparent distinction between the numerous cooking-pot and storage-jar sherds, which were of the relatively upright and often short-necked types characteristic of the 1st rather than of the 2nd century. Surprisingly there was only one recognisable bead-rim jar, but this, again, could be fortuitous. A small but appreciable number of rims and foot-ring bases of bowls in the pre-Roman Durotrigian tradition, such as figure in some of the Dorchester burial groups, would seem to reinforce the impression of a relatively early date for the series, at least below the pie-dish/platter horizon.

On the other hand, the only independent dating evidence pulls in the opposite direction. A single sherd of samian (form 18/31 or early 31), ascribed by Brian Hartley to Central Gaul (probably Lezoux) *c*.130-160, but not spotted soon enough to be pin-pointed, was recorded in the layer below the pie-dish/platter horizon; it would certainly be wiser to associate it with the latter than to accept the record at its face value, having regard to the physical similarity and lack of distinct division between

(6) The grey surface or grey core is not, of course, the effect of oxidation, but signifies incomplete oxidation and failure to burn out carbon from the clay.

(7) H. W. M. Hodges, "Artifacts", 1st Edn. 1964, 35; A. Steensberg, 'Hand-made pottery in Jutland', *Antiquity*, Vol. 14, 1940, 150-1.

these deposits, but even so we must accept a *terminus post quem* at least as late as *c.*130 for the upper one. At this date, however, black-burnished ware including both the types in question had already begun to be imported by the armies in the military zones of Roman Britain, and we are therefore no nearer to determining the date of their first production.

Some positive results accrue, however. We are now bound to suppose that the necked cooking-pots and storage-jars were in current production *c.* 130— barring the remote possibility that the samian sherd was wholly intrusive; in other words, we may have been wrong in assuming that we should be able to recognize much, if any, typological development in these important classes of vessel between the conquest and the middle of the 2nd century A.D. Change in cooking-pot type during that period might have been exemplified, rather, in a decline of the bead-rim jar, although this class was still present in the North until *c.*160, not necessarily from a Durotrigian source. This falling off has been noticed elsewhere by the writer in discussing material from two Dorchester deposits ([8]), in which the coarse pottery compares closely with what we have in this excavation.

R. A. H. FARRAR

INTERIM REPORT ON AN EXCAVATION AT ROPE LAKE HOLE NEAR KIMMERIDGE, DORSET

On the cliff edge midway between Kimmeridge Bay and Chapman's Poole, badgers' digging has revealed an Iron Age and Romano-British site (SY 93007762 to 93207762). This was first noticed by Mr. J. Beavis.

During April 1974 a trial trench was dug (SY 93107764), by Weymouth College students, to find out whether the site extended into the field behind the footpath. We are grateful to Major Mansel and Mr. Vearncombe for permission to dig. The first occupation layer was not encountered until a depth of 0.95 m below the surface. Romano-British sherds included late flange-rimmed bowls and the top of a flagon of purple-gloss New Forest ware. Shale lathe-turned cores and flint tools were also present. Below this level a number of limestone slabs occurred associated with shale cores, flint tools, limpet shell middens, and pottery sherds datable to the third and second centuries A.D. In the lower Roman levels there were fewer sherds, briquetage, iron slag and much decayed shale. A piece of samian and part of a foot-rim occurred at a depth of 1.53 m just above the first Iron Age level.

The first Iron Age layer was hard packed and contained pieces of rilled haematite ware of early Iron Age date. Below this were two layers of briquetage separated by a soil layer. More haematite sherds occurred, iron slag, and a fragment of a shale bracelet. The final yellow soil layer just above the subsoil contained very coarse uncoated sherds belonging to the earliest Iron Age. The subsoil was reached at a depth of 2 metres. Animal bones were found in all layers.

Further trenches will be dug in the summer of 1976 to determine the extent and degree of disturbance of the site.

ROSEMARY MAW

TWO ROMANO-BRITISH CIST BURIALS AT PORTESHAM, DORSET

In July 1975 Mr. W. J. S. Roper uncovered a human skull whilst excavating an area for a patio outside the back door of 34A, Black Down Cottage, Front Street, Portesham (SY 603860). Thanks to his cooperation the writer was able to excavate and record two cist burials indicating Romano-British occupation.

The nature of the discovery was not realised until the skull was found, and by this time the slabs covering the burial, save for two at the foot, had been removed, as had two uprights forming the right side of the cist. The uprights were square at the head end but tapered in at the foot. The overall length of the cist was 1.5 m and the width 0.35 m at the head end. The skeleton, which was lying on gravelly clay, was well preserved although the right shoulder and upper arm had been dug out before excavation. The body being longer than the grave, the skull was bent forward into an almost upright position. The teeth were well preserved *in situ*, the eruption of the first two permanent molars giving an age of about 6 or 7 years. The sex was not determined. Several abraded sherds of Romano-British coarse ware were found at the bottom of the grave and a scrap of samian in the fill. The feet were to the E.N.E.

As soon as this burial had been excavated and recorded the work was continued and a second cist was found by the side of the first but orientated to the N.E. About 1.0 m long and 0.3 m wide, the small grave was rectangular with two large covering slabs. As in the first burial, local limestone had been used. The caving-in of the uprights on the left, due to pressure from the side, suggested the possibility of a third grave. The disintegrated skeleton was that of a child of about two years.

The two cists were at the same level, on gravelly clay between two large sarsen stones. A section through the site indicated removal of the ground level associated with the burials, probably during building activity. Late mediaeval unglazed sherds were found almost down to the top of the cists. Above them the present-day ground is built up of clinker and ash from the ovens of the bakery which stood on the site of Black Down Cottage.

JOHN BAILEY

INTERIM NOTE ON EXCAVATIONS AT ABBOTSBURY CASTLE HILLFORT, DORSET, 1975

The remainder of the entrance to the enclosure was examined and the absence of any substantial gate posts confirmed.

Although a satisfactory conclusion has not been reached, excavations will not continue beyond this stage. The reasons for this are: (a) Features characteristic of a Roman military signal station are not present. This answers the question originally posed ([9]). (b) Any further attempts to understand the history and purpose of the enclosure must involve a consideration of the complex problems of the hillfort itself. An academic case could be made for studying these, but only in terms of large scale excavation, which cannot be justified at present because the hillfort has a superbly preserved interior and there is no known threat to its continued preservation.

A full report is in preparation.

JOHN BEAVIS

([8]) C.B.A. Research Report 10, "Current Research in Romano-British Coarse Pottery", ed. A. Detsicas, 1973, 86-7.

([9]) *Proc. Dorset N.H. & A.S.*, Vol. 96 (1974), 56.

INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS IN THE GROUNDS OF DORCHESTER PRISON, 1975

The site of the Prison Governor's House and a small extension to the Prison were totally excavated for the Dorchester Excavation Committee in 1975. The large area to the west of the Prison, which is to be redeveloped in the immediate future, was trial-trenched as far as financial resources and standing features would allow. 260 sq. m were stripped to the natural chalk.

The earliest features on the site were three large slots, filled with chalk. They did not appear to be construction slots or drainage gullies. One of these was cut by a large pit containing what seems to be material of Flavian date. Three pits of this date were excavated; they were also mainly filled with chalk. Three postholes and an occupation layer were located in trenching north of the early features. These appear to be Roman. In the eastern trenches, vestiges of an extensive layer of rubble, probably of the 2nd century, were found. No sign has yet appeared of the Roman town defences, but a full section across its probable line has not yet been completed.

The earliest phase of the mediaeval Castle ditch was sectioned by machine and partially sectioned by hand. It had been dug to a depth of 4.40 m. This had been back-filled, and subsequently a smaller ditch was dug slightly to the east. After some silt had accumulated, this ditch was slighted. No remains of the bank were found, the area having been levelled in the 17th or 18th century.

A small irregularly curving ditch was excavated almost on the lip of the precipice leading down to the river. It seems to follow the line of one of the earthworks shown on Hutchins' plan of 1772, and may belong to the Civil War. Spreads of chalk found in several of the trial trenches, in one case sealing this ditch, probably relate to the lime-kiln known to have existed on the site by the 18th century. Victorian garden features and timber structures were encountered in the courtyard of the Governor's House, and 19th-century tree pits were found over the entire area.

JO DRAPER

INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT THE PLUME OF FEATHERS, DORCHESTER, 1975

A site previously occupied by outbuildings of the Plume of Feathers public house, in the junction of Trinity St. and Princes St., was excavated for the Dorchester Excavation Committee in advance of proposed development. The site was made available by Devenish Brewery Ltd. and by Messrs. Applegates, and thanks are due to Devenish for much help and consideration throughout.

Three trenches, with a total area of over 200 sq. m, were dug, revealing a Roman street, water pipe and assorted features, and substantial post-mediaeval occupation.

A trench 16 m by 6 m was dug at the south of the site, adjoining the area excavated in 1971. There were several natural layers lying above the hard chalk — a ground chalk, a chalk and clay mix, and a brown loam turf surface. These were largely undisturbed, except for a row of substantial postholes and a pipe trench, which were both cut into the chalk on an east-west alignment at the south end of the trench. The water pipe, of which four iron collars were found *in situ*, fell 10 cm across the width of the trench, and presumably distributed water supplied to the Roman town by the aqueduct.

Further north, a substantial chalk make-up had been laid to compensate for the slope in the ground level to the south. Above this, several layers of flints set in yellow mortar presumably formed a floor. The extent of this structure is not clear, as it appears to have been robbed out to the west and south. Across the centre of the excavation trench, above a slight gully which may have served as a marking-out trench, a tightly packed surface of flints set in mortar was found. In places this had been laid on a chalk make-up; otherwise it was placed directly on the natural layers. This main road surface was over 3 m wide, but it also continued to the north as a flint yard. There was no sign of a later remetalling or of any structures to the north. The road appears to be an easterly continuation of that sectioned in 1963 west of the Hospital (R.C.H.M. monument 177), and if so, gives us the exact alignment of one of the east-west roads across the centre of the town.

A second trench was dug at the northern end of the site. This produced a series of parallel Roman features, with almost no relating stratification. These were, from north to south, a V-shaped gully with Flavian samian ware; a wall foundation with alternate flint and mortar layers, which followed an S-bend course, cutting the gully; and a similar, robbed-out, foundation trench. Above these in the western part of the trench was a clearly defined post-mediaeval sequence, consisting of several chalk floors and stone walls, overlying a large timber building, represented by postholes, which fronted directly on Princes St. A slight stone and burnt clay structure, over the Roman foundation trench, may have been the support for a hearth of one of the post-mediaeval buildings. The whole was covered by the destruction levels of the 18th-century fires.

A third trench in the centre of the site revealed top-soil disturbance down to the natural chalk. However, two pit-groups in this trench yielded the majority of the finds, a large and varied collection of 17th-century pottery and some distinctive fragments of fine glass, provisionally thought to be English. Further work on these finds should be of much help in tracing the sources of post-mediaeval glass and pottery in Dorchester.

ROWENA K. LOVERANCE

A NOTE ON ROMANO-BRITISH BURIALS IN THE GROVE, DORCHESTER, 1975

The site of two graves was noted 25 m west of the road (The Grove) and 35 m south of the New Compasses Inn in February 1975 (SY 68869102). The graves were cut in natural chalk, parallel with each other and on an alignment E.N.E. to W.S.W. The southern grave had been cut by the northern, later grave, but both were badly damaged by the construction of garages for Grove Court Flats.

Material recovered from the southern grave included the head, shoulders and pelvis on one skeleton thought to have been lying in an extended position; the head lay to the west. Nails 6 cm long were found to each side of the skull. Superficial examination of the lower jaw suggests that there had been some kind of deformity. The bones, and three colour transparencies, are deposited in the Museum (D.C.M. 1975. 42). Other inhumation burials of the Roman period in the near vicinity were recorded in 1903 and in recent years (R.C.H.M., Roman Dorchester 226 b-c.).

It was noted that the surface of the natural chalk had been artificially levelled, and in the area south of the graves at least three large pits about 7 m in diameter had been dug, though these activities were considered to have been fairly recent. The pits had been filled in very soon after being dug. The merest trace of the bottom filling of a ditch was visible during the garage building operation 25 m S.S.E. of the graves. It is assumed from our knowledge of the Roman town defences further south in the Grove (*Proceedings*, Vol. 94, p.80) that this represents the Roman outer ditch, perhaps starting to swing east round the northern defences.

MAUREEN M. JACKSON

INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT POUNDBURY, DORCHESTER, 1975

The tenth season of excavations at Poundbury lasted for twelve weeks in July, August and September, with a continuation of two more weeks in October when development commenced on the areas previously excavated. Once again thanks are due to the Southern Electricity Board and Wyvern-Marlborough Ltd. for permission to excavate and for material assistance in the movement of the lead coffins, back-filling, and in the use of a site hut. Thanks are also due to the Dorchester Excavation Committee and the Dorset County Museum for help in the organisation of the work. The assistance of Viva Fisher, Joan Gallagher, Cathy Manty, Kate Singley and Lucia Vinciguerra, in the supervision of the work and the processing of finds, is gratefully acknowledged.

In the area of the late Roman Christian cemetery on Site E, 155 graves were excavated, and in the adjoining settlement burial-plot on site D a further three, bringing the total for the two cemeteries to 960. As in previous years, the majority of the burials in the main cemetery were simple inhumations orientated with head to west, accompanied only by iron nails from a wooden coffin or bier. Sixteen burials were exceptional in some respect, nine for the presence of grave-goods, seven for special treatment of the body.

Of the graves furnished with grave-goods, four produced coins of the mid to late 4th century, and four more yielded items of jewellery. One adult had one bracelet of bone and seven of bronze, a necklace of glass beads and a bone comb. Another inhumation was accompanied by a knife, a circumstance that deserves some comment in view of recent discussion of such finds.

The burial formed one of a row of graves conforming to the usual burial rite and situated near the centre of the cemetery. The remains of an adult, extended in the usual attitude, were surrounded by nails and calcified wood from a coffin. The knife lay immediately beside the right ulna and radius, the blade placed near the hand and bearing traces of cloth on its surface. The blade and handle measure approximately 8 ins. (20 cm) overall — the short, broad blade furnished with curving edges drawing to a point, the long bone handle capped at the butt end by an iron plate. In all respects the knife is similar to that recently published from Wye in Kent and others from the Lankhills cemetery at Winchester ([10]). Whether the presence of a knife should be taken as evidence that the deceased was a member of a late Roman military unit is a question for further consideration. As far as the cemetery as a whole is concerned the find is statistically insignificant since it constitutes only 0.1 per cent of the total of excavated graves.

Those graves in which the bodies had received special treatment included three individuals enclosed by remains of stoutly constructed wooden coffins fitted with iron braces, and at least two others interred in wooden coffins packed with plaster. In two instances coffins had been fitted with an additional flat-headed nail or stud at the head (west) end, presumably to ensure the correct alignment of the coffin. Two more lead-lined wooden coffins were uncovered. One, from its size presumably containing a child, was lifted unopened to await laboratory examination. The other, consisting of a lead lining within a wooden coffin fitted with iron corner braces, contained an adult packed in plaster. The skeletal remains adhered to the usual alignment and once again locks of brown hair survived around the skull.

The three burials in the settlement graveyard on Site D were, by contrast, aligned north-south. Two were placed with head to south and possessed hobnailed footwear; the third, aligned with head to north, lay face downwards in a cist of stone roof-tiles.

These burials adjoined the flint and mortar foundations of a small building, itself encroached upon by orientated inhumations of the main 4th-century cemetery. The building lay immediately south of and at right angles to another dug in 1972 and found to belong to a settlement that flourished on the site prior to the establishment of the main cemetery ([11]). The settlement comprised two groups of structures and, with this latest discovery, both can be recognised as of similar plan — an arrangement of simple rectangular dwellings or work-buildings around three sides of a courtyard open on the easterly, downhill side.

Further work on Site C, immediately south of the Middle Bronze Age and Roman settlements, produced little trace of occupation from the Roman period but did uncover a small pit and a length of ditch from the earlier settlement. The V-cut ditch, 6 ft. wide by 4 ft. deep and recut on two occasions, yielded several flint scrapers and a fragmentary flint axe of Neolithic type. The pit produced pottery of Neolithic or Bronze Age character. Although pits of late Neolithic date have come to light in previous seasons, this ditch may be the first major feature that can be assigned to this earliest phase of activity on the site. Alternatively, if the axe is simply a rubbish survival, the ditch could be yet another element in the Bronze Age enclosure system already known.

([10]) Mrs. S. Hawkes, 'Some recent finds of late Roman buckles', *Britannia*, Vol. 5, 1974, 389, fig. 3, no. 8; G. N. Clarke, 'Lankhills School', in M. Biddle, 'Excavations at Winchester, 1970', *Antiq. Journ.*, Vol. 52, 1972.

([11]) *Proc. Dorset N.H. & A.S.*, Vol. 94 (1972), 80.

The finds from Sites C and D, both from very limited excavations, add important details to the history of settlement at Poundbury. They serve as a reminder that if the history of the Poundbury area is to be properly understood, more is required than merely the completion of work on the main cemetery and the post-Roman settlement. If we include the hillfort, occupation stretches from the Late Neolithic to the post-Roman period, a sequence which, for the Middle Bronze Age, Roman and post-Roman periods at least, is illustrated in each separate phase by remains of buildings, enclosure systems and environmental evidence, and not just by the casual find or an occasional feature. If other nearby development sites were to be investigated, and a fresh examination undertaken of the hillfort itself, gaps in the continuity of occupation might yet be more adequately bridged and the possibility of a post-Roman re-occupation of the hillfort tested, while a Bronze Age barrow and perhaps a Dark Age cemetery would fall within the limits of excavation.

CHRISTOPHER GREEN

INTERIM NOTE ON THE ANIMAL REMAINS FROM POUNDBURY

All the animal bones from the Poundbury excavations have been examined up to and including those recovered during the 1974 season. The alkaline nature of the soil has ensured excellent preservation of several thousand bones. These comprise a wide variety of animals, the majority being domesticated stock including ox, horse, sheep, goat, pig and dog. Two nearly complete skeletons of cat as well as isolated bones were also recovered, from Roman contexts. The remaining animals identified were the red and roe deer, hare, hedgehog, mole, long-tailed field mouse, short-tailed vole, water-vole, common shrew, a few fish and a large number of frogs and birds. Of the latter, most were medium-sized birds such as thrush, game birds, pigeon and duck. A number of limb bones are believed to be those of heron. A complete skeleton of a fighting cock and another fragmentary skeleton were obtained from one Roman pit. Confirmatory identification of these avian remains awaits detailed examination.

The largest proportion of bones from the occupation levels was composed of the remains of ox, sheep, goat, pig, red deer and roe deer. This material, which covers the Bronze Age, Roman and post-Roman periods, is sufficient for estimates to be made of the minimum number of animals, age at death, and techniques of butchery. From these results it will be possible to draw many conclusions as to the techniques of husbandry, pastoral economy and the potential availability of animal by-products such as milk and skins.

Unfortunately the lack of evidence, so far, for the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age interrupts what would otherwise be a continuous record of the changes in the pastoral economy of a small chalkland settlement.

CHRISTOPHER BUCKLAND-WRIGHT

SEVENTH INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT DEWLISH ROMAN VILLA 1975

The seventh season of excavation on the Roman Villa at Dewlish by Weymouth College of Education took place during July and August 1975, supported by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Boyden, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Boyden and the Society. The work consisted of filling in remaining details of the main villa building, and this task is now almost complete (Fig. 5).

Excavation of the pit adjoining the baths stokehole, the first 2 m of which were dug in 1974, was completed. Preparations had been made for the excavation of a well, but the feature continued at the same dimensions (2 m by 3 m) to a depth of only 4.8 m, at which point it stopped with a level bottom. The fill was mainly rubble from a demolished building, including tiles, mortar, flints, painted plaster and a large block of Hamstone which was scorched on one side as if it had at one time been the cheek of a stokehole flue. The pit also contained some ash layers, a considerable quantity of 3rd to 4th century pottery, a crucible and a tuyere attached to a lump of clinker. Examination of the top of the pit confirmed that it slightly undercut the foundation of the south-west wall of room 29, and was thus filled in at the time of the construction of the baths.

Leo Biek, Ancient Monuments Laboratory, writes:

"Both crucible and tuyere are in an unusually good state of preservation, the crucible being complete and virtually undamaged. From the vitreous residues on its surface it was clearly used for melting copper alloy, and probably in casting small 'bronze' objects. The tuyere, and the small fragment of another one found with it, could well have been employed in the same process. However, there is no obvious evidence of this, and indeed there is instead a somewhat indefinite pointer to iron-smelting. But it is always difficult to tell without thorough investigation of all associated material, and in the absence of any features in the ground, and large quantities of waste, it is not possible to be more specific at this stage".

The purpose of the pit is obscure; it does not reach the water table, nor is it the usual shape for a well. It is unnecessarily deep for a rubbish pit, and since it was filled with rubble over a short period, it must have been normally open. The most likely explanation seems to be that it was used as a cold store. The pottery may prove to be of some importance as the pit was sealed at the time of the construction of the main villa.

Excavation was completed of the south-east side of rooms 17, 18, 19 and 22, and the verandah in front of them. No fresh information was found about the rooms themselves. The verandah had continued as far as room 19, its mosaic ploughed away; at that point a flight of steps led to a lower level paved with flagstones, giving direct access to the changing room of the baths (room 25). Fallen masonry in front of the verandah included the shattered remains of a semi-circular brick arch together with fragments of a plaster cornice. This makes possible a reconstruction of the front elevation of the villa. A heavy buttress had been added to the south-east wall of room 25 at the time the front verandah wall had been replaced.

A deep section through the south-east wall of room 18 (i.e. the main load bearing wall of the building) showed its foundations to extend 1.6 m below floor level. Some 1.2 m of material had been added to raise the level of the floors here to that of the rest of the villa. An unexpected result was the discovery that the lowest courses of the wall foundation consisted of tiles, flints and lumps of painted plaster reused from another building. This, taken together with the building-rubble fill of the 'cold store' would indicate the demolition of another building, at the time of the construction of the villa as we now have it.

Some idea of the location of this earlier building comes from a scatter of flints lying on the south-west side of the presumed courtyard, where trial trenches have also indicated the presence of walls.

In room 8 the tessellated floor seen in 1971 was removed, and two preceding earth floors were examined, together with a rectangular tile-based oven belonging to the first and second phases. This room would appear to have been the kitchen in the first two phases, and may well have been so even in the final tessellated phase.

The excavation of rooms 23 and 24 in 1973 left unanswered the question of whether there was a room on the other side of passage 10. Further excavation in 1975 showed that a room (23A) existed here, also opening onto the passage. It was similar in every detail to room 23, and provided substantial samples of wall-plaster.

A further trench 5 m square was excavated on the verandah where it passed in front of rooms 5 and 6. The key pattern mosaic continued as before, and sufficient of the walls remained to confirm that a door opened from room 6 onto the verandah at the same level (Fig. 6). It will not be possible to excavate further along the verandah owing to the presence of a large ash tree.

In room 25 (the *apodyterium* of the baths) the fragment of the sea-creature pavement found in 1974 was lifted by Mr. Rodney Alcock of Dorset County Museum. Below this was a layer of hardcore used to level up a pronounced dip in the earlier mosaic glimpsed in 1974. The survival of this fragment was entirely due to the way it had subsided, necessitating the laying of the new floor. Excavation to discover the reason for the subsidence will take place in 1976. This geometric mosaic (Fig. 7), of which a discussion appears below, was also lifted and both floors are now on display in the museum.

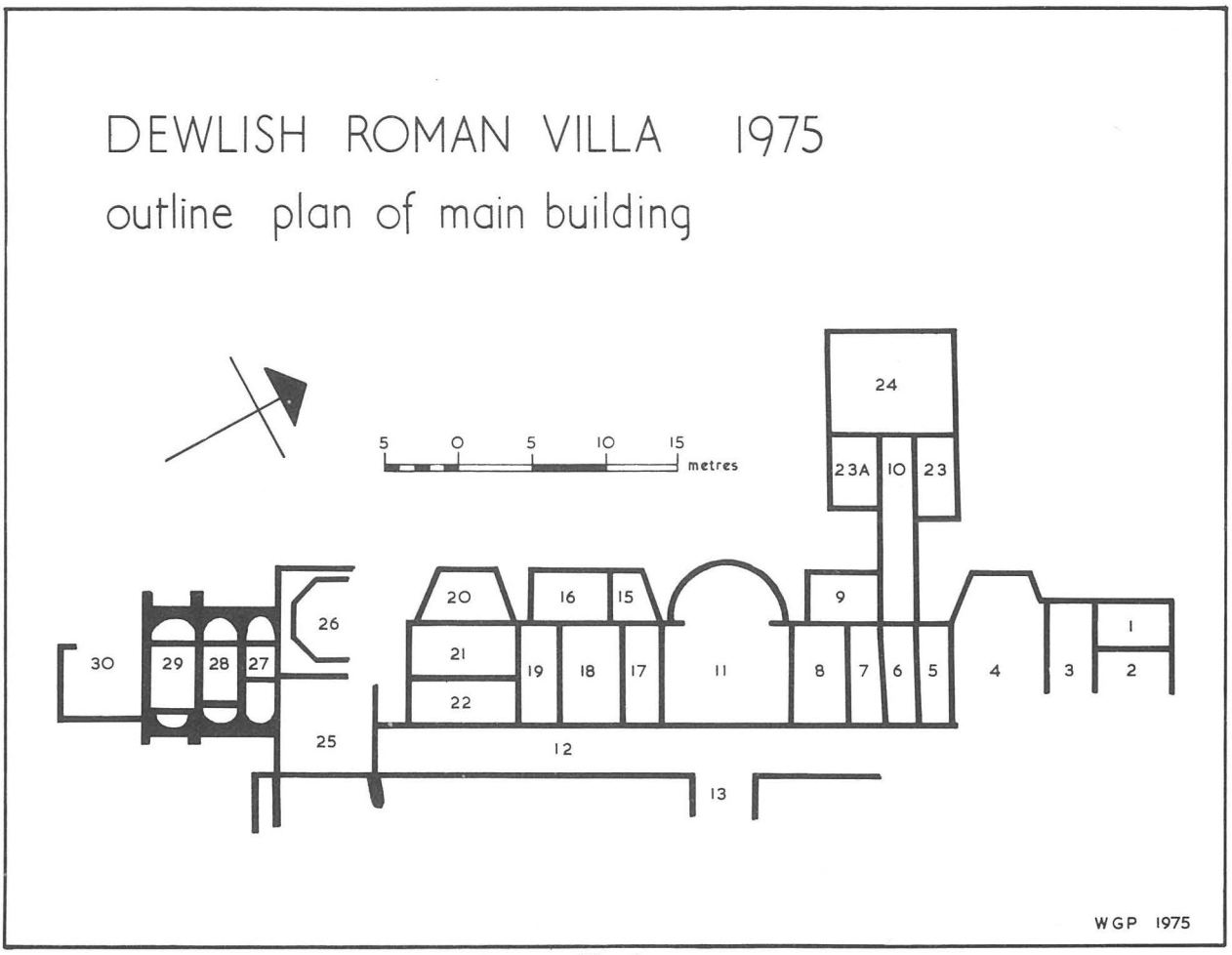

Fig. 5.

All that survived of the earlier mosaic was part of one corner with a border composed of a series of panels. Judging from the sparse remains, these were composed of blocks of four black and red swastikas, alternating with squares containing a variety of floral and geometric motifs, and at least one rectangle, of which the contents did not survive.

In the north-west border, a panel encloses a square of guilloche mat with strands in black, white, red and grey on a black ground with a red border.

In the north corner the square panel has one red and one black border enclosing a small piece of pattern, which appears to be a heart-shape in white shading to yellow and brown. This could have been a flower formed of four heart-shaped petals.

The north-east border has a square panel bordered with red and enclosing part of a red pelta, and possibly a piece of duplex-knot in black, white and brown; perhaps a pelta-duplex-swastika. The next panel seems to be rectangular with a red border, but the contents are lost. Both these panels probably had an outer border of black on at least three sides, to fit in with the alternate red and black scheme of the floor.

Within these varied outer panels comes a narrow border of Z-pattern, alternately in white, yellow and red, and in white and two shades of grey, on a black ground.

All that remains of the main area of the floor is a large black swastika enclosing concentric black squares, presumably a block of two or more swastikas enclosing squares, with a narrow black rectangle inserted on the north-east side. There is also a corner of three-strand guilloche, with one strand in black, white and grey, and two in black, white and red, on a black ground, presumably part of the border of a large panel.

The surface of the tesserae used throughout, is approximately 1 cm square and, apart from the guilloche and the Z-pattern, the ground is white.

Even if these tentative suggestions as to the contents of two of the border panels are incorrect, the overall picture of this border is, nevertheless, quite clear. It recalls that of the badly-damaged 4th-century mosaic found in room 15, Building I, at

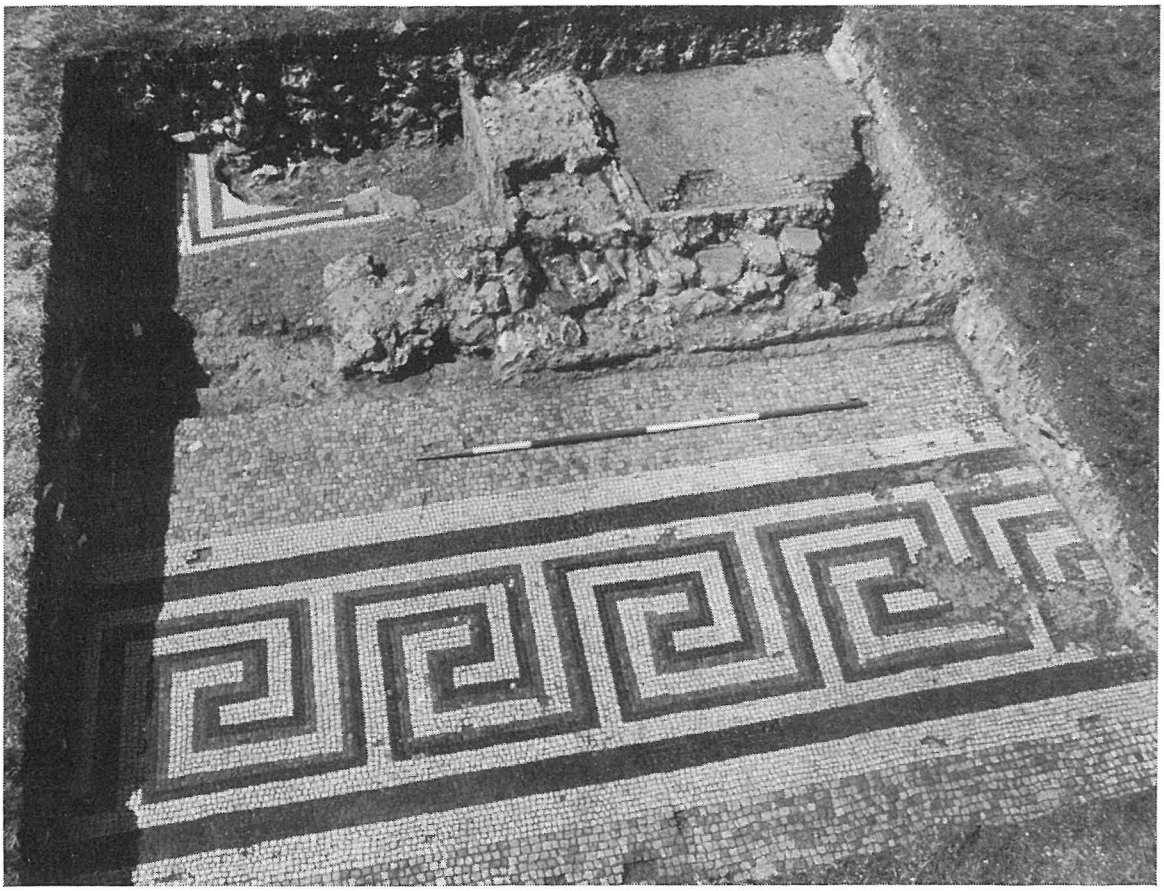

Fig. 6. Dewlish Roman Villa; junction of verandah and entrance passage (Room 6). *Copyright: Weymouth College of Education.*

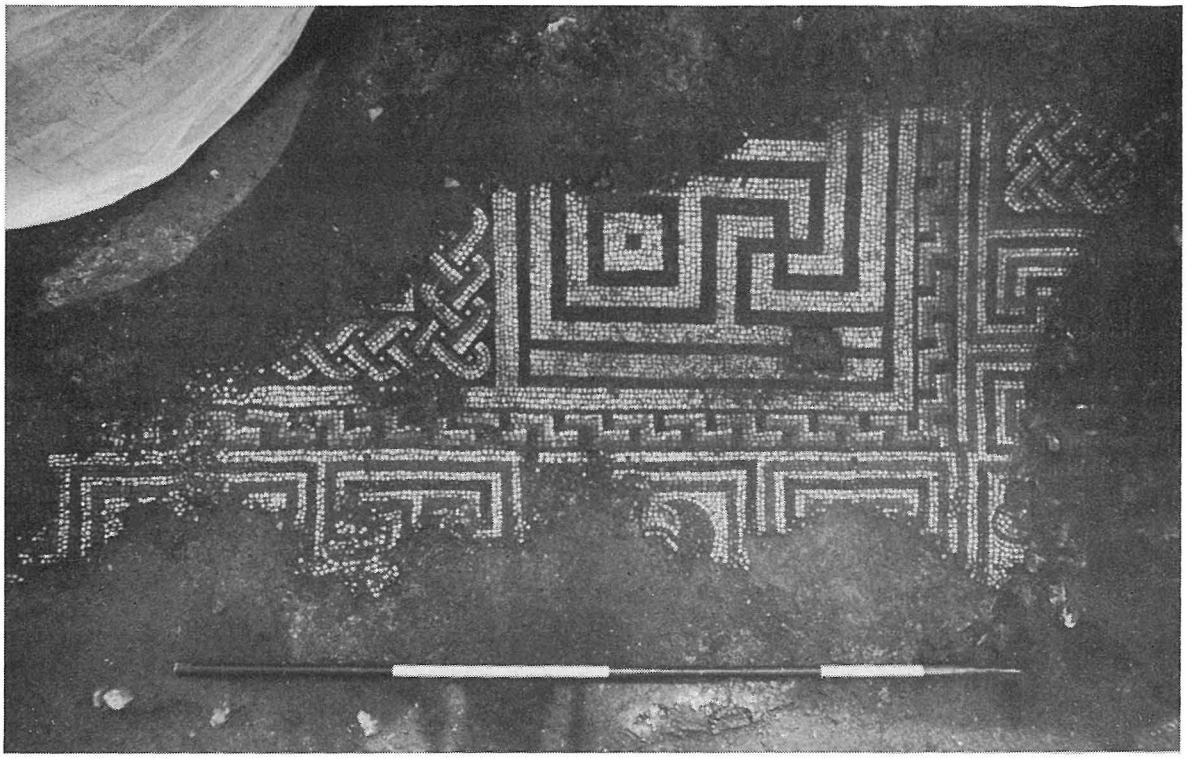

Fig. 7. Dewlish Roman Villa; earlier floor in Room 25. *Copyright: Weymouth College of Education.*

Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset([12]) where swastikas alternated with square and rectangular panels enclosing chequers and various arrangements of guilloche. Room 10 at Colliton Park ([13]) had a border of swastikas enclosing quincunx, round a grid of nine octagons in which one of the flowers was a compact arrangement of heart-shaped leaves, which suggests the type of flower used at Dewlish. Room 13 in the same house ([14]) had an all-over pattern of swastikas enclosing concentric squares, identical with those in room 25 described above, but all in red on a white ground.

The use of two colours for swastikas, so much a feature of this mosaic, was not common in Britain([15]), but two colours are found in the somewhat similar Greek key pattern of corridor 12 at Dewlish ([16]). The mosaicist appears, in fact, to have been fascinated by the contrast of red and black, which he used to produce quite a striking effect in several of his mosaics. In room 11([17]) three of the surviving panels have a red border, another has one of black and grey, and the guilloche mat, on a black ground, has a red border, as in room 25. A narrow red border is also found in a fragment from room 16([18]).

Both in the mosaic under consideration and that in corridor 12, the spacing of the motifs is poor, which has necessitated the insertion of a kink in the red border in the corner of room 25, and the probable inclusion of red and black bands between several panels, to enable the various shapes and sizes to form a relatively cohesive whole. An unusual feature is the abrupt change in colour from red to black in the 'flower' panel border, and in the arm of the swastika bordering the guilloche mat.

The surviving mosaics at Dewlish all display a mixture of competence and ineptitude, which together with the idiosyncratic use of red and black, points to the fact that they were not only contemporary, but the work of the same craftsman. The mosaic in room 11 has been given a *terminus post quem* of between A.D.353 and 356([19]), and one can be fairly certain that these mosaics are unlikely to have been constructed before *c*.360. Mosaic 1 in room 25 cannot have been laid very long after 360, as the marine monster Mosaic 2, found above this fragment, was the work of an artist who had certainly not lost the skill he must have acquired in the Durnovarian workshop, but who, while still using their pattern book, was now free to show an originality not apparent in the floors laid during the workshop's period of peak production.

Mosaic 2 must have been in use for some time, as the tesserae had been loosened in front of one doorway and the worn area had been coated with a layer of mortar. Since this mortar had not yet totally worn off the surface of the tesserae, the room would not appear to have been in use for very long after the repairs had been carried out.

