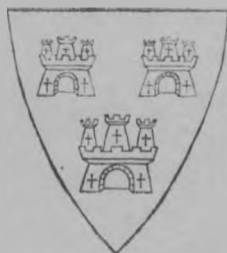


THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ANTIQUARY

*PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
MONMOUTHSHIRE & CAERLