

CONGRESS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES,

JUNE 26th, 1914.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ANCIENT EARTHWORKS & FORTIFIED ENCLOSURES.

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REPORT OF THE EARTHWORKS COMMITTEE.

The outstanding feature of the past year has been the passing into law of the Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Bill, reference to which was made in the report of the Committee last year. The working of the new Act is likely to make considerable demands on the activities and watchfulness of societies interested in archaeology. In view of this, various changes have been made in the personnel of the Committee, as detailed below. The Committee have also suggested to Archaeological Societies affiliated to the Union that, if they have no special Earthworks Section, they should detail some member interested in the subject to watch over the earthworks in their district and undertake correspondence concerning them. The replies received, so far, show that in many cases this has already been done, and that Societies generally are fully alive to their responsibilities.

Numerous cases have been reported of the discovery of unrecorded earthworks, or the identification of lost or doubtful sites.

The announcement that steps have been taken to place Worlebury Camp, in Somerset, under the protection of the Act, will be read with general satisfaction.

With regard to specific instances of destruction,

referred to in last year's Report, the Committee have much pleasure in announcing that the owner, Sir Edward Hulse, took steps to stop the damage that was being done to Bokerly Dyke as soon as his attention was called to it.

As regards the destruction of ancient remains near Bristol, in connection with the Royal Agricultural Society's annual show last year, the Hon. Secretary of the Congress has received assurances that the Society is anxious to discourage any interference with works of archaeological or antiquarian interest on such occasions, and that this will always be their attitude.

The gradual destruction of the burh of Edward the Elder at Witham, and of Whitehawk Camp near Brighton still continues. These and a list of cases, some of them painfully familiar from their recurrence year by year, where earthworks are being destroyed for the sake of profit, call attention to a weak point in the Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act, *viz.*, the absence of any power to compensate an owner for the pecuniary loss he may sustain through the application of the Act to an ancient monument on his property. Without some such power the Committee fear that it will not be possible to deal effectually with such cases as, for instance, the burh at Witham. They also regret that it is not specifically stated that the term "monument" in the Act includes earthworks, as a knowledge of the value of ancient earthworks is far from being general among the classes most likely to injure such monuments through ignorance or carelessness.

Meanwhile it seems very desirable that all ancient monuments situated upon Crown lands, or belonging to Government departments or public bodies, should be scheduled under the Act, to avoid any danger of another such case as the destruction of the camp on Penmaenmawr under a lease granted by a Government department. While such a case as that is perhaps unlikely to recur, there is a constant danger of minor earthworks being injured or destroyed under the orders of a subordinate official ignorant of their value.

The Committee would also suggest that it might well be made a practice for Parliament, when granting to corporations or individuals power to acquire lands, to reserve to the public the ownership of any ancient monuments situated on such lands. Great destruction and damage has been caused in the past by Railway Companies under powers conferred on them by the State, and the Committee's report for 1912 showed what deplorable destruction is now taking place among the ancient monuments of Ireland, at the hands of tenant-owners, who have obtained possession of their holdings under the Land Purchase Acts.

The past year has seen the publication of Mr. Heywood Sumner's elaborate monograph on the earthworks of Cranborne Chase, in which he has acted on the Committee's suggestion as to the desirability of dealing comprehensively with the earthwork of specific areas. It is to be hoped that his example will be widely followed. Dr. Williams-Freeman's work on the earthworks of Hampshire, mentioned in previous Reports, will appear in the near future.

It is with great regret that the Committee report the resignation of the following members, who are unable for various reasons to undertake the increased work which the Committee anticipate under the new Act:

Sir B. C. A. Windle, F.R.S., and Messrs. W. J. Andrew, F.S.A., E. S. Cobbold, F.G.S., S. Denison, A. R. Goddard and J. Horace Round, LL.D.

The Committee beg to tender them their warmest thanks for the help they have given during the early years of the Committee's existence.