A possible *terminus post quem* of A.D. 395 was given for the occupation of room 7, suggesting that this was probably the last stage of the villa's existence ([20]). Mosaics 1 and then 2 must, therefore, have been laid between *c*.360 and *c*.395-400, a period of 35 to 40 years. Since the subsidence of Mosaic 1 into the pit is likely to have occurred at any time up to ten years after it had been laid, Mosaic 2 may date from *c*.370 to 380.

Apart from the similarity in the choice of designs and in the erratic standard of workmanship found in these mosaics and in those referred to at Colliton Park, we must also add the fact that simple tessellated floors with broad red and grey or white stripes, were found in room 8 in Dewlish ([21]) and in Building I, room 14 at Colliton Park([22]).

If all these similarities have any significance over and above the use of the same pattern book, and we believe they have, then the mosaics in both houses must be contemporary and executed by the same team of workmen. The late date thus proposed for the Colliton Park mosaics would explain the unusual faces of the Seasons in room 15, with their large melancholy eyes,([23]) which became such a feature of Roman mosaics in the late 4th century, and is well illustrated in the late 4th to 5th-century portrait of a woman with a halo, found at Carthage, Tunisia, and now in the Bardo Museum.([24])

W. G. PUTNAM & ANNE RAINEY

EIGHTH INTERIM REPORT ON THE HALSTOCK VILLA, 1975

The plan of the villa as so far excavated is shown in Fig. 8. Common Lane with its ditches and hedgerows runs from east to west across the middle of the site rendering difficult, if not impossible, the linking up of the two sets of buildings. North of the lane, in the eastern section, is the barn with its two corn-driers and water-tank, and south of this the passageway, this complex being briefly described in the report published in these *Proceedings*, Vol. 92. The buildings in the western section north of the lane constitute the bath suite, details of which are published in Vols. 93-95.

South of Common Lane work in 1974 had revealed a road running north-west to south-east with a building on either side and excavation in the 1975 season has established the plan of the northerly of these two buildings within limits imposed by the presence of the lane.Orientated south-west to north-east is a range of four, perhaps five, rooms with corridors on both west and east sides, though the corridor on the east side is a divided one. At the southern end of this complex is a wing of three rooms orientated south-east to north-west. If a similar wing is projected on to the northern end then the resultant plan would be that of a classic winged corridor house similar to the villas at Hambledon, Bucks. ([25]), Ditchley([26]), High Wycombe([27]), and many

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([12]) R.C.H.M., "Dorset", Vol. II, 1970, part 3, plan facing p. 557, and coloured drawing in Dorset County Museum.
([13]) *Ibid.*, pl. 220.
([14]) *Ibid.*, pl. 219.
([15]) Withington (Glos.), S. Lysons, *Reliquiae Britannico-Romanae*, Vol. II, 1817, pl. XIX, fig. g; Combley (I.O.W.), *Proc. Isle of Wight N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. VI (1970); Latimer (Bucks.), K. Branigan, "Latimer", 1971, pl. IX; Littleton (Som.), drawing in Somerset County Museum.
([16]) *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 94 (1972), 82, fig. 5.
([17]) *Loc. cit.*, 81.
([18]) *Ibid.*, Vol. 95 (1973), 89.
([19]) *Ibid.*, Vol. 94, 81.
([20]) *Ibid.*, Vol. 93 (1971), 160.
([21]) *Loc. cit.*, fig. 21.
([22]) R.C.H.M., *op. cit.*, plan facing p. 557.
([23]) *Ibid.*, pl. 218.
([24]) P. B. Hetherington, "Mosaics", 1967, pl. 20.
([25]) *Archaeologia*, Vol. LXXI, pl. xiii.
([26]) *Oxoniensia*, Vol. I, fig. 9.
([27]) *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XVI, 229.

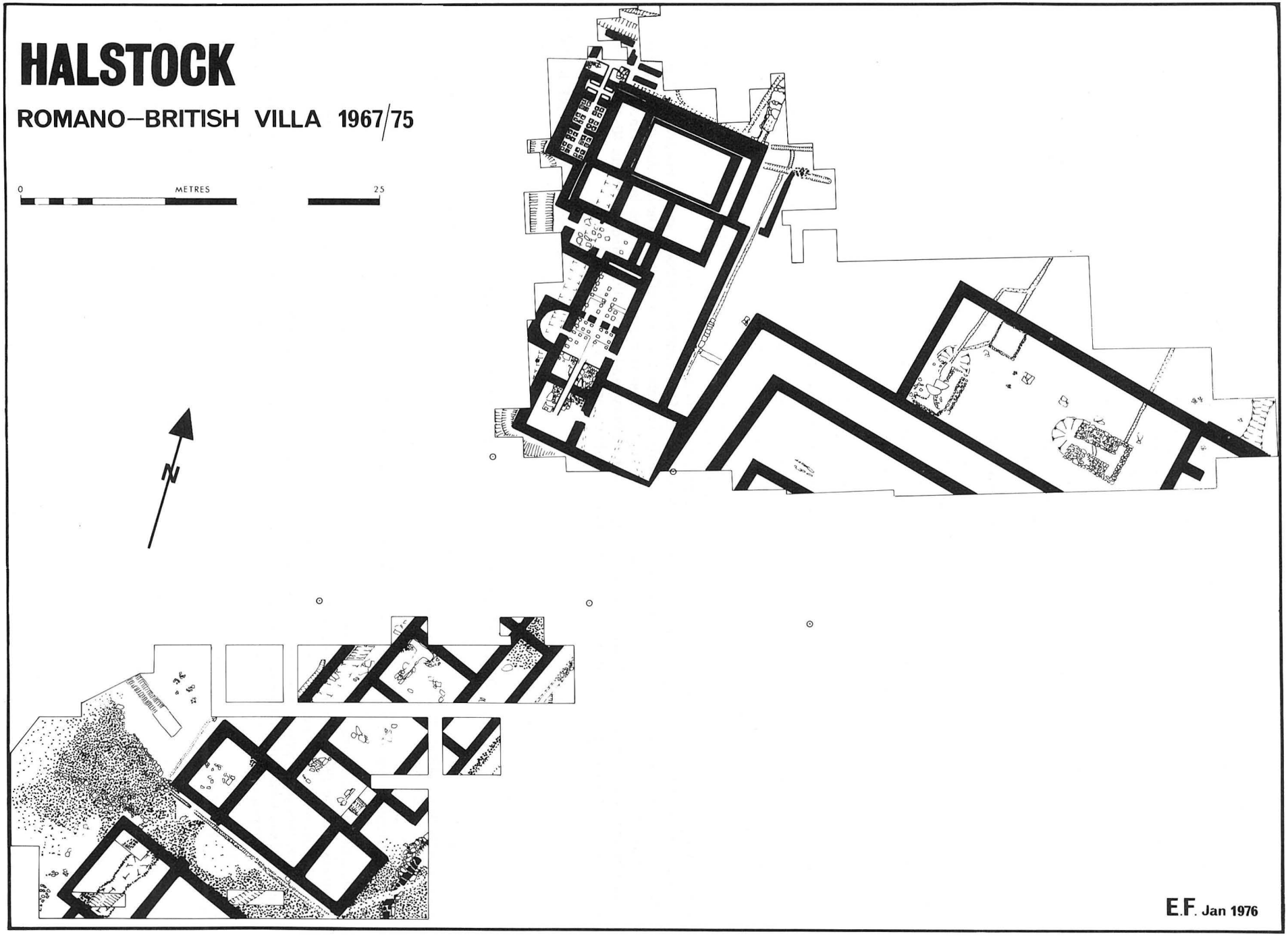
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Fig. 8.

other examples in Britain and on the continent. The south wing of this building at Halstock appears to be a later addition to the central series of rooms and the west corridor, so it may be that the winged corridor house here was a more sophisticated development of an earlier cottage type house.

It has been suggested that winged corridor villas in Britain were developed around A.D. 100([28]). A single coin of Trajan was found in the building at Halstock, then a distribution ranging from the second quarter of the 2nd century through to the third quarter of the 4th.([29]) Preliminary examination of the pottery indicates a similar date range, with only a few sherds of samian.

If, as is postulated, this building was originally living quarters, certainly there was a change of use and the rooms became workshops and farm buildings. In the north-west corner of one of the rooms of the central range is a T-shaped corn-drier, the third found on this site.([30]) In each of the three rooms of the south wing was found a pot sunk into the floor. The one in the northern room of the wing was mentioned in the interim report in Vol. 96, p. 58, a hand-made, somewhat roughly formed black burnished cooking pot with shoulder and rim missing. In the middle one of the three wing rooms, against the northern wall, 1.4 m from the north-east corner, was a flanged bowl in black-burnished ware similar in form and decoration to Gillam's type 228([31]) and the bowl from Corfe Mullen published by Mr R. A. H. Farrar,([32]) though the Halstock pot is smaller in overall dimensions than the examples given. As the bowl was found *in situ* and practically intact, it can be assumed that, whatever its purpose, the pot was in position and in use until the abandonment of the building. A close date for this bowl would than give a reasonable postulate for a date when the building became disused. However it seems that this type of bowl was in use for a lengthy period in the 4th century. Gillam dates its currency in the North between *c.* 290 and 370, but Mr. Farrar has suggested to me that while the lower limit is not likely anywhere to be very far wide of the truth, the upper limit of 370 does not apply to Southern Britain. A further though not identical example of this type of bowl is given by D. S. Neal in his report on the Gadebridge Villa([33]) but again, whereas the internal rim diameter of this bowl is approximately 16.4 cm, that of the Halstock bowl is 11.2 cm. Neal dates this particular pot as being in use from about the second quarter of the 4th century until *c.* 353 when the room in which it was found was abandoned, but elsewhere on the Gadebridge site similar examples continue until the late 4th century. At the present time then it is not possible to give a terminal date for the flanged bowl sunk into the floor of the middle room of the wing of this building at Halstock.

In the north-west corner of the southerly of the three wing rooms was part of an amphora also sunk into the ground. It was lying on its side with its bottom towards the room corner; the point was missing and no part of handle or neck remained. Longitudinally, from a third to less than a half of the body of the pot remained in the ground. It seems probable that an already broken or designedly broken amphora had been laid into the floor as a receptacle for water.

In the north-east corner of the middle room on the other side of the dividing wall from the amphora and close to the sunken flanged bowl, was a regular circular depression 80 cm in diameter and approximately 8 cm deep, filled with ash and soot. It is suggested that a brazier stood here. On the other side of the room against the southern wall was a large area of soot on the clay floor, the latter being burnt in the area.

It is suggested that the rooms in this wing were, at least in the final stages, used as workshops, probably smithies with furnaces for heating metal, and water in sunken pots for quenching.

East of the south wing is a well-constructed water-course with stone sides and flagstone bottom, which runs in a somewhat tortuous course over the short distance, approx. 6.5 m, so far excavated. It seems probable that this will link up with a ditch running south-west to north-east, east of and almost parallel with the eastern corridor of the building. This ditch was sectioned near its north-eastern end and found to have a flat bottom with nearly vertical sides, filled with silt and with flat stones laid on the top. It is suggested that this was a box-like wooden construction with large flat stones on the top at ground level for protection, and that clean water would have run in this duct, as in the stone-lined south-westerly section. Similarly, the drain on the north side of the road([34]) was found when sectioned near its south-eastern end to be rectangular in profile, though whether the flat stones found tilted into this ditch were originally horizontal on top of the ditch, as with the one alongside the corridor, is questionable. Further excavation will determine whether these three lengths of ditch or water-course are in fact one continuous feature.

In 1974 two ditches were found predating the buildings and roadway traversing the site in an approximate south-west to north-east direction.([34]) The eastern ditch was sectioned on the south side of the road against the northern wall of the southern building, and the western ditch in the most westerly room of this building. Pottery from these ditches was kindly examined by Mr. R. A. H. Farrar who gives a *terminus post quem* for the finds in the eastern ditch as *c.* A.D. 50–60, whilst those from the western ditch, too few for more positive determination, could fall on either side of the Roman Conquest. In 1975, the western ditch was excavated near the northern edge of the site, and the outer wall of the west corridor was found to follow the western side of this ditch, with the wall foundations carried very deep to allow for this. In the most southerly room of the main range of rooms in the building, an early ditch running south-east to north-west was excavated, producing Iron Age pottery including a beaded flat rim of a type that Wheeler describes as being of Iron Age A derivation though owing something to the bead rim of Iron Age B.([35]) This ditch was partially excavated in the west corridor, west of the west wall of the southern room of the main range. The ditch below this wall and that below the eastern wall had been packed with stones to support the walls, showing that the builders were aware of their presence. There was little silt in the ditches, all of which had eventually been filled with clean clay (natural in this area).

With a complex of ditches of pre-Roman Iron Age or early Roman date within the excavated area, it is reasonable to assume the existence of a prior settlement on the villa site although no relevant structural remains have yet been found. The evidence for some deliberate levelling of the ground for the erection of the stone buildings hints at the possibility of continuity of occupation from the later phase of the Iron Age, following which it lasted into the late Roman period, as was shown in the earlier work north of Common Lane.

([28]) A.L.F. Rivet (ed.), "The Roman Villa in Britain", 55.
([29]) Coins identified by Ms Cathy King, Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum.
([30]) *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 91 (1969), 181.
([31]) J. P. Gillam, "Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain", ed. 3, 1970.
([32]) *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 90 (1968), 177.
([33]) D. S. Neal, "Excavation of the Roman Villa at Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead, 1963–8".
([34]) *Proc. Dorset N.H. & A.S.*, Vol. 96 (1974) 57–8.
([35]) R. E. M. Wheeler, "Maiden Castle, Dorset", 213.

A countersunk handle from a black-burnished ware cooking-pot was found amongst the pottery in that part of the western ditch sectioned in 1974.([36]) Derived from an Iron Age B jar, the type was common in the C phase and early Roman period, occasionally reaching the northern frontier in the first half of the 2nd century. In Dorset, however, the type continued to evolve parallel with the handle-less cooking-pots into the mid-3rd century at least, and the dating of individual examples depends on factors other than the shape of the handle. Having regard to the character of the rest of the pottery from the ditches, and the absence of samian ware, the writer suggests the first quarter of the 2nd century for the building of the corridor house, if not the wing, at Halstock.

It was originally thought that the east corridor of the building excavated in 1974 and 1975 would be aligned on the west side of an extension of the north to south arm of the passageway from the barn.([34]) It may be seen in the plan that this was not so. What happens at the north-east end of the corridor and the south-west end of the passageway from the barn, and whether or not there was a northern wing, will probably not be determined because the evidence, if still there, is below Common Lane, though hope of further exploration here has not yet been finally abandoned.

A GROUP OF THIRTEENTH-CENTURY POTTERY FROM WEST STAFFORD, DORSET

In September 1970 archaeologists engaged in the excavation of several sites in Dorchester were living in the Village Hall at West Stafford (SY 727895). Whilst they were digging one of their obligatory cess-pits behind the hall they discovered four intersecting mediaeval pits. These were partly excavated by the company, led by Richard Bradley and Fred Fergusson. Mr. Fergusson later observed the soil removal when the village hall was extended, but no further features were discovered.

The writer would like to thank Brigadier S. N. Floyer Acland, who owns the village hall and allowed the diggers to live there, Mr. Richard Bradley who entrusted the pottery to her rather dilatory care, Mr. Christopher Chaplin who drew the pottery, and Mr. Roger Peers who afforded facilities for study of parallel material in his care at the Dorset County Museum.

The Pits

Pit 1 (WS70 1.1), the earliest in the sequence, was not fully excavated. Its excavated diameter was 1.60 m and its depth 0.51 m. It appeared to be square and was lined throughout with orange gravelly clay. The fill, brown humus with a little rain-washed chalk and a few large flints, seemed to have resulted from natural weathering.

Pit 2 (WS 70 1.2) cut Pit 1 and was oval (1:20 m by 0.73 m) and 0.60 m deep. One pot (no. 14) was in the upper part of the fill, which consisted of chalky humus with pockets of topsoil.

Pit 3 (WS 70 1.3) was small (0.40 m diameter by 0.56 m deep) and circular. It cut Pits 1 and 2 and was filled with sticky orange clay containing chalk nodules.

Pit 4 (WS 70 1.4) cut Pit 2 and was oval (0.60 m by 0.40 m and 0.45 m deep) and contained compact humus, small flints and quantities of pottery.

The natural subsoil is chalk capped by gravelly clay drift.

The Pottery (Fig. 9)

1. Pit 4. Cook pot; fairly hard grey sandy fabric with a few larger inclusions; surfaces pimply; black internally and buff to red externally with fire-blackening on the lower half. 2. Cook pot, as no. 1 but internally and externally red to buff. 3. Cook pot, as no. 1. 4. Cook pot, as no. 1 but internally and externally red to buff. 5. Cook pot, as no. 1. 6. Cook pot, as no. 1 but finer and with red surfaces. 7. Bowl; similar fabric to no. 1 but softer, reddish brown and with more large inclusions; external surface fire-blackened. 8. Cook pot, similar to no. 1 but more thinly potted, with smooth reddish surfaces, especially smooth externally; fire-blackened externally. 9. Cook pot, as no. 8. 10. Cook pot, as no. 8. 11. Tripod pitcher; grey sandy fabric; grey sandy surface internally, smoother externally with sparse, spotty, poor mid-green glaze; scratch-decorated with a tool having perhaps four teeth.

Unstratified pottery

12 and 13. Base and rim of jugs; fairly fine smooth grey fabric, reddish buff slightly soapy surfaces. 14. (From Pit 2) Cook pot; grey sandy fabric with large inclusions; surfaces, internally sandy pale greyish buff, externally sandy pale reddish buff.

Discussion

The pottery from Pit 4 shows affinities with material dated to the 12th century from Corfe([37]), Wimborne,([38]), Wareham([39]) and Holworth,([40]) but the closest parallels come from the Prison, Dorchester,([41]) Southwell, Portland,([42]) and Durrant Close, Sherborne.([43]) The last two groups show much the same composition as this one, containing cooking-pots, bowls and glazed fragments in similar forms and fabrics. The glazed pitcher no. 11 can be paralleled very closely in 12th-century contexts at

([36]) Identification and information supplied by Mr. Farrar.

([37]) R.C.H.M., *Medieval Archaeology,* Vol. 4, 1960, 29–55.
([38]) N. H. Field, *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 94 (1972), 49–62.
([39]) D. F. Renn, *Med. Arch.*, Vol. 4, 1960, 56–68; R.C.H.M., *ibid.*, Vol. 3, 1959, 120–138.
([40]) P. A. Rahtz, *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 81 (1959), 127–147.
([41]) C. P. Chaplin and J. C. Draper, "Dorchester Excavations", Vol. 2 (forthcoming).
([42]) R. A. H. Farrar, *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 72 (1950), 83–7.
([43]) R. A. H. Farrar, *ibid.*, Vol. 73 (1951), 108–111.

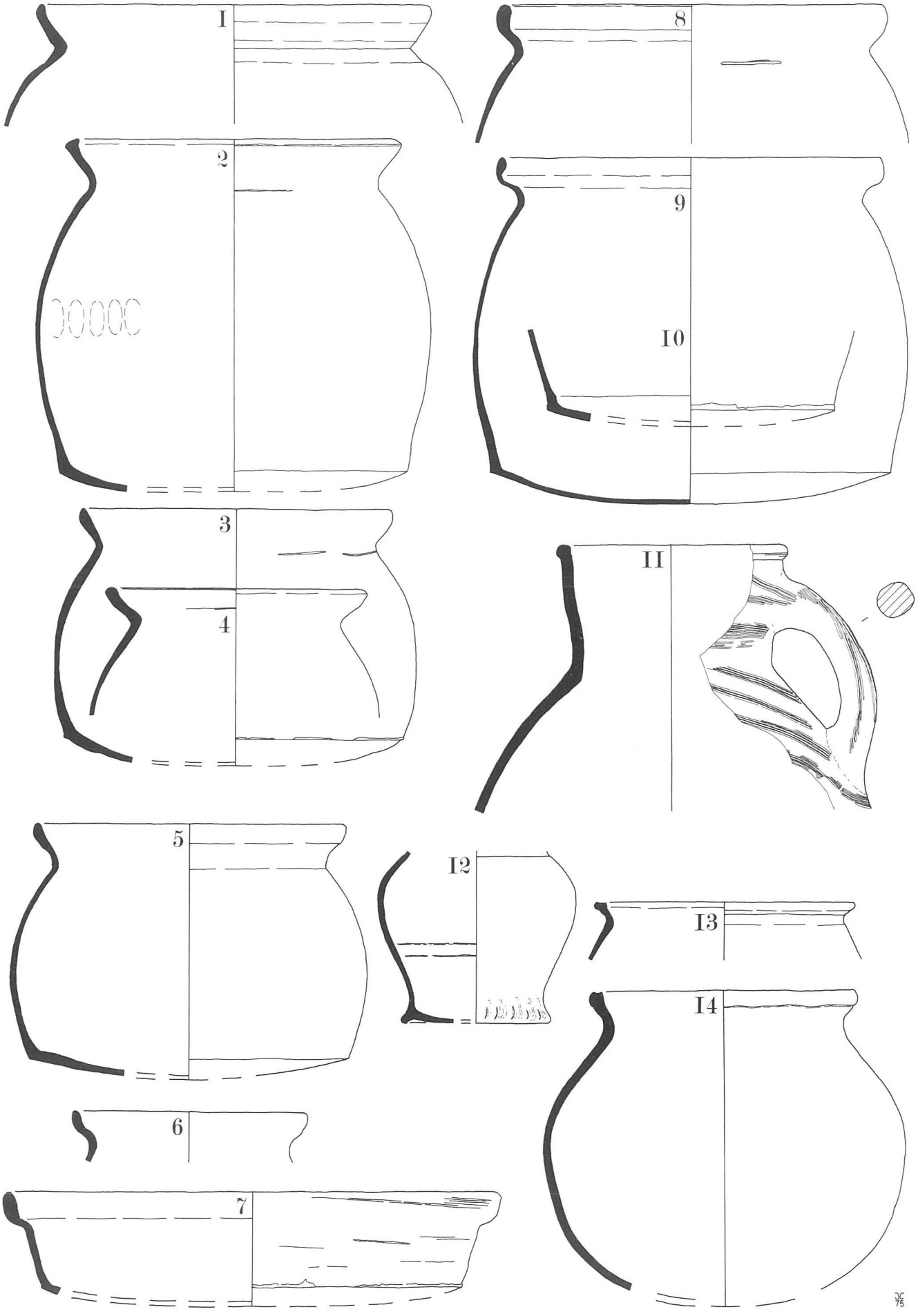

Fig. 9. Thirteenth-century pottery from West Stafford, Dorset (Scale 1/4) *Drawings: C. Chaplin.*

Barrow Clump,[44], Castle Neroche,[45], Downend[46] and Lydney Castle[47] in Somerset. However, the recently published material from Castle Neroche[48], which dates from the 11th and 12th centuries, differs from this group in form, although the fabric seems similar. A group from Exeter,[49] dated by the French roller-stamped pottery it contains, shows similarities to the West Stafford group, containing a bowl very similar in form and fabric to our no. 7. The Dorchester Prison group is the closest parallel with cook pots of the same form, although the Dorchester fabric is tempered with a little shell and the West Stafford fabric is not. The Dorchester group is dated by the fine handle it contains to the late 13th century and it would seem that the West Stafford group is of a similar date.

Pot no. 14 from Pit 2 can be paralleled in the Dorchester group, and could either be of the same date as the pottery in Pit 4 or, as the stratification suggests, slightly earlier. The two unstratified jugs, nos. 12 and 13, are probably of the 14th or 15th century. Similar material is illustrated for Holworth,[50] with a similar date suggested. There is a group containing bases like these, and also including slashed handles, from North Square, Dorchester (Dorset County Museum 1962 .23).

JO DRAPER

THE BOUNDS OF BRIDPORT

For a long time we have known that Bridport had a Town Ditch forming the northern boundary of the old borough. It ran along Rax Lane, a little way up Barrack Street, then along the back of the East Street properties to East Bridge. It is marked and named on a Ms. map of *c.*1780 in the Dorset County Record Office (B3/R2) and has frequent mention in the records.

However, this left us with two questions. One was that of the development of the structure of the town, an odd 'T' shape which does not fit into the usual categories. It aroused the suspicion that there were two linear developments of different periods, but there was no clear proof. That each would have had a central church, St. Mary for South Street and St. Andrew for East–West Streets, gave support, but was far from conclusive.

The other was a set of leases (B3/S94) relating to a property to the south of East Street, described as having the Town Ditch on its northern side. This could not possibly refer to the other ditch, and we assumed, with some misgiving, that it was a main drainage channel.

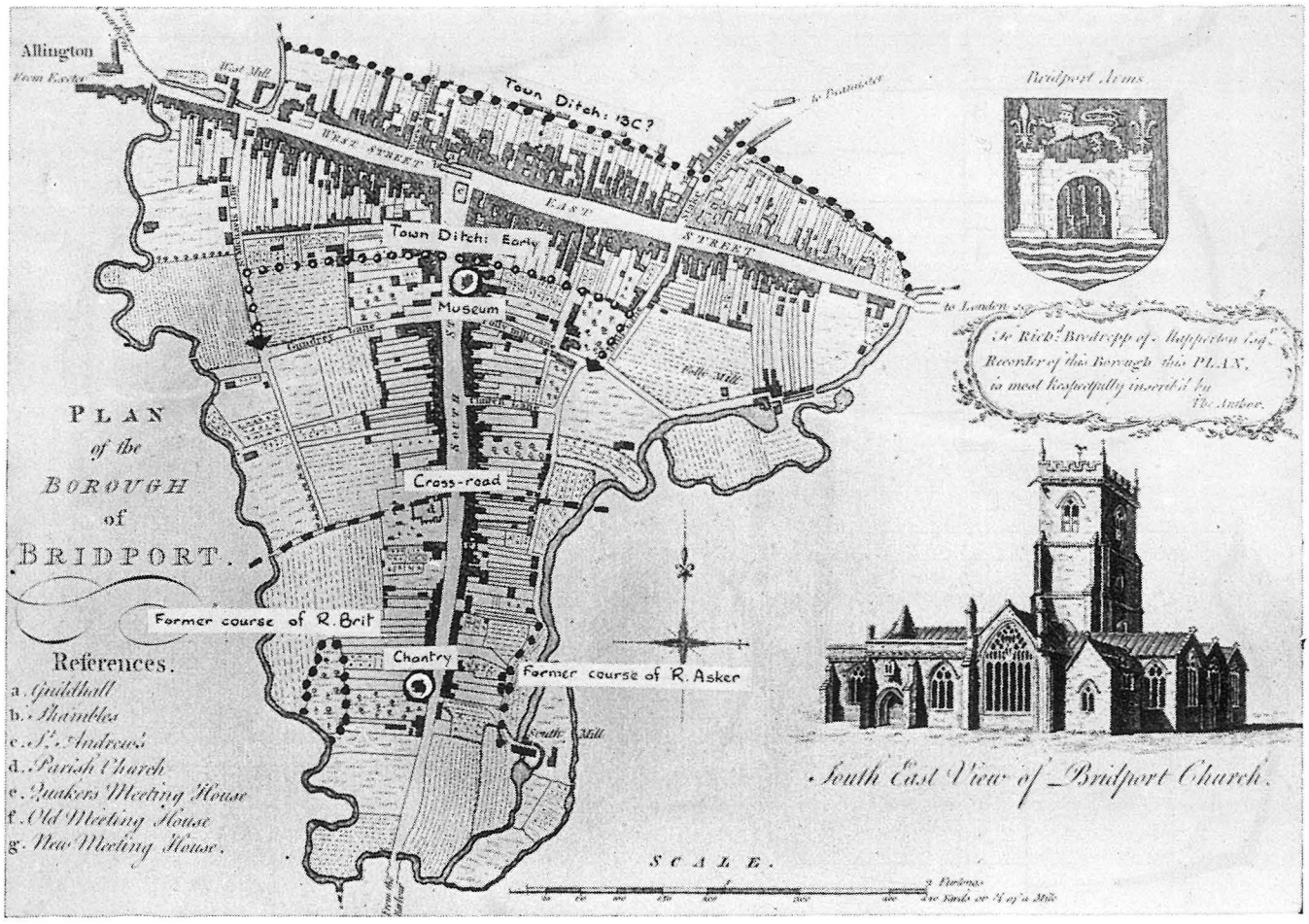

Fig. 10. Plan of Bridport from Hutchins' 'History of Dorset'.

Light was cast on the situation by an examination of transcripts of 13th-century deeds in the Sixth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts (1877). Several deeds (e.g. B3/CD53) refer to properties in South Street 'without the bars'. Some are grants to St. Andrew's Chapel, described in 1267 as 'newly established'. When we related this to the leases in B3/S94 and to references to 'the Castle', one of the traditional names for the Museum (and also for the Chantry), it was clear that there must have been gates just north of the Museum and that these were those of a town to the south.

(44) H. St. George Gray, *Proc. Somerset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 85, 1939, 124.
(45) H. St. George Gray, *ibid.*, Vol. 49, 1903, 23.
(46) H. St. George Gray, *ibid.*, Vol. 55, 1909, 162.
(47) D. A. Casey, *Antiq. Journ.*, Vol. XI, 1931, 240–261.
(48) B. K. Davison, *Proc. Somerset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 116, 1972, 16–59.
(49) G. C. Dunning and A. Fox, *Antiq. Journ.*, Vol. XXXI, 1951, 180–7, fig. 1, no. 14.
(50) P. A. Rahtz, *loc. cit.*, 145, fig. 11, nos. 61–2.

It is interesting that St. Mary's Church lies just about mid-way between the two 'Castle' sites, suggesting that the town, originally based on the Church, was garrisoned at the two most vulnerable points. Hutchins' map (Fig. 10) also suggests that St. Mary's was originally built at a cross-roads.

Borings recently made in the glebe to the west of St. Mary's show that there was a tidal estuary to the west of the town (and probably also to the east) at a time as yet unspecified, but it seems now probable that Bridport was established on a promontory, with natural defences of mud and marsh to east and west, a vulnerable landing-place to the south, and an extended frontage to the north.

The northern defence line can be plotted on the modern map and more clearly on Hutchins'. It runs eastward, beginning in a passage (Honey Lane in the 17th century) between nos. 15 and 17 South Street, to a passage lying slightly obliquely between no. 22 and 24 King Street. It then turns south, down King Street, the bank probably being represented by the elevated back gardens of Prospect Place. Westward it runs through the tanyard (no. 22 South Street) and along Drill Hall Passage to St. Michael's Lane. It then turns south along the line of Priory Lane, but probably just to the west of it.

The southern line has not been located, though its position might be guessed by analogy with the northern one. Two things may be relevant. One is the suggestion by Mr. N. H. Edwards that the Chantry was a harbour installation in the 14th century, with a landing due west of it. This draws attention to a change in the course of the River Brit, which had a loop conveniently behind where the defence line would be. The other is that the course of the River Asker has also changed, the Bothenhampton parish boundary containing South Mill and several cottages in South Mill Lane. Thus there was a very convenient narrow neck here at one time. This would suggest a southern defence line as far south of the Chantry as the other was north of the Museum.

Development to the north appears to be associated with a considerable immigration from Normandy early in the 13th century, but for much of the detail we shall require extensive archaeology.

E. BASIL SHORT

EXCAVATIONS IN THE GLEBE, BRIDPORT, 1975

Documentary research by the Rev. E. B. Short, described in the preceding Note, has located the position of a ditch that may well mark the line of the northern defences of the early mediaeval town. Since the "Brydian" of the Burghal Hidage has never been identified, this discovery is of great importance. Although the earthwork "Old Warren", just south of the village of Littlebredy, has been considered by some to be the site of the 10th century burh, others favour Bridport with its early mint evidence. Mr. Short and Mr. Sales, Curator of the Bridport Museum, were anxious that some attempt should be made to confirm the documentary evidence by excavation. Laurence Keen, County Archaeologist, and the writer became involved and, with the backing of the Society, possible sites were considered.

One such site was at SY 928465 in the cleared yard of the old tannery which appeared to be on the line of the ditch, but the owner's permission was not received in time. Fortunately, through the interest of the County Planning Officer and the cooperation of the Chief Executive of the West Dorset District Council, a wide choice of potential sites was made available in the former Glebe Land. This area, between South Street and the River Brit, is to be developed with housing and a road.

During August, with the help of a team of local volunteers and in collaboration with Mr. Keen, the writer investigated an open site in the Glebe some 12 metres beyond the western wall of St. Mary's Church and against the southern hedge of the sunken pathway to Skilling (SY 92564651). An area 12 by 5 m was excavated with the long side parallel to the churchyard wall and immediately on the line of the proposed service road.

The whole area was taken down to the natural which, at 0.6 m below ground level, was of stiff dark brown silt with a little clay. No stratified sequences were found and evidence of occupation immediately on the site was completely lacking. A shallow feature running through the centre of the excavation in the form of a wide trench proved to be associated with cultivation.

The 0.6 m of overburden showed considerable mixing and at all levels mediaeval unglazed ware and oyster shell were found. Conversely, pieces of modern flowerpot occurred at the lowest level. In general, however, as the excavation progressed, pottery representing the 12th century to the present day was found; all the sherds were small, suggesting field rubbish. All the mediaeval pottery was abraded, most occurring at the lowest level. As well as a fragment of 14th century inlaid tile, a very thin and badly worn silver penny of about the same period was found at a low level. Debris from the fill of the central feature included iron slag, small pieces of coal, tobacco-pipe bowls and stems, pins, thimbles, buttons, china and earthenware of the last century.

The pipes, probably the first assemblage from an excavation in Bridport, are of considerable interest, and I am grateful to Miss Elizabeth Watkins for the accompanying report on them.

The absence of occupation so near the church suggests that, south of the church, the flood-plains of the Brit and Asker allowed only linear development along a line identical with that followed by South Street today. This linear development is clear on Hutchins' 18th century map of the town. It is hoped to make other probes nearer the street, the south side of which will be cut by the new road near the Chantry. At the same time it is hoped to confirm the line of the ditch by one or two small excavations.

Thanks are due to all those who made the excavation possible, particularly to those officials of the West Dorset District in Bridport who arranged storage and back-filling. I am grateful to Laurence Keen for his professional advice as well as to the Rev. Basil Short whose enthusiasm inspired the gallant band of diggers who suffered considerably during a very hot August.

JOHN BAILEY

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES FROM BRIDPORT GLEBE

The clay tobacco-pipes described below were found during the excavations by Mr. John Bailey in the Glebe, Bridport, west of St. Mary's Church (SY 925465).

Pipe bowls from BG.1, Top-soil (Fig. 11)

1. Two thick stems with part of base containing a mark, or possibly, initials; 17th-century, from thickness of stem and wide bore of hole.
2. Pipe with large, fairly thin-walled bowl, *c.*1760–1800; no marks.
3. Two 19th-century bowl fragments decorated with the Freemasons' emblem, a square and compass. One pipe has an initital H in the centre.

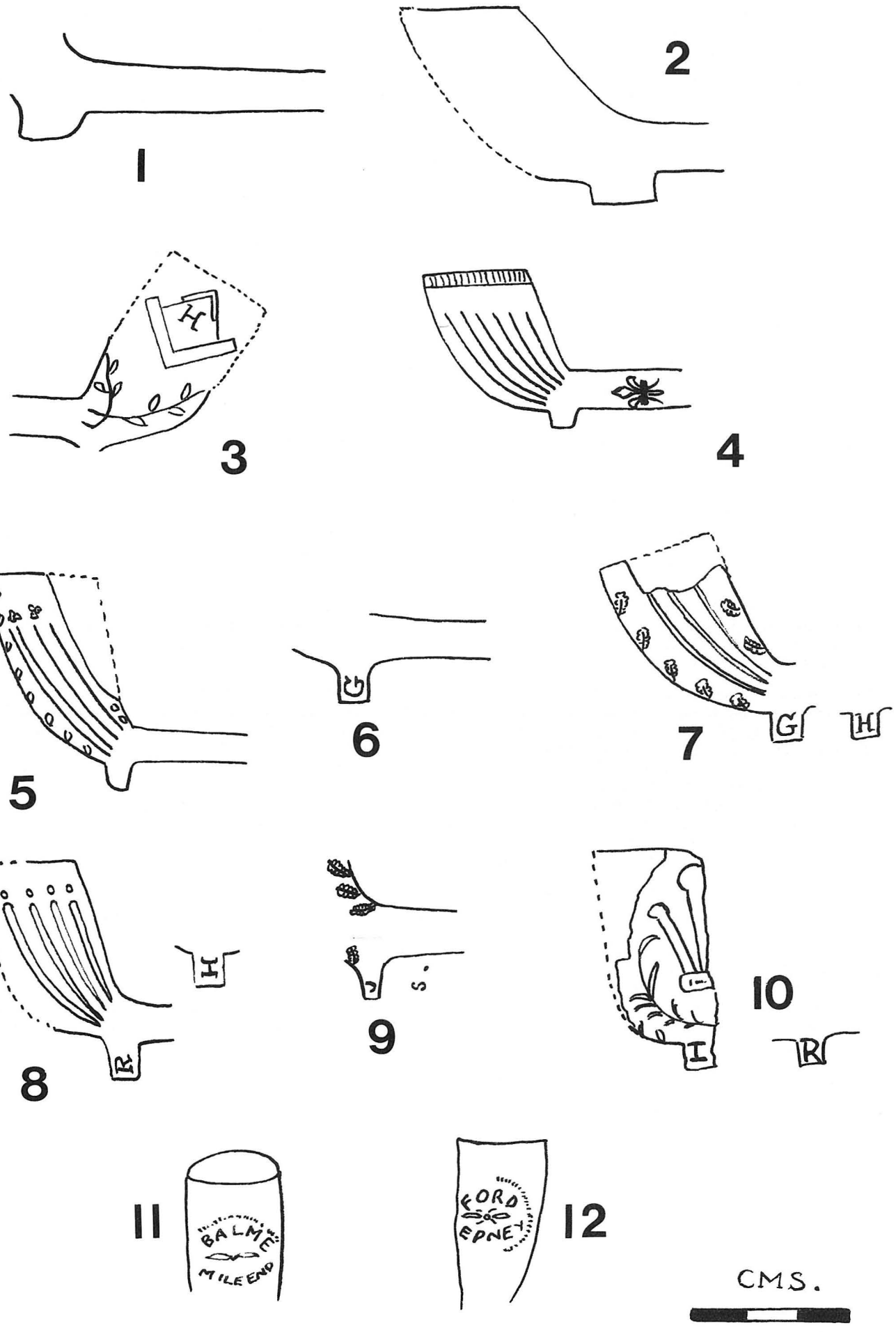

Fig. 11. Tobacco-pipes from The Glebe, Bridport (actual size).

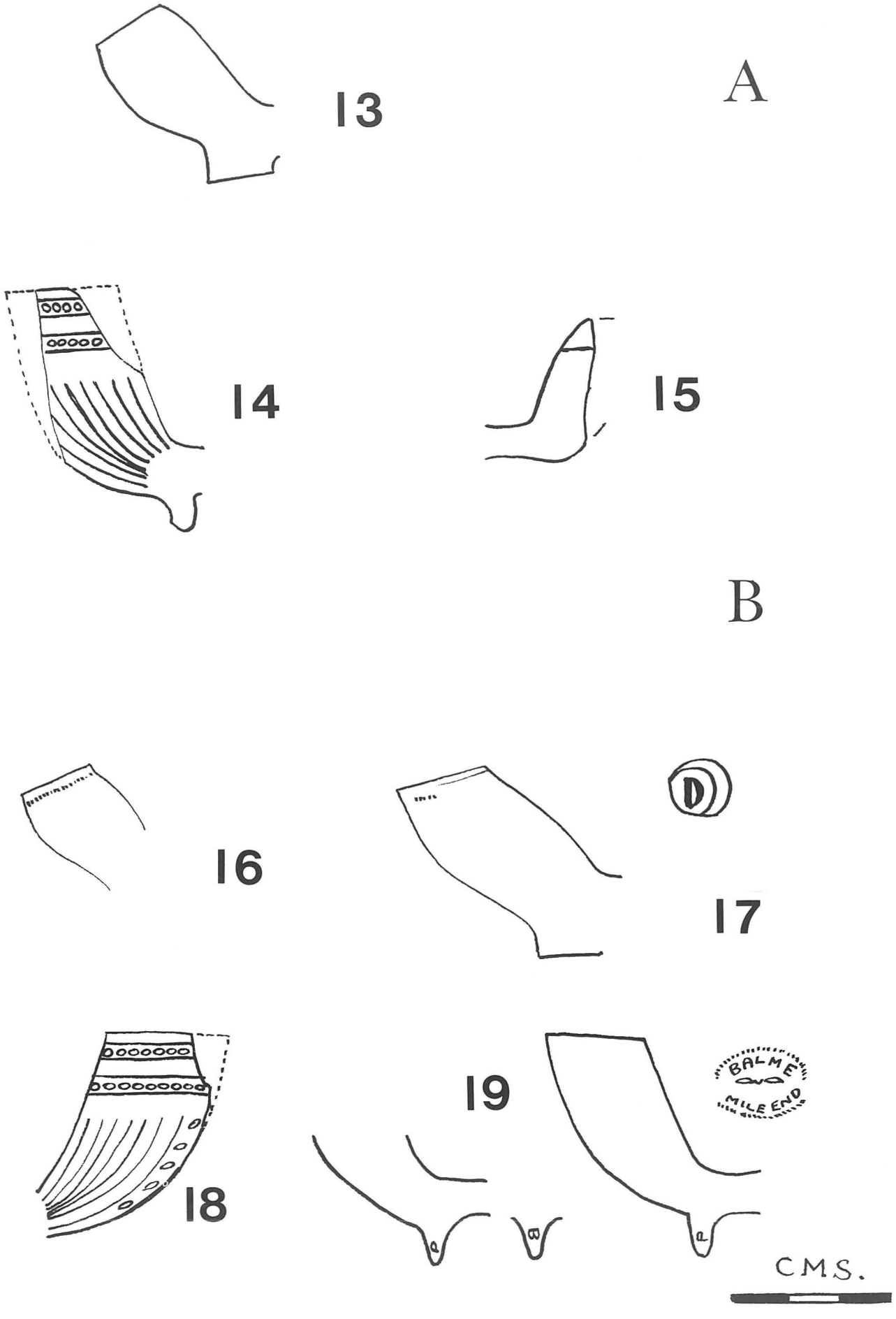

Fig. 12. Tobacco-pipes from The Glebe, Bridport (actual size). A — from upper level, F1; B — from outside F1.

4. A well-made 19th-century pipe, with a small fluted bowl, and a neat fleur-de-lis on each side of the stem. No other marks or initials.
5. A 19th-century pipe with a fairly large fluted bowl, which has a line of leaves along each join. No identifying marks or initials.
6. A fragment of stem and spur, with the initial G on each side.
7. A pipe with a large fluted bowl, and leaf pattern along the join. The spur has the initials G and H on it, possibly those of pipe-maker George Hallett of Beaminster, *c.*1842; or George Harding of Southampton, 1846 (Post Office Directory). George Hallett appears in Pigot's Directory for 1842 as an earthenware and tobacco pipe manufacturer, of Hogshill Street, Beaminster. According to the Tithe Map of Beaminster, 1842, Robert and George Hallett were landowners and occupiers of a House, Yard, Garden, Buildings, and Orchard, in Hogshill Street.
8. A fluted pipe, and a fragment of bowl and spur with the initials R and H (Robert Hallett?) on the spur.
9. A fragment of bowl with a neat pattern of oak leaves along the joins, and a small spur with the initials J and S on it; possibly J. Sants of Bath, or James Skeaimes of Salisbury, *c.*1850.([51])
10. Part of a pipe bowl decorated rather roughly with a plume of feathers surrounded by leaves. The spur has the initial R on one side, and possibly an H, or T, on the other.
11. A smooth, well-made pipe with a slender stem and long thin spur. On the front of the bowl is BALME/MILEEND in a circle and the initials P and B on the spur; Paul Balme of Canal Wharf, Mile End Road, 1832–54, or Paul Balme of the same address, 1862–6.([52]) See also no. 19.
12. Fragment of pipe bowl with FORD/EPNE in an oval; possibly John Ford of White Horse Street, Stepney, 1823–65.([52])

Pipe bowls from BG 1(2), upper level, F1 (Fig. 12A).

13. A mid to late 17th-century pipe, with a flat, circular base, and no marks or initials.
14. A large, thin-walled, 19th-century fluted bowl, with two bands containing a row of dots around the top. It has a fairly long spur, but no marks or initials. Also another fragment of a similar pipe bowl.
15. Small fragment of a pipe bowl with a very slim stem and fine hole; it has a slightly pink-coloured band around the top of the bowl; no spur, no marks; probably late 19th-century.

Pipe bowls from BG.1(2), outside F1 (Fig. 12B).

16. Top part of an early to mid 17th-century bowl, with clear milling around the rim; no marks.
17. Late 17th-century bowl, with a little milling by the rim, and a plain line around part of it. The large flat base has a mark on it, possibly an initial D in a circle.
18. A fluted bowl very similar to no. 14; the pattern is not as clear, but there are some dots along one side, which was missing in no. 14.
19. The bottom half of the Balme, Mile End, pipe (no. 11), with initials P and B on the spur. Also part of another similar pipe, with possibly the same initials, almost obliterated, on the spur.

ELIZABETH WATKINS

SOME RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN DORSET

A barrow at Rempstone, Corfe Castle.

Major D. C. D. Ryder of Rempstone has located an unrecorded barrow at SY 99538221 as the result of clearing undergrowth in the replanted Nelson Plantation opposite the Rempstone stone circle. A new stone circle of sandstone uprights constructed by him at 98658238, on the west side of the drive to his new house, is worthy of record. We have to thank Mr. P. A. Brown for passing on this information.

A Roman tessellated pavement at Bucknowle, Corfe Castle.

Further observation by Mr. P. A. Brown of the area immediately west of Copper (or Cooper's) Bridge over the Corfe River, where he noted Romano-British pottery which was then thought indicative of an ancient route rather than of occupation,([53]) has led to the discovery of a coarse tessellated pavement. The site (SY 95458154) lies at the east end of a low ridge, below 100 ft., at the north edge of the Wealden vale below the Chalk downs west of Corfe Castle, and is suggestive of a villa; if so, it is the first to be discovered on this side of the Chalk ridge.

A trial pit about 1 yard square, dug by permission of Mr. Parker of Bucknowle Farm in an arable field south of the old lane (now ploughed out) between Copper Bridge and Church Knowle, exposed the foundation of a wall running north–south with the broken edge of a tessellated pavement on its west side. The wall, 1½ to 2 ft. wide, was of rubble between facing blocks of limestone, and the tesserae were of red tile about 1 in. square set directly on the sandy subsoil. Probing suggested that the floor continues some 6 feet further west and 10 feet to north, in places only 10 ins. below surface. Finds included a class C waste core from a shale armlet and some local coarse pottery.

A smaller trial pit, already dug a few yards further east in March, had exposed remains apparently of a floor of limestone slabs, overlying a layer of ashy debris which has been traced almost to the field boundary hedge, some 35 yards to the east, which runs alongside the flood-plain of the stream.

A Romano-British bronze bracelet(?) from Kingston, Corfe Castle.

Mr. P. A. Brown has found, on the Iron Age and Roman site near Kingston Plantation,([54]) a 5-in. long piece of a thin and much bent strip of bronze, just under 4 mm wide, apparently from a bracelet. The face is decorated with oblique knurling and one end has remains probably of an eyelet hole. A similar object is recorded from Blashenwell in these *Proceedings,* Vol. 91, 192.

([51]) D. R. Atkinson, 'Clay tobacco pipes found in Shaftesbury', *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 91 (1969).
([52]) D. R. Atkinson and F. Oswald, 'London clay tobacco pipes', *Journ. Brit. Archaeol. Assoc.*, Vol. 32, 1969.
([53]) *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 92 (1970), 157.
([54]) R.C.H.M., *op. cit.*, 600.

Shale spindle-whorls from Brenscombe and Blashenwell, Corfe Castle.

Mr. P. A. Brown sends sketches of two shale spindle-whorls found recently on the Brenscombe villa site and the occupation site at Blashenwell.([55]) In each whorl the two flat faces are slightly raised, or offset, from the body which, in the Brenscombe example, is a flattened sphere, while the other is of bipartite form, with a central carination separating two halves of ogee profile. The faces of the Brenscombe whorl are slightly dished. The sketches will be filed in the County Museum with papers relating to the year's fieldwork.

A lost chapel at Encombe, Corfe Castle.

Mr. P. A. Brown reports the discovery, by Colonel and Mrs. H. E. Scott of Encombe House, of what may be the remains of an unsuspected chapel, with some nearby cottage foundations, close to Encombe Farm. The acquisition of a print, entitled 'Chapel, Encombe', by John Claude Nattes (1765?–1822) led to the search and to the identification of ruined walls incorporated in a garden wall of the farmhouse, at SY 94387792. The print showed some neighbouring cottages no longer in existence, and rubble suggests their location close to the south end of the southernmost of the three lakes between Encombe House and the farm buildings, at 94427795. Anyone with information to add is invited to communicate with Mr. Brown, at Eastgate, Corfe Castle.

A Romano-British site near Spyway Barn, Langton Matravers.

Mr. P. A. Brown sends information of a newly discovered Romano-British occupation site west of Spyway Barn and south of the Priest's Way on the limestone ridge, near Dancing Ledge. A small area of black soil was noticed at SY 99497764 astride a trackway leading south-eastwards diagonally across a field to the entrance to a quarry, and a flint scraper and a quantity of pottery were recovered, including a samian sherd and black-burnished ware of relatively early Roman date.

Some years ago Mr. R. Newman showed the present writer two sherds found some 350 yards further south, half-way between the new quarries and Dancing Ledge,([56]) so the site might prove an extensive one.

The observation of sewage trenches at Toller Porcorum.

The village of Toller Porcorum (SY 563980) lies in the valley of the River Hooke (formerly the Toller), some two miles west of Maiden Newton where the river joins the Frome. The nucleus of the present village lies south of the Hooke in the angle formed by its confluence with a small tributary flowing in from the west. The road system follows a broadly similar pattern, coming down west into the vale from the main road (A 356) near Whitesheet Hill, and turning north-west in the village along the south side of the Hooke towards Kingcombe, while a minor branch, King Street, crosses the tributary in a south-westerly direction to run out shortly at Frogmore Dairy House into lanes and tracks leading towards Eggardon Hill.

The extant structure of the Church of St. Peter, which lies (off School Lane) on relatively high ground about 90 yards west-north-west of the junction between the Kingcombe road and High Street, dates from the late 13th or early 14th century; otherwise there are seemingly no buildings in the village earlier than the 17th century,([57]) much having been destroyed in a fire in 1681. The site of the manor house is unknown, although we understand that there is documentary evidence for a Richard and a Henry de Tolre in the 13th century. The name Manor Farm now attaches to two properties, one across the Hooke north-west of the church, beyond Toller Mill, and another in the village itself on the road from Maiden Newton.

In the winter of 1972 a system of sewage trenches was dug in the village, and our member, Mrs. Dinah Austin, of Woolcombe Farm, followed the work as much as possible, recovering pottery (at present in her possession) of mediaeval and later date, in an effort to throw light on its early history; she has kindly put her results at our disposal. A plan of the system, drawn out with assistance from the Urban District Council on a copy of the O.S. 25-in. plans SY 5697 and 5698, and to be filed in the County Museum with other papers relating to fieldwork in 1975, shows that in a broad sense the trenches followed the road system described above. The main departures were (a) to take a course, short-circuiting the lower end of the Kingcombe road in the heart of the present village, turning off sooner north-westwards through the lower ground, mostly consisting of water-meadows, nearer the river Hooke, to fall in with the Kingcombe road at a point north-east of the church; (b) to run through the meadows close to the tributary stream east of its High Street bridge.

It will be clear that the system could in no sense be described as affording a comprehensive glimpse of below-surface horizons in the village but, with this limitation in mind, it was sufficiently extensive to permit Mrs. Austin to draw some valid conclusions, and the area near the church was to some extent probed by a branch drain to the village hall immediately to the north-east and another to the south-west of the church. The principal omission in the system was of any trenching in that part of the meadows closest to the precise confluence of the streams.

In the event, all the trenches and excavated spoil proved sterile, except in the above-mentioned branch in the village hall area north-east of the church, where Mrs. Austin considers the manor house may have stood, and in the low-lying areas of water-meadow closer to the two rivers — that is, east and south of the present nucleus. The higher ground occupied by the present village, with the single exception stated, and the areas of Toller Mill and of High Street, yielded no finds at all, and the inference is that the earlier occupation was probably close to the confluence and the present bridge on the Maiden Newton road. Since no structural remains were seen, the possibility of the dumping of rubbish outwards from the centre has to be considered, but the negative evidence from the sterile areas is nonetheless a reckonable factor.

Mrs. Austin's list of finds, exclusively of pottery, in the identification of which she wishes to acknowledge the help of the county archaeologist, Mr. Laurence Keen, does not need to be detailed here, but is filed with the sewage plan. Without any marked concentration, except that half the total came from the southern trenches, east of the High Street bridge, there were 39 post-mediaeval and 121 mediaeval sherds, the latter total including two stated as glazed, and one as a thumb-pressed base. The fabric included coarse grit-tempered and finer sandy wares.

Erratum

The preliminary work at the new car park, Christchurch, Dorset, was done by the South Wessex Archaeological Association, and not by the Excavation Committee as stated at the end of the note on excavations by Poole Museum published in Volume 96 of these *Proceedings*, p. 67.

R. A. H. FARRAR

([55]) For these sites see *ibid.*, 598-9, and *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 91 (1969), 192.
([56]) *Proc. Dorset N.H.&A.S.*, Vol. 85 (1963), 105.
([57]) R.C.H.M., "Dorset", Vol. I, 1952, 252.

Dorset Rainfall, 1975

by D. J. Paxman, MA

STATISTICS

In 1975 Dorset's general rainfall was 28.12 inches which is only 76 per cent of the recent average of 36.84 inches.

Monthly summary:

	Rainfall in inches	Average for 1945-69
January	5.6	3.5
February	1.0	2.7
March	3.6	2.6
April	2.0	2.2
May	1.0	2.6
June	.2	2.1
July	1.7	2.3
August	2.2	3.1
September	5.1	3.6
October	1.1	3.7
November	3.5	4.2
December	1.2	4.1

The wettest station was Cattistock with 34.09 inches. The driest was Weymouth with 22.74.

GENERAL REPORT

The year was among the drier years in our records though there have been seven drier years this century. The drier years were (in sequence): 1905, 1908, 1921, 1933, 1953, 1964 and 1973. However, 1971 was also a dry year, with a rainfall very similar to that of 1975. Taking the five years 1971-75 together there has been a shortfall of rain amounting to 10 per cent. This period has been followed by further dry weather in the first half of 1976 with consequent speculation about climatic change. It may be worth noting that there have been more notable periods of low rainfall in the past. The five years from 1898 to 1902 produced a shortfall of 17½ per cent in Dorset.

Again there was a winter with no really cold weather. There were a few falls of snow but these were neither deep nor did the snow lie for long.

HEAVY FALLS OF RAIN

January

On 19th and again on 26th the fronts of Atlantic depressions gave heavy rain at some Dorset stations. On each occasion about a dozen stations had just over an inch of rain. The heaviest fall on either day was 1.40 inches at Wareham (Furzebrook) on 26th.

March 8th

A secondary depression moved east up the English Channel. Rainfall in Dorset was heaviest in the southern half of the county. Again it was about a dozen stations that had over an inch of rain. The heaviest fall was 1.51 inches at Beaminster.

September 13th

This was much the wettest day of the year. At 0600 a deep depression lay off SW Ireland. The associated warm front was over the Bay of Biscay and was moving NE towards the French coast. During the following 24 hours the depression deepened and moved up-Channel to the Dover Strait. Nearly all Dorset had about 1½ inches of rain and at three stations the fall exceeded two inches (2.50 inches at Martinstown, 2.12 at Forde Abbey and 2.10 at Branksome).

Sepember 26th

This was the second wettest day. At 0600 a depression which had formed near Newfoundland was moving rapidly across the Atlantic. It lay to SW of Ireland by 0600 on 27th. The associated frontal system crossed Dorset in the early hours of 27th. At least half the county had over an inch of rain. At Corfe Mullen (Central Avenue) a fall of 2.50 inches was reported, though at the nearby Waterworks the fall was only 1.43 inches. Apart from this the highest fall was 1.57 inches at Minterne.

LATE REPORTS

We have received late reports from Melbury Gardens.

1973: 1.95; 1.41; 1.49; 2.33; 3.52; 2.28; 3.02; 3.17; 2.90; 2.41; 1.76; 3.28. Total for the year 29.52 inches.

1974: 8.57; 6.98; 1.38; .68; 2.59; 3.95; 1.18; 6.81; 8.23; 2.02; 6.03; 3.76. Total for the year 52.18 inches.

RAINFALL STATIONS

The station at Dorchester (Higher Kingston) has closed.

Rainfall in Dorset 1975

STATION	OBSERVER	Greatest Fall in 24 hours		Days with 1 in or more	Days with .01 in or more	DEPTH OF RAINFALL IN INCHES												Total for Year
		Depth	Date			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Abbotsbury (Rodden Row)	Miss A.M. Hutchings	1.50	13/9	1	148	3.82	.98	3.69	2.15	1.14	.04	1.49	2.01	4.33	.80	3.51	.82	24.78
Beaminster (East Street)	W. A. Stiby	1.57	13/9	4	150	6.40	.91	4.59	1.83	.56	.22	2.24	3.07	4.65	1.13	3.48	1.16	30.24
Blandford (Bryanston)	Miss A.M. Jaques	1.47	13/9	2	145	5.91	.96	3.57	1.62	.91	.15	1.93	2.42	4.57	1.25	3.27	.95	27.51
Bloxworth Heath (Research Nursery)	G.F. Farrimond	1.65	27/9	3	104	5.49	.88	3.03	1.62	.93	.05	1.03	1.58	5.21	.91	4.00	1.29	26.02
Bournemouth (Alderney Reservoir)	B'mouth & Dist. Water Co.	1.65	13/9	3	133	5.22	.96	3.22	1.70	1.31	.07	1.12	2.44	5.85	.86	2.90	1.02	26.68
Branksome (Bourne Valley)	W.R. Coles	2.10	13/9	3	134	4.88	1.05	3.80	1.80	1.39	.07	.93	2.32	6.90	.65	3.03	1.24	28.06
Bridport (East Road)	E.J. Hine	1.36	13/9	1	117	4.54	1.11	3.41	1.82	.53	NIL	2.37	2.48	3.94	.91	3.43	.76	25.30
Bridport (North Chideock)	H.J.F. Smith	—	—	—	—	4.38	1.10	3.27	1.78	.62	.14	2.61	2.59	4.02	1.00	2.98	1.00	25.49
Buckland Newton (Brockhampton Gate)	Major A.M. Hall	—	—	—	—	5.67	.93	3.25	1.72	.65	.13	2.10	1.65	3.43	1.32	3.11	.87	24.83
Cattistock (Manor Farm)	R.J. Bere	1.79	13/9	4	148	6.80	1.17	4.68	2.36	.83	.10	2.69	2.48	6.00	1.25	4.33	1.40	34.09
Charminster (Forston Pumping Station)	E.R. Fox	1.57	13/9	3	140	6.77	.92	3.32	2.38	.85	.08	1.59	1.73	4.67	1.40	3.75	1.36	28.82
Corfe Castle (Waterworks)	Wessex Water	1.16	26/9	3	139	5.84	1.29	3.84	2.01	1.53	.03	1.20	1.65	5.27	.76	4.11	1.42	28.95
Dorchester (Alfred Road)	J.R. Oliver	1.46	13/9	3	148	6.52	1.08	3.79	2.66	.97	.07	1.76	1.81	5.03	1.18	4.09	1.68	30.64
Dorchester (Queen's Avenue)	Miss A.M. Yeatman	1.50	13/9	3	—	6.91	1.16	4.07	2.91	1.10	.06	2.00	1.84	5.09	1.09	4.29	1.72	32.24
Dorchester (Martinstown)	Mrs E.S. Symonds	2.50	13/9	4	133	5.90	.95	4.00	2.91	1.33	.05	1.94	1.52	5.32	.61	3.58	1.72	29.83
Dorchester (Waterworks)	Wessex Water	1.48	13/9	2	141	6.12	.98	3.64	2.71	.92	.05	2.11	2.13	4.86	.98	4.22	1.44	30.16
Evershot (Melbury House)	W. Wright	1.52	13/9	2	110	6.41	.87	3.54	2.23	.58	NIL	2.03	2.53	4.32	1.15	3.55	1.03	28.24
Forde Abbey	G.D. Roper	2.12	13/9	5	150	5.49	1.00	4.21	1.47	.67	.61	3.23	2.09	5.04	1.57	3.58	.96	29.92
Mapperton	V. Montagu	1.47	13/9	3	135	5.79	.98	4.40	2.02	.46	.23	1.98	3.24	4.49	1.04	3.74	1.29	29.66
Marnhull (Great Down Lane)	Mrs E.M. Payne	1.20	13/9	2	163	4.94	1.01	3.66	2.11	1.90	.33	1.86	3.06	4.05	1.13	2.92	.93	27.90
Milton Abbas (Gate House)	Miss Wansbrough	1.93	13/9	6	—	5.95	1.06	3.93	2.00	.80	.06	2.75	2.85	5.17	1.51	3.47	1.17	30.72
Minterne	The Lord Digby	1.95	13/9	4	152	6.60	1.12	3.56	2.35	.72	.22	2.20	2.54	6.29	1.43	3.84	1.45	32.32
Netherbury (The Garden House)	J.K. Newsom Davis	1.44	13/9	4	150	5.53	.96	3.98	1.76	.55	.25	2.47	2.95	4.55	1.09	3.32	1.07	28.48
Okeford Fitzpaine (Pumping Station)	Wessex Water	1.36	13/9	2	147	5.50	.80	3.94	1.71	.96	.91	2.14	2.17	4.41	.57	2.95	.87	26.93
Owermoigne (The Mill House)	J. Whatmoor	1.90	13/9	2	148	4.99	.99	2.91	1.61	.82	.04	1.13	1.40	5.52	1.56	3.35	1.14	25.46
Parkstone (Lilliput)	R.J.O. Crew	1.88	13/9	3	147	4.30	1.01	3.45	1.78	1.37	.09	1.09	2.30	6.07	.72	3.02	1.05	26.25
Poole (Pitwine's Gasworks)	W.R. Coles	—	—	—	—	4.98	.91	3.27	1.61	1.18	.07	1.06	2.10	6.12	.99	2.99	1.23	26.51
Shillingstone (Green Hills)	E. Nimmo	1.39	4/8	—	—	5.65	.95	3.69	1.67	.89	.66	2.04	2.85	4.08	.83	3.01	.72	27.04
Swanage	K. Moore	1.25	13/9	3	144	4.96	1.15	4.05	1.86	1.52	.11	.70	1.82	5.04	.65	3.41	1.18	26.45
Wareham (East Stoke, River Laboratory)	J. Morgan	1.48	26/9	3	151	5.49	1.39	2.96	1.59	1.44	.02	1.13	1.93	5.36	1.18	3.81	1.36	27.66
Wareham (Furzebrook Research Station)	D.C.P. Malt	1.50	13/9	5	122	6.41	1.34	3.50	2.14	1.58	.05	1.76	1.44	5.73	.83	4.01	1.27	30.06
Wareham (Trigon)	D. Sturdy	1.59	13/9	3	144	5.25	1.13	2.86	1.61	1.22	NIL	.96	1.69	5.32	1.06	3.59	1.14	25.83
Weymouth (Cranford Avenue)	H.F. Middleton	1.37	13/9	—	—	—	—	—	—	.67	.04	.85	1.55	4.09	1.44	3.64	1.11	—
Weymouth (Westham)	G.B. Smith	1.29	13/9	2	144	4.08	.89	2.90	2.00	.70	.04	1.14	1.72	4.01	1.36	2.90	1.00	22.74
Wimborne (Clevedon Lodge)	Dr E.H. Markby	—	—	—	—	5.56	1.14	3.38	1.88	1.46	.69	1.36	2.34	5.35	1.04	3.00	1.21	28.41
Wimborne (Corfe Mullen, Central Avenue)	A.H. Dunn	2.50	26/9	7	154	6.14	.99	4.16	1.91	1.47	.14	2.14	3.56	6.93	1.26	2.93	1.27	32.90
Wimborne (Corfe Mullen, Pumping Station)	Wessex Water	1.43	26/9	3	136	5.31	.93	3.38	1.62	1.29	.22	.95	2.50	5.18	.85	2.90	1.17	26.30
Wimborne (Stanbridge Mill Pumping Stn.)	B'mouth & Dist. Water Co.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24.02
Wimborne (Walsford Bridge Pumping Stn.)	B'mouth & Dist. Water Co.	1.31	13/9	2	143	5.30	1.02	3.31	1.79	1.24	.70	1.28	2.60	4.95	.97	2.86	1.13	27.17
Winfrith (Atomic Energy Establishment)	D.C. Fraser	1.61	13/9	2	130	5.01	1.14	2.85	1.53	.87	.02	.91	1.83	5.50	1.27	3.45	1.29	25.67
AVERAGE FOR THE COUNTY				3	141	5.56	1.03	3.63	1.96	1.02	.19	1.75	2.23	5.05	1.06	3.47	1.18	28.12

Geology

by John C. W. Cope

The following hitherto undescribed sections were noted by the writer during the past year.

Cenomanian Basement Bed at Litton Cheney

Records of the Cenomanian Basement Bed in Dorset are well-known from the coastal exposures, and many inland localities. These latter have been recently fully described by Kennedy (Proc. Geol. Ass. 1970, 81, pp. 613-677). The Geological Survey Memoir for Bridport and Yeovil (1958) also describes this horizon in the area around Chilcombe Hill. In the summer of 1975 a good exposure of the bed was seen in the sides of the footpath leading south from Litton Cheney Church, to the road (SY 551 908). The exposure is clearly an old one and has apparently been overlooked by earlier workers. It lies a little to the north of the Litton Cheney fault and accurately places the Upper Greensand/Chalk boundary in this area. Fossils are abundant here, though often rolled and phosphatized. The fauna includes species of *Acanthoceras, Calycoceras, Scaphites* and *Anisoceras,* as well as very large nautilids (*Eutrephoceras*), brachiopods, bivalves and echinoids. These form a Middle Cenomanian assemblage. At the base of the Basement Bed is an algal band, 1-3 cm thick which follows the irregularities of the eroded upper surface of the Upper Greensand below. This algal horizon has been noted at this junction in other localities, notably the area around Chedington, and in the coastal exposures around Lulworth.

Upper Chalk North of Chalbury

A silage pit excavated in the Upper Chalk on the west side of the Green Hill to Came Wood road at SY 698 845 showed a section in the Upper Chalk. Although still quite near to the Ridgeway Poxwell fault system the chalk was not notably tectonised, and was white, fairly soft and with few flints. The fauna consisted of abundant plates of *Marsupites testudinarius* and occasional specimens of *Porosphaera*. The fauna is clearly that of the *testudinarius* Zone, and corresponds to that described by Arkell (1947 Weymouth Memoir p. 213) some 2½ miles to the west.

Botany

by Professor R. d'O. Good

Despite the warm late winter and the splendid summer, 1975 was a very poor year for plant records. Some of the river plants, notably the flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), flowered unusually well, doubtless because of the high temperatures in the low waters, but only one notable record was received. This was the blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), a North American species, reported by Mr. Ralls and Mrs. A. K. Hunt growing in considerable quantity in a small corner of Turbary Common at Wallisdown. Unfortunately the locality is close to new housing and is likely to be disturbed before long.

No confirmation or otherwise of the *Pyrola* referred to in volume 94 of the *Proceedings* has been forthcoming.

A radio programme in the autumn indicated that the wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*) does not occur in Dorset, but assuming that some of the trees that have been recorded from the county are native, this is incorrect.

Two garden trees commonly planted in the Poole and Bournemouth area deserve a comment. *Acacia dealbata* (the "Mimosa" of florists) which is one of the earliest signs of spring, flowered as early as the end of January, and the strawberry-tree (*Arbutus unedo*), which comes into bloom in mid-autumn, flowered most profusely. It will be interesting to see whether this is followed in 1976 by as fine a display of its very attractive fruits.

Marine Invertebrates

by J. B. Hawthorne

The public enquiry into a planning application to extract ball clay from the Arne Peninsula in Poole Harbour illustrated how little is known of the processes taking place in our marine and estuarine waters. What did become clear is that there is a wide variety of sources of pollution in Poole Harbour and that the need for a better understanding of the harbour and the relationships between the living organisms and water-borne factors may be urgent. The need to consider carefully what happens in our inshore waters is gradually becoming apparent; the Wessex Water Authority has put considerable effort into publicity supporting their scheme for disposing of the untreated sewage of Portland and Weymouth into the sea ¾ mile off the Chesil Beach. Whether the sea is the best place for a great deal of water which could otherwise be recovered, in an area where the demand for water may sometimes be difficult to satisfy, is an argument that cannot be followed here.

The Nature Conservancy Council have issued a contract for the surveying of all English and Scottish shores. Although such a massive survey will inevitably have its limitations, it may lead to a clearer appreciation of the value of Dorset shores in a national context. The marine life of Devon, Cornwall and north Somerset is being investigated in more detail by the South West Marine Biology Study Group led by Dr. Norman Holme and Professor David Nichols, and Dorset Naturalists' Trust is kept closely in touch. The relative conservation value of shores and near-shore waters must be assessed if coastal planning is to succeed.

Increased public access to the Lulworth Army Ranges has led to the formation of 'The recording and advisory group on wildlife on the Lulworth Ranges', within which is operating a Marine Study Unit. Information is being gathered on the shores, but surveying the habitats below low water mark is the most important work to be done.

The keys being published at low cost by the Linnean Society are intended for use by keen naturalists. They are designed for the pocket and claim resistance to wet hands. So far, Sea Squirts, Marine Isopods, Sea Spiders and a major group of Marine Snails have been covered. If you are keen, please use these as well as the popular Collins' Guide. Records can now be stored in the County Environmental Records Centre at the Museum — please send your observations, even if on the back of an envelope! Items of special interest will still appear in these notes. My thanks are due to all who have contributed records this year.

Land Arthropods other than Lepidoptera

by A. J. Brown F.R.E.S.

The mild winter and hot summer made 1975 a particularly good year for insects and spiders, and I have received a much larger batch of reports than in previous years. In addition, several species have been recorded from new localities. Reports have been received from E. F. Coetzee, J. R. Cox, W. M. Grange, D. Macer-Wright, Col. E. V. Prendergast and M. Skelton. Other observations are my own.

INSECTA

ORTHOPTERA

J. R. Cox has forwarded records of 15 species from the Studland area. Of particular interest are *Meconema thalassinum, Tetrix subulata* and *Acheta domestica,* which have not been previously recorded from Purbeck (see my article in the 1974 Proceedings). M. Skelton, of Monk's Wood Experimental Station, studied the Army ranges near Lulworth and noted *Ectobius panzeri, Tetrix ceperoi* and *Conocephalus discolor* in new localities. I myself found *Omocestus rufipes* to be widespread in the Cranborne Chase area.

Other records of note. *Chorthippus brunneus, C. parallelus,* Giant's Hill, Cerne Abbas, 30 vii 75; *Blatta orientalis,* County Laboratory, Dorchester, 3 xii 75 (EFC).

ODONATA

J. R. Cox has recorded 18 species in the Studland area. Of note is the absence of *Sympetrum sanguineum.* The species was recorded at Chapman's Pool, 7 x 75, by Col. Prendergast.

Other records of note. *Aeshna juncea, A. cyanea, Ischnura elegans, Coenagrion puella, Sympetrum striolatum,* all 28 vii 75, Compton Acres (EFC); *Agrion splendens,* 19 vi 75, near Bagber, 300 to 400 males in a 250 yards stretch of riverside vegetation, (EDVP).

COLEOPTERA

Lampyris noctiluca (Glowworm) 17 vi 75, Studland (JRC); *Neomysia oblongoguttata* (Streaked Ladybird) 31 v 75, Studland (JRC). Other ladybird species were plentiful this year in several localities. *Coniocleonus nebulosus,* 21 vi 75, Studland; a very local species of weevil. *Helophorus sp.* (probably *H. Affinis),* large swarms, West Bay, Lyme Regis foreshore 28 vi 75 (WMG).

HYMENOPTERA

Mutilla europea, 19 iv 75, Studland (JRC); *Ophion luteus, Lissona setosa,* 2 vi 75, Weymouth; *Odynerus spinipes,* 31 vii 75, Weymouth (EFC).

DIPTERA

Asilus crabroniformus, Southover Heath, Affpuddle, 25 vii 75 (EFC). Records of several of the more common Syrphidae have been received.

ARACHNIDA

Mr. D. Macer-Wright has been studying spiders in the Muckleford area and has, to date, recorded a total of 96 species, although none of them is particularly uncommon.

Other records. *Theridion pallens,* many, plus their 'spiky-club' egg-sacs, on undersides of oak-leaves, Studland; *Misumena vatia,* May and August, Studland (JRC).

The mite, *Carpoglyphus lactis,* was found infesting stored home-made Christmas pudding, Bridport, September 1975 (WMG).

Lepidoptera

by Alan T. Bromby

In spite of an exceptionally fine summer the common migratory species only appeared in small numbers; only three specimens of *Colias croceus* were reported and it has now been some while since we had a good "Clouded Yellow year". Nevertheless, three species of extreme rarity occurred in the county — *Leucania Loreyi, Leucania Unipuncta* and *Eupithecia Phoeniciata.*

A light trap has been run throughout the year by Dr. N. R. Webb and Mr. D. C. Malt of Furzebrook and they have supplied the great bulk of the records incorporated into this report; Mr. H. F. C. Halahan has continued to supply much information on the Dorset rhopalocera.

Records were received from the following field workers:-

J. Boys
R. Brett
E. F. C. Coetzee
J. R. Cox
A. H. Dunn
Mrs. C. M. Field
H. F. C. Halahan
Mrs. A. Halahan
Dr. J. K. Hasler
J. Lockwood
D. C. Malt
Dr. T. Norman
Mrs. M. Norman
K. Payne
D. Priestley
M. F. Robertson
W. G. Shreeves
Dr. N. R. Webb

I very much regret that, for reasons beyond my control, the species in the 1974 report appeared out of their correct systematic order.