In succession to the foregoing the following have consented to join the Committee:—

Col. W. Ll. Morgan and Messrs. W. G. Collingwood, F.S.A., H. St. George Gray, W. M. I'Anson, F.S.A., T. Davies Pryce and J. P. Williams-Freeman, M.D.

Particulars of the various items of information, which have reached the Committee will be found below, and they wish in conclusion to tender their thanks to the Secretaries of the various Societies affiliated to the Union, as well as to other correspondents, for help given them in the preparation of this Report and in the Committee's work generally.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

PRESERVATION AND RECORD.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.—The Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society has approached the Mayor and Corporation of Carmarthen on the subject of damage done to the "Bulwarks" of the town (see under "Destruction.") The matter has also been brought before the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments—Wales and Monmouthshire.

CORNWALL.—The Cornwall County Council has appointed a committee for the preservation of the ancient monuments of the county, comprising members of the Council and others, on which the *antiquarian societies of the county* are well represented. A provisional list of the ancient monuments of the county has been drawn up, Inspectors have been appointed to report whether any of them are in danger of damage or destruction and the County Council has made a grant in aid of the expenses of the inspection.

DORSETSHIRE.—The chalk-digging in Bokerly Dyke, which as mentioned in last year's Report was seriously injuring the vallum, has been brought to the notice of Sir Edward Hulse, the owner of that part of the dyke. The Committee understand that steps have been taken to prevent further damage.

HAMPSHIRE.—The Hampshire Field Club is still negotiating for the preservation of Winkelbury Camp near Basingstoke (see last year's Report), and hopes to save the earthworks from further mutilation.

———. A small earthwork in the form of a double square has been reported in Penley Wood, in Froyle parish, near Alton.

———. A considerable bank and ditch, of the type of the Cranborne Chase Grimsditch, has been reported as running for some two miles to the north of the Meon Valley, along the northern side of the watershed near West Meon hut.

———. Mr. Heywood Sumner, F.S.A., has discovered two unrecorded earthworks in the New Forest, one a small camp, the other a large—pastoral?—enclosure.

———. In addition to the above, two camps, described by Gough in his edition of Camden as being close to Buckland Rings, near Lymington, have recently been identified. One is a ringwork, enclosing four acres, but so wasted as to be barely recognisable, the other a camp lying by the Lymington River, with a dock alongside it. The banks, though much ploughed down, are still distinct.

KENT.—Last winter the cutting of underwood disclosed extensive earthworks at Pembury, near Tonbridge, which are not in the Ordnance Survey maps, though their existence has been recorded in "Archaeologia Cantiana." Action taken by Mr. E. W. Hancock, F.G.S., has now led to their being surveyed for inclusion in future editions of the Survey maps.

MIDDLESEX.—The Barnet Natural History Society reports the discovery of a camp, hitherto unrecorded, in Hadley Wood, which Mr. Reginald Smith, F.S.A., considers pre-Roman.

———. The same Society has traced some miles of Grim's Dyke between Woodcock Hill and Potter's Bar (partly in Hertfordshire).

SOMERSET.—Worlebury Camp, near Weston-super-Mare, has been offered for sale as part of the Smyth-Pigott estate, and steps have been taken by H.M. Office of Works, the National Trust, and the Somersetshire Archaeological Society to have it scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act.

STAFFORDSHIRE.—With reference to the proposals for building over the site of John o' Gaunt's Castle at Newcastle-under-Lyme the North Staffordshire Field Club is considering the possibility of preserving, or at least exploring the site.

SURREY.—Castlehill, near Godstone, described in the last Report as a "promontory camp," has been visited by Mr. A. Hadrian Allcroft, who considers it a very early Norman work of a rare type.

———. The clearing of timber in Addington Park, near Croydon, for the making of a golf course, revealed a tumulus, recorded by Surrey historians, which was generally thought to have been destroyed, though a few local archaeologists knew of it. It was in some danger during the laying out of the course, but the promoters of the Golf Club, at the instance of the Surrey Archaeological Society, have arranged for its preservation.