Pieris brassicae L.	**Large Garden White**	
Blandford Area	Common late July	(H.H. et al)
Anthocharis cardamines L.	**Orange-tip White**	
Milton Abbas	22.4 and throughout May	(M.F.R.)
Corfe Mullen	3.5, 4 on 11.5, 4 on 19.5.	(A.H.D.)
Weymouth	11.5, 14.5.	(E.F.C.C.)
Blandford Area	5 between 11.5 and 20.5.	(H.H. et al)
Ashmore	18.5, eggs common on Cuckoo flower	(W.G.S.)
Dorchester	20.5.	(E.F.C.C.)
Thornecombe Wood	Several 27.5.	(E.F.C.C.)
Leptidea sinapis L.	**Wood White**	
Corscombe Area	12 on 28.5.	(H.H. et al)
Birch Common	2.7, 6.7.	(H.H. et al)
Colias croceus Fourc.	**Common Clouded Yellow**	
Only three recorded this year		
Studland Heath	7.10, one flew North passed observation hut.	(J.R.C. et al)
Maiden Castle	One sighting report but no date given.	(J.K.H.)
Brownsea	10.10.	(A.T.B.)
Pararge megera L.	**Wall Brown**	
Cerne Abbas	2 on 30.7.	(E.F.C.C.)
Weymouth	2.8, 17.8, 23.8.	(E.F.C.C.)
East Melbury	10.8.	(W.G.S.)
Russell Quay	6 on 18.8.	(A.H.D.)
Milton Abbas	Sighted in August	(M.F.R.)
This species seems to have declined in the county.		
Pararge aegeria L.	**Speckled Wood**	
Milton Abbas	22.4, common in woods until October	(M.F.R.)
Corfe Mullen	22.4, two good broods	(A.H.D.)
Ashmore	28.4, common	(W.G.S.)
Thornecombe Wood	27.5.	(E.F.C.C.)
Weymouth	7.6, 17.8, 6.9.	(E.F.C.C.)
Corfe Mullen	8.6, and often afterwards	(C.M.F.)
Eumenis semele L.	**Grayling**	
Broadstone	7+ on 26.7.	(A.H.D.)
Corfe Mullen	50+ on 11.8.	(A.H.D.
Morden Park	5+ on 21.8.	(A.H.D.)
Arne	A good year for this species	(B.P.P.)

Aphantopus hyperantus L.	**Common Ringlet**	
Osmington Village	29.6, several in lane hedge.	(E.F.C.C.)
Weymouth	6.7, several along old railway embankment.	(E.F.C.C.)
Ashmore	6.7, very common	(W.G.S.)
Studland Heath	7.8, in dune heath.	(J.R.C. et al)
Various localities	Recorded as plentiful.	(H.H. et al)
Melanargia galathea L.	**Marbled White**	
Ashmore	6.7, huge numbers.	(W.G.S.)
Weymouth	6.7, along old railway embankment	(E.F.C.C.)
Shillingstone Hills	25.7, maximum of 50, last seen 28.7.	(A.H.D.)
Corfe Mullen	Maximum of 12	(A.H.D.)
Various localities	Good numbers recorded.	(H.H. et al)
Limenitis camilla L.	**White Admiral**	
Studland Heath	26.6 to 22.7, slightly fewer than last year.	(J.R.C. et al)
Blandford and Dorchester area	13 between 3.7 and 30.7.	(H.H. et al)
Puddletown Woods	6 to 7 on 25.7.	(J.K.H.)
Ashmore	6.7, reasonable numbers.	(W.G.S.)
Milton Abbas	A first record but no date given	(M.F.R.)
Brownsea	Scarcer this year	(A.T.B.)
Vanessa atalanta L.	**Red Admiral**	
Thirty recorded from various observers between 18.7 and 9.10.		
Vanessa cardui L.	**Painted Lady**	
Dewlish Mill	28.7.	(H.H. et al)
Weymouth	10 between 12.8 and 7.9.	(E.F.C.C.)
Studland Heath	4 between 21.8 and 7.9.	(J.R.C. et al)
Milton Abbas	24.8.	(M.F.R.)
Dorchester	Single sightings only.	(J.K.H.)
Aglais urticae L.	**Small Tortoiseshell**	
Blandford area	Noted as attempting hybernation as early as 20.7.	(H.H. et al)
Polygonia c-album L.	**Comma**	
Duncliffe	2.5.	(H.H. et al)
Hethwood	3.5.	(H.H. et al)
Ashmore	18.7.	(W.G.S.)
Arne Village	21.7.	(A.H.D.)
Littledown	2 on 4.8.	(H.H. et al)
Corfe Mullen	26.9, 7.10, 23.10.	(A.H.D.)
Dorchester	4.10.	(J.K.H.)
Studland Heath	Not recorded this year.	(J.R.C. et al)
Argynnis paphia L.	**Silver-washed Fritillary**	
Various localities	Over 100 recorded between 2.7 and 25.8.	(H.H. et al)
Powerstock Common	6 to 7 on 28.7.	(J.K.H.)
Ashmore	6.7, fairly common.	(W.G.S.)
Studland Heath	11.7 to 21.8 in coppiced hazel clearings. Minimum of 12 individuals.	(J.R.C. et al)
Lytchett Matravers	14.7, last found in this wood 10 years ago.	(A.H.D.)
Affpuddle	25.7, Southover Heath.	(E.F.C.C.)
Puddletown Woods	6 on 25.7.	(J.K.H.)
Milton Abbas	End of July and August recorded regularly.	(M.F.R.)
Stubhampton Bottom	2 on 1.8.	(A.H.D.)
Corfe Mullen	12+ on 21.7.	(A.H.D.)
Argynnis aglaia L.	**Dark Green Fritillary**	
Powerstock Common	3 on 3.7.	(H.H. et al)
Coombe Bottom	4.7.	(H.H. et al)
Ashmore	6.7.	(W.G.S.)
Portland	3 on 18.7.	(J.K.H.)
East Melbury	21.7, fairly common.	(W.G.S.)
Powerstock Common	28.7.	(J.K.H.)
Durlston	2 on 31.7.	(H.H. et al)
Heath Bottom	3.8.	(H.H. et al)
Clossiana euphrosysne L.	**Large Pearl-bordered Fritillary**	
Puddletown	27.5.	(E.F.C.C.)
Ashmore	28.5.	(W.G.S.)
Corscombe area	25+ on 30.5.	(H.H. et al)
Milton Abbas	A few in June.	(M.F.R.)
Clossiana selene Schiff.	**Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary**	
Powerstock Common	3 on 14.6.	(J.K.H.)

Ashmore	15.6.	(W.G.S.)
Corscombe area	12 on 2.7, 2 on 8.7.	(H.H. et al)
Milton Abbas	Not recorded this year.	(M.F.R.)
Euphydryas aurinia Rott.	**Marsh Fritillary**	
East Melbury	12.6, small numbers only.	(W.G.S.)
Hod Hill	A few in June.	(H.H. et al)
Thecla quercus L.	**Purple Hairstreak**	
Russell Quay	2 on 21.7.	(A.H.D.)
	Recorded as being plentiful in three localities in late July.	(H.H. et al)
Hamearis lucina L.	**Duke of Burgundy**	
Ashmore	18.5.	(W.G.S.)
East Melbury	29.5.	(W.G.S.)
East Dorset	A strong colony located in the east of the county on 1.6.	(H.H. et al)
Strymonidia w-album Knock	**White-letter Hairstreak**	
Corfe Mullen	4.7, 6.7.	(A.H.D.)
	Seven recorded from four localities in the county.	(H.H. et al)
Callophrys rubi L.	**Green Hairstreak**	
Ashmore	4.5.	(W.G.S.)
Heath Bottom	6 on 19.5.	(H.H. et al)
East Melbury	29.5	(W.G.S.)
Shillingstone	20.6.	(A.H.D.)
Studland Heath	Not as numerous as some years	(J.R.C. et al)
Lycaena phlaeas L.	**Small Copper**	
Ashmore	3.6.	(W.G.S.)
Studland Heath	11.7 to 22.9, many more records this year.	(J.R.C. et al)
Corfe Mullen	18.7, 28.7, 2.8, 10.8.	(A.H.D.)
Lytchett Matravers	30.7.	(A.H.D.)
Cerne Abbas	3 on 30.7.	(E.F.C.C.)
Weymouth	3.8, 7.8, 9.8, 7.9	(E.F.C.C.)
Milton Abbas	Recorded September to November.	(M.F.R.)
Radipole	20.9	(E.F.C.C.)
Studland Village	28.9	(J.R.C. et al)
St. Aldhelm's Head	8.10.	(J.R.C. et al)
Plebejus argus L.	**Silver-studded Blue**	
Arne	A good year for this species.	(B.P.P.)
Aricia agestis Schiff.	**Brown Argus Blue**	
Ashmore	28.5, quite common.	(W.G.S.)
Studland Heath	2 to 3 on 1.8 to 10.8, possibly first record for reserve area.	(J.R.C. et al)
Lysandra bellargus Rott.	**Adonis Blue**	
Winspit	A colony.	(J.L.)
Godlingston Hill	5.9, at least 10 male and 8 females, 2 were ovipositing.	(J.R.C. et al)
Purbeck coast	Both broods plentiful this year.	(H.H. et al)
Lysandra coridon Poda	**Chalk-hill Blue**	
A very good year for this species.		
Ashmore	18.7.	(W.G.S.)
East Melbury	21.7, huge numbers.	(W.G.S.)
Cerne Abbas	Several on 30.7.	(E.F.C.C.)
Broadstone	8.8.	(J.B.)
Studland Heath	12.8, one flew North through reserve, possibly first record.	(J.R.C. et al)
Tarrant Rawston	2 on 26.8	(A.H.D.)
Celastrina argiolus L.	**Holly Blue**	
Scarce this year.		
Studland Heath	24.7.	(J.R.C. et al)
Hilton Hill	2 on 27.8.	(H.H. et al)
Cupido minimus Fuessl	**Small Blue**	
East Melbury	22.6, small numbers.	(W.G.S.)
Purbeck coast	Abundant in June.	(H.H. et al)
Mimas tiliae L.	**Lime Hawk**	
Dorchester	9.6.	(J.K.H.)
Laothoe populi L.	**Poplar Hawk**	
Milton Abbey	5 between 29.6 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)

Smerinthus ocellata L.	**Eyed Hawk**	
Furzebrook	9 between 29.5 and 12.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Acherontia atropos L.	**Death's-head Hawk**	
Milton Abbas	Caterpillar found, moth emerged on 10.11.	(M.F.R.)
Sphinx ligustri L.	**Privet Hawk**	
Furzebrook	10 between 1.6. and 29.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Hyloicus pinastri L.	**Pine Hawk**	
Furzebrook	14 between 21.5 and 6.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Deilephila elpenor L.	**Large Elephant Hawk**	
Furzebrook	35 between 7.6 and 29.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Milton Abbey	5.7	(M.F.R.)
Milton Abbas	Caterpillar found 25.8 in potatoes	(M.F.R.)
Macroglossum stellatarum L.	**Humming-bird Hawk**	
Furzebrook	21.7, 22.7, 15.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Harpyia furcula Clerk.	**Sallow Kitten**	
Furzebrook	33 between 31.7 and 19.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Stauropus fagi L.	**Lobster Prominent**	
Furzebrook	15 between 9.6 and 8.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Drymonia dodonaea Schiff.	**Light Marbled Brown**	
Furzebrook	31 between 20.5 and 4.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Chaonia ruficornus Hufn.	**Lunar Marbled Brown**	
Furzebrook	61 between 24.4 and 18.5.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Notodonta trepida Esp.	**Great Prominent**	
Furzebrook	28 between 27.4 and 9.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Odontosia carmelita Esp.	**Scarce Prominent**	
Furzebrook	4 between 28.4 and 8.5.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Phalera bucephala L.	**Buff-tip**	
Milton Abbey	16 between 1.7 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Clostera curtula L.	**Large Chocolate-tip**	
Furzebrook	36 between 22.8 and 25.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Clostera pigra Hufn.	**Small Chocolate-tip**	
Furzebrook	5.8 and 21.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Habrosyne pyritoides Hufn.	**Buff Arches**	
Furzebrook	131 between 23.6 and 1.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Milton Abbey	4 on 30.6, 4 on 2.7 and 4 on 4.7	(M.F.R.)
Thyatira batis L.	**Peach Blossom**	
Furzebrook	5 between 13.6 and 27.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Tethea ocularis L.	**Figure of Eighty**	
Furzebrook	10.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Polyploca ridens F.	**Frosted Green Lutestring**	
Furzebrook	10 between 12.4 and 28.4.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Dasychira fascelina L.	**Dark Tussock**	
Furzebrook	18.7, 21.7, 31.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Euproctis chrysorrhoea L.	**Brown-tail**	
Furzebrook	16.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Trichiura crataegi L.	**Pale Eggar**	
Furzebrook	7.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Macrothylacia rubi L.	**Fox**	
Furzebrook	3 between 5.6 and 8.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Gastropacha quercifolia L.	**Common Lappet**	
Furzebrook	13 between 8.7 and 2.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)

Drepana binaria Hufn.	**Oak Hook-tip**	
Furzebrook	5.7 and 1.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Nola albula Schiff.	**Kent Black Arches**	
Furzebrook	2 on 16.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Eilema deplana Esp.	**Buff Footman**	
Furzebrook	7.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Eilema griseola Hubn.	**Dingy Footman**	
Furzebrook	185 between 13.7 and 30.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Spilosoma lubricipeda L.	**White Ermine**	
Milton Abbey	13 between 29.6 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Spilosoma lutea Hufn.	**Buff Ermine**	
Milton Abbey	23 between 9.6 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Diacrisia sannio L.	**Clouded Ermine**	
Furzebrook	27.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Phragmatobia fuliginosa L.	**Ruby Tiger**	
Furzebrook	39 between 5.6 and 14.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Affpuddle	25.7.	(E.F.C.C.)
Euxoa tritici L.	**White-line Dart**	
Furzebrook	43 between 2.8 and 16.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Agrotis vestigialis Hufn.	**Archer Dart**	
Furzebrook	6 between 26.7 and 10.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Agrotis exclamationis L.	**Heart and Dart**	
Milton Abbey	380 between 29.6 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Agrotis ipsilon Hufn.	**Dark Dart**	
Furzebrook	3 between 6.6 and 13.6, 157 between 1.8 and 14.11.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Peridroma porphyrea Schiff.	**Pearly Underwing**	
Furzebrook	27.10.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Diarsia brunnea Schiff.	**Purple Clay**	
Furzebrook	50 between 12.6 and 2.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Amathes agathina Dup.	**Heath Rustic**	
Furzebrook	26.9, 29.9, 30.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Amathes castanea Esp.	**Grey Rustic**	
Furzebrook	20.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Amathes baja Schiff.	**Dotted Clay**	
Furzebrook	56 between 29.7 and 26.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Amathes ditrapezium Schiff.	**Triple-spotted Clay**	
Furzebrook	14.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Amathes triangulum Hufn.	**Double Square-spot**	
Furzebrook	176 between 22.6 and 6.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Axylia putris L.	**Flame Rustic**	
Milton Abbey	3 on 5.7, 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Anaplectoides prasina (Schiff.)	**Green Arches**	
Furzebrook	5 between 1.7 and 6.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Polia nebulosa Hufn.	**Grey Arches**	
Furzebrook	14 between 27.6 and 1.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Hada nana Hufn.	**Light Shears**	
Furzebrook	4 between 10.6 and 26.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Hadena thalassina Hufn.	**Pale-shouldered Brocade**	
Furzebrook	16 between 27.5 and 3.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Hadena bicruris Hufn.	**Lychnis Coronet**	
Furzebrook	6 between 11.6 and 4.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)

Cerapteryx graminis L.	**Antler**	
Furzebrook	10.8 and 11.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Orthosia munda Schiff.	**Twin-spot Quaker**	
Furzebrook	92 between 22.2 and 27.4.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Orthosia gracilis Schiff.	**Powdered Quaker**	
Furzebrook	165 between 29.3 and 25.4.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Leucania pallens L.	**Common Wainscot**	
Milton Abbey	58 between 29.6 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Leucania unipuncta Haw.	**White-speck Wainscot**	
Furzebrook	3 on 27.10.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Leucania l-album L.	**White L Wainscot**	
Furzebrook	9 between 12.9 and 10.10.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Leucania loreyi Dup.	**Cosmopolitan Wainscot**	
Furzebrook	7.10.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Stilbia anomala Haw.	**Anomalous Wainscot**	
Furzebrook	2.9, 3.9 and 4.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Coenobia rufa Haw.	**Rufous Wainscot**	
Furzebrook	6.7, 2.8 and 3.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Caradrina ambigua Schiff.	**Vine's Rustic**	
Furzebrook	93 between 16.8 and 17.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Dypterygia scabriuscula L.	**Bird's-wing**	
Furzebrook	9 between 7.6 and 6.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Celaena leucostigma Hubn.	**Brown Crescent**	
Weymouth	17.7	(E.F.C.C.)
Cosmia pyralina Schiff.	**Lunar-spotted Pinion**	
Furzebrook	28.7, 2.8 and 12.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Cucullia umbratica L.	**Common Shark**	
Corfe Mullen	17.6.	(A.H.D.)
Milton Abbey	4.7, 3 on 5.7	(M.F.R.)
Lithophane semibrunnea Haw.	**Tawny Pinion**	
Furzebrook	23.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Lithophane socia Hufn.	**Pale Pinion**	
Furzebrook	6 between 4.9 and 1.11.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Lithophane leautieri Boisd.	**Blair's Pinion**	
Furzebrook	84 between 4.9 and 15.11.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Lithophane ornithopus Hufn.	**Grey Shoulder-knot**	
Furzebrook	7.1, 11.3.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Brachionycha sphinx Hufn.	**Common Sprawler**	
Furzebrook	29.11, 5.12.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Eumichtis lichenea Hubn.	**Feathered Ranuncule**	
Furzebrook	10 between 7.10 and 22.11.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Dasypolia templi Thunb.	**Brindled Ochre**	
Furzebrook	5 between 9.10 and 7.11.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Eupsilia transversa Hufn.	**Satellite**	
Furzebrook	37 between 20.9 and 27.11.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Dasycampa rubiginea Schiff.	**Dotted Chestnut**	
Furzebrook	30 between 17.2 and 15.4.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Anchoscelis helvola L.	**Flounced Chestnut**	
Furzebrook	54 between 17.10 and 24.11.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Conistra ligula Esp.	**Dark Chestnut**	
Furzebrook	8 between 26.10 and 25.12.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)

Colocasia coryli L.	**Nut-tree Tuffet**	
Furzebrook	10.6 and 29.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Plusia chrysitis L.	**Common Burnished Brass**	
Milton Abbey	34 between 29.6 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Plusia jota L.	**Plain Golden Y**	
Milton Abbey	2 on 5.7, 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Plusia pulchrina Haw.	**Beautiful Golden Y**	
Furzebrook	11 between 26.6 and 20.3.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Plusia gamma L.	**Common Silver Y**	
Furzebrook	969 between 10.6 and 11.12.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Weymouth	17.7, 3 on 2.8, 7.9.	(E.F.C.C.)
Lygephila pastinum Treits.	**Plain Blackneck**	
Furzebrook	18.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Geometra papilionaria L.	**Large Emerald**	
Milton Abbey	5 on 30.6, 2 on 2.7 and 4.7.	(M.F.R.)
Hemistola immaculata Thunb.	**Lesser Emerald**	
Weymouth	7.7.	(E.F.C.C.)
Anticlea derivata Schiff.	**Streamer Carpet**	
Furzebrook	5 between 16.4 and 26.4.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Perizoma flavofasciata Thunb.	**Sandy Carpet**	
Furzebrook	25.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Thera variata Schiff.	**Grey Spruce Carpet**	
Furzebrook	7 between 15.5 and 23.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Orthonama lignata Hubn.	**Oblique Carpet**	
Furzebrook	28.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Eupithecia phoeniciata Ramb.	**Black-streaked Pug**	
Furzebrook	21.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Bapta bimaculata F.	**White-pinion Spotted**	
Furzebrook	3.8 and 16.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Ellopia fasciaria L.	**Barred Red**	
Furzebrook	16.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Deuteronomos fuscantaria Steph.	**Dusky Thorn**	
Furzebrook	39 between 30.7 and 17.9.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Selenia tetralunaria Hufn.	**Purple Thorn**	
Furzebrook	32 between 17.2 and 28.4, also 63 between 20.7 and 28.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Apeira syringaria L.	**Lilac Thorn**	
Furzebrook	30.6 and 6.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Plagodis dolabraria	**Scorched-wing**	
Furzebrook	7.6 and 13.6.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Lycia hirtaria Clerck	**London Brindled-beauty**	
Furzebrook	16 between 22.4 and 10.5.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Biston betularia L.	**Pepper-and-salt**	
Milton Abbey	4 between 30.6 and 6.7.	(M.F.R.)
Cleorodes lichenaria Hufn.	**Brussels Lace**	
Furzebrook	3.7, 4.7.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)
Alcis jubata Schiff.	**Dotted Beauty**	
Furzebrook	7.8.	(D.C.M. & N.R.W.)

Vertebrates

Fish

by M. Ladle

I wish to thank Derek Moody and Jon Bass for reports in the past year. Few interesting observations were reported in the past year.

SEA

Raja microocellata (Painted Ray) Swanage, May (to 10½ lbs.).
Conger conger (Conger Eel) Common, April-December (to 20 lbs.).
Trisopterus luscus (Pouting) Common, whole year
Pollachius pollachius (Pollack) Common, April-September.
Gaidropsarus vulgaris (Three Bearded Rockling) Swanage, April-June.
Dicentrarchus labrax (Bass) Poole-Weymouth, April-October
Spondyliosoma cantharus (Black Bream) Swanage Bay, April-June (to 2 lb. 14 oz.).
Labrus bergylta (Ballan Wrasse) Numerous, Swanage Bay, April-August
Crenimugil labrosus (Thick-lipped Mullet) Abundant, Swanage to Weymouth, May-September.
Liza ramada (Risso, 1826) (Thin-lipped Mullet) Mortality of 30-40 fish of about ½ lb. each in F.W. lagoon on Arne nature reserve, September.

FRESHWATER

Osmerus eperlanus (Linnaeus, 1758) (Smelt) Single specimen taken from lower reach of River Piddle, Wareham, by Dr Solomons in mid-April.
Pomatoschistus (Pomatoschistus) minutus (Pallas, 1770) (Sand Goby) Single specimen on rod and line, River Stour, Tuckton. 12.10.75.

Amphibians

by Robert V. Skinner

CRESTED NEWT. *Triturus cristatus – Laurenti.*
Both male and female found in the garden of the Manor House, Bagber, Sturminster Newton (Col. E. D. V. Prendergast).

COMMON FROG. *Rana temporaria* – L.
Present in garden pond on 4th August as a result of importing tadpoles from a Buckinghamshire garden pond the previous year. (A. H. Dunn) One half grown specimen found in the middle of Lulworth Ranges on 12th July. (Col. E. D. V. Prendergast).

COMMON TOAD. *Bufo bufo* – L.
Large numbers of tadpoles in a drainage ditch on 20th May at Frome Whitfield, Dorchester. (E. F. C. Coetzee). Breeding in garden ponds in Corfe Mullen during March. A small juvenile seen in Morden Park on 4th August. (A. H. Dunn).

NATTERJACK TOAD. *Bufo calamita – Laurenti*
One seen on the outskirts of Wareham Forest on 5th March. It was a light olivaceous colour. (A. H. Dunn).

Reptiles

by Robert V. Skinner

SLOW-WORM. *Anguis fragilis* – L.
Several full grown specimens seen on a footpath in Corfe Mullen between 9th August and 1st October. (A. H. Dunn). One seen in Delcombe Woods on 4th May. Two seen near a stream flowing into Milton Abbas Lake on 10th May and one at Delcombe on 11th May. Two more were seen at Green Hill on 4th June, one on 6th June at Monks Path, Milton Abbey and another at Milton Abbey School on 8th June. (Milton Abbey School N.H.S.).

ADDER. *Vipera berus* – L.
On 29th March a single specimen was seen sunning itself on a grass bank beside the Keeper's Cottage, Milton Abbey School. (P. C. Stocker). Several seen in St. Thomas's Wood on 8th and 10th June. (Milton Abbey School N.H.S.). One large grey specimen found on Shillingstone Hill in downland on 25th July. None found in the heathland around Corfe Mullen as usual, probably due to the hot dry weather. (A. H. Dunn).

Mammals

by Mrs. E. M. Keats

I am most grateful to the few who have submitted Mammal observations for 1975 and some of these are printed below. Still no records have come from the area of new Dorset, please let me have observations on mammals in the Bournemouth and Christchurch areas.

The Mammal Society are conducting a survey on the status of the Dormouse and I should welcome any records for this species.

The following have submitted reports:- R. M. Alcock, C. J. Bailey, W. Stuart Best, T. W. Caldwell, T. A. Carlyle, E. D. Clements, E. F. C. Coetzee, A. H. Dunn, R. D. English, Mrs. A. Ferguson, Mrs. C. M. Field, W. M. Grange, Mrs. E. Greenland, Rev. and Mrs. L. W. G. Hudson, Mrs. A. Hughes, Milton Abbey School Natural History Society, Mrs. K. B. Parkyn, R. N. R. Peers, Col. E. D. V. Prendergast, M. F. Robertson, J. Rowland, Mrs. J. C. Walton.

The check list numbers and scientific names are as listed in *The Identification of British Mammals,* by G. B. Corbett, British Museum (Natural History) 1969. In addition to the records of species listed the following species were also reported:- 3. Common Shrew, *Sorex araneus*. 4. Pygmy Shrew, *Sorex minutus*. 30. American Mink, *Mustela vison*. 43. Sika Deer, *Cervus nippon*. 55. Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*. 57. Grey Squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*. 64. House Mouse, *Mus musculus*. 66. Brown Rat, *Rattus norvegicus*. 67. Bank Vole, *Clethrionomys glareolus*. 69. Short-tailed or Field Vole, *Microtus agrestis*.

1. Hedgehog, *Erinaceus europaeus*. Hedgehogs are resident in our garden in Dorchester and three young were seen together in the late summer. Another family of hedgehogs was reported successfully reared in a garden near Sturminster Newton. One dead one was reported from Cerne Abbas and another from the Puddletown Forest Trail, it has been suggested that this one was killed by an adder. A juvenile was seen at Corfe Mullen and dead specimens at Corfe Mullen, Sturminster Marshall and Lytchett Matravers.
2. Mole, *Talpa europaea*. Moles were very troublesome in a garden at Corfe Mullen, one was caught by the owner's dog.
5. Water Shrew, *Neomys fodiens*. One found dead at Hammoon was sent to the Dorset County Museum, two were reported seen at Milton Abbas.

   Bats. Species unidentified were reported from Tarrant Rushton, Long Bredy and Dorchester.
19. Pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. One was seen flying by day from the Public Health Laboratory, Dorchester on 4th June and one was seen flying out of a roof gable at dusk in Weymouth Bay Ave., on 7th and 8th June. Bats probably this species were recorded in a garden and house at Corfe Mullen in June and August.
21. Common Long-eared Bat, *Placotus auritus*. Four dead specimens were taken to the Dorset County Museum from Litton Cheney, Bradford Peverell, Bere Regis and Buckland Newton.
24. Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*. Many sightings have been reported and a pair was seen mating in Milton Abbas village at midday on 19th January.
27. Stoat, *Mustela erminea*. A dead one was brought to the museum from the road at Rampisham Down in February, one was seen crossing the road just east of Sydling ford in July and one was seen crossing the road at West Morden. A young stoat was dug out of a nest, probably an old molehill, by a dog near Milton Abbas, one was seen running towards the lake at Milton Abbey and one was seen carrying another dead stoat up a tree in the Milton Abbas area.
28. Weasel, *Mustela nivalis*. Sightings of weasels have been reported from Lodmoor, Sydling valley, near Cheselbourne, near Fiddleford and Corfe Mullen.
31. Badger, *Meles meles*. Mr. Clements of Sussex has sent in a map and sheets of grid references for several hundred badger setts which he has examined in 1974 and 1975. There is a particular concentration on the Chalk from the Ridgeway between Weymouth and Dorchester extending north-eastwards to Shaftesbury and in the Isle of Purbeck, also around Beaminster and Bridport. This concentration is partly due to the areas which he has been able to cover but also probably to the suitable substrate for the badger setts. Records are very thin for Cranborne Chase and the urban areas of south-east Dorset and Mr. Clements would be pleased to fill any gaps with records from other observers. A number of other observers have reported living badgers and road casualties, which seem to occur in fairly large numbers.
32. Otter, *Lutra lutra*. Tracks of otter and a large number of split open Swan mussels were seen at Sutton Bingham on 29th August and tracks across a tidal creek of Poole Harbour near Arne on 7th December.
35. Common Seal, *Phoca vitulina*. A young specimen was brought to the museum on 16th August from Ferrybridge, Weymouth where it was found alive on 13th August. It had severe chemical burns inside its mouth when found and was treated by a vet but died two days later.
44. Roe-deer, *Capreolus capreolus*. A number of records of sightings have been reported, both of single animals and small family groups. Several were feeding in a kale field in the middle of the day near Cerne Abbas, they can be a nuisance when they move into farmers' crops. Other sightings were reported from Sydling, Cerne valley, Milton Abbas area, Corfe Mullen, Winterbourne Monkton, Lodmoor, Moreton Heath, Morden and Arne.
53. Brown Hare, *Lepus capensis*. This species is reported to be common in some areas and rarely seen in others, one pair was seen mating near Bagber on 30th May, the only ones seen in this area for two years although they are not uncommon at Thornhill 1½ miles away.
56. Red Squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*. Mrs. Parkyn reports again on the sightings of red squirrels on Brownsea Island, 98 were seen in 1975, none in January or November. The highest number seen together was three on 23rd March and fourteen groups of two were seen. The old names used for certain localities on Brownsea in previous years are different from the names used by the National Trust Staff so the names for localities of sightings have been dropped rather than have confusion and eight figure grid references will be used in future.
59. Dormouse, *Muscardinus avellanarius*. One was found in a garden at Milton Abbas. In the spring of 1975 dormice were found to have used nine tit nestboxes in a reserve in north-west Dorset, one group of boxes had round grass nests but in some of the other five boxes the mice had used dry leaves to fill the boxes.
61. Long-tailed Field Mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus*. Eleven were caught in traps in a greenhouse in winter at Corfe Mullen and some were trapped in an apple store in November and December near Sturminster Newton. This species was also reported at Halstock Leigh and in the Milton Abbas area.
68. Water Vole, *Arvicola terrestris*. One adult was seen swimming in the River Allen at Barnsley Farm, near Wimborne on 21st June, they are also present in the old mill stream of the River Frome just north of Dorchester.

Dorset Bird Report 1975

Edited by J. V. Boys M.A.

INTRODUCTION

I am writing this on 1 May 1976, my dead-line date for posting to the printers, and the information contained in this Report is as complete and up-to-date as I can make it. It is my hope that this Report is an improvement on that for 1974: at least we can expect more punctual publication, and one major item has been added, namely the Ringing Report for both 1974 and 1975 compiled by Col. E. D. V. Prendergast and I. S. Robertson with great care and patience.

There are also four tables following the systematic list: Tables I and II summarise sea passage and passerine (mainly) migration at Portland Bird Observatory; Table III is the usual summary of monthly Wildfowl Counts (compiled by D. N. Arnold) and Table IV contains figures for regular counts of waders and estuarine species (compiled by Dr. D. J. Godfrey).

Once again we must express our gratitude to the ever-increasing number of people who send in their records, to J. C. Follett who sorts them all out, and to Mrs. A. Russell, A. H. Dunn, D. N. Arnold assisted by D. J. Fisher, J. C. Follett, D. J. Godfrey and T. Hooker who prepare the drafts of various sections of the Report and so make my task possible. I am also indebted to C. I. Husband and I. S. Robertson for presenting punctually the huge bulk of information for Christchurch Harbour (CHOG) and Portland Bird Observatory (PBO) respectively. CHOG and PBO both publish their own annual reports which contain far more detail than is possible here, and the Radipole ringers (RARG) have recently published their second volume of results and articles covering 1973-1975.

Dorset lost an old friend and stalwart bird-watcher in 1975, Miss M. D. Crosby, and quite recently we heard of the death also of Miss B. M. Atkey; I am delighted that many of their books and notebooks are now in the permanent possession of the Dorset Bird Club.

The Spring migration was greatly delayed by north-easterly winds bringing snow and blizzards in late March and early April but the arrivals of warblers when they came were spectacular. This was followed by a long dry hot summer which badly affected the breeding habitat of our marsh and meadow birds.

The list of rare species was again impressive, especially in autumn, and includes Little Bittern, Little Crake, Sociable Plover, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bonaparte's Gull, Red-rumped Swallow, Black-eared Wheatear, Cettis Warbler, Savis Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Bonelli's Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Pine Bunting and Black-headed Bunting, and a number of others still awaiting the verdict of the Rare Birds Committee. Mention is made in the systematic list of unconfirmed and even rejected records, with the appropriate caution, and some escaped birds also get a mention. It is possible that others are genuine vagrants, but probably not the Pelicans, Flamingos, exotic Cranes and Ducks, and the Eagle (Tawny?) seen around western Purbeck in September.

The coverage of Dorset for local breeding species is better than in 1974 but we need more news, positive or negative, of certain species including both Partridges, Snipe, Sand Martin, Willow Tit and Wood Warbler.

The BTO Rook Census was very thoroughly carried out in Dorset and this means that we shall soon be able to assess the effects of elm-disease.

Being a non-ringer, the most fascinating single item in these pages for me was the recovery of a thirteen-year-old Common Sandpiper!

J.V.B.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

The order is that of the B.T.O. 1971 List, with the numbering of the 1952 List retained for cross-reference with earlier Reports.

1 Black-throated Diver

At PBO there were 9 records of 11 birds: max 3W on 1 Jan, seven singles 3 Mar-12 May, and one on 11 Nov. At Portland Harbour one on 30 Nov and 3-5 Dec, and one on the sea off Abbotsbury 14 Dec. In the Sandbanks area one on 16 Feb, and one on six dates 1-27 Dec; at Hengistbury Head one flew S on 22 Feb.

2 Great Northern Diver

Ten records of single birds at PBO: 19 Feb, five in Apr, 11 May, 11 Jun, 13 Sep, 19-20 Oct. In Portland Harbour and Weymouth Bay, max three, 16 Nov-21 Dec, of which one was caught accidentally in a fishing net in five fathoms of water. Singles at W. Bexington, 23 Apr and 14 Jun. In Poole Harbour two in Jan, one Feb-Mar, two on 7 Dec. At Hengistbury Head 11 singles, one in Feb, two in Mar, one in Apr and seven in May.

4 Red-throated diver

20 records at PBO: one on 10 Feb, 14 22 Mar-10 May, one 6 Sep, three in Oct, one 29 Nov. One in summer plumage off W. Bexington for a week in mid-Jun, and two there on 6 Dec. One off Abbotsbury 11 Jan and three on 26 Dec; also one off Chesil Cove 13 Apr. Singles in Portland Harbour 24, 30 Nov and Weymouth Bay 5, 6, 7, 19 Dec. Further east, singles around Sandbanks in Feb-Mar and at Littlesea 2, 23 Mar, and again 24-26 Dec.

In addition unidentified divers were reported from PBO with 55 winter sightings, peak 16 on 1 Jan, 83 in spring, one in summer and 14 in autumn; also from Portland Harbour, Weymouth Bay, Chesil Cove and Hengistbury Head.

5 Great Crested Grebe

Two pairs attempted to breed at Abbotsbury but without success; no other mention of breeding but 10 adults were found on BTO census day, 31 May. Winter records came from the Weymouth area (Jan peak 8, Dec peak 20), Poole Harbour (peaks 18 in Apr, and 9 in Nov at Arne), Christchurch Harbour, Sutton Bingham and Portland Bill.

6 Red-necked Grebe

Two in Kimmeridge Bay 3 Jan, and singles in Poole Harbour area 8-17 Jan and 16 Feb. In autumn 2 at PBO 21 Oct and singles 21, 23 Nov; 2 in Weymouth Bay 5-8 Dec and 1 on 21 Dec; and one on the sea off Hengistbury Head on 11 Dec.

7 Slavonian Grebe

Counts in the Poole Harbour area were 4-8 Jan-Mar and 30 in Dec. One off Hengistbury Head on 9 Dec. Less common than usual in the Weymouth area, peaks 13 on 15 Feb, 12 on 30 Apr. One at Radipole 23 Oct-13 Nov and one off Abbotsbury 14 Dec.

8 Black-necked Grebe

All records come from the Poole Harbour area with peaks of 17 in Jan and 6 in Dec.

9 Little Grebe

Fourteen breeding pairs reported: localities include Turnerspuddle Heath, Sherborne Lake, Brownsea Island, Milton Abbey Lake, Bere Farm Pond. Winter flocks reached 25 at E. Fleet, 18 at Radipole and 21 at Christchurch Harbour. One was caught by a cat but retrieved and successfully released on 23 Feb in Wimborne (D.J.G.).

26 Fulmar

No proof of breeding this year but birds were in residence on the W. cliffs at PBO during the season, while 18 were counted around Gad Cliff on 4 May and 20 along the coast from Durlston Head to St. Aldhelm's Head on 20 Jun. Passage was evident at PBO, peak 148W on 3 Apr, but in autumn only one 22-23 Oct and two in late Dec. Few records from other parts except for small numbers off Hengistbury Head throughout the year, max nine on 7 Jun.