———. The Surrey Archaeological Society has issued an illustrated descriptive schedule of the principal ancient buildings, earthworks, etc., in the County. (See Bibliography, Johnston.)

SUSSEX.—The Earthworks Survey Section of the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Club has planned a group of Earthworks, which has been discovered on Plumpton Plain, near Lewes, and which from the relics found on the ground may prove to be the site of an early British village.

WILTSHIRE.—The Hon. Secretary of the Committee has recently walked the course of Wansdyke from the eastern edge of Savernake Forest to its termination under Inkpen Hill. This part of its course is very little known, the dyke being in many places almost indistinguishable. The greater part of it was laid down by Sir Richard Colt Hoare early in the last century, but so far as records show his observations have apparently never since been verified. The line from Savernake Forest to Chisbury Camp seems never to have been placed on record or mapped in full by anyone.

DESTRUCTION.

CARMARTHENSHIRE.—A portion of the ditch of the earthworks known as the "Bulwarks," thrown up during the Civil War for the protection of the town of Carmarthen, has been filled in, despite the protests of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society.

———. Part of the motte within the precincts of Carmarthen Castle has fallen owing to building operations in its neighbourhood.

———. There has been quarrying for gravel on Clawdd Mawr in the parish of Conwil Elvet, but this has now been stopped.

CARNARVONSHIRE.—The destruction of the camp on Penmaenmawr mentioned in previous reports still advances. (See also under "Exploration.")

ESSEX.—Sir W. H. St. John Hope reports that the digging for gravel in the burh of Edward the Elder at Witham, mentioned in the Report for 1912, is proceeding apace and is destroying the south bank of the burh.

GLAMORGAN.—The inner rampart of Mewslade Camp, a promontory camp in Gower on the east side of Mewslade Bay, has been destroyed. The camp had a triple line of entrenchments, the two outer ones of earth, the inner of stone, apparently built up of two rows of large stones placed about fifteen feet apart with the intervening space filled with smaller stones. The stones are stated to have been carted away by neighbouring farmers to mend their field-roads.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—A small tumulus covered with trees, known as Emmanuel Knoll, near Godmanchester and close to the road to Cambridge, has been removed by the owner of the farm. It interfered with the cultivation of the field and the efforts of the Cambs. and Hunts. Archaeological Society to save it were unavailing. (See also under "Exploration.")

LANCASHIRE.—The destruction by quarrying of a British village enclosure at Stone Close, Stainton-in-Furness, recorded in previous Reports, is still in progress.

SHROPSHIRE.—The destruction of Abdon Burf by quarrying, mentioned in previous Reports, continues.

———. A tumulus near Craven Arms has been scheduled for removal by a Railway Company. (See also under "Exploration.")

SUSSEX.—The mutilation of Whitehawk Camp on Brighton Racecourse, referred to in the last Report, still continues.

WILTSHIRE.—Mr. H. St. George Gray reports that on visiting Barbury Castle in April, 1914, he found that the inner fosse and middle vallum on the N.E. side were suffering greatly from rabbits. The destruction has increased markedly since he last visited the camp six or seven years ago.

EXPLORATION.

BERKSHIRE.—The examination of a rectangular enclosure and barrow at Lowbury near Goring by Mr. D. Atkinson, on behalf of Reading University College, has revealed traces of a Roman settlement beginning in the second and lasting at least into the latter half of the fourth century. Roofing-tiles, etc., remained to testify to the buildings that had existed within the enclosure, and many coins, pottery and other objects were found. A barrow composed of earth filled with objects of Roman date covered the undisturbed interment of a Saxon warrior with weapons and objects dated to the sixth or seventh century.

CARNARVONSHIRE.—The survey of the camp on Penmaenmawr by the Cambrian Archaeological Association, under the direction of Mr. Harold Hughes, continues. See Bibliography, Hughes.