20 Cory's Shearwater

Five records from PBO: two on 25 May, singles on 7, 8, 21 Jun, and 6 on 28 Jun (all accepted by RBC). A report of 14 Great Shearwaters off W. Bexington on 13 Jun (C.C.) may be sound but has not sufficiently convinced the Editorial Panel — it is not a species for the RBC, although much rarer than Cory's in these parts.

16 Manx/Balearic Shearwater

PBO recorded 11,582 between 22 Mar and 28 Sep, and one on 30 Oct!; peak counts were 1150E 7 Apr, 2141E 25 May, 1972 E 7 Jun, while feeding flocks of up to 100 were present off-shore in Jun-Jul. 42 of the Balearic race were recognised 10 May-27 Sep, max four on 10 May, and five on 14 Jun, three on 20 Jun, one on 29 Jun were possibly the Levantine race (P.p. yelkouan).

W. Bexington: 1083 30 Apr- 27 Jul, peaks 217E 25 May and 161 26 May. Chesil Cove: peaks 200 9 May and 596 7 Jun. Hengistbury Head: 23W and 46E 20 Apr-7 Jun with single 'Balearics' 29 Apr, 7 Jun, also singles on 18 and 27 Sep.

21 Sooty Shearwater

Off PBO nine records of 14 birds, 22 Jul-8 Oct: 3E 27 and 29 Jul, 2W on 27 Sep, otherwise singles.

14 Storm Petrel

Singles off Portland Bill on 29 Jun and 27 Sep.

27 Gannet

Seen throughout the year off Portland Bill, scarce in winter, most numerous in Jun with 600 in the fishing flock on 24 Jun and 300 on 7 Jul, while 158 flew W on 30 Aug. Small passage noted off Hengistbury Head Apr- Jun, peak 12E 17 May, and a fishing flock of 15 on 16 Jun; also seen regularly during Sep, max 10 on 12 Sep, but only three in Oct, one in Nov. Odd records from elsewhere along the coast, and dead or oiled birds found at Charmouth, Ferrybridge and Chapman's Pool.

28 Cormorant

99 nests at the Gad Cliff colony on 4 May — no other breeding. Dusk counts at Poole Harbour mouth peaked at 218 on 26 Jan and 238 on 13 Dec, but 271 were counted at the dawn 'fly-in' on 27 Dec. 20-40 regularly at Christchurch Harbour throughout the year, while the max on the Fleet was 30 on 27 Jan. Slight westerly passage Apr-May and easterly Aug-Oct, mostly Oct, at PBO.

29 Shag

40 nests between Durlston Head and St Aldhelm's Head, 3 at Gad Cliff and several at Ballard Point. Off Portland Bill max numbers Sep-Oct with 48 30 Sep and 58 20 Oct. 20-30 regularly in Portland Harbour Nov-Dec, and Poole Harbour peaks were 57 26 Jan and 68 24 Dec. Small movement off Hengistbury Head in Feb (max 9), Sep-Oct, and Dec (max 17).

30 Grey Heron

114 pairs located at Brownsea Island heronry and at least 104 reared young to the flying stage; 4 pairs near Marnhull and one pair at Sydling Court. Widespread reports of small numbers, the larger numbers being: 21+ at Langton Herring on 4 May, 15 at Lodmoor on 4 Jul, seven at Littlesea on 21 Sep, 16 at Radipole on 18 Oct, and monthly maxima of 11-16 at Christchurch Harbour during Aug-Dec. Some passage noticed at PBO, including five on 25 May.

[35 Cattle Egret

One in mid-Sep at Wynford Eagle and Compton Valence (J.D.P.); this follows the 1974 record at Bradford Peverell. Both may refer to escapes, and neither has been submitted to the RBC.]

37 Little Bittern

A male seen twice at Lodmoor on 18 May (M.K. et al.) (submitted to RBC). Reports of a male and a female at Nether Cerne on 10-11 Jun have reached us without any descriptive evidence and cannot be admitted.

38 Bittern

One at Radipole 4-8 Sep, perhaps later, and one in a ditch at Swineham near Wareham on 21 Sep.

42 Spoonbill

One at Abbotsbury May-8 Jul claimed as an adult, and one at Langton Herring 8-25 Jul claimed as a sub-adult. However one flew N over the Verne on 6 Jul when the Abbotsbury bird was present which enhances the evidence for two separate birds. One at Arne 15-17, 19 Jun and at Brownsea 18, 22-25 Jun. An adult over Radipole and at Ferrybridge on 9 Sep.

45 Mallard

65 breeding pairs reported but also high predation of young, the survival rate being estimated at 10 percent at Brownsea NR. The Table of Wildfowl Counts (Table 3 at the end) gives the figures for four main localities during the monthly winter counts. Small parties passed PBO 7 Jun-26 Aug.

46 Teal

Seven pairs bred, the localities including Littlesea and Turnerspuddle Heath. Large winter flocks were 200 at Radipole 26 Jan, 190 at Arne NR in Dec, 356 at Holes Bay, Poole Harbour, 23 Dec; see also Table 3. A total of 10 birds passed PBO 2 Aug-13 Nov, while at Hengistbury Head there were two big counts, 92E 84 W9 Nov, 76E 27W 11 Nov.

47 Garganey

Spring passage; at Christchurch Harbour three on 15 Mar and a Drake on 4 May; three at Lodmoor 28 Mar and a pair at Radipole 21-29 Mar; a Drake at W. Bexington 12 Apr and 14-15 May; a pair at Radipole 1 and 5 May and singles on the Fleet and at Lodmoor 4 May; a pair inland at Milton Abbey Lake 3-13 Apr. Autumn passage: an early bird at Arne 5 Jul; up to five at Radipole 2-11 Aug, one remaining until 14 Sep; one in Christchurch Harbour 3-8 Sep.

49 Gadwall

Winter records: Littlesea, up to 15 Jan-Feb and 23 in Dec (highest count since 1971); Crichel Lake, 13 in Jan, 11 in Nov; Christchurch Harbour, three in Oct but 14 on 22 Nov, 23 on 24 Nov; also Brownsea NR, Sherborne and Radipole Lakes. Migratory movement was suggested by the presence of small numbers at Milton Abbas, Cashmoor, the Fleet and Christchurch Harbour 3 Apr-4 May, and at Christchurch, Radipole and Milton Abbas 27 Jun-6 Sep.

50 Wigeon

As usual largest numbers seen on the Fleet with 4000 15-27 Dec (see also Table 3) and Littlesea with 700 2 Feb, 518 14 Dec. Movement off Hengistbury Head occasional Feb-Apr but regular Sep-Dec with peaks 50W 116E 9Nov and 83W 21E 11 Nov; noticed also at PBO 28 Oct and 13 Nov.

52 Pintail

Most numerous in Poole Harbour (see Table 3) with totals up on 1974 but still smaller than usual in recent years. Low counts on the Fleet, but 32 on 28 Feb, 60 on 9 Nov. Isolated records came also from Radipole, Sherborne Lake, Woodsford and Christchurch Harbour.

[— Mandarin Duck

Birds on Milton Abbey Lake and Stream in May are claimed as known escapes (M.F.R.). This species breeds wild in parts of S. England and is now admitted to the British List — one was shot in Dorset in 1960.]

55 Scaup

The Poole Harbour flock which increased in size in 1974 was back to a more usual size, the peak being 51 on 16 Feb and sample local counts being 20 on 2 Jan and 12 on 15 Nov at Arne NR, and 18 on 23 Feb, 22 on 9 Nov at Studland NR. In recent years there has been a tendency for small groups to appear at otherwise little used waters in late Mar-early Apr: this year we have 3 in Christchurch Harbour 16 Mar, 6 at Radipole 22 Mar-6 Apr, 6 off Shore Rd, Poole Harbour, 12 Apr. Seven flew W off PBO on 7 Dec.

56 Tufted Duck

A considerable increase in reported breeding: 10 pairs at Sherborne Lake and 1 pair at Brownsea NR. Larger winter totals, additional to those in Table 3, are 350 at Radipole 9 Feb, 80 at Sherborne Lake in Aug, while the bulk of the Poole Harbour reports came from Poole Park. Records came also from Christchurch Harbour, Portland Harbour, and singles at PBO on 26 Apr and 23 Jul.

57 Pochard

Two pairs bred at Sherborne Lake and one pair at the other site used for the last 3 years. The winter peak counts were exceptional at some waters; while at Radipole the peak of 500 in Jan and Dec was much as expected, a simultaneous count of 810 at the Fleet and at Radipole on 16 Nov was remarkable and the total census figure for that day was 966 (see also Table 3). The Nov count of 113 at Littlesea was the highest since 1969. Records also came from Milton Abbey Lake and Christchurch Harbour.

60 Goldeneye

Winter counts have again shown an increase (see Table 3 for details from Poole Harbour and the Fleet). Smaller numbers were seen at Radipole, Lodmoor, Portland Harbour, Sutton Bingham, Milton Abbas and Christchurch Harbour.

61 Long-tailed Duck

Only one Poole Harbour bird, 8 Nov-30 Dec. A drake at Ferrybridge 1 Jan-22 Mar, 4 at Langton Herring 19 Apr, and a duck at Abbotsbury 14 Dec. Other records refer to sea passage: at PBO 7W 4 Apr and 5 more 5 Apr-4 May, singles on 28 Oct and 25 Dec; at Hengistbury Head 18E during 20 Apr-10 May, 1E 9 Nov, 1W 11 Nov, 1W 30 Dec.

62 Velvet Scoter

Only one record from Poole Harbour in the first winter period, a duck off Brownsea 12 Jan. 2E off Hengistbury Head 2 Feb and six more during Apr; also 3 sightings off PBO 10-21 Apr.

The first autumn record was 3 in Brands Bay 12 Oct, and there were two in the area 16-29 Nov, and one 13-27 Dec. Coastal records reveal a marked movement in Nov-Dec: one or two off PBO 11-22 Nov, seven in Weymouth Bay 22 Nov, a pair off W. Bexington 29 Nov-4 Dec, singles passing PBO 6 and 7 Dec, and up to six off Hengistbury Head 20-30 Dec.

64 Common Scoter

In the Poole Harbour/Studland Bay area up to 25 Jan-Feb and 25-30 22 Oct-31 Dec. Smaller numbers at Weymouth Bay, Abbotsbury and W. Bexington. Singles on the R. Stour near Merley on 7 Apr and in Portland Harbour on 21 Jun were unexpected but well seen. Coastal movements: spring: total 1054E off PBO, peaks 84 27 Mar and 350 22 Apr, and at Hengistbury Head 201W 138E 22 Mar-19 Jul, peak 120 on the sea 18 May; autumn: 1215W off PBO, peak 65 28 Aug, and at Hengistbury Head the peak of ten dates Oct-Dec was 9E 60W 11 Nov.

67 Eider

Few records early in the year: up to five in Christchurch Harbour in Jan and singles passed on 13 Feb and 22 Mar; 5W off PBO 1 Jan and a single 1 Feb; a drake in Shell Bay 26 Jan. Spring passage at PBO was predominantly easterly 16 Apr-14 Jun, peak 30 14 Jun, and

48 passed Hengistbury Head in this period. One had returned to PBO by 1 Oct followed by a steady increase to 20 12 Oct and 94 by 29 Nov, 50 remaining through Dec. Similarly in Poole Harbour area four on 12 Oct building to 94 on 26 Dec, and at Hengistbury Head 10 on 12 Oct, movement in Nov including 48W and 13 on the sea 11 Nov increasing to 22 in late Dec. Smaller parties noted also in Portland Harbour, Weymouth Bay and off W. Bexington.

— Ruddy Duck

One at Sherborne Lake 8-9 Aug (S.T.B.). This species is now admitted to the British List as it is well-established as a feral breeder.

69 Red-breasted Merganser

The combination of organised Wildfowl Counts (see Table 3) and evening counts of birds leaving Poole Harbour suggest County peaks of 314 for Feb and 670 for Nov, a record. The highest Poole Harbour counts were 189 9 Feb and 481 30 Nov, and in the Fleet/Portland Harbour area numbers reached 203 5 Apr and 200 in Dec. Movements at PBO show 11 birds 2 Apr-11 May and 17 20 Oct-14 Dec, while Hengistbury Head had 10 in the spring period and frequent records from 8 Nov, max 13E 39W on 9 Nov.

70 Goosander

A pair in Brands Bay 10 Jan, a drake at Crichel Lake 19 Feb and 16 Mar, 1W past Hengistbury Head 3 May and again 1E there 8 Nov, then 6 drakes at Poole Harbour month 16 Nov.

71 Smew

Two at Forde Abbey 1 Feb, and a drake flew E off Southbourne on 16 Feb. Three ducks at Abbotsbury 14 Dec, the most together since ten there in 1969.

73 Shelduck

At least 55 pairs bred, an increase on recent years. At Poole Harbour, 43 pairs, predation was high, e.g. 12 pairs produced 98 young at Brownsea NR but only 12 survived; but at Christchurch Harbour 38 young from 5 pairs survived, and at the Fleet 25 young from seven pairs. As usual the Jan peak at Poole Harbour was just over 2000 (see Table 3) but the Dec peak of 986 was lower than usual; the highest count at Christchurch Harbour was 183 on 8 Jun; the trend towards higher numbers at the Fleet continues, max 104 on 16 Feb. Coastal records came from PBO where movement was noted 2-10 Feb (nine), 18-22 Apr (six), 3-5 May (five), 6 Sep (three), and at Christchurch small parties passed in Jan, Mar, Apr, and Oct-Dec, in addition 10 birds in the Harbour which reached 25 in Sep, 16 in Dec.

76 White-Fronted Goose

A flock of *c.* 45 was noted in Purbeck 27 Feb-9 Mar and a single bird was at the Fleet on 16 Mar. Birds flew up-river at Christchurch, nine on 9 Nov, 11 on 14 Dec, four on 28 Dec.

Unidentified grey geese: one at Ferrybridge 14 Jan, 13 passed PBO on 13 Nov and one on 14 Dec. A Greylag and, apparently, a Greylag-Canada cross at Littlesea 14 Sep and a Greylag at Lodmoor 11 Nov were almost certainly escapes.

78b Pink-footed Goose

Three at Lodmoor on 10 Feb, almost certainly this species (D.C.G.).

80 Brent Goose

Once again Dorset shares in the national increase in the size of wintering flocks. In the first winter period a flock of 120 frequented Poole Harbour, and Hengistbury Head had 42E 1W on 2 Feb, but there were none on the Fleet. In autumn three had arrived at Goathorn, Poole Harbour, by 26 Oct and by late Oct the flock numbered 80, and an unprecedented 288 by 27 Dec. At E. Fleet the first 14 were seen on 28 Nov and the flock reached 65 by 22 Dec. Christchurch Harbour had up to 40 intermittently Oct-Dec; PBO had 18 birds on 4 dates 20 Oct-14 Dec and W. Bexington had 10 on 14 Dec.

81 Barnacle Goose

One on water-meadows near Puddletown, 2 Feb, could have been a wild bird but there are scattered reports throughout the year and over much of the County strongly suggesting a free-flying escape.

82 Canada Goose

30 pairs bred on Brownsea Is., producing 20 young; 38 young were reared in the Goathorn area; one pair reared four young at Sherborne Lake. Records also came from Milton Abbey Lake, Crichel Lake, Luckford Lake, Radipole, the Fleet and Christchurch Harbour, while the peak counts in Poole Harbour were 247 in Jan, 260 in Aug and 340 in Sep (see Table 3).

84 Mute Swan

Breeding records were received from 12 sites ranging from large lakes, brackish lagoons, heathland ponds, and streams, and include five pairs at Radipole, three pairs at Littlesea, three pairs at Christchurch Harbour. 98 cygnets were reared at Abbotsbury Swannery, 20 more than in 1974, and others apparently moved in from elsewhere since the fleet had 140 cygnets by 4 Dec. Peak counts of birds of all ages in the Fleet/Radipole area were 566 in Feb, 1023 in Nov; other major counts include 137 at Goathorn, Poole Harbour, 16 Mar, and 45 on the Stour near Shapwick 28 Mar, and at Christchurch Harbour 356 6 Jul and 150 10 Sep. Six flew E off Hengistbury Head 5 Apr, and 2W off PBO 9 Oct.

85 Whooper Swan

Four at Crichel Lake 15 Jan; two at Bowleaze Cove, Portland, 29 Mar; and 5W over Weymouth on 15 Dec.

86 Bewick's Swan

Sutton Bingham had its usual winter roost of 60 or more birds flighting in from Somerset. Six were at Arne and Woodsford 4 Jan-1 Mar, and in the latter part of the year there were 24 at Woodsford 27 Dec, up to four on the Stour near Merley 11-30 Dec, and singles at Abbotsbury on 14 Dec and Gillingham Clay-pits on 28 Nov. 30 flying along the E. cliffs, Portland, on 7 Nov constituted the first record for the Island.

91 Buzzard

Six pairs are known to have bred and at least 20 pairs were seen, in almost all parts of the County. There is a long list of isolated single observations, some reports of four or five together, and eight over Powerstock in Apr. A dead bird from Shipton Gorge was taken to the County Museum. There are two reports of hovering for five seconds. A pale bird with 'an odd rakish jizz' over Tyneham Gap on 28 Mar may well have been a Rough-legged Buzzard (W.T.H.) and PBO had two autumn records of unidentified Buzzards.

93 Sparrowhawk

Five pairs are known to have bred successfully raising at least 14 young, and several juvs were also seen; 11 further pairs were reported together with numerous single sightings, largely from the Eastern half of the County. One pair nested only 15 ft. from a Kestrel's nest in an adjacent tree. One was seen to take a Blackbird and another unsuccessfully attacked a Jay. Autumn passage at PBO occured on 11 dates in Sep, 9 in Oct, 5 in Nov. Two or three were in regular attendance at the Duncliffe thrush and starling roost.

94 Goshawk

An adult male at Hengistbury Head 2-17 Sep and an immature male there on 9 Oct. An escaped bird wearing a jess was seen at Sherborne Lake on 8 Aug, and one there on 16 Sep was probably the same bird though no jess was seen.

95 Red Kite

A single bird in off the sea at PBO on 9 Apr was mobbed and flew out again. One surprisingly visited a garden in Corfe Mullen on 28 Oct causing great consternation among garden birds and in an aviary of canaries (A.H.D.).

96 Black Kite

A report of one flying northwards over Preston from the sea on 20 Apr has been submitted to the RBC (M.T.A.).

98 Honey Buzzard

One seen over the Shipstal area of Arne NR on 12 Jun (B.P.P., C.J.B.).

99 Marsh Harrier

Six records as follows: a female hunting amongst gulls at Lodmoor on 25 May; two at the mouth of the Sherford river, Lytchett Bay, on 30 May and next day, an immature bird; a female at Radipole Lake 11 Jun; one over Russell Quay 21 Jul; a female at Langton Herring 19 Sep.

100 Hen Harrier

At Arne NR at least three female or immature birds and a male were seen over the heather and roosting Jan-14Apr, and a male was there and at Studland on 11 May. There are numerous reports from the Poole Basin probably involving the same birds. The first spring report for PBO was a male in off the sea, 18 Apr, still present next day. Then a male at W. Bexington 25 Aug, at Abbotsbury 29 Aug and Radipole 30 Aug. A 'ringtail' at Abbotsbury 5 Oct, and at Arne 12 Oct where up to two males and two female or immature birds were back at the roost until the end of the year. Finally females were at Hengistbury Head 11 Oct and at nearby Wick Hams 20-27 Dec.

102 Montagu's Harrier

On 25 May a female was well seen at Studland NR. One flew W over Hammoon 11 Jun. A female or immature at Langton Herring on 2 Nov (very late but not unprecedented) was well described (D.C.G., G.A.).

103 Osprey

First seen over Brownsea Is 18 May, and Saltern Marsh, Arne, and Abbotsbury 19 May, perhaps the same bird. At Christchurch Harbour one on 3 Aug, one 31 Aug-3 Sep, two 6 Sep-4 Oct; other records during the same period may involve the same bird or birds: Abbotsbury 1 Sep; Arne NR 5, 8 Sep; Slepe 11 Sep; Brownsea 20 Sep; Fleet 1-7 Oct; R. Sherford 11 Oct.

104 Hobby

12 pairs were reported of which five at least bred successfully, one of these rearing two young, and two juvs were also seen in Aug. Early arrivals were at Arne NR, two on 9 Apr, one on 16 Apr. Single reports came from many parts of the County, including Radipole on many Aug-Sep dates. PBO had ten records between 9 Apr and a late bird 28-29 Oct. Christchurch had five, the last on 20 Sep.

105 Peregrine

Slightly more reports this year, mostly along the coast and mostly of single birds, but only one in Apr and none May-Jul. Three claimed for Chapman's Pool 21 Sep (J.L.) and two at Golden Cap during Dec.

107 Merlin

Many reports for all months except Jun-Jul, mainly from Poole Basin, Purbeck and Weymouth/Portland area. PBO had at least three birds, Mar-Apr, the last on 4 May; then one 24 Sep onward, three in Oct, two in Nov. An early return was a female on the Chesil Beach 25-26 Aug. Hengistbury Head had four records, all in autumn. There are two reports of Goldcrests being taken, and a detailed account of a Merlin chasing a Skylark under a parked van and out the other side!

108 Red-footed Falcon

An adult female arrived over the sea at PBO on 3 May (accepted by RBC).

110 Kestrel

21 breeding reports received, one pair raising four young. Nest sites include cliffs, old crows' nests, and a hole in an elm. A melanistic bird paired with a normal female but breeding was unsuccessful. The species is clearly quite common throughout the County. Indication of passage at PBO is given by this list of sightings per month: 11, 22, 42, 43, 45, 44, 45, 82, 87, 112, 47, 33. A slow-worm was taken at Studland NR, but a Stoat defended itself aggressively!

115 Red-legged Partridge

Successful breeding reported only at Langton Herring, and an egg was found at Milton Abbas, and three other pairs and a few singles complete the reports received. Hopefully this is an under-reported species, but it is not universally common so better coverage would be useful.

116 Partridge

Ten pairs only reported during the breeding season and several coveys, one of 15 birds, in autumn and winter. A negative report for the Corfe Mullen area, and only a single on 25 Oct from CHOG. Heard calling on six dates at PBO.

117 Quail

A poor year: singles only at PBO 31 May and 20 Jul, and at Langton Herring on 15 Jul.

118 Pheasant

Under-recorded as usual. 8+ pairs at Arne NR, and only two other breeding reports, and none on Brownsea Is where only *c.* 15 birds remain. There are isolated records for unusual localities including Studland NR in Mar and Wick Hams in Apr. The Golden and Lady Amherst's pheasants are now admitted to the British List as established feral breeders — does this occur in Dorset? (Ed.)

119 Crane

Despite widespread reports of an escaped Sarus Crane, the description of a bird in Poole Harbour on 16 Aug fits the Common Crane and has been submitted to the RBC.

120 Water Rail

Breeding was confirmed at Studland NR and Lodmoor and was probable at Arne NR and Brownsea Is, and breeding season records came also from Radipole and E. Weare, Portland. Recorded in both winter periods at Christchurch Harbour, Brownsea NR, Littlesea, Arne NR, Holton, Lodmoor (max six), Radipole, Verne and E. Weare; also at Swineham in Mar and in autumn at Lytchett Bay, Holes Bay, E. Stoke, Milton Abbas and Briantspuddle. Singles at PBO in the periods 8 Feb-19 Apr and 27 Sep-27 Oct, and on 6 Dec.

121 Spotted Crake

Up to three on Stanpit Marsh 15 Aug-7 Sep, one at Wick Hams 30 Aug; one at Swineham 21 Sep. Up to two possibly three on 7 Aug, at Radipole 24 Aug-18 Oct, and singles at Lodmoor 6 Apr and 20 Dec.

124 Little Crake

One at Lodmoor on 8 and 10 Nov, well described (D.C.G.). (Accepted by RBC).

125 Corncrake

One record only, at Delcombe on 13 Oct.

126 Moorhen

Breeding pairs reported from the R. Stour at Merley (14 nests Canford bridge to Eye bridge), Branksome, Littlesea (6), Ower, Middlebere, Arne Saltern (two), Studland, Lodmoor (two), Langton Herring — but these are surely only a sample. Present throughout the year at Christchurch Harbour, West Hurn, Sydling and R. Bride; and widespread in winter. 81 at Merley, 26 Dec, was the highest count.

127 Coot

Breeding confirmed at Edmondsham, Corfe Mullen, Stour, Littlesea, and Turnerspuddle Heath; always present at Christchurch Harbour and Sydling; 115 at Abbotsbury on 27 Jun. Winter concentrations include 2000-3000 mid-Fleet 16 Oct, 355 in Jan and 445 in Dec at Christchurch Harbour 170 at Radipole 12 Oct, 160 Poole Park 16 Feb, and 114 Littlesea 16 Nov; other reports of smaller numbers come from Nether Cerne new lake, Holes Bay, Roke Farm near Bere Regis and Winterbourne Whitechurch.

131 Oystercatcher

At least 15 pairs at Brownsea NR and probably six pairs elsewhere on the island, but only about six young reared; on Stanpit a pair attempted to breed but the eggs were trampled by horses; only reports for the Chesil Beach were two breeding pairs and two parties of 28 and 10 on 13 May. In Poole Harbour a very large count of 1050 in Jan, with 900 on Brownsea lagoon on 6 Sep; Arne max was 300 in Dec, and min was 25 in Jul; Christchurch Harbour maxima were 95 on 26 Aug, 138 in Sep, 53 in Nov, 35 in Dec. Much less common further west: 12 at Ferrybridge on 21 Sep and 7 on 30 Mar; 15 flew W in Weymouth Bay 9 Mar. PBO max was 17E 31 Aug, and bird-day numbers there for spring, autumn and winter were 78 (mainly E), 108 and 62, but only two in Jun, 26 in Jul.

132 Sociable Plover

One at Langton Herring 28 Sep-10 Oct, seen by many people (accepted by RBC). Second Dorset record (first in 1961).

133 Lapwing

Breeding reported at Christchurch Harbour, Lytchett Bay, Monkton up Wimborne (three pairs), Lodmoor, Herbury and Langton Herring; obviously more common than this suggests in the east at least. Early flock records from CHOG on 4 Jun, and six at Briantspuddle on 7 Jun. Winter flocks greater than 500 at Arne (650 Jan), Maiden Castle (700 Jan), Lodmoor (850 Feb), Dorchester (1000 Feb), Bottlebush Down (1000 Feb), and Marnhull Hame (4000 Feb). At PBO recorded in Feb, Mar, and May-Dec, mostly in Jul.

134 Ringed Plover

A report of at least 100 on the Chesil Beach between Ferrybridge and Abbotsbury on 27 Jun suggests a possible slight reduction in the Chesil breeding population of *c.*75 pairs in recent years. No reports of breeding around Poole Harbour this year, but CHOG report six pairs breeding, nine young surviving, in their area — the best result for years. Winter numbers at Christchurch 40-60 Jan-Mar, 110 Ferrybridge in Jan, 73 Shell Bay 16 Feb, and at Stanpit 87 on 29 Nov and up to 65 in Dec. Absent from Arne NR 4 Jun-end Jul, but a few passage birds up to 29 Sep. The Sep max at Stanpit was 180, at Ferrybridge 150, at Brownsea 55, and Studland Beach had 40 on 23 Oct. Up to three at Sutton Bingham and two at Sherborne Lake in Aug. Some passage at PBO 17 Jul-20 Sep, max five on 19 Aug.

135 Little Ringed Plover

Spring records were one at W. Bexington on 27 Mar, 1N at Hengistbury Head on 6 Apr and one at Stanpit 9 Apr, 1N over Portland Harbour on 9 May, and one at Lodmoor on that day. Return passage began with three at Sutton Bingham 26-27 Jul (and one on 21 Aug), 1SW at Christchurch 12 Aug, three at Stanpit 12-13 Aug, one Hengistbury Head 19, 22, 23 Aug, two at Lodmoor on 26 Aug; then a juv at Radipole 21-25 Sep and an adult 7 Oct; Ferrybridge had singles 9 Aug and 21 Sep, and Sherborne Lake one on 15 Sep.

136 Kentish Plover

At Ferrybridge a male on 9 May, a female on 17, 18, 23 May. An immature at Hengistbury Head on 30 Aug.

139 Grey Plover

Definitely more numerous in Poole Harbour than in recent years: on Brownsea 98 on 15 Jan and 102 on 1 Mar then 80 on 23 Nov and 108 on 21 Dec; at Arne NR monthly maxima were 7, 9, 39, 25, 12, 3, 0, 6, 10, 4, 4, 1; Shell Bay maxima were 48 on 8 Jan and 92 on 27 Dec; also eight at Holton on 26 Mar. Further west, 16 at Ferrybridge on 8 Nov and up to 50 at Langton Herring on 22 Dec; a few Spring birds in the Fleet but PBO only had singles 14 Sep and 8 Oct and four on 12 Oct. In the east CHOG had three in Jan, singles Feb-Apr, but 6 on 17 Apr, 15 on 10 May, two in Jun but none in Jul, and the Autumn peak of 11 on 18 Oct was higher than usual.

140 Golden Plover

In the Horton Inn area 600 on 1 Jan, flocks of 129 and 75 on 8 Apr and 50 Northern birds at Bowerswain, and a total of *c.*350 on 13 Apr; in autumn an early count of 300 on 23 Aug was high (A.H.D.), with only 150 on 20 Oct, but more later, e.g. *c.*1000 on 9 Nov. At Maiden Castle 350-400 in Jan, but no late-year reports. Other reports are widespread and include 200 Bere Regis 9 Jan, 15 Bridport 25 Jan, 280 Tarrant Hinton 15 Mar, four at Stanpit 31 May, one at Herbury 27-29 Jun, three at Stanpit 24 Aug, passage at PBO mainly 28 Aug-7 Nov, and 76 at Compton Valence on 22 Dec.

142 Dotterel

In spring two at Hengistbury Head on 21 May. In autumn one on 16 Aug and one on 31 Aug at PBO, one at E. Weare 2 Sep, and one on Lodmoor on 5 Oct.

143 Turnstone

Up to 12 at Ferrybridge 1 Jan-17 May, and 10 Aug-Dec. Maxima were seven in Jan, 17 in Nov at Studland and 16 on Brownsea Is 2 Mar. Arne NR had five on 26 Apr, 12 on 17 May, singles on 4 Jun and 21 Jul, two 23 Jul, one on 13 Oct. CHOG recorded up to 15 Feb-May, one on 13 Jul and Aug-Dec maxima of 6, 25, 9, 30. Langton Herring had three in May, singles Jul-Aug. Passage at PBO started on 27 Apr, then five in May, two in Jun, five in late Jul, 31 in Aug (max 12 on 30 Aug), six in Sep, three in Oct.

145 Snipe

The only record of breeding activity was one drumming over the water-meadows at Monkton up Wimborne on 8 May. Perhaps the dry summer inhibited breeding but more evidence, positive or negative, would have helped — especially for a species with a patchy distribution in Dorset. At Marnhull only about 30 were present (60 on 19 Oct) instead of 200-300 as in previous years, certainly due to dry ground. The largest concentrations reported were 250 in Jan and maxima of 150, 160, 250, 500 for Sep-Dec at Stanpit; 170 near the Stour at Merley on 15 Feb (but only nine in the autumn); 53 near Wareham 19 Jan; 47 at Lytchett Bay on 27 Dec; 150+ at Lodmoor in Feb. Small numbers were reported from at least a dozen scattered areas. One fed on a lawn at Burton Bradstock on 5 Feb, and likewise at Buckland Newton where three roosted under a rose-bush in frosty weather 16-19 Dec. PBO had several records of one to three only 8 Mar-27 Apr, 31 Jul-30 Oct, and a few in winter.

147 Jack Snipe

In the first winter period reported from Lodmoor (max five), Herbury, Warmwell, Culpepper's Dish, Hartland Moor and Littlesea, while CHOG had 19 in Jan, 16 in Feb and the last two on 15 Apr at Christchurch Harbour. In the second winter period Lodmoor had up to nine; Christchurch Harbour had Sep-Dec maxima of 2, 10, 21, 26; Sherborne had five on 31 Dec; and there were singles at Fitzworth, Compton Valence and Broadmayne.

148 Woodcock

Breeding reports from Brownsea Is (two pairs), Witchampton (two territories) with roding at Holt Wood (two), Verwood and Uddens (on 10 Jun despite burning of area on 2 Jun); one at Morden on 14 Jun and at Briantspuddle on 8 Jun. Early winter records came from Studland Heath, Corfe Mullen and Arne, and in the late autumn from Uddens, Studland Heath, Ower, Sturminster Marshall and High Stoy. Probable passage birds were at PBO on 23 and 26 Oct and at Hengistbury Head on 27 Oct.

150 Curlew

An adult had a chick at Bagber on 4 Jun; a pair was at Morden Decoy on 4 Jun; and other breeding activity reports came from Turnerspuddle Heath (from 14 Jun) and Buckland Newton (first heard 5 Mar). Present in every month in some numbers at Arne NR, montly maxima 200, 100, 100, 250, 60, 110, 150, 300, 150, 250, 150, 100. At Holton return passage began with six on 20 Jun, and PBO had singles 18, 30 Jun, 29 Jul, and more in Aug (max seven together). Brownsea had max 255 on 8 Aug, and Holton max 87 on 13 Sep. Poole Harbour overall maxima were 1113 in Jan and 591 in Nov. Only recorded singly in the Fleet/Lodmoor area, except for 20 in May, six in Jun. At Christchurch Harbour max was 30 in May, six in autumn. Winter flocks include Deadmoor Common (75 in Feb), E. Weare (eight on 26 Mar), Kimmeridge (23 in Nov).

151 Whimbrel

Winter records from Studland NR (1 Jan-Mar) and in Nov-Dec, and Ower (1 on 16 Nov). First spring arrivals at Christchurch Harbour and Sutton Bingham on 18 Apr, then five at PBO 19 Apr, 200 at Chapman's Pool 26 Apr, 29 at PBO 27 Apr, then further passage until early Jun; Arne NR had fewer than in past years with peaks 23, 26 Apr and 35 4 May, total 500 24 Apr-13May. There are isolated reports for Jun-Jul and small numbers in Aug-Sep, the last being on 6 Oct at Arne.

154 Black-tailed Godwit

A Poole Harbour count of 450 in Jan and one of 456 at Holton on 26 Mar show a stable and cohesive winter population in that area. Slight increases occured in spring with 500 at Arne NR in Apr. Few in midsummer, max 10 in Jun at Arne, and two at Holton on 20 Jun. The largest flock moved to Brownsea later with counts of 300-380 25 Oct-21 Dec, while Arne had max 125 in Nov. Several reports came from other parts of Poole Harbour, notably 300 in Brands Bay in Feb. Further east, CHOG had up to 21 on four dates in Apr, 15 on 10 Jul followed by smaller numbers Aug-Sep, until 16 on 21 Sep and a later peak of 38 on 20 Oct. Elsewhere, PBO had nine on 11 May, Radipole occasional ones or twos, and Sutton Bingham one on 27 Jul.

155 Bar-tailed Godwit

Poole Harbour wintering population apparently about 100 in Jan, mainly at Whitley Bay (Shore Rd) and Brownsea Is; fewer at the end of the year, but no accurate counts. There was a very marked spring passage: 650E at Hengistbury Head 25 Apr; 1820E there and 1500E at PBO and 200 at Brownsea and 150E at Portland Harbour and 300 at W. Bexington all on 26 Apr; 1016E at Hengistbury Head and 1015E at PBO 27 Apr (a striking concordance); still 133E on 29 Apr but far fewer in May. Up to six at Arne NR in Jun-Jul but 14 at Furzey Is on 26 Jun; also one at Ferrybridge 21 Jun. Scattered autumn reports include 53 W at PBO 27 Aug-16 Sep, max 24 on 27 Aug, and small numbers in Christchurch Harbour Aug-Oct but 87E on 16 Nov, and singles at Radipole, Ferrybridge and Herbury on several dates.

156 Green Sandpiper

Recorded in the first winter-period on water-cress-beds at Tadnoll, Broadmayne, Warmwell, Tincleton, Iwerne Minster, also at Hurn, Merley, Puddletown, Sydling, Marnhull and Bagber. Three at Merley 15 Apr and one 19 Apr. Jun records from Corfe Mullen, East Holme, Tincleton, Radipole and Arne NR. Autumn passage Aug-Sep noted at 14 localities, mostly one or two birds, and then a few in Oct. Finally in Nov-Dec reported at many of the places already listed plus Cranborne, Milton Abbas and Moreton.

157 Wood Sandpiper

Two spring records: two at Lodmoor on 10 May, and one at Radipole 29-30 May. Then at Lodmoor on nine dates 20 Jul-20 Aug, max 4 on 11 Aug, at Sutton Bingham one to three on five dates 29 Jul-21 Aug, at Stanpit 6-24 Aug and 19 Sep, at Radipole 30 Jul, at Sherborne Lake 4 Aug, at Cranborne 16 Aug, and at Brownsea Is 14 Sep.

158 Common Sandpiper

Winter reports for Jan-Feb around Portland Harbour and at Holes Bay, and for Nov-Dec from Hyde near Wareham, Bere Regis and Portland Harbour. There are numerous reports of spring and autumn passage: the first at Stanpit 18 Apr, a peak of 36 there on 17 Jul, and a late bird also there on 12 Oct; while at Sutton Bingham up to 25 present Jul-Aug with 40 ringed and few retraps indicating continuous passage.

161 Redshank

Breeding at Hengistbury Head (five pairs), Arne NR (12 pairs), Patchins Pt., Monkton up Wimborne (three pairs), and probably at Corfe Mullen, near Wimborne, at Barnsley and at E. Lulworth Heath; also 50 on the Chesil Beach on 27 Jun but only 5 breeding pairs. Christchurch Harbour max was 200 in Jan; Poole Harbour max were 1132 in Feb and 1120 in Sep and Nov, and the largest concentrations in the area were 1100 Brownsea Is 6 Sep and 900 there 5 Nov, 600 Fitzworth Feb, 562 Holes Bay 13 Sep. The max in the Fleet area was 25 on 23 Mar. PBO had six spring records, 26 in autumn and singles Nov and Dec. Inland records came from Merley, Cranborne, Sutton Bingham and Sherborne Lake.

162 Spotted Redshank

At Arne NR recorded in every month but Nov, and not between 19 May and 9 Jun, monthly maxima 8, 17, 15, 20, 21, 14, 16, 111, 160 (highest ever), 30, 0, 10. Frequent except Apr-Jul at Brownsea but 98 on 6 Sep was exceptional, and there are several reports for other areas of Poole Harbour. CHOG had records for Feb, May, Aug-Oct, max five in Sep. Further west there are several isolated reports in the Weymouth/Fleet area for Apr-Jun and Aug-Sep, max four at Lodmoor on 29 Apr, while PBO had one on 21 Jun.

165 Greenshank

Monthly maxima for the more-frequented localities are tabulated:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Abbotsbury	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Mid-Fleet	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
E. Fleet	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	6
Radipole	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	5	—	6	—	—
Lodmoor	—	—	10	2	5	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
Sutton Bingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	17	—	—	—	—
Arne	—	—	—	—	2	4	8	10	8	3	1	—
Brownsea	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	11	10
Holton	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Wimborne	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—
Christchurch Harbour	—	—	—	3	5	1	6	8	4	1	—	—

There are reports from other areas of Poole Harbour including 17 at Russell Quay on 21 Jul and 25 in Lytchett Bay on 7 Sep. PBO had singles in May and Aug, also three on 6 Sep. Inland one was heard at night over Colehill on 1 Jul, two were on cress-beds at Cranborne and Bere Regis in Aug, and one was at Sherborne Lake in Sep.

169 Knot

Jan-Feb records only from CHOG and Studland, then spring records at Ferrybridge on 15 Mar while Arne NR had more than usual with two in Mar, 11 in Apr on nine days, up to eight in May, three on 26 Jun. One at PBO on 17 May and up to nine at Langton Herring in May, one on 8 Jun and four in mid-Fleet on 14 Jun. Autumn maxima were 27 at Christchurch Harbour on 4 Sep. Seven on Studland

beach 14 Sep, at Brownsea Is 50 at 11 Sep and 53 on 24 Sep; and further west 22 at Langton Herring on 28 Aug, 30 at Radipole on 5 Sep. Nov-Dec records came from E. Fleet, Arne and Studland (max five).

170 Purple Sandpiper

At PBO absent only from 16 May to 18 Jul with monthly maxima 15, 15, 18, 22, 24, 0, 6, 1, 3, 2, 11, 26. Up to three at the Nothe Jan-Feb and again Nov-Dec and one at Balaclave Bay 23 Jan. Kimmeridge had seven on 26 Jan, five on 28 Mar. One was at Shell Bay on 3 Nov. Hengistbury Head had Jan-Apr maxima of 8, 8, 4, 13 and six on 12 Dec.

171 Little Stint

Spring records: one at Herbury 4 May, two at Christchurch 11 May, one at Radipole 17 May. Autumn maxima were three at Stanpit in Aug-Oct, four at Brownsea in Aug, five at Sherborne Lake in Sep, eight at Herbury in Aug and three in Sep, 12 at Langton Herring in Sep, four at Radipole in late Sep, two at Ferrybridge in Sep. An unidentified Stint was at PBO on 23 Nov.

173 Temminck's Stint

One early on 9 May at Lodmoor, well-described (D.C.G.).

178 Dunlin

Poole Harbour maxima of 3613 in Jan and 3480 in Nov include flocks of 2150 and 1916 respectively at Shell Bay, with other local maxima of 600 at Arne in Dec, 810 on Brownsea 23 Nov, 800 Lytchett Bay 27 Dec, 921 Shore Rd 8 Nov, 1100 Holton 31 Dec, 1260 Holes Bay 22 Dec (also 1050 there in Feb). CHOG totals reached 1500 for Jan, Feb, Nov and 1250 in Dec, also 100 on 4 Jun. In the Fleet area peaks were, 500 Ferrybridge 1 Feb and 350 6 Dec, 83 Radipole 17 May, 500 Langton Herring in Mar and 400 in Dec. PBO had 18 spring and 27 autumn records, including eight on both 29 Apr and 23 Aug. Inland records: 75 near Marnhull on 28 Feb, up to four Sutton Bingham Jul-Sep, one at Corfe Mullen 15 and 18 Aug, one near Merley on 28 Nov.

179 Curlew Sandpiper

One spring bird, at Lytchett Bay on 3 Jun. The first autumn bird was at Lodmoor on 26 Jul. In Aug numbers at Stanpit were small until 21 on 30 Aug, and at Brownsea reached eight only on 17 Aug, while Langton Herring had five in late Aug but 10 on 28 Aug. Another influx in Sep involved 50 at Stanpit in the first week, up to 47 at Brownsea by 11 Sep, max 14 at Radipole on 7 Sep and max six at Ferrybridge on 8 Sep. Finally one at PBO 1 Oct, three at Stanpit 3 Oct, three at Brownsea 9 Oct.

181 Sanderling

Early winter records are only one or two at Christchurch Jan-Mar, while 13 at Ferrybridge on 31 Mar were probably early passage birds. The peak of the Spring passage was around 18 May with max 75 at Christchurch, 25 at Langton Herring and one at Arne that day and max 25 at Studland on 15 May and 10 at Ferrybridge on 23 May, the largest Apr figure being 11 at Christchurch 22 Apr. A late record involved 14 at Arne on 16 Jun. CHOG had none 10 Jun-4 Jul but numbers reached 80 there on 28 Jul but under 12 for Aug-Oct. Other autumn maxima were six at Ferrybridge in Aug, 13 at Brownsea and four at Langton Herring on 14 Sep, while PBO had two on 5 Sep. Nov-Dec records of small numbers came from Stanpit, Studland and Brownsea Is.

182 Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One at Ferrybridge on 1 Sep (accepted by RBC).[Four other American waders could be mentioned here but not admitted; a Western Sandpiper at Stanpit on 24 Aug and a Semi-palimated Sandpiper at Hengistbury Head 6-10 Sep, both under consideration by RBC, and Pectoral Sandpipers at Lodmoor on 20 Aug unconvincingly described and at E. Burton on 4 Dec without any description!].

184 Ruff

A poor year, perhaps due to dry weather affecting food species in wet habitats. Up to 10 near Wareham in Jan, one in Feb; one at Holes Bay in Jan; one at Lodmoor in Feb and three in Mar, one in Apr and May, four on 23 Jun. May records also from Brownsea Is (one), Langton Herring (five), Radipole (one). Singles at Stanpit 27 Jun and 30 Aug; two at Sutton Bingham 15 Aug. Singles in Sep on Brownsea, at Sherborne Lake and at PBO; three in Sep at Stanpit and two in Oct; one at Ferrybridge on 8 Nov.

185 Avocet

A single bird was wintering on Brownsea 9 Jan-6 Feb, two in display there 16-17 Feb, four on 23 Feb, one on 1 Mar; from 6 Nov onwards one there again, five from 23 Nov, six from 7-31 Dec; these numbers being the largest ever for Brownsea NR. Two at Holton and Arne on 15 Sep must have been different birds but other Poole Harbour reports overlap the Brownsea ones. Stanpit had two on 22 Mar and W. Bexington two on 27 Mar.

187 Grey Phalarope

Very few reports: one at the Nothe on 26 Jan, one at Ferrybridge on 25 Sep, five at Stanpit on 26 Sep, and one in Poole Harbour on 8 Nov.

189 Stone Curlew

Certainly one pair had eggs in late May in the usual area.

194 Great Skua

Not an impressive year for passage at PBO: only 20 in spring from 4 Apr, mainly E with max seven 20 Apr; 11 summer records of one or two birds; 23 in autumn, last 23 Nov off Hengistbury Head 2W 14 Apr, 3E 29 Apr, 5W 14 Sep, 1W 18 Sep, 1W 26 Sep. Also one off Chesil 30 Apr and one off W. Bexington 13 Jul.

195 Pomarine Skua

12 spring records for PBO from 19 Apr, max three 20 Apr, then one summer bird on 28 Jun, singles 26 and 27 Aug and four on 1 Sep. One off Chesil 30 Apr. Off Hengistbury Head 2E 29 Apr, one (in harbour) 21 Jul, 2W 14 Sep and 3W 18 Sep.

193 Arctic Skua

At PBO 54 in spring from 7 Apr, mainly E, max eight 26 Nov; then six summer records, and 40 in autumn 8 Aug-11 Oct with dark phase birds more numerous. Nearby at Chesil Cove or Portland Harbour six on 19 Apr, three 20 Apr, two 13 May, one 17 May. 2E on 13 May off W. Bexington; one at Kimmeridge 30 Aug. 6E off Hengistbury Head 29 Apr and 12W between 11 and 27 Sep including six on 14 Sep.

198 Great Black-backed Gull

Three pairs nested on Brownsea Is, rearing no young. Only two pairs nested between Durlston and St. Aldhelm's Head, but more (uncounted) at Old Harry. Christchurch Harbour monthly maxima: 111, 86, 13, 17, 29, 37, 31, 53, 450, 250, 150, 135. Larger counts at PBO were 105 1 Jan, 200 30 Jun, 250 26 Sep, 76E 22 Oct, 59W 1 Nov, 100 23 Nov. Also at Portland Harbour 250+ 12 Jan, *c*.355 5 Oct, 130 15 Oct. Only inland record received was five on 25 Jan near Merley.

199 Lesser Black-backed Gull

Two pairs nested but raised no young on Brownsea Is. and a pair at the Verne gullery probably did not breed. Recorded every month at PBO, the spring passage indicated by 101 in Mar and 309 in Apr including 130W on 7 Apr, while there were fewer in autumn, max 30 on 20 Aug. Otherwise small numbers were in the Weymouth area, but 61 at Lodmoor 21 Nov. Christchurch Harbour had 15 on 14 Jan, a few Feb-Apr, none in May, and a few Jun-Nov. Inland records only from Merley, two on 3 May.

200 Herring Gull

Bred on the W. cliff at Portland Bill and *c*.300 pairs at the Verne gulleries; 99 nests counted between Durlston Head and St. Aldhelm's Head, 20 Jun; on Brownsea Is 200 pairs nested on the ground and probably 150-200 elsewhere; on nearby Green Island

some 40 nests contained 148 eggs and chicks on 21 May. Roosting on burnt heath near Littlesea was noted in Jul-Aug. Up to 500 were often seen following mackerel shoals in Aug in Portland Harbour; up to 300 fished regularly at PBO in summer, though the only large movement was 300 on 23 Nov; and Weymouth rubbish tip held over 500 on 29 Dec. Always present in Christchurch Harbour in fluctuating numbers, peaks *c*.1500 in Sep and 1850 in Oct.

201 Common Gull

Recorded in most months at PBO with 268 on 1 Jan as max winter count, 1218 spring passage birds Mar-May, but only four in Jun, while the autumn peak was during Oct including 47E on 28 Oct. Portland Harbour counts were *c*.100 in Feb-Mar. Arne NR had variable numbers in all months except Jun, with an evening passage of 300+N in 20 minutes on 30 Mar, about equally adults and immatures; but 100+ in Wareham Channel on 27 Apr contained only one adult, likewise at Middlebere on 5 May. Small numbers were off Hengistbury Head Jan-Mar, max 37E 22 Mar, but up to 40 in Oct and 60 in Nov.

202 Glaucous Gull

One flying W at St. Aldhelm's Head on 12 Apr and one next day at PBO, then an immature off the Chesil Beach on 29 Apr. In autumn an adult at PBO on 5 Sep and perhaps the same bird on 21 Sep.

203 Iceland Gull

One at Stanpit Marsh on 18 Apr and a first-year bird at PBO on 19 Oct.

205 Mediterranean Gull

Two different birds in Weymouth Bay in Jan, at least four at the Nothe outflow during Feb and five in Mar in the same area; a single at PBO 9 Apr and at Radipole at least seven individuals 6-10 May; an imm. at PBO 8 Jun and off W. Bexington 1 Jul; three or four around Radipole and Ferrybridge in Aug, two in Sep plus one at Moonfleet on 28 Sep; an imm. at PBO again 22 Oct and an adult 3 Nov; singles at Radipole 1 Nov and 29 Dec but two at the Nothe 2 Nov and 11 Dec. In the east CHOG had three imms. on 31 May, two different birds in Jul, two in Aug, and two in the first week of Sep.

206 Bonaparte's Gull

A winter-plumage adult in Christchurch Harbour 9-12 Apr (accepted by RBC).

207 Little Gull

Seen throughout the year, with sightings all along the coast in Mar. CHOG had 2W 31 May, 5E 7 Jun, 1 imm. 10 Jun, adults on 7 and 12 Aug, up to 14 in Sep, seven in Oct, one on 11 Nov, most of the Autumn birds moving west. Far more records in the Weymouth/Portland area: 23 PBO records for the year, max three on 26 and 30 Sep; at Radipole records for Feb-May, Jul-Oct, and one in Dec, were thought to involve 30 different individuals including four imms. 2-3 May and four adults, two imms. on 3 Sep; frequent records for the Portland Harbour/Ferrybridge/Chesil area, and 1E at W. Bexington on 14 Dec.

208 Black-headed Gull

Only two young reared from 15-20 pairs on Brownsea Is, none near the ternery. *c*.1000 birds around the Wood Bar colonies in May. Little evidence of spring movements. Sample summer counts include 280+ Radipole 3 Jun, 200 Lodmoor 12 Jul, 1000+ Langton Herring 3 Aug. Autumn passage at PBO totalled 737 mainly E, but max 100W 23 Aug. Largest concentrations of the year were the Weymouth Bay roosts of 10000-15000 in Jan and Nov, but the Wareham channel roost held large numbers in winter, while Christchurch Harbour held 3000-4000 in autumn.

209 Sabine's Gull

On 2 May one seen of Chesil Cove (D.C.M.) and an immature at Ferrybridge on 27 Sep (I.S.R., R.J.J., A.V.).

211 Kittiwake

190 nests at three sites on the Purbeck coast, counted on 20 Jun, and 125 pairs bred on the W. Cliffs at Portland Bill where the first ashore was on 22 Feb. After one in Christchurch Harbour in Jan, CHOG had a small spring passage including 22W 14 Apr, total 29 in May, 16E in Jun, while PBO had a total of 662E, peak 400E 30 Apr. During the autumn PBO recorded 1661E in Oct-Nov, peaks 151 29 Oct, 600 11 Nov, 390 23 Nov, while CHOG had a small westerly movement 17-28 Sep with 34 on 25 Sep, and a few on 1, 31 Oct and 11, 24 Nov. Very few reports from other parts of the coast.

212 Black Tern

On 17 May, four at Hengistbury Head 14 off Chesil Cove feeding on fry then settling on the beach to preen before dispersing over Portland Harbour, and at W. Bexington 6W, 3E and three on the Mere.

At PBO 18 during the year, three on 21 May, singles Jun-Jul, five in Aug, seven on 3 Oct. Radipole had three on 31 Aug and two or three on several Sep dates. Littlesea had records on four dates in Aug, Sutton Bingham three dates including four on 21 Sep, and Sherborne Lake singles on four dates but two on 8 and 11-13 Sep. Finally Hengistbury Head had more than usual, mainly moving W, on 13 dates 5 Sep-4 Oct, total 63, max 17 on 25 Sep.

217 Common Tern

60-65 pairs nested on Brownsea Is and 54 of these raised *c*.60 young; on the Chesil Beach 140+ pairs were estimated though success appeared low, better however than the 1974 disaster. There were numerous specific identifications along the coast, the earliest being 13 on 3 May at PBO and the last in Portland Harbour on 10 Oct. Three regularly seen inland on the Stour near Wimborne in May.

Undifferentiated Common/Arctic Tern records were as follows: at PBO seen regularly 2 Apr-23 Oct, the spring passage being 248 mainly E, summer numbers reaching 100 in Jun, while autumn passage totalled 593 mainly W; at W. Bexington 190 passed on 16 May, 100+ next day, and 79E the following day; CHOG recorded movement totalling 109E 15W in May, then a peak of 500 in the Harbour by 20 Aug down to 100 on 22 Aug, and then sea passage again, mainly W, until 5 Oct with seven day totals over 100 and a late peak of 656 on 27 Sep.

218 Arctic Tern

Two pairs probably bred on the Chesil Beach, a pair with a juvenile being seen at Ferrybridge on 26 Jul. One identified at Lodmoor on 10 May, and small numbers at PBO 22-25 May. Last seen on 20 Sep, but for passage movement see Common Tern.

219 Roseate Tern

Two at Southwell, Portland, 6 May; one at Brownsea Is 10 May; one on the Fleet 15, 18 May; 1W off W. Bexington 16 May; one off the Chesil 17 May; 3E at Hengistbury Head 17 May. Two at Stanpit on 10 Jun. Singles off PBO 2 Jul and 17 Aug, but one at Stanpit 10 Aug and four on 26 Aug. Finally 1W at Hengistbury Head on 25 Sep.

222 Little Tern

At the Chesil Beach breeding colonies totalled 80-100 on 27 Jun but success was thought to be low. First arrivals were on 17 Apr at Abbotsbury, four at Arne NR on 18 Apr, and 13W at Stanpit on 19 Apr. Numbers increased during May: *c*.50 off the Chesil 13 May, 32 at Lodmoor 27 May, 40W on 1 May and 35W on 4 May at Hengistbury Head. 20+ at Ferrybridge 26 Jul and four at Brownsea NR 7 Aug. CHOG reported *c*.45 on 21 Jul, generally under 20 in Aug but 36 on 9 Aug and 40 at Stanpit on 10 Aug, and few after 26 Aug. PBO had singles only on 4 May and 29 Sep, but Hengistbury Head had 8W 11 Sep and 7W 20 Sep.

223 Sandwich Tern

None nested at Brownsea NR this year though a record of 10+ included a juvenile in the Fleet on 27 Jun, and juveniles were with

adults at Ferrybridge on 4 Jul and at Arne NR on 30 Jul. Spring passage at PBO from 24 Mar was mainly E, total 101 in Apr, and the first at Studland Bay were three on 29 Mar, and at Christchurch Harbour was on 30 Mar. Frequent along the coast in Apr with peak movements of 35E 14 Apr and 15E 26 Apr from CHOG. At PBO the autumn total was 198W, max 23W 25 Aug; while W. Bexington had 82W 27 Jul-31 Aug, Littlesea had 11E on 28 Sep, and CHOG had peaks of *c*.85 on 21 Aug, *c*.75 on 29 Aug, in the Harbour, reducing during Sep until the last two on 5 Oct, but sea passage lasted until 28 Sep with two large day totals of 78W 12 Sep and 173W 27 Sep.

224 Razorbill

10-12 pairs bred on the W. Cliffs at PBO leaving the ledges by 10 Jul, max 40 on 14 Mar and 27 on 6 Apr; absent there in Aug but seen off-shore Sep-Dec. Purbeck Coast records were low, only 12 altogether on 20 Jun, and a late bird at Chapman's Pool 3 Nov and at Shell Bay 22 Dec. Sightings off Hengistbury Head included one on 22 Mar, *c*.14 in May, one in Jul, one in Aug and two in late Sep.

PBO had high winter counts of undifferentiated Auks totalling 1154 in Jan and 430 on 1 Jan, and autumn movements totalled 752E against 217W. CHOG had eight off-shore records of one-three Auks Sep-Dec.

226 Little Auk

One off Hengistbury Head 29-30 Jan. One freshly dead at Ferrybridge on 1 Feb and another long dead at Chesil Cove on 12 Apr. There is a not wholly convincing record of one flying overland with thrushes at Portland on 18 Oct, and five flew E off PBO on 13 Nov.

227 Guillemot

550 birds were counted (including 6 'bridled' individuals) along the Purbeck coast on 20 Jun. At PBO birds were ashore in fine weather from early Jan and up to 120 birds on the ledges in summer included many non-breeders, but chicks were seen by 11 Jun, and the ledges were empty by 10 Jul until their return from 7 Dec building to 50 on 31 Dec. Only one specific identification for CHOG on 24 May.

229 Black Guillemot

The only record was of one in summer plumage on 10 Aug at Durlston Head (R.P.).

230 Puffin

Four pairs bred at PBO, first being noticed on 11 Mar, max 13 on 17 Mar, but only 11 in Apr-May; Autumn records there were two 17 Aug, one 15 Sep, 11 in Oct, but none later. Isolated records for the Purbeck Coast are from 23 Mar and a count on 20 Jun reached 34 birds. 1W off Hengistbury Head on 11 Nov.

232 Stock Dove

More breeding reports this year: Arne NR five pairs, Compton Valence two pairs, and single pairs at Bracketts Copse, Froxen Copse, Morden Park, Corfe Mullen, Briantspuddle, Hengistbury Head and Bincleaves, Weymouth. The largest winter flock was 800 at PBO in Feb, while autumn passage peaks were 148 out S at PBO on 30 Oct and 35 at Wick Hams in late Aug.

234 Woodpigeon

Few breeding reports sent in, but several of large autumn flocks: over 500 at Horton Inn in Aug; 1015 out S at PBO on 30 Oct; unprecedented numbers at Christchurch Harbour mid Oct-mid Nov with 100-600 on eight dates, and 2536W in two hours on 30 Oct; and *c*.1540S over Verne in Nov. A partial albino was noticed at PBO on 16 Feb.

235 Turtle Dove

Apparently a scarce breeding species; birds calling in summer at Hermitage three pairs, Briantspuddle, Morden Park, and several in the Woodlands/Cranborne area, and there are isolated reports from a dozen or more widespread areas. Spring passage at PBO started on 14 Apr but was mainly in May, max 12 on 11 May, and at Christchurch similarly, while N. Portland had 20+ on 21 May. In autumn the main passage peak was around 8 Oct when 63 were recorded at PBO.

— Collared Dove

This species may be reaching saturation level as several observers remarked that birds were moving on to new areas as food supplies near habitation were limited. Early nestlings were noted in Mar at Blandford and Corfe Mullen. Larger flocks reported were 80 at Upwey in Feb, 70+ at Almer in Apr, 69 at Dorchester in Aug, and the peak of unusually high numbers at PBO was 105 in Oct. An individual in a party at Bincleaves, Weymouth, was thought to be a Barbary Dove while an observer at Sydling noticed several birds with differences in underside wing and tail markings and wonders if they were Collared/Barbary hybrids.

237 Cuckoo

No early arrivals this year, but most 'firsts' between 17 and 27 Apr. Few records sent in from the west and north, and a decrease noted at Uddens, Whitesheet and Briantspuddle but increased numbers in the Stour and Allen valleys. Evidence of passage scanty: only 16 records at PBO Apr-Aug, 10 from the Verne, 20 at E. Weare, and a very few at Christchurch.

241 Barn Owl

A much reported species from all over the County. Breeding pairs or young between Corfe Castle and Lulworth (four pairs), at Milton Abbas, Hilton, Mapperton, Middlebere, Burton Bradstock, Rampisham, Corfe Mullen, Abbotsbury and Wareham, but several pairs were also reported as unsuccessful, and dead birds were found at Langton Herring and Portland. However an injured bird, thought to have been shot near Shillingstone was restored to health after treatment by a Vet. (A.H.). Singles occured at PBO 21-22 Jan, 1-2 Feb and 4 Nov while Hengistbury Head had at least one bird at times from 3 Sep onwards. A pellet picked up near Ridge contained remains of a Natterer's Bat.

246 Little Owl

Under-reported or scarcer in recent years but this time there is some improvement. Definite breeding at PBO (two pairs), Sherborne Lake and near Milton Abbas and sightings from Briantspuddle, Godmanstone, Canford Pack, Rampisham, Bere Regis and Hengistbury Head. More information would still be welcome.

247 Tawny Owl

Only about a dozen breeding reports received this year, from many parts of the County but not the north and north-east. Many more sightings reported, especially from urban areas of Poole and Weymouth. Single birds visited PBO in Mar, Jun, Aug, Oct-Dec and Hengistbury Head in May and Sep-Dec, on two occasions coincident with the arrival of Long-eared Owls.

248 Long-eared Owl

Dorset had a small share of an influx along the south coast in autumn. PBO had at least three single birds between 13 and 26 Oct, sometimes roosting in the Observatory garden. CHOG had one at Hengistbury Head on 11 Oct, three on 22 Nov and one 23-24 Nov. One was trapped and ringed at Stourton Caundle in Nov, (E.D.V.P.). No reports however of birds calling in spring.

249 Short-eared Owl

Four birds at PBO in the period 29 Mar-9 May and at least 10 in the period 18 Aug-10 Nov, max three 24 Oct, and a probable on 14 Dec. Singles at Hengistbury Head 17-18 Oct and 20 Nov. Studland NR had one Jan-Mar, but three on 23 Mar, and singles in Nov-Dec. There was a single at Tyneham on 19 Apr, and autumn singles at Weston, Portland, and Langton Herring, Lodmoor, Hartland Moor and Arne. More remarkably one was seen at Godlingston Heath on 1 Jun (J.R.C. et al.).

252 Nightjar

16 breeding pairs reported from the usual areas of heathland in the eastern part of the county and in addition six churring males at Arne NR. Hengistbury Head had three passage birds, the first on 30 Apr.

255 Swift

Breeding reports from Briantspuddle, Burton Bradstock, Sydling and Winspit only do not represent the distribution of this species. There were no early arrivals, a few at PBO and Christchurch in the last week of Apr, but the main influx began about 5 May. Late birds however were noted at Tarrant Hinton 26 Aug, Broadwindsor 1 Sep, Christchurch 2 Sep, and five at Radipole 5 Sep. Flocks of *c*.3000 were seen at Langton Herring on 29 Jun and PBO on 6 Aug. A Swift on the remarkable date of 30 Oct at Pensylvania Castle, Portland, was confidently claimed as a Pallid Swift by two experienced observers (F.R.C., D.E.W.), but the record has not been submitted to the RBC as a British 'first' because of the improbability of acceptance (a pity ?-Ed.).

258 Kingfisher

Few breeding reports but two pairs had two broods on the R. Stour near Wimborne, and breeding was probable at Corfe Mullen, E. Burton, Sydling, Stour Row, and on the R. Bride. There were a few sightings for the R. Piddle but not the R. Frome. There are several winter and late autumn records along the entire coast including one fishing in W. Bay Harbour in full public view.

260 Roller

One was seen on 16, 18 and 21 Jun at W. Milton (A. Dale) (submitted to the RBC).

261 Hoopoe

The first was at Durdle Door on 9 Apr. One at Wakeham, Portland 15 Apr, at Burton Bradstock 30 Apr; singles at PBO 4, 13, 18 May, at Shroton 19 May, W. Bexington 1 Jun. One autumn record only, at Bincleaves, Weymouth on 27 Oct.

262 Green Woodpecker

Sample breeding reports: Arne NR four pairs; Brownsea NR two pairs; Studland NR one pair. There are numerous sightings from all over the County. A battle between a Sparrow-hawk and a Green Woodpecker, at Sutton Bingham was a noisy but inconclusive affair.

263 Great Spotted Woodpecker

Few breeding reports received: Broadmayne, Briantspuddle, Hazelbury Bryan and Studland NR, and pairs at Arne NR (three), Brownsea NR (two), Corfe Mullen. Numerous and widespread sightings. A Blue Tit was evicted by a woodpecker from a nestbox at Briantspuddle but continued to feed the young through the nest material on the ground.

264 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Pairs were seen at Milton Abbas in Apr and Sherborne Lake in Jul. Single reports are as follows: Broadmayne (Feb and Dec), Bagber (Feb-Mar), Merley (Apr and Dec), Hurn Count (Apr), Newton Heath (May), Bucknowle (Jun and Oct), Stinsford (Jul), Radipole (Aug), Woodlands Park (Oct), Holton (Oct), Ower (Oct).

265 Wryneck

One at Arne NR 10 May. One at Hartland Moor 24 Aug in the same tree as last year. One at Radipole 4 Sep, and singles at PBO 2 and 21 Sep.

271 Woodlark

Breeding season pairs at Sherford Bridge and Morden Decoy Pond, also at Canford Heath (two pairs, max seven in Oct). Song heard in winter at Holton Heath. Spring migrants at Hengistbury Head only: one 22 Mar, and two or more 2-6 Apr. Autumn wanderers noted at Moonfleet, Easton and PBO in Oct while CHOG had 2W 5 Oct, one 17 Oct, one 18 Oct, 1W 2 Nov at Hengistbury Head.

272 Skylark

Sample breeding numbers came from PBO, CHOG and Lodmoor (13 pairs), with small numbers at Briantspuddle, Turnerspuddle and Tolpuddle, and increased numbers at Burton Bradstock and near Corfe Mullen. Larger autumn flocks include max 200 at PBO in Nov, max 660 at W. Bexington in Oct, 100 at Moonfleet and 150 at Marnhull also in Oct, while Christchurch Harbour had *c*. 150 in Oct and 80 on Stanpit refuse-tip in Dec.

274 Swallow

Abnormally early birds — or possibly over-winterers — at Radipole 11 and 15 Jan, Stour Row 27 Feb, Christchurch and PBO 1 Mar and Lodmoor 3 Mar. A fair number of breeding records were sent in from many parts of the County. Many autumn roosts in reed-beds were observed, including *c*. 1000 at Sturminster Newton in late Jul. Autumn passage at PBO lasted until 22 Nov, while the last at Christchurch was on 10 Nov, where the peak was over 3000 birds on 20 Sep.

275 Red-rumped Swallow

One at Radipole Lake on 22 May (N.R.R.) (accepted by RBC).

276 House Martin

A very early record at Radipole Lake on 12 Mar (D.C.G.) described. Then arrivals in various districts from 13 Apr, with peak passage at PBO and Christchurch on 17-18 May and continuing into early Jun. Breeding reported in many places. The peak of autumn passage was in mid-Oct at PBO but on 20-21 Sep at Christchurch (1500 and 1000 birds), and as usual stragglers remained into the third week of Nov. Curious dispersal flights were noticed at Swanage with numbers collecting on a roof in cloudy conditions, but not on a clear day soon after, before lifting upwards beyond binocular range.

277 Sand Martin

Few breeding records, only these: 115 nests at Carey, 35 pairs at Povington, five pairs at Hengistbury Head, and a small colony on Knighton Heath, Canford. Only one March record, at W. Bexington on 27 Mar, and correspondingly late arrival noted in many areas. Autumn passage figures include flocks of 300-500 at Christchurch Harbour in Jul-Aug, 300 near Corfe Mullen on 6 Aug, and counts of 100 at PBO and Radipole. The last at Christchurch was on 4 Oct but at PBO on 19 Oct.

278 Golden Oriole

Two reports, neither with any description or details so perhaps inadmissible: a male at Rodden 13 Apr and one at Abbotsbury 1 Jul.

279 Raven

A pair nested in Purbeck but no young were reared — the first failure at this site since 1960 (W.T.H.). One or two birds reported throughout the year at many places along the coast, and at Arne NR on 22 Oct, but no other breeding. A max of six were seen at Chapman's Pool in Sep.

280/281 Carrion/Hooded Crow

Most breeding reports for Carrion Crows come from the heathland and along the coast. A pair are said to have visited a garden in Corfe Mullen for 15 years, the female being recognised by a white patch on the underside, and another pair in the same district took a brood of Muscovy ducklings. PBO had a max of 25 in Nov, and CHOG a max of 50 in the Stanpit rubbish-tip. A Hooded Crow was seen at PBO on 15 and 21 May, and there are still hybrids in the Chistchurch area resulting from resident Hoodies some years ago.

282 Rook

This species was the subject of a National Survey in 1975 to try to measure the effects of an obvious decrease in eastern counties and the destruction of elm-trees by disease.

Our local BTO organiser, Dr. R. Stanford, says that "a total of 732 rookeries have been identified in the County, comprising 16,427 nests". Roughly one adult rook to 20 acres. An analysis will be published in due course.

283 Jackdaw

Few reports received though some breeding sites have been named both inland and on the cliffs. Resident at PBO, max 250 on 5 Aug. A movement 25W on 25 Oct at Hengistbury was an unusual event.

284 Magpie

Over-population reported from several districts: Burton Bradstock, Briantspuddle, Corfe Mullen and Wimborne. PBO had an average of 15 birds in the area; CHOG had max 16 at Stanpit in Feb; Arne NR had six breeding pairs. There is an interesting story of the rearing of two broods at Stour Row under constant menace from crows.

286 Jay

Increasing rapidly in many areas: Uddens, Whitesheet, Briantspuddle, Corfe Mullen, Langton Herring. 10 pairs at Arne NR. Immigration noted at Studland NR, 8 flying in on 12 Oct, and at Hengistbury Head with seven on 27 Oct.

288 Great Tit

Increasing numbers breeding at Burton Bradstock; 10 pairs in nest-boxes at Brackett's Copse; eight pairs on Arne NR; 16 territories in 40-acre wood, Studland NR, plus two pairs in nest-boxes; and a pair enlarged a hole in a nest-box at Stour Row — these are some of the reports received. Scarcely any evidence of passage at PBO, or Hengistbury where the biggest total was 11 in Mar.

289 Blue Tit

Sample counts of breeding density give: Arne NR 13+ pairs; Studland NR 17 pairs in 40-acre wood and a pair feeding young at the bottom of a three-foot metal pipe by the busy car-park, as in 1973; Bracketts Copse 26 nest-boxes occupied; and there are several more reports. Migration at PBO averaged 1-4 per day in May but 8-9 per day in Nov, and the peak was 20 on 23 Oct, E. Weare had 30-50 on 13 Sep; Hengistbury Head increased from 15 to 50 on 17 Oct and from 12 to 40 on 30 Oct.

290 Coal Tit

Undoubtedly under-recorded. At Arne NR 13 breeding pairs were located, and single pairs were reported from Bracketts Copse (a nest-box), Burton Bradstock, Langton Herring, Studland NR, Morecombe Wood and Owermoigne. No spring movement noticed, but there was a continental bird at E. Weare on 23 May. Autumn flocks include *c*.20 on Canford Heath, 24 Oct, and 18 moving W at W. Bexington, 7 Oct. PBO had singles on four dates in Oct, and CHOG had singles intermittently but six in mid-Oct and 20 on 16 Oct.

292 Marsh Tit

Breeding: Arne NR six pairs; Briantspuddle area *c*.4 pairs; Bracketts Copse two pairs in nest-boxes; Studland NR four territories in 40-acre wood; Brownsea one nest; very few at Godmanston. No spring or autumn movements reported apart from one at Hengistbury Head 10-12 Oct, a very unusual occurrence.

293 Willow Tit

Disappointingly few records. Singing birds reported at Merley, and Sherford Bridge area, and birds in the breeding season at Thorncombe Wood, near Hermitage (young seen), W. Bexington and probably at Chideock. No passage movements noticed.

294 Long-tailed Tit

This species continues to thrive. Sample breeding counts: Arne NR *c*.10 pairs; Brownsea NR only two pairs; Studland NR five pairs; E. Weare four pairs; Verne Common two pairs; Bracketts Copse one pair which was predated; Christchurch Harbour two pairs — and several other isolated reports. There are many reports of winter and autumn flocks or parties in the east of the county. PBO had singles on 23 and 29 Mar and 12 on 6 Oct followed by up to 10 on nine dates up to 2 Nov; Hengistbury Head had 10 or more, 17 Oct-24 Nov, peak 18 on 30 Oct.

296 Nuthatch

Probably widespread but very under-reported. Breeding, proved or probable, noted at Frome Whitfield, Bucknowle, Abbotsbury, Bracketts Copse (two pairs in nest-boxes), Sydling St. Nicholas and Canford Park. There are a handful of other sightings.

298 Treecreeper

Several isolated breeding reports, and at Studland NR five territories in 40-acre wood. Also winter and autumn reports from the east of the county. Song was heard at High Hall, Wimborne, on 1 Feb and in the Stour Valley on 1 Jul. Singles appeared at Hengistbury Head on 5 Jul and 16-18 Aug, where it is not a frequent visitor. Four or five pairs in one area appeared to be Short-toed Treecreepers: perhaps the article in the April 1976 issue of British Birds will help the observer — none of the Dorset records in this area, nor at Portland and Branksome a few years ago, have been accepted (or finally rejected) by the RBC.

299 Wren

Now an abundant breeding species: in addition to many isolated reports, increases are reported at Sydling St. Nicholas and Stour Row while counts on the reserves are remarkably high: Arne NR 175+ pairs, Brownsea NR *c*.100 pairs; Studland NR 89 pairs in 40-acre wood. There are several reports of roosts, including 12 in a Swallow's nest at Thorncombe in Jan. There was a marked autumn passage: up to 50 per day at PBO in the period 5 Oct-2 Nov, and at Hengistbury Head the total reached *c*.120 on 19 Oct compared with a normal population of *c*.50.