DENBIGHSHIRE.—As mentioned in last year's Report, further excavations were carried out under the direction of Mr. Willoughby Gardner at Parc-y-Meirch, in Kimmel Park, Abergele, by the Abergele Antiquarian Society, aided by the Cambrian Archaeological Association and a Committee of Section H. of the British Association. Evidence was found of the successive occupation of the fortress, the defences of which had at some unknown date been deliberately destroyed. Subsequently it was partially re-constructed and re-occupied in the fourth century, as shown by the coins discovered. See Bibliography, Gardner.

DORSETSHIRE.—The excavations which the British Archaeological Association and the Dorset Field Club have been carrying on for some years at Maumbury Rings, Dorchester, under the superin-

tendence of Mr. H. St. George Gray, were concluded for the present in September, 1913, though several points of interest have been left over for future exploration. The results generally show that the work consisted originally of a circular vallum some 15 ft. high, with a ditch probably some 16 ft. deep and 40 ft. wide running round on the inside, except across the entrance. The floor of the ditch was occupied by a series of shafts with a depth of some 35 ft. below the original surface. All this work appears to date from Neolithic times. In the Roman period it was converted into an amphitheatre by excavating the inner area to a depth of some 9 ft. to 10 ft., and cutting away the chalk banks, so as to make an arena approximately oval in shape, while the shafts and what remained of the ditch were filled up flush with the central area. Finally, at the time of the Civil War, terraces, etc., for military purposes were constructed on the outer vallum. See Bibliography, Gray.

GLAMORGAN.—Excavations in the neighbourhood of the Roman fort at Gellygaer revealed a smooth gravelled tract, enclosed by ditches on the sides that were open, which it is suggested may have been the drill-ground of the fort. A large oblong enclosure was also found near the fort, but no trace of occupation, nor anything to show its use.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—The owner of a tumulus destroyed near Godmanchester (see under "Destruction,") carried out excavations on the site at his own expense. Members of the Cambs. and Hunts. Archaeological Society were present, and careful records were kept, which will be published in due course in the Transactions of the Society.

LANCASHIRE.—A large burial mound in Appleby Slack, on Birkrigg Moor, near Ulverston, was examined by the North Lonsdale Field Club, who found Bronze Age urns, etc.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.—The Earthwork at Cae Gaer, Llangurig, was examined in July, 1912, by Welsh and other archaeologists under the direction of Mr. F. N. Pryce, of the British Museum.

The camp, oblong with rounded corners, covers an area 250 yards long by 180 broad, and is surrounded by streams and a morass. The vallum below the turf is 7ft. 6in. across and 2ft. 6in. high, formed of narrow layers of bluish clay, alternating with thicker layers of brown clay mixed with fragments of shale, no less than ten layers being discernible. Along the top of the vallum, post-holes in the clay gave the line of a former stockade with an outwork at the south-west corner. A clay causeway 9ft. wide led to the north gate with a guard room on either side of it outlined by post-holes. There was a rude stone floor, 21ft. square near the centre of the Camp, with apparently a hearth in the centre of it, and a second hearth with pot-boilers under the north rampart. A fine flint knife was among the objects found. There is no positive evidence of Roman construction or occupation, but the vallum resembles in construction the Wall of Antoninus, and a characteristic Roman method of fortification was by walls composed of alternate layers of sods. See Bibliography, Pryce.

NORFOLK.—The Prehistoric Society of East Anglia carried out the excavation of a tumulus and two of the ancient shafts supposed to be flint-mines at Grimes Graves, Weeting, in March to May, 1914.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—During 1913 the south-west angle of the earthwork at Margidunum, a Roman station on the Fosse Way, was explored. Further excavations during the present year, near the centre of the site, have exposed three shallow parallel ditches, which may possibly furnish a clue to the ground-plan of the earliest Roman occupied site.

SHROPSHIRE.—A tumulus near Craven Arms, scheduled by a Railway Company for removal, will be examined by the Shropshire Archaeological Society before destruction.