300 Dipper

Only confirmed to breed at Abbotsbury but RCB says that this species breeds regularly on most streams in W. Dorset and is not reported by local observers who take its presence for granted. In fact reports, most isolated, have been received from Grimstone, Beaminster, Lyme Regis, Bradford Peverell, Cerne, Sydling and Sherborne Lake.

295 Bearded Tit

The only breeding season report comes from Radipole where 10 seems to be the max number recorded by casual observers, but RARG trapped 55 in the period late Jul to late Sep (compare 58 in 1974, 44 in 1973, 39 in 1972). There is a detailed article on moult in the RARG booklet 'Radipole Two'. Autumn and winter records come from near Wareham, Abbotsbury, Lodmoor and Wick Hams.

301 Mistle Thrush

A number of breeding reports received suggesting large territories, not more than three pairs on any of the NRs. Some sizeable autumn and winter flocks include max 152 at Sherborne Lake on 26 Aug, *c*. 35 at Parkstone and max 38 on Canford Heath in Sep. Evidence of small passage at PBO in Mar and 8 Oct-17 Nov, max six on 31 Oct, while CHOG witnessed visible migration 4 Oct-11 Nov, max 6E on 27 Oct.

302 Fieldfare

Winter flocks, Jan-Apr, widely reported: notably a roost of *c*.10,000 with Redwings at Duncliffe Wood, while numbers in the Bride Valley on 6 Jan were the largest since 1963. There are several records up to 14 Apr, including 63 at Verwood on 12 Apr, and late singles were at N. Portland 28 Apr, PBO 1 May and Hammoon 4 May.

The first autumn record was on Verne Common on 1 Sep, then one at Radipole on 16 Sep, followed by widespread October reports and big flocks in Nov-Dec. Passage through PBO was not heavy, max six on 21 Oct, and small movements at Christchurch 11 Oct-22 Nov reached a max 32NW on 31 Oct.

303 Song Thrush

Sample breeding counts: Arne NR three pairs, Studland NR two pairs, Weymouth six pairs in 1 sq.km. survey square, and fledged young at Corfe Mullen 9 Apr. Spring passage at PBO in late Mar, peaks 65 and 40 on 27, 28 Mar; at CHOG an increase from six to 22 on 6 Apr. Autumn passage at PBO Oct-Dec, peak 50 on 18 Oct, while CHOG had an increase from *c*.5 to 50 on 17 Oct. Continental race recognised at PBO 18 times 3 Mar-12 Apr and 10 times 5-10 Nov.

304 Redwing

The largest winter flock was at Duncliffe Wood where the roost with Fieldfares numbered *c*. 10,000, and larger numbers than normal were noticed in W. Dorset. Some passage was noticed on the coast, mainly in Mar, the peak at PBO being 50 on 27 Mar and the last there on 21 Apr. First returns in autumn came on 8 Oct, with 10 at Arne NR, a few at PBO and Christchurch, but 200+ at N. Portland where there were several subsequent counts of 150-200 in Oct-Nov and 100+ in Dec. An early arrival inland was at Canford Heath, on 9 Oct. On 16-17 Dec northward movement was noticed in several places, notably Merley with 632+N in several hours. Movements at Christchurch were intermittent after Oct, peak 181 on 18 Oct, but 60 on 15 Dec.

307 Ring Ouzel

The first were at St. Aldhelm's Head and PBO on 27 Mar: with six at PBO on that date and smaller numbers up to 4 May in various parts of Portland island, and one at Lodmoor on 28 Apr; further east CHOG has 3+ on 12 Apr and one on 23 Apr. Autumn emigration was from 2 Sep-24 Oct with a scattering of reports from PBO, N. Portland, Verne, Chapman's Pool, Arne NR, Tyneham and Hengistbury Head.

308 Blackbird

Sample breeding counts: Arne NR *c*.20 pairs; Weymouth 1 sq.km. study square 13 pairs; Lodmoor seven pairs; Studland NR 10 pairs in 40-acre wood; while fledged young were at Colehill on 12 Apr. Numbers on spring migration reached 30+ at PBO on 7 Apr and 80 at Hengistbury the previous day. 20+ were counted in Suaeda bushes along the Chesil on 27 Jun. Autumn passage, Sep-Nov but mainly in Oct, was conspicuous at PBO while CHOG had 80 on 17 Sep and 200 on 9 Oct.

311 Wheatear

No breeding reports for the County in 1975. The first arrivals were at Verne Common 10 Mar, PBO 11 Mar and Hengistbury Head 15 Mar: then through Apr-late May reports came from many places while PBO had a steady passage with peaks 100 6 Apr and 38 11 May, likewise N. Portland with peak 85 5 Apr and CHOG with peak 250 at Wick Hams 23 Apr after several earlier counts up to 35, 25 on 11 May, and singles on 14 and 19 Jun. Autumn reports also came from many areas: passage at PBO 24 Jul-10 Nov max 150 on 1 Sep, and at Christchurch 3 Aug-4 Nov, up to 50 daily in mid-Aug. Individuals of the Greenland race were recognized at PBO, five in late Apr, the last on 15 Jun.

313 Black-eared Wheatear

A male of the greyish easter race (O.h. melanoleusa) was at PBO on 14 Jun (accepted by RBC). Probably the same bird was at St. Aldhelm's Head next day (W.T.H.).

317 Stonechat

Breeding or pairs in the breeding season reported from: Hengistbury Head four pairs, Canford Heath, Studland Heath 6+ pairs, Arne NR eight pairs, Seacombe, Langton Matravers, Tyneham, E. Holme, Worbarrow, White Nothe, Owermoigne (first for some years), Sutton Poyntz, Lodmoor four pairs, N. Portland, PBO, Langton Herring, Burton Bradstock, Hermitage, Turnerspuddle, Briantspuddle, Merley, Holton Heath, Broadstone. Broods of four or five reared in many places.

Spring passage was noted at PBO in Mar, max 10 5 Mar and 13 28 Mar, while the CHOG population rose from four to eight on 23 Mar. Autumn passage was more marked, particularly at Compton Valence Oct-Nov, PBO with 16 on 21 Sep, 35 7 Oct, 29 25 Oct, 23 1 Nov, and CHOG with 17+ on eight dates 3 Sep-29 Oct, max 36 9 Oct.

PBO reports a bird of the Siberian race (maura) on 24 Oct (submitted to RBC); see Addenda for confirmed 1974 record.

318 Whinchat

Juveniles are known to move early with their parents so reports of two being fed at Lodmoor on 27 Jul, and one at W. Bexington on 2 Aug probably do not prove local breeding. Spring passage at PBO 23 Apr-5 Jun, max 18 24 Apr and 15 11 May, at CHOG with max 12 23 Apr, 12 11 May, 14 18 May, and other reports from N. Portland, Arne NR, W. Bexington and Corfe Mullen. Autumn passage at PBO 29 Jul-1 Nov, max 13 2 Sep and 12 16 Sep, at Christchurch Harbour 14 Aug-16 Oct with 15-25 23, 29 Aug and three, 17 Sep; and other reports came from Arne NR, W. Bexington, Langton Herring, Canford Heath, Winspit, and Radipole with 8+ on 1 Sep and a late bird on 3 Nov.

320 Redstart

No breeding records at all, and the only Jun records of late or early migrants came from N. Portland 4 Jun and Canford Park 27 Jun. The first arrival was at Haylands, Portland, on 29 Mar and the next at Chapman's Pool on 4 Apr. Passage at PBO 14 Apr-25 May max five on 20 Apr, at N. Portland 19 Apr-18 May, and at Christchurch 20 Apr-late May, max 10 on 10 May. Autumn passage was noted at Compton Valence from mid-Jul, at PBO 8 Aug-26 Oct max eight on 16 Sep, and Christchurch Harbour 15 Aug-8 Oct including six on several dates, while the last date was 27 Oct at N. Portland.

321 Black Redstart

Much reported, with the usual difficulty of distinguishing between wintering and passage birds. Reports for Jan-Feb and Dec cover the coast from Boscombe to W. Bay, max five at Newton's Cove in Feb and three there and at PBO in Dec. Spring passage at PBO Mar-28 May, max five 27-28 Mar and four 20 Apr; at Christchurch 3 Mar-19 May, one or two on seven dates; and also at N. Portland and the coast east to Purbeck. No records in Jun but singles in Jul at PBO, Weston and Litton Cheney. Regular passage at PBO 10 Oct-20 Nov, max 18 on 27 Oct; at N. Portland 21 Oct-18 Dec, max 19 on 27 Oct; at Christchurch Harbour 26 Oct-18 Nov, max four also on 27 Oct; and other Oct-Nov reports mostly of singles from the Purbeck and Weymouth coastal areas, also Mosterton, Dorchester, Compton Valence, and Milborne St. Andrew.

322 Nightingale

Singing males at Lydlinch (three), Hermitage and Lyons Gate area (several), Shillingstone, Martin Down on the County boundary (two), Studland NR, Swanage, Langton Herring, and Southbourne on 9 Jun. Not recorded at Bracketts Copse for third successive year. More obviously passage birds at PBO 11, 18, 19 May, Verne 18 May, Chapman's Pool 18 May, Christchurch Harbour 27 Apr and 11, 19 (two), 21, 30 May. Return passage at PBO seven birds during 21 Aug- 3 Sep; at Christchurch seven birds during 16-30 Aug and one on 10 Sep; at Chapman's Pool on 9 Aug and at Radipole on 2 Sep.

324 Bluethroat

A male of the Red-spotted race at Chalbury 8-12 Apr, seen and even heard singing by many people. Also one at Lodmoor 18, 19, 21 Oct (D.C.G. et al.).

325 Robin

Sample breeding counts; Studland NR 26 pairs in 40-acre wood and Arne NR 37+ pairs. Small spring passage at PBO Mar-early Apr but far more in Autumn 12 Aug-late Oct max 20 on 19 Sep and 25 often in Oct. 50+ at E. Weare on 2 Nov. CHOG had influxes 17 Sep-late Oct, peaks 40 on 9 Oct and 49 on 16 Oct.

326 Cetti's Warbler

At least one seen and heard by many observers at Lodmoor 25 Apr-20 May, on 13 Aug, and 12-29 Oct (accepted by RBC); two birds seen there on 27 Apr (G.W.). One at Hengistbury Head, 18 May (CHOG) (accepted by RBC).

327 Grasshopper Warbler

Spring passage at PBO 17 Apr-24 May, peaks 12 on 3 May and 10 on 11 May, also CHOG had 20 in the period 22 Apr-18 May; singles during this time also at W. Weare, Nothe, E. Fleet, Langton Herring, Sherford Bridge, and at least eight at Lodmoor 26 Apr-17 Jun. No proved breeding but heard at night on Lydlinch Common, early Jun, also at Martin Down and several pairs at Prince's Wood, Hermitage. No records however from Arne and Studland NRs. Autumn passage at PBO, 5 Aug-17 Sep, max three 21 and 27 Aug, while CHOG had singles 23, 28 Aug and CPRS (Chapman's Pool) had singles 12, 21 Aug, 19 Sep, two on 22 Sep, 4 Oct. Several at Swineham 22 Jul, and singles at Lodmoor 7 Aug and the Nothe 22 Sep.

329 Savi's Warbler

One singing SW of Wimborne, 9-18 May (K.M.G. et al.) (submitted to RBC); one well seen and heard at Arne NR 19-22 May (B.P.P.) (not yet submitted to RBC); one at Wareham on 30 May (C.J.B.) (accepted by RBC). [A record of a Moustached Warbler at Wick Hams, 30-31 Aug (CHOG), has been rejected by the RBC].

333 Reed Warbler

Breeding reports: 25+ pairs at Arne NR; an increase to 15 pairs at Brownsea NR; eight territories found 40-acre wood at Studland NR; 17 pairs on the Stour, Wimborne-Corfe Mullen; at least seven pairs at Sherborne Lake; quite large nos. but uncounted at Christchurch Harbour; 16 pairs at Lodmoor (map supplied); perhaps reduced numbers at Radipole; physical aggression noted at E. Burton, 4 Jun.

Spring passage: first on 12 Apr at Radipole; eight on 25 May was peak of PBO passage, 23 Apr-4 Jun; one at Wimborne 19 Apr; firsts at Abbotsbury and at Studland NR, 24 Apr; one at Holton on 1 May and many next day.

Autumn passage: PBO: 14 Aug-2 Nov with a gap 7 Sep-8 Oct; CHOG: poor passage, most 18 and 23-26 Aug; nearly 700 ringed at Radipole, Jul-Oct. [No Marsh Warbler records this year].

337 Sedge Warbler

Breeding: 5 pairs, fewer than usual, at Christchurch Hbr; *c.*31 pairs along the Stour, Wimborne to Corfe Mullen; only 2 pairs at Brownsea NR; 2 or 3 pairs, Langton Herring; 2 pairs, W. Bexington; 9 pairs present at Lodmoor May-Jun; 1 or 2 pairs Sherborne Lake; and several other isolated reports elsewhere.

Spring passage: first on 16 Apr at Briantspuddle; period at PBO 22 Apr-3 Jun with peaks 10 24 Apr, 50 3 May, 40 11 May; singles at Christchurch from 18 Apr and 23 Apr; arrivals noted at six other localities 20 Apr-18 May.

Autumn passage: at PBO 27 Jul-18 Sep, peaks 10 on 15 Aug and 8 on 4 Sep, and a late bird 14 Oct; CHOG: rather low numbers Aug-Sep, over 50 only 11 and 18 Aug; isolated reports from Arne and Studland NRs; 2869 ringed at Radipole, Jul-Oct.

338 Aquatic Warbler

Trapped birds at Wick Hams (CHOG), singles 7, 10, 18 and 19 Aug and two on 14 Aug (accepted by RBC). Eleven ringed at Radipole (RARG) Jul-Sep, and singles sighted on 21 Aug, 5 Sep.

339 Melodious Warbler

Singles at Portland Bill 8, 25 and 27 Aug; at Hengistbury Head 2 on 16 Aug and singles 19, 22 and 28-31 Aug—also two Melodious or Icterine Warblers on 3 Sep. A fairly convincing report of one at Radipole, 24 Aug (P.G.L., M.C.P.).

340 Icterine Warbler

Singles at Hengistbury Head 16 Aug and 7 Sep; at least six individuals at Portland Bill 2-9, 14, 21 Aug and 3 Oct; one at Weston on 26 Sep (G.W.).

343 Blackcap

A general impression of reduced breeding intensity, reports received being: 5 pairs at Thorncombe Wood; only 1 pair Brownsea NR; only 3 territories on Arne NR; 6 territories in 40-acre wood, Studland NR; single pairs at six other localities.

Spring passage: at PBO one on 27 Mar then regular 12 Apr-23 Jun, peaks 80 3 May, 100 11 May; CHOG: singles 6, 13 Apr then 6 on 23 Apr and few regularly until 1 Jun, peaks *c.*20 11 May, 18 18 May; arrivals reported at 11 localities 16 Apr-19 May.

Autumn passage: at PBO 26 Aug-8 Nov and 1 on 7 Dec, peaks 5 on 11, 24 Oct and a gap in early Sep; a total of 44 at E. Weare 9 Aug-29 Nov; 246 at Chapman's Pool 9 Aug-19 Oct, peaks 40 and 70 on 15 and 16 Sep, and 40 on 22 Sep; small numbers reported also at Langton Herring, Chesil Cove and Winspit.

Mid-winter records, Jan-Feb, from W. Parley, Merley, Southbourne, Hengistbury Head, the Nothe and central Portland; again in Nov-Dec, W. Parley, Ferndown, E. Weare, Bincleaves.

346 Garden Warbler

This species is either under-recorded or had a poor season: single territories are only reported from Studland NR, Pimperne Fox Warren and Frome Firs.

Spring passage: PBO, from 23 Apr to 1 Jun, mainly 3-26 May, peaks 50 11 May, 20 18 May; CHOG: 3 May-15 Jun, peaks *c.*20 11 May and 18 on 18 May coinciding with Portland; also 35 at Chapman's Pool on 18 May; six other reports of arrivals between 20 Apr at Studland NR and 19 May at Holton shore.

Autumn passage: PBO, 8 Aug-26 Oct, max 5 on 31 Aug, 4 Sep; CHOG, 10 Aug-28 Sep, up to 6 often in Aug; Chapman's Pool had 90, 9 Aug-7 Oct, peaks 15 9 Aug, 12 on 17, 18, 21 Aug; a few other isolated reports.

347 Whitethroat

Claimed as 'second most common warbler in S. Dorset' (K.J.H.) but 'still a scarce bird in N.W. Dorset' (R.C.B.). Bred or probably bred at 16 reported localities including 4 pairs at Studland NR, *c.*10 pairs at E. Weare, 5 pairs at Hengistbury Head, but probably none at Arne NR.

Spring passage: at PBO signs of a come-back since 1969 'crash', with 233 22 Apr-26 Jun, max 40 on 3 May; and at E. Weare 80 28 Apr-20 May, peak 50 on 18 May; also CHOG had early birds on 5 and 12 Apr, then regular reports 19 Apr-31 May with 150 on 18 May and four other totals of 25-50; seven other reports of arrivals, 23 Apr-11 May.

Autumn passage: at PBO, 25 Jul-11 Oct, max 18 21 Aug; at Chapman's Pool 199, 9 Aug-26 Sep, with over 20 on six dates and 35 on 30 Aug; and at Christchurch (CHOG) 6 Jul-18 Oct, with *c.*20 often in Aug but 64, 52 on 18, 23 Aug; a few other scattered reports but only 2 sightings at Arne NR.

348 Lesser Whitethroat

Bred or probably bred at 12 localities from Martin Down in the NE, Stanpit in the SE, and Ballard Down, but no reports W of Weymouth. Spring passage at PBO involved small numbers 24 Apr-21 May, peak 11 on 6 May; and at E. Weare totalled over 20 22 Apr-18 May, while CHOG had 1 on 23 Apr and 1 or 2 on eight dates in May, and there are a few other reports from 28 Apr. Autumn passage at PBO, 30 Jul-18 Sep, at E. Weare 2 Aug-13 Sep, total 39, and CHOG had a few 13 Aug-28 Sep but 6 22 Aug, 5 2 Sep. Other Aug-Sep records come from Radipole, Langton Herring, Dorchester, Briantspuddle, Wimborne and Stour Row.

351 Subalpine Warbler

An adult male (nominate race) 15 Apr-7 May at PBO was the second record there (accepted by RBC).

352 Dartford Warbler

No overall coverage this year but the spread and general increase has continued and the total population must be close to 300 pairs. Despite numerous territories, including a few in W. Dorset, there is evidence that both poor weather and heath fires led to poor breeding success. It still seems wise not to publish localities. Wanderers in early Apr appeared at Winspit and Easton (Portland) and in May at Holworth, while PBO had six in autumn, 8 Oct-14 Nov and Hengistbury Head had max 5, 18-19 Oct. Two road casualties reported, Studland and Ferndown.

354 Willow Warbler

Sample breeding reports are as follows: 30+ pairs Arne NR; 1 pair N. Portland; several pairs Puddletown Forest; only 4 territories in Bracketts Copse; a poor year in Burton Bradstock area; 7 pairs Brownsea NR; 3 pairs Hengistbury Head and 1 at Stanpit; 16 territories in 40-acre wood Studland NR; breeding along DNT Woodland Walk, Manswood.

Earliest arrivals on 2 Mar, Swanage, then 1 Apr at Studland NR, 2 Apr at Christchurch, 5 Apr at PBO, but subsequent numbers were very small until 20 Apr or later, building to peaks of *c.* 1500 'phylloscopi' at Hengistbury and *c.* 200 at PBO on 11 May, and 150 at Chapman's Pool on 18 May, with late arrivals until mid-Jun.

Autumn passage is summarised as: 19 Jul-29 Sep at PBO, max 50 8 Aug; 2 Aug-late Sep at N. Portland, max 60 on 17 Aug; 9-21 Aug at Chapman's Pool, max 80 on 18 Aug; late Jul-26 Sep at Hengistbury Head (few in Oct), max *c.* 500 on 18 Aug; and inland 100+ phylloscopi moved through Uddens in two hours on 17 Sep.

355 Greenish Warbler

PBO had its first records, singles trapped on 5 and 13 Sep, (accepted by RBC, but one at Hengistbury Head on 21 Sep has been rejected).

356 Chiffchaff

Widely reported but the general impression is of reduced breeding density. Regular census sites quote: 3 pairs at Hengistbury Head; 1 pair Brownsea NR; 8 territories Studland NR; 4 pairs N. Portland; only 4 territories Bracketts Copse; a decline to only 6 pairs Arne NR—and absent from many usual localities in Wool/Wareham area (A.J.B.). Midwinter reports come from 10 sites near Weymouth, also Burton Bradstock, Church Knowle, Studland NR and Buckland Newton. Spring arrivals were greatly affected by adverse weather from 3rd week Mar to 13 Apr; early records pre-date the NE wind and snow but main arrivals were held back until the wind backed to W. Autumn passage is not easily differentiated from the willow warbler, but Chapman's Pool ringers quote 342, 10 Aug-19 Oct, peak 100 16 Sep, with fewer at Portland and Christchurch.

357 Wood Warbler

No confirmed breeding, but singing in May-Jun reported from Morden, Holton, Higher Bockhampton, Organford, Brownsea Is. The earliest of several scattered Apr records was from Chapman's Pool on 4 Apr. PBO had 4 singles 27 Apr-25 May, CHOG had one 26 Apr, and Chapman's Pool another on 10 May. Autumn records are confined to singles at Brownsea Is, 3 Aug, and Hengistbury Head 9, 16, 17 Aug.

358 Bonelli's Warbler

A male at Hengistbury Head on 31 May (accepted by RBC)—a juv. there 23-25 Aug. has been rejected despite the fact that it was trapped.

360 Yellow-Browed Warbler

One seen at Portland Bill, 26-27 Oct.

361 Pallas's Warbler

One at Portland Bill 29-31 Oct (accepted by RBC) and perhaps the same bird at the Verne a day or two later.

364 Goldcrest

Numbers remain high: 11 territories in 40-acre wood Studland NR, and at least 25 pairs at Arne NR, but 1-3 pairs reported breeding from only 9 other localities.

Present at Hengistbury Head Jan-May with 15-30 from mid-Mar and *c.* 100 on 6 Apr; passage at PBO involved large numbers in spring, 1 Mar-10 May, max 46 on 6 Apr; figures from E. Weare and Langton Herring confirm this pattern. Likewise considerably passage in autumn, early Sep to Dec, local maxima being 60 at PBO 14 Oct, 17+ at E. Weare 22 Oct, 150 at Chapman's Pool 12 Oct, 150 at Hengistbury Head 9 Oct. The ringing recovery table contains evidence of the speed and scope of this passage.

365 Firecrest

No definite breeding records this year, only unsubstantiated rumours. Winter records, Jan-Feb, come from 8 localities near Weymouth, also Studland and Canford Park and Stour Row. Spring passage at PBO, 10 Mar-4 May, max 6 30 Mar and 5 1 Apr; at E. Weare 4 on 5 Apr; at Hengistbury Head 1 or 2 on seven dates 16 Mar-15 Apr; singles from several other localities. Autumn passage at PBO 24 Sep-21 Nov, mainly Oct, peak 9 on 16 Oct; at Hengistbury Head 1-3 many dates 3 Oct-6 Dec; and there are several scattered reports for Oct, mostly on the coast. Nov-Dec records also come from the Weymouth area, Brownsea and Arne, and inland at Thorncombe Wood, Stinsford.

366 Spotted Flycatcher

Reports of breeding are patchy, giving an impression of low density; only 8 sites specified. 2 broods raised at Giddylake, Wimborne, in a site used over 15 years.

One Apr bird, at Chapman's Pool on the 11th; otherwise scattered first arrivals on 1 and 2 May, including PBO and Hengistbury Head where passage lasted well into Jun with peaks of 80 at PBO on 18 May, 40 at Chapman's Pool that day and 12 also at Hengistbury. Return passage at Hengistbury 5 Aug-28 Sep, max 25 on 2 Sep; at PBO 16 Aug-20 Sep, max 8 on 4 Sep; at Arne 24 Aug-14 Oct, max 8 on 25 Aug; and at Merley, 12 on 21 Aug.

368 Pied Flycatcher

First two at Chapman's Pool, 11 Apr. At PBO passage 17 Apr-25 May, max 4 on 11 May, and other sightings from N. Portland; at Hengistbury Head 193-21 May, max 6 on 18 May. Return passage at PBO 5 Aug-10 Oct, mainly 12 Aug-6 Sep, max 40 on 14 Aug, and as before supporting figures from other parts of Portland; CHOG had *c.* 142 6 Aug-19 Sep including *c.* 50 16 Aug. There are smaller numbers from 10 other areas, but the peak period is confirmed by 15 at Chapman's Pool and over 6 at Studland NR 17-18 Oct.

370 Red-Breasted Flycatcher

One at Portland Bill on 23 Oct, an immature bird.

371 Dunnock

A high population suggested by 20 territories in 40-acre wood Studland NR and 15+ pairs on Arne NR. Onset of singing in mid-Jan was earlier than usual, with several reports of singing in the middle of the night. Passage hard to detect but CHOG noticed an increase from *c.* 40 to *c.* 60 4-5 Oct, PBO had 40 on 19 Oct and E. Weare had 50+ on 25 Oct. Two leucistic birds together at Weston on 16 Mar, only one on later dates.

374 Richard's Pipit

Singles at PBO on 16 and 26-27 Oct, and at Lodmoor on 11 Nov (D.J.F., I.S.R., D.C.G.). This species is no longer on the RBC list but the records have satisfied the Editorial Panel. No Tawny Pipits this year.

373 Meadow Pipit

Breeding reported only from reserves and observatories: Arne NR (32 pairs); Christchurch and Portland; Studland NR; Lodmoor (12 pairs)—and a nil return from Todber.

Spring passage: PBO 22 Mar-18 Apr, peaks 800 27 Mar and 2 Apr; N. Portland 27 Mar-18 May, peak 200+ 5 Apr; Ferrybridge 100N on 27 Mar; Radipole *c.*100 per hour N on 29 Mar; Christchurch, peak *c.*175 on 6 Apr.

Autumn passage: PBO 15 Sep-2 Nov, peak 4000 2 Oct, and supporting figures from rest of Portland; CHOG 13 Sep-31 Oct with 150-350 on seven dates for visible emigration but several hundreds grounded at times. Inland peaks are given as 100+ S. Canford Heath on 7 Oct and 70 at Marnhull on 19 Oct.

376 Tree Pipit

Either under-reported or scarce: 2-3 pairs at Hermitage; 2 singing at Uddens 5 May, 1 singing near Briantspuddle 8 Jun; 1 singing at Studland NR 3 Jun, an unusual record for this area.

Spring passage: small numbers at PBO 12 Apr-31 May; CHOG has 2 on 6 Apr, and a few in May, max 9 on 11 May; 1-3 at six other localities 10 Apr-18 May.

Autumn passage: at PBO 29 Jul-14 Oct, mainly 21 Aug-22Sep, max 50 25 Aug and 40 15 Sep; supporting figures from N. Portland areas, up to 18 Oct; at Hengistbury Head 12 Aug-4 Oct, max 5 grounded in late Aug but more visible migration than usual in Sep with 22E 43W; reports of a few passing over from eight other localities up to 13 Sep.

379 Rock/Water Pipit

Resident and breeding at Portland Bill, likewise 6 at Hengistbury Head but only 1 pair bred, intermittent at Stanpit (max 13 on 23 Feb); 3+ at Charmouth 6 Apr. Wintering birds on Arne saltings up to 5 Mar and more than usual 12 Oct-end Dec. An individual at PBO on 16 Apr was a migrant of the Scandinavian race in summer plumage, while 6 were recognised at Stanpit in Nov among 12-18 Rock Pipits. Other winter records include 8+ at Worbarrow 4 Jan, 10+ at the Nothe 16 Feb, 12+ at Swanage 21 Feb, and 1 at W. Bexington 29 Nov.

Water pipits were present at Lodmoor 4 Jan-22Mar, max 6 on 16 Mar, and again from 26 Oct, max 6 on 3 Nov and 15 Dec; also at Stanpit 5 Mar-4 May, max 4 on 15 Apr, and Radipole had one on 12 Oct as did the cress-beds at Bere Regis on 20 Nov and Tincleton on 13 Dec.

380 Pied/White Wagtail

Successful breeding reported throughout the county. Migration figures cover both races except when specified: modest spring totals, with White Wagtails totalling 34 at PBO, 22 Mar-21 May, and up to 5 on 9 dates 5 Apr-4 May at Stanpit, with several others at W. Bexington and Herbury Gore. Autumn passage was heavy with peaks 140 3 Oct, 130 23 Oct at PBO, 100+ 9 Oct at N. Portland, 184 20 Oct at Hengistbury Head while roosts in Sep-Oct reached 40+ at Arne NR, 160 at Wimborne, 100 at Chapman's Pool, 400 at Radipole. White Wagtails were separated at PBO on 2 Jul and 16 2 Aug-2 Sep, and 1 at Radipole on 28 Aug. Winter flocks reported at Radipole, Lodmoor and Studland.

381 Grey Wagtail

Widely distributed with 10 reports of successful breeding. Only one immigrant at PBO, on 23 Mar, and none at Christchurch. Autumn passage at PBO 21 Jul-21 Nov, mainly 22 Aug-26 Sep, max 30 on 7 Sep; 33 passed through N. Portland 29 Aug-end Oct; emigration at Hengistbury Head totalled 80E 146W 22 Aug-17 Oct with 10-15 daily 1-10 Sep; there was a small movement through Arne NR 28 Aug-24 Nov. Few winter records received but present at W. Parley, Canford and Cranborne.

382 Yellow Wagtail

Eight territories were established on the Stour meadows near Wimborne, and at least 1 pair bred, also 4 pairs at Stanpit, while birds were present at Crichel Park in late May.

Spring passage: PBO 15 Mar-26 May, peak 12 on 17 Apr; N. Portland 19 Apr-20 May; CHOG, sparse passage 13 Apr-11 May, max 19 on 26 Apr; and there are a few from 4 other localities.

Autumn passage: PBO 21 Jul-14 Oct, mainly 21 Aug-21 Sep, max 150 25 and 27 Aug; CHOG late Jul-30 Oct, max 350 6 Sep; with supporting data from N. Portland, Kimmeridge, W. Bexington and a few inland places, including a late bird at Wareham on 31 Oct. Autumn roosts reached 350 in Christchurch Harbour, 150+ at Arne NR, 1500 at Radipole. Seven Blue-headed Wagtails were separated May-Jun and Aug-Sep at Lodmoor, Portland and Christchurch.

383 Waxwing

One in a Dorchester garden on 27 Nov and a few days later (CC).

384 Great Grey Shrike

Autumn records only: at PBO 1 on 11 Oct, 1 on 20 Oct which made a larder containing a linnet and a shrew in the Observatory garden; at Studland NR 1 on 27 Oct and 1 on 23 Nov and 1 21-30 Dec.

386 Woodchat Shrike

One arrived off the sea at Hengistbury Head on 20 Apr, and one at PBO on 19 May (both accepted by RBC); one at Wytch Farm on 31 May has been submitted to RBC (DJG, KMG).

388 Red-Backed Shrike

A male at Studland NR calling and 'warbling' on 21 Jun (P.G., P.C.)—well described. Singles at PBO, both immature, on 15 Aug and 9 Nov which is an exceptionally late date.

390 Starling

Nothing special to report on breeding. At Arne NR the roost increased to 3000 in Jun as the young birds gathered, and exceeded 5000 7-13 Oct; the Radipole roost exceeded 1000 on 12 Oct; the Hengistbury Head roost numbered 15000-20000 in late Jul and Aug; the winter roost at Duncliffe Hill reached 1,000,000 or more late Feb-mid Mar but broke up soon after; no roost at Splashers Copse this year.

Passage at PBO in Mar-Apr and Oct-Nov peaked at 1655 on 31 Oct and there were *c.*1000 at E. Weare in late Oct; likewise CHOG had heavy emigration 11 Oct-9 Nov and 29-30 Nov with peaks 305E 27 Oct, 320E 8Nov, 578E 9 Nov, 375E 30 Nov.

391 Hawfinch

Few records as usual: a female found dead at Wimborne 31 Jan; one at Merley Park 3 Feb; one at Hengistbury Head 18 Oct; one at Briantspuddle in Nov; one flying W at W. Bexington 14 Dec.

392 Greenfinch

Breeding reported from sample areas: Studland NR; Arne NR (6 pairs); Corfe Mullen; Brownsea; Parkstone; Christchurch Harbour (10 pairs); Sturminster Newton; Briantspuddle; Weymouth. Decreases apparent at Sydling and Burton Bradstock. No large winter flocks but many smaller ones at Lodmoor, Godmanstone and Throop for example. PBO had max *c.*300 Mar-Apr and only 20-30 Nov-Dec, but emigration totalled 1141 late Oct-early Nov, while at Hengistbury Hd the peak emigration was 53 on 30 Oct.

393 Goldfinch

Under-reported breeding, only Arne NR (1 pair) and Briantspuddle mentioned. Some winter flocking but much more marked in autumn, Aug-Dec, at Upwey, Sturminster Newton, Hazelbury Bryan, Wimborne, Cheselbourne, Godmanstone, Greenhill Down, Eggardon, Stanpit, and at E. Weare *c.*50 nearly all juvs on 23 Aug. Spring movements noted at Arne, Christchurch and PBO in Apr-May but only sizeable count was 92 at PBO 30 Apr. Autumn passage however was heavy: CHOG had record numbers 21 Sep-8 Nov with many day-counts over 100, five of these reaching 500-600; PBO had *c.* 1000 on 26 Oct, 475 on 31 Oct and, with E. Weare and Chesil many counts over 50 in Oct.

394 Siskin

Widespread reports Jan-Apr: Bloxworth, Parkstone, Poole, Ferndown, Arne, Turnerspuddle, Colehill, Manswood, Sherborne, Loscombe, Milton Abbey, Upton, W. Parley, Stinsford, Holton, Merley, Hengistbury. No breeding—last was 23 Apr at Manswood.

Further widespread reports in autumn: movement at PBO and Hengistbury from 21 Sep and Durlston Head 29 Sep, and many coastal sites Oct- Nov, the peak at Hengistbury being 116 E on 31 Oct, and 48 at PBO that day. Flocks were reported for Nov-Dec from the same or nearby places as in spring, exceeding 100 at Sherford Bridge on 30 Nov and 150 at Holton on 3 Dec. Several observers mention feeding on birch.

395 Linnet

Breeding reported at Arne NR (25+ pairs), Burton Bradstock, Holton, Turnerspuddle Heath, Briantspuddle Heath, White Nothe, Lodmoor and Christchurch Harbour.

Spring passage at PBO mainly in Apr, max 92 on 30 Apr, also at Hengistbury Head, max 500 7 and 9 Apr. Small autumn movements recorded widely, while passage at PBO 9 Oct-1 Nov peaked at 1500 on 23 Oct, and Christchurch Harbour had 200 regularly Aug-early Nov and peaks of 350 on 11-12 and 30 Oct, while 100s flew S over N. Portland on 26 Oct.

396 Twite

Three well described birds at PBO on 12 Oct; and one claimed for Stanpit on 18 Sep.

397 Redpoll

Twelve pairs bred at Studland NR in two areas and 1 or 2 pairs may have bred at Brownsea NR, Arne NR and Briantspuddle. Winter flocks, Jan-Mar, not quite as widespread as for Siskins but counts of up to 50 at ten sites as far west as Stinsford. Spring passage was sparse at PBO, E. Weare and Christchurch, late Apr-May. Autumn passage was small in Aug-early Sep, but CHOG had record numbers 21 Sep and 4 Oct-8Nov with up to 250 daily 8-12 Oct, 41 flew N over Sandbanks on 12 Oct, but the peak of a surprisingly small passage at PBO was only 6 on the same date, the total being only 31 with 22 at E. Weare. Finally winter parties in Nov-Dec. from the same localities as in spring, plus Sherborne Lake, contained small numbers but 53 on 26 Dec at Corfe Mullen.

400 Serin

Six records for PBO, 4 19-20 Apr, another 27 Apr, and one 4 Dec; also 2 at E. Weare on 10 May (all accepted by RBC).

401 Bullfinch

Breeding or territory reports come from Turnerspuddle, Briantspuddle, Brownsea NR, Studland NR (8 pairs), Arne NR (4+ pairs), Corfe Mullen, and Hengistbury Head. Small passage movements at PBO Jan-Jun, max 3 on 22 May, one in Aug, and Oct-Dec, max 5 on 30 Oct; also at Hengistbury on 4 Sep dates and one in Dec.

404 Crossbill

No breeding reports, but a singing male at Brownsea NR on 28 May and subsequently *c.* 15 near the church, also one there 24 Sep and two 2 Nov. Very few others: one at Colehill 13 Jan, at Abbotsbury 19 July, and 2 flying SW at Arne on 7 Sep.

407 Chaffinch

Sample breeding counts: Hengistbury Head *c.* 10 pairs, Studland NR 21 territories, Arne NR 36+ territories. Winter flocks, Jan-Mar, include *c.* 100 at Sydling St. Nicholas, 50+ at Corfe Mullen, *c.* 100 Throop, and movements over Canford Heath in Jan. Spring passage slight but PBO had 1177 bird-days during Oct-Nov and parties occurred at E. Weare and Hengistbury Head in Oct. Winter flocks, Nov-Dec, not large with max *c.*70 at Sydling. Song recorded at Sandford on 17 Jan.