SOMERSET.—The trial excavations carried out at Cadbury Camp, near Wincanton, the reputed "Camelot," by Mr. H. St. George Gray for the Somerset Archaeological Society, as mentioned in last Report, disclosed a stone-built entrance with a cobbled way through

it. Many fragments of pottery (Late Celtic, Roman and Romano-British) were found in the various cuttings made. The miscellaneous finds included flint flakes and a few implements of Neolithic type, but nothing of the Bronze Age was found. See Bibliography, Gray.

———. Further excavations on Lansdown were carried out in August, 1913, by the Bath and District Branch of the above Society under the direction of Mr. T. S. Bush. Remains of dry-stone walling were found, but no complete ground-plan of any building. Relics of the Roman period, including two coins, were discovered, and objects were also found which Mr. Reginald Smith considers Saxon. See Bibliography, Bush.

SUSSEX.—Dr. Curwen has examined some earthworks in West Sussex, including a portion of Stane Street.

WILTSHIRE.—The fifth season's work at Avebury by Mr. H. St. George Gray, on behalf of the British Association, took place from April 11th to May 5th, 1914. Excavations were resumed on the east side of the southern causeway, the side opposite the site of earlier work, and a cutting was also carried half-way through the vallum on the S.S.E. Owing to the large area marked out and the great depth of the silting in the fosse on this side only a small portion of the floor of the fosse, 4ft. 3in. in length, was uncovered, before the work had to be suspended. The floor was found to be 35ft. below the solid chalk surface of the causeway, the width of the fosse at bottom being 13ft. The composition of the silting in the fosse agreed generally with the results of earlier excavations, but 18in. below the Roman layer the skeleton of an adult female, only some 4ft. 4in. in stature, was found in an oval enclosure formed of rough sarsen stones, associated with early pottery and flint implements and flakes. The cutting through the vallum indicated that it had all been thrown up at one period, the relics found on the old surface line agreeing generally with those found at the bottom of the fosse.

———. The excavations at Old Sarum this season will, it is hoped, include some investigation into the nature of the rampart and ditch in the N.W. quarter.

YORKSHIRE.—Dr. F. Villy has excavated some entrenchments, long mounds and round barrows near Norton Tower, Rylstone, with no definite results, and some mediaeval entrenchments at Lundholme near Ingleton.

IRELAND.

RECORD.

Dr. Robert Cochrane, I.S.O., F.S.A., calls attention to the revival of interest in the investigation of the sites of "Prehistoric Fire Hearths." Formerly these ancient cooking-places were unnoticed, though hundreds of them have been ploughed up, exposing the charred remains. A proper classification of them seems necessary. Some of them were for heating pot boilers, others the site of fires for roasting meat, others again merely the site of ancient sweat houses. In Ireland such hearths are called *Folach Fiath*, or the "cooking place of the deer." They are also common in Wales.

Dr. Cochrane thinks they may properly be classified as earthworks, as the sites may frequently be recognised by a little hillock slightly rounded or domed, from 50ft. to 100ft. in diameter, and by the contiguity of a rivulet or spring.

DESTRUCTION.

Co. CORK.—The great stone wall of Coosdergadoona promontory fort, near Toe Head, has been razed to within 3ft. of the ground.

———. The stone facing of Dooneendermotmore in the same neighbourhood has been removed to build a cottage.

———. The earthworks at Dunpoer Head have been mutilated.

Co. CLARE.—The stonework has been removed from a ringwork near Killonaghan Church.

Co. WATERFORD.—Earth has been removed from the mound of Ballinamona promontory fort near Mine Head.

The above are from a report furnished by Mr. T. J. Westropp, who also reports the following :

EXPLORATION.

Co. CORK.—The opening of a souterrain with ogham stones.

Co. KILDARE.—Excavations at Longstone (Forenaghts) Fort near Naas, where a pillar stone in the fort was found to have a cist at its base and to be set in a rock socket. There were also traces of a large fire.

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ALBANY F. MAJOR,

(Hon. Secretary to the Committee),

BIFRÖST, 30, THE WALDRONS,

CRYODON.

CLASSIFICATION.

The classification of defensive works recommended by the Committee now stands as follows:—

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