408 Brambling

Few reports for Jan-Mar though the Badbury Rings beech avenue flock reached *c.* 300 on 9 Jan. One fed regularly with garden birds at Blandford 4 Mar-13 Apr. Movement at PBO was small 4 Jan-15 Apr but moderate in autumn, 11 Oct-20 Nov, max 18 on 19 Oct, with singles in Dec, and counts at N. Portland and Verne Common cover the period 12 Oct-22 Nov. CHOG reports one or two on five dates Jan-6 Apr but exceptional autumn numbers, total 125 12 Oct-24 Nov. Few winter reports inland, partly due to the failure of the Badbury beech-mast, but Dorchester, Moreton, Canford Heath and Briantspuddle had very small numbers. Sub-song was heard from a bright male at Briantspuddle on 5 Nov.

410 Corn Bunting

Breeding season reports of singing males come from the Martinstown area, the Piddle valley, Godmanstone and northwards from Horton; also from the coast at Hengistbury Head, the Purbeck cliffs and Langton Herring, while the resident population at Portland Bill reached 71 on 18 Sep. Autumn and winter flocks of up to 20 came from similar localities.

409 Yellowhammer

Evidence suggests that the breeding numbers continue to decline: among reports from a dozen scattered areas scarcity is indicated for Sydling St. Nicholas and N. Dorset, also Burton Bradstock where hedge-cutting machinery may be to blame, and Arne NR where *c.* 12 pairs compares with *c.* 15 last year. An early winter flock of 150+ was found on high ground near Portesham on 27 Jan. Spring passage was hardly noticed at PBO and Christchurch, but there were more in autumn when PBO had monthly bird-days of 50, 89, 126, 51, 40 for Aug-Dec but Hengistbury day totals never exceeded 4. Winter flocks of 30-50 in Nov-Dec were noted at Godmanstone, Nether Cerne and the Fleet area.

411 Pine Bunting

A male at Southwell, Portland, on 15 Apr (G.W.)—the first for Dorset (accepted by RBC).

412 Black-headed Bunting

A male at PBO on 26 May (accepted by RBC).

415 Cirl Bunting

The only reports of this diminishing species come from PBO where a male was trapped on 16 Apr and another, possibly a different bird, was seen on 19 Apr.

416 Ortolan Bunting

At least 6 individuals were at PBO 24 Aug-30 Sep, max 3 on 8 Sep. One was at Winspit on 13 Sep (J.L.).

421 Reed Bunting

Sample breeding reports received as follows: Hengistbury Head 3 pairs, Stanpit *c.* 15 prs. Brownsea NR 5 singing males, Studland NR 2+ territories, Arne NR *c.* 15 pairs, Lodmoor 7 pairs, and Briantspuddle. Numerous near Hammoon. No large winter flocks but

visits to small gardens noted at Merley and Weymouth. PBO had one on 1 Jan, a small passage Mar-May and rather more 23 Aug-21 Nov, max 6 on 20 Oct. CHOG had a small but steady emigration 20 Sep-2 Nov, max 30 on 11 Oct.

422 Lapland Bunting

One at Burton Mere 8 Oct, singles at PBO 13 and 19 Oct, also at Hengistbury Head on 17 and perhaps 29 Oct. An exhausted bird seen at one metre range on Lodmoor, 10 Nov, and two briefly next day (D.C.G.).

423 Snow Bunting

PBO had a good series of records in autumn: first on 6 Oct then up to 4 16-29 Oct, 4 in Nov and one on 22 Dec. Reported also from Ferrybridge and the Chesil Beach from 16 Oct, max 11 in late Dec, and from Studland beach from 10 Nov with 2 or 3 up to 14 Dec, but none at all at Christchurch Harbour.

424 House Sparrow

A sizeable roost noted behind the Weymouth Council offices in Jan. On Brownsea Island *c.* 6 pairs were regular but only around the quay. PBO had up to 300 present in late Aug, and at Hengistbury Head 48 flew W on 4 Oct.

425 Tree Sparrow

A winter flock of *c.* 24 remained around cattle-feed in an old railway cutting at Bagber mid-Jan to mid Mar. 6 in a mixed flock at Swanage 12 Feb and 2 at Hengistbury Head on 15 Feb. Spring passage at PBO consisted of 1 on 27 Apr, 10 on 11 May, 7 on 13 May, and 3 in Jun. No reports of breeding in the county despite a marked spread in the late 1960s. One at Ringstead on 29 Jul; 6 at PBO in Aug then one in Sep but several in Oct, max 24 on 9 Oct; Emigration at Hengistbury Head 12-31 Oct, max 7 on 18 Oct; a small flock at Langton Herring on 12 Oct. No large winter flocks, Nov-Dec, but a few noted at Hengistbury Head, Stanpit, W. Hurn, Merley (max 12), Hermitage and Radipole.

Addenda and Corrigenda

It is now possible to bring up to date some of the verdicts of the Rare Birds Committee mainly for 1974 records (see 1974 Report for details), and we must accept their judgment as the best available interpretation of the evidence provided. The list of species which they consider is published in British Birds magazine together with occasional amendments.

Accepted: Black-headed Bunting 24 May 1970, Red-footed Falcon 18 Sep 1974, Terek Sandpipers 6-9 May 1974 and 18 Aug 1974, White-rumped Sandpiper 4-9 Sep 1974, Siberian Stonechat (PBO) 21 Oct 1974, Savi's Warbler 29 Sep 1974, Aquatic Warblers 17 Aug-14 Sep 1974 (8 at Radipole), Pallas's Warbler 14 Oct 1974, Tawny Pipits 21, 22, 25 Aug and 14 Sep and 15 Sep 1974.

Rejected: Red-footed Falcon 5 Aug 1974, Savi's Warbler 20 Oct 1974 (PBO).

Still Pending: Bonelli's Warbler 19 Aug 1974.

Not Submitted (FOR VARIOUS REASONS): Cory's Shearwaters 11, 22, 24 Jun; Cattle Egret 23 Aug 1974, White Stork 21 Aug 1974, Serins 22 Jun, 15 Oct, 21 Oct 1974.

Several records were received too late for the 1974 Report, of which the most interesting was 2 Stone Curlews at Wick Hams 23 Aug 1974.

LATE ADDITIONS —

155 Slender-billed Curlew

Brownsea lagoon, 12-14 Apr, 1975 (A.J.W. et al.) (submitted to RBC).

183 Broad-billed Sandpiper

Herbury Gore, 18 May, 1975 (C.E.R.), (accepted RBC).

216 Caspian Tern

Chesil Beach, Abbotsbury, 15 Jun, 1974 (R. J. Johns), (accepted RBC).

400 Serin

Male, Durlston Head, Swanage, 16 Mar 1974 (R. J. Johns), (accepted RBC)

TABLE 1—SUMMARY OF SEA PASSAGE AT PORTLAND BILL

	Mar-May			Aug-Oct		
	E	W	etc	E	W	etc
Diver sp.	50	13	20	7	5	2
Manx Shearwater	5673	583	10	69	34	9
Gannet	887	527	658	341	433	3043
Common Scoter	1054	105	43	172	1215	7
Eider	33	13	0	1	22	153
Great Skua	14	0	6	0	12	11
Pomarine Skua	12	0	0	0	1	2
Arctic Skua	47	4	3	14	13	13
'Commic' Tern	159	21	86	47	413	135
Sandwich Tern	118	20	22	51	198	108

TABLE 2—BIRD DAY TOTALS OF MIGRANTS IN THE PORTLAND BIRD OBSERVATORY RECORDING AREA

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Turtle Dove	0	27	72	42	1	11	89	96
Swift	0	5	1752	513	668	4849	7	0
Swallow	1	377	1805	299	81	837	1813	3496
House Martin	0	19	477	113	2	65	175	540
Wheatear	123	522	162	3	16	1026	695	140
Whinchat	0	42	61	1	1	141	163	21
Redstart	0	20	28	0	0	14	56	11
Reed Warbler	0	5	35	6	0	13	3	3
Sedge Warbler	0	20	116	1	4	72	30	1
Blackcap	2	47	259	3	0	1	11	63

Garden Warbler	0	5	140	4	0	19	54	14
Whitethroat	0	27	202	4	7	146	83	3
Lsr. Whitethroat	0	10	48	0	1	9	9	0
Willow Warbler	0	350	586	8	45	446	76	0
Chiffchaff	45	227	38	8	0	5	48	146
Goldcrest	253	347	14	0	0	0	45	740
Firecrest	29	30	2	0	0	0	1	99
Spotted Fly.	0	0	183	14	0	29	51	3
Pied Fly.	0	1	7	0	0	119	26	2
Meadow Pipit	2777	9269	113	0	0	0	895	7527
Tree Pipit	0	18	17	0	2	361	207	5
'Alba' Wagtail	53	45	7	0	10	31	259	1150
Grey Wagtail	1	0	0	0	1	33	202	45
'Flava' Wagtail	1	39	17	2	100	854	662	81
Starling	158	205	0	0	0	0	0	4009
Goldfinch	21	282	497	46	28	264	303	1251
Linnet	33	400	38	0	0	0	0	5381

All totals include visible migration at the Bill and following species only include visible migration (i.e. not grounded birds): Meadow Pipit, Starling, Linnet.

TABLE 3—SUMMARY OF MONTHLY WILDFOWL COUNTS—1975

		12 Jan	16 Feb	16 Mar	13 Sep	12 Oct	16 Nov	14 Dec
Mallard	Poole Hbr	402	277	115	274	504	287	391
	Fleet	1	120	10	4	72	0	162
	Radipole	38	31	25	65	66	82	49
	Crichel	150	30	40	1500	300	400	120
Teal	Poole Hbr	1244	616	651	857	1003	1157	1508
	Fleet	5	39	16	3	8	70	75
	Radipole	106	43	110	35	112	67	120
	Crichel	0	0	2	0	4	8	16
Wigeon	Poole Hbr	627	513	257	24	187	440	852
	Fleet	3000	1056	150	75	2204	2300	2850
	Crichel	15	0	6	0	0	1	0
Pintail	Poole Hbr	224	99	19	229	66	54	256
	Fleet	0	26	100	0	18	0	38
	Radipole	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Shoveler	Poole Hbr	64	82	36	18	14	33	68
	Fleet	0	1	15	13	0	0	10
	Radipole	5	62	11	6	47	29	9
Tufted Duck	Poole Hbr	254	254	159	24	60	11	302
	Fleet	0	36	0	0	0	60	10
	Radipole	332	205	62	0	35	310	312
	Crichel	45	44	68	4	20	45	37
Pochard	Poole Hbr	68	61	13	2	17	122	170
	Fleet	0	118	0	0	0	350	60
	Radipole	360	127	50	0	3	460	303
	Crichel	40	34	2	0	12	34	49
Goldeneye	Poole Hbr	40	66	22	0	2	54	63
	Fleet	1	109	69	0	0	0	98
Merganser	Poole Hbr	74	79	95	0	1	138	50
	Fleet-Port Hbr	101	163	39	0	0	22	82
Shelduck	Poole Hbr	2011	1079	1220	37	790	781	987
	Fleet	2	104	52	0	1	9	9
	Radipole	0	2	0	0	0	5	1
Canada Goose	Poole Hbr	247	82	60	251	55	86	47
	Crichel	0	0	3	4	23	23	31
Mute Swan	Poole Hbr	51	31	159	10	19	9	1
	Fleet	514	525	407	153	682	1012	976
	Radipole	47	41	6	75	9	11	10

TABLE 4—COUNTS OF WADERS AND OTHER ESTUARINE SPECIES—1975

Participation in the B.T.O.'s Birds of Estuaries Enquiry has continued. Co-ordinated counts were made monthly Jan to May and Sep to Dec. Grateful acknowledgement is made of assistance from RW, LMM, KMG, HAL, AHD, BPP, AFC, CEO, PGH, DJG, EFCC, DNA, CER, REHR and DAD.

LODMOOR TO ABBOTSBURY

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Crested Grebe	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Slavonian Grebe	5	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Little Grebe	8	22	22	0	0	6	14	30	39
Cormorant	25	43	29	17	18	1	34	34	30
Heron	19	3	6	9	11	2	26	1	12
Water Rail	6	3	1	0	0	0	5	3	3
Coot	96	46	81	0	0	130	2150	1500	316
Moorhen	4	11	11	2	3	21	29	47	71
Oystercatcher	14	14	7	2	6	0	2	2	1
Lapwing	1010	302	4	4	12	46	45	60	26
Ringed Plover	131	353	177	24	72	0	36	47	25
Grey Plover	55	36	0	0	0	0	19	29	4
Turnstone	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snipe	40	27	29	0	0	0	16	28	27
Jack Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Curlew	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	35	3	0	1	2	0
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Redshank	21	24	35	5	3	1	1	28	0
Greenshank	3	5	0	3	0	0	0	9	0
Knot	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	416	388	536	48	19	2	134	348	210
Sanderling	0	0	0	8	7	0	0	0	0
Ruff	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	40	32	15	18	3	6	81	9	21
Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	3	0	0	0	1	6	0	17
Herring Gull	2	415	119	66	140	25	357	301	952
Common Gull	60	138	39	0	1	0	12	51	60
Black-headed Gull	400	1088	266	17	33	850	906	697	3612

TABLE 4 (continued)—POOLE HARBOUR

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Northern Diver	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-throated Diver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-throated Diver	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Crested Grebe	7	4	2	7	4	0	7	1	2
Red-necked Grebe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Slavonian Grebe	6	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	22
Black-necked Grebe	3	9	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Little Grebe	4	4	14	6	0	8	3	8	1
Cormorant	115	107	80	41	43	94	84	130	117
Shag	2	11	8	3	0	14	25	27	16
Heron	6	6	6	8	6	23	21	10	9
Water Rail	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Coot	160	177	27	5	0	35	70	117	173
Moorhen	26	44	36	24	0	21	0	19	18
Oystercatcher	1050	467	281	174	100	666	631	747	293
Lapwing	500	900	8	0	11	249	145	1121	34
Ringed Plover	46	77	122	9	39	55	1	97	13
Grey Plover	69	7	23	0	0	2	0	35	30
Turnstone	15	14	0	18	5	13	0	17	12
Snipe	22	15	3	1	0	0	4	8	3
Jack Snipe	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Curlew	1113	741	253	39	5	584	390	591	236
Whimbrel	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
Black-tailed Godwit	470	228	326	0	0	201	423	288	9
Bar-tailed Godwit	103	40	19	46	0	27	1	5	38
Green Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Common Sandpiper	1	0	0	2	1	8	0	0	0
Redshank	907	1132	637	17	17	1120	458	1120	309
Spotted Redshank	9	17	13	0	0	4	18	18	1
Greenshank	6	0	0	4	0	0	3	9	0
Knot	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Dunlin	3613	2852	1675	42	19	85	1051	3480	590
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0

Ruff	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avocet	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	6
Great Black-backed Gull	59	21	11	12	1	0	0	0	0
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	2	3	4	0	9	14	4	1
Herring Gull	980	641	545	90	15	419	887	656	549
Common Gull	26	27	52	0	0	3	0	17	6
Black-headed Gull	2030	2249	1890	47	100	1733	746	3753	933

BIRD RINGING IN DORSET 1974 and 1975

by Col. E. D. V. Prendergast

This report covers 1974 as well as 1975, and in addition some hitherto unpublished information regarding former years is included.

Reports were received of 12081 birds of 110 species being ringed in 1974, not markedly different from the revised 1973 figures. In 1975, 20240 birds of 120 species were reported ringed, some 2400 of these being due to the inclusion for the first time of the Bournemouth-Christchurch area in the county, and hence the important Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station and individual ringers in Bournemouth. The main reason for the increase, however, was that Portland Bird Observatory (PBO), Radipole Acrocephalus Ringing Group (RARG), and the partnership of T. Squire and E.D.V.P (S & P) all ringed more birds in Dorset than ever before.

Other ringers to submit reports were A. T. Bromby (ATB), Brownsea Island (1974 and 1975), Major J. R. L. Caunter (JRLC), Bovington Camp (1974), Christchurch Harbour Ringing Station (CHRS) 1975, J. Allsop (JA), Bournemouth (1975), and S. Christmas (SC), Bournemouth (1975).

Individual totals and noteworthy species for each year were:-

PBO	1974	2497 birds, 62 species, including 446 Swallows, 109 House Martins, 2 Wrynecks, 3 Melodious, 1 Icterine, 1 Yellow-browed and 1 Wood Warbler, together with the solitary Woodchat Shrike and Brambling.
	1975	3180 birds, 46 species, including 411 Goldcrests, 37 Firecrests, 3 Icterine and single Subalpine, Greenish and Pallas's Warblers.
RARG	1974	5089 birds, 46 species, including 619 Reed, 1814 Sedge and 8 Aquatic Warblers, 524 Yellow Wagtails, 926 Swallows, 198 Sand Martins, 67 Bearded Tits.
	1975	7417 birds, 50 species, including 699 Reed, 2869 Sedge and 11 Aquatic Warblers, an amazing 2279 Yellow Wagtails, 66 Bearded Tits, a Spotted Crake and a Little Gull.
S&P	1974	3533 birds, 73 species including 2 Little Grebes, 20 Lapwings, 69 Snipe, 1 Little Ringed Plover (from Sutton Bingham Res.), 6 Sparrowhawks, 2 Tawny Owls, 94 Redwings, 1 Black Redstart and 2 Hawfinches.
	1975	6578 birds, 82 species, including 4 Buzzards, 7 Sparrowhawks, 8 Kestrels, 1 Barn, 1 Long-eared and 1 Tawny Owl, 40 Common Sandpipers, 579 Swallows, 41 Stonechats, 5 Grasshopper and 4 Dartford Warblers, 275 Goldcrests and 216 Reed Buntings.
ATB	1974	881 birds, 43 species. 322 waders included 84 Oystercatchers, 4 Ringed and 1 Grey Plover, 17 Curlew, 3 Whimbrel, 3 Black-tailed Godwit and 60 Dunlin.
	1975	626 birds, 37 species. 280 waders included 82 Oystercatchers, 1 Black-tailed and 2 Bar-tailed Godwits, 8 Common Sandpiper, 98 Dunlin and 16 Curlew Sandpiper.
JRLC	1974	81 birds, 9 species, including 1 Siskin. Has left Dorset.
CHRS	1975	1626 birds, 53 species including 108 Dunlin, 273 Sedge and 6 Aquatic Warblers (and 1 Bonelli's Warbler, rejected by RBC).
JA	1975	406 birds, 19 species, including 2 Siskins and 6 Canada Geese.
SC	1975	407 birds, 23 species, including 2 Tufted Duck and 13 Black-headed Gulls.

Table of Birds ringed in 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Less than half the birds ringed in 1973 were included in the total recorded in the Bird Report of that year, as not all the information was available at the time the report went to press. Now that it is available, it is thought to be desirable to include it in this report, as well as details for 1974 and 1975, for the sake of completeness.

	1973	1974	1975
Little Grebe	—	2	—
Manx Shearwater	1	—	—
Heron	1	—	2
Mallard	23	3	13
Teal	9	15	29
Tufted Duck	—	—	3
Shelduck	2	—	2
Canada Goose	—	—	6
Mute Swan	6	9	—
Buzzard	—	—	4
Sparrowhawk	1	7	11
Kestrel	4	3	10
Water Rail	5	3	5
Spotted Crake	—	—	1
Moorhen	44	40	24
Coot	8	28	23
Oystercatcher	70	84	84
Lapwing	13	20	5
Ringed Plover	12	4	13
Little Ringed Plover	—	1	—
Turnstone	—	—	1
Grey Plover	1	1	—
Dotterel	1	—	—
Snipe	27	70	25
Jack Snipe	—	1	1
Curlew	2	17	1
Whimbrel	—	3	—
Black-tailed Godwit	1	3	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	1	—	2
Green Sandpiper	—	1	—
Wood Sandpiper	1	—	—
Common Sandpiper	14	8	49
Redshank	30	43	66
Spotted Redshank	1	—	—
Greenshank	2	—	1
Knot	2	3	3
Little Stint	2	—	2
Dunlin	339	65	212

	1973	1974	1975
Curlew Sandpiper	7	—	16
Ruff	1	—	—
Great Black-backed Gull	—	—	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	—	—
Herring Gull	2	1	1
Little Gull	—	—	1
Black-headed Gull	5	25	17
Black Tern	1	—	—
Common Tern	38	—	—
Sandwich Tern	22	1	1
Razorbill	2	2	—
Guillemot	1	3	—
Stock dove	5	18	24
Woodpigeon	13	4	8
Turtle Dove	1	—	1
Collared Dove	34	53	16
Cuckoo	1	—	—
Barn Owl	—	—	11
Little Owl	—	4	3
Tawny Owl	2	2	1
Long-eared Owl	—	—	1
Swift	149	66	—
Kingfisher	24	17	20
Green Woodpecker	3	1	10
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5	8	5
Wryneck	—	2	1
Skylark	4	13	16
Swallow	678	1599	1192
House Martin	55	160	58
Hybrid Swallow x House Martin	1	—	—
Sand Martin	246	216	348
Carrion Crow	1	1	—
Rook	1	—	—
Jackdaw	1	2	4
Magpie	21	8	9
Jay	14	2	3
Great Tit	318	296	373
Blue Tit	451	789	1082
Coal Tit	54	49	98
Marsh Tit	22	22	33
Willow Tit	4	12	8
Long-tailed Tit	197	246	183
Bearded Tit	61	67	66
Nuthatch	2	5	1
Treecreeper	16	28	11
Wren	197	190	483
Dipper	14	—	—
Mistle Thrush	6	10	24
Fieldfare	25	6	39
Song Thrush	85	113	189
Redwing	44	99	99
Ring Ouzel	—	1	1
Blackbird	297	335	664
Wheatear	7	5	7
Stonechat	31	26	68
Whinchat	27	16	11

	1973	1974	1975
Redstart	9	24	26
Black Redstart	3	1	2
Nightingale	21	8	3
Bluethroat	2	—	—
Robin	179	258	379
Grasshopper Warbler	10	6	18
Savi's Warbler	1	—	—
Reed Warbler	1204	688	829
Sedge Warbler	2913	1931	3270
Aquatic Warbler	16	8	17
Melodious Warbler	3	3	2
Icterine Warbler	—	1	3
Blackcap	155	221	376
Barred Warbler	2	—	—
Garden Warbler	59	103	143
Whitethroat	106	109	270
Lesser Whitethroat	56	82	73
Subalpine Warbler	—	—	1
Dartford Warbler	—	—	12
Willow Warbler	584	583	1578
Chiffchaff	337	477	639
Greenish Warbler	—	—	1
Wood Warbler	—	1	3
(Bonelli's Warbler?	—	—	1)
Yellow-browed Warbler	—	1	—
Pallas's Warbler	—	—	1
Goldcrest	177	317	810
Firecrest	16	23	42
Spotted Flycatcher	23	59	77
Pied Flycatcher	20	9	42
Dunnock	188	147	317
Tawny Pipit	1	—	—
Meadow Pipit	40	67	62
Tree Pipit	16	5	1
Rock Pipit	5	1	6
Pied/White Wagtail	259	160	299
Grey Wagtail	19	6	13
Yellow Wagtail	712	531	2317
Woodchat Shrike	1	1	—
Red-backed Shrike	1	—	—
Starling	290	263	813
Hawfinch	—	2	—
Greenfinch	273	360	781
Goldfinch	53	69	157
Siskin	8	1	6
Linnet	466	145	393
Redpoll	7	23	4
Bullfinch	82	150	136
Chaffinch	110	110	164
Brambling	2	1	2
Yellowhammer	—	4	40
Corn Bunting	24	9	7
Cirl Bunting	—	—	1
Reed Bunting	291	157	277
House Sparrow	2	1	2
Tree Sparrow	4	—	17

Totals

Year	Number of birds	Species
1973	12570	121 and 1 hybrid
1974	12081	110
1975	20240	120
Combined total	*44891*	*149 species and 1 hybrid*

RINGED RECOVERIES

The list of selected ringing recoveries that follows includes not only birds recovered in 1974 and 1975 but also some from previous years which have not hitherto been recorded. In order to reduce the near 300 recoveries to manageable proportions and still to include the majority of overseas recoveries, all except the most interesting of those within the British Isles have had to be omitted. The information will, however, be available in the County Museum for those who require it.

I am indepted to the ringers and organizations whose initials appear in brackets, for making their records available to me, to the Radipole Acrocephalus Ringing Group for permission to make extracts from their second report *Radipole Two 1973-1975* and to I. S. Robertson for assistance in sorting out the 1975 records.

ARRANGEMENT OF ENTRIES

For each bird recovered, under the species name is given the ring number followed on the same line with the ringing details — age and sex, if known, and date and place of ringing.

On the following line are the recovery details — a symbol denoting the manner of recovery, the date and the place. Where a bird was both ringed and recovered in the United Kingdom, the approximate distance and direction are shown. Where birds were ringed or recovered abroad, the overseas latitude and longitude are given.

Key to Symbols and Terms

Age:	pull. (pullus)	nestling. — not yet flying
	juv. (juvenile)	young — able to fly freely
	1stY	first year
	2ndY	second year
	f.g	full grown, age uncertain
	p.j	post juvenile
	ad	adult — at least one year old
	m.	male
	f.	female

Manner of Recovery

V	controlled, i.e. caught and released with ring
+	caught or killed by man
X	found dead or dying
()	caught alive and not released, or released with ring removed
?	manner of recovery unknown
date of recovery	where this is unknown, the date of the reporting letter is given in brackets

TEAL

EF65897	ad.f.	31.7.73	Abberton, Colchester, Essex
	V	14.3.73	Brownsea Island, Poole (ATB) 235km SW

SHELDUCK

GM18441	ad.f	24.4.68	Brownsea Island — breeding (ATB)
	X	2.2.74	Rilland, Zeeland, NETHERLANDS 51° 25′N 4° 11′ E
GM18442	ad.f	24.4.68	Brownsea Island — breeding (ATB)
	X	c.19.10.75	Dicksanderkoog, Schleswig Holstein, WEST GERMANY 54° 01′ N 8° 53′ E

Both birds ringed on the same day.

COOT

GP01079	p.j.	8.2.70	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	+	23.2.74	Kleferhof, Jordenstorf, EAST GERMANY 53° 53′ N 12° 44′ E

OYSTERCATCHER

SS74731	ad	11.9.68	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	X	26.8.74	Pen-y-parc, Bodorgan, Anglesey 330 km N
FS76263	1stY	5.8.74	Camel Estuary, Wadebridge, Cornwall
	V	19.9.74	Brownsea Island (ATB) 205km E
FS33548	1stY	21.10.71	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	V	22.2.75	Fort Saumarez, Guernsey 49° 28′ N 2° 39′ W

SNIPE

CH76967	ad	20.2.74	Marnhull, Dorset (S&P)
	+	17.8.74	Sunder Felding, Jylland, DENMARK 55° 57′ N 8° 47′ E
CH85926	ad	8.12.74	Marnhull (S&P)
	+	6.9.75	Sangatte, Pas de Calais, FRANCE 50° 55′ N 1° 45′ E
CH85973	ad	20.2.75	Marnhull (S&P)
	+	28.9.75	Hatfjelldal, Nordland, NORWAY 65° 35′ N 14° 00′ E
CH76972	ad	23.2.74	Marnhull (S&P)
	+	1.12.75	Godisson, Nonent le Pin, Orne, FRANCE 48° 41′ N 0° 15′ E

CURLEW

SS63040	p.j.	13.1.67	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	V	14.11.71	Brownsea Island (ATB). Reringed FS33585
	X	5.7.74	Vorberg, Halland, SWEDEN 57° 06′ N 12° 15′ E

WHIMBREL

EF16918	f.g	17.9.70	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	+	29.7.73	Baie de Somme, FRANCE 50° 14′ N 1° 33′ E

COMMON SANDPIPER

Copenhagen			
837680	1stY	15.8.*62*	Amager, Sjaelland, DENMARK 55° 38′ N 12° 34′ E
	V	22.8.75	Sutton Bingham Reservoir (S&P)

Provisionally not only the first Danish-ringed bird to be recovered in UK, but also the longest-lived.

DUNLIN

BB85762	1stY	8.10.72	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	V	23.8.74	Posthuiswad, Vlieland, Friesian Islands, NETHERLANDS 53° 16′ N 4° 59′ E
BB65656	ad	21.8.73	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	V	3.9.73	Sidi Moussa, El Jadida, MOROCCO 32° 50′ N 8° 50′ W
BL37720	1stY	18.9.73	Brownsea Island (ATB)
		17.2.74	Studland Heath. Local. Ring in Hen Harrier's pellet.
BP10423	1stY	28.10.73	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	X	8.5.74	Ekeren, Antwerpen, BELGIUM 51° 17′ N 4° 25′ E

Hiddensee			
80041848	1stY	7.9.69	Insel Langenwerder, Mecklenburg, EAST GERMANY 54° 02′ N 11° 30′ E
	V	16.2.73	Radipole Lake (RARG)
Hiddensee			
80231966	f.g	11.9.73	Insel Langenwerder
	V	14.11.73	Brownsea Island (ATB)
Stockholm			
3263997	1stY	20.3.74	Ottenby, Oland, SWEDEN 56° 12′ N 16° 24′ E
	V	23.2.75	Stanpit, Christchurch (CHRS)
BLACK HEADED GULL			
Arnhem			
3170750	pull.	29.5.73	Ijsselmeer Polders, NETHERLANDS 52° 20′ N 5° 34′ E
	X	10.8.73	Radipole Lake (RARG)
COMMON TERN			
Stavanger			
7129808	pull.	2.7.72	Sandholmane, Os, Hordaland, NORWAY 60° 11′ N 5° 31′ E
	V	19.9.74	Brownsea Island (ATB)
SANDWICH TERN			
DS00856	pull.	25.6.62	Keyhaven, Hants
	X	3.7.74	Portland Harbour (PBO) 63km W
	Note age.		
SWIFT			
Paris			
JA228458	ad.	4.7.70	Orleans, Loiret, FRANCE 47° 55′ N 1° 54′ E
	V	27.5.73	Radipole Lake (RARG)
SC29163	ad.	10.8.68	Portland Bill (PBO)
		28.5.74	Radipole Lake (RARG) 10km N.
	Note age.		
SWALLOW			
JN66425	ad.f	22.9.72	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	X	23.5.73	Strabane, Co. Tyrone 580km NW
JP29946	juv	1.10.74	Portland Bill (PBO)
	?	11.10.74	El Aioun, Oujda, MOROCCO 34° 39′N 2° 29′ W
SAND MARTIN			
JR55399	juv	27.8.73	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	V	25.8.74	La Cava, Ebro Delta, SPAIN 40° 44′ N 0° 43′E
JX73377	juv	11.8.74	Llangorse Lake, Brecon
	V	21.8.74	Radipole Lake (RARG) 155km SSE
BLUE TIT			
JS33471	ad	18.9.73	Bagber, Sturminster Newton (S&P)
	V	18.4.74	Ringstead Bay, near Weymouth 33kms S
LONG-TAILED TIT			
840194	ad.	8.2.75	Purse Caundle (S&P)
	X	20.12.75	Banstead, Surrey 160km ENE
BEARDED TIT			
JN87428	1stY.f	26.7.73	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	V	28.4.74	St Ouen, Jersey, CHANNEL ISLANDS 49° 13′ N 2° 13′ W
Arnhem			
S565748	ad.m	13.9.71	Zwarte Meer West, Ijsselmeer Polders, NETHERLANDS 52° 37′ N 5° 54′ E
	V	19.11.72	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	V	26.11.72	Radipole Lake (RARG)
WREN			
196271	ad	9.10.72	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	X	23.10.72	St John, Jersey, CHANNEL ISLANDS 49° 15′ N 2° 09′ W
842081	1stY	14.10.74	Hengistbury Head (CHRS)
	+?	5.6.75	Nash, Newport, Monmouth 120km NW
SONG THRUSH			
CP11293	juv	27.9.73	Portland Bill (PBO)
	+	__.12.73	Alcobaca, Estramadura, PORTUGAL 39° 32′ N 8° 59′ W
REDWING			
CP11319	ad	11.10.73	Portland Bill (PBO)
	X	19.5.74	Herajoki, Riihimäki, Häme, FINLAND 60° 42′ N 24° 45′ E
CH98314	2ndY	27.2.74	Gillingham (S&P)
	+	19.10.75	Renuengos de Monsaraz, Alto Alentejo, PORTUGAL 38° 25′ N 7° 32′ W
XA57102	2ndY	15.3.75	Duncliffe Hill, Shaftesbury (S&P)
	?	2.11.75	Alzaga, Beasain, Cuipuzcoa, SPAIN 43° 04′ N 2° 11′ W
BLACKBIRD			
XA55702	ad.m	12.3.75	Portland Bill (PBO)
	X	22.11.75	Frebane, Offaly, EIRE 485km NW
CP11203	juv.f	9.11.72	Portland Bill (PBO)
	X	8.12.74	Mauron, Morbihan, FRANCE 48° 05′ N 2° 18′ W
STONECHAT			
JJ83471	juv.f	8.10.72	Portland Bill (PBO)
	+	28.12.72	Porcuna, Jaén, SPAIN 37° 52′ N 4° 11′ W
ROBIN			
JJ35733	juv	17.9.72	Portland Bill (PBO)
	+(cat)	15.6.74	Forton, Garstang, Lancs 380km N

REED AND SEDGE WARBLERS

Amongst recoveries of Reed Warblers ringed by RARG were 2 from the Channel Islands and 1 from Spain.

Sedge Warblers ringed in Ross-shire, Antrim and Isle of Islay were controlled at Radipole. Foreign recoveries came from the Channel Islands, Belgium, France, Portugal, Morocco, Senegal and Liberia.

For further details see "Radipole Two 1973-1975".

BLACKCAP			
JP30572	ad.m	11.5.75	Portland Bill (PBO)
	V	16.7.75	Burghfield, Reading, Berks 140km NE
WILLOW WARBLER			
545770	1stY	12.8.72	Worth Matravers (S&P)
	V	15.8.73	Hilbre Island, Cheshire 320km N
596080	1stY	16.8.73	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	V	10.4.74	Hilbre Island, Cheshire 315km N
848525	1stY	28.8.74	Sandwich Bay, Kent
	V	18.5.75	Portland Bill (PBO) 280km WSW
196428	ad	30.6.74	Cartmel, Lancs
	V	13.8.75	Wick (CHRS) 400km SSE
818083	1stY	31.8.75	Port of Menteith, Perth
	V	6.9.75	Radipole Lake (RARG)
PIED FLYCATCHER			
JK53599	pull.	10.6.72	Aber Woods, Bangor, Caerns
	X	7.5.75	Weston, Portland (per PBO 305km SSE
JP29476	1stY	14.9.74	Portland Bill (PBO)
	V	16.7.75	Gasvatn, Møre and Romsdal, NORWAY — breeding 63° 08′ N 9° 26′ E
MEADOW PIPIT			
HV48397	p.j.	7.4.70	Brownsea Island (ATB)
	+	19.8.74	Parades de Coura, Minho, PORTUGAL 41° 54′ N 8° 34′ W
JJ83266	f.g	5.10.72	Portland Bill (PBO)
	V	29.12.73	La Gacilly, Morbihan, FRANCE 47° 46′ N 2° 09′ W
PIED WAGTAIL			
JX83611	1stY	27.8.74	Radipole Lake (RARG)
	()	(14.2.75)	Mellah de Benahmed, MOROCCO 33° 03′ N 7° 13′ W

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Amongst the 41 recoveries during the period of birds ringed at Radipole, 3 were from Portugal, 3 from Morocco and 1 landed on a boat at sea 600km north of Dakar, Senegal. For further details see "Radipole Two 1973-1975"

STARLING			
XV46814	ad.m	1.3.75	Marnhull (S&P)
	X?	26.4.75	Abenra, Jutland, DENMARK 55° 02′ N 9° 21′ W
GOLDFINCH			
JJ84922	ad.f	27.10.73	Portland Bill (PBO)
	X	__.10.73	Beaulac-Bernos, Gironde, FRANCE 44° 22′ N 0° 14′ W
JJ84982	juv	1.11.73	Portland Bill (PBO)
	V	__.4.74	Bermeo, Nr Bilboa, SPAIN 43° 25′ N 2° 44′ W
JP29049	ad.m	7.4.74	Portland Bill (PBO)
	+	17.11.74	Alza, San Sebastian, SPAIN 43° 19′ N 1° 58′ W
KA92389	1stY	24.10.75	Portland Bill (PBO)
	X	26.12.75	Chatelaillon-Plage, Charente Maritime, FRANCE 46° 05′ N 1° 05′ W
JP29570	1stY	19.9.74	Portland Bill (PBO)
	()	ca.15.2.75	Mirande Ebro, Burgos, SPAIN 42° 41′ N 2° 57′ W
Paris			
2250817	ad.f	6.12.74	Capbreton, Landes, FRANCE 43° 38′ N 1° 26′ W
	X	11.5.75	Weymouth (per PBO)
LINNET			
JP29307	juv	5.8.74	Portland Bill (PBO)
	X	18.10.74	Hossegor, Landes, FRANCE 43° 39′ N 1° 25′ W

The following species also produced recoveries during the period; Mallard, Shoveler, Mute Swan, Sparrowhawk, Ringed Plover, Collared Dove, House Martin, Magpie, Great Tit, Mistle Thrush, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Dunnock, Greenfinch, Chaffinch and Reed Bunting.

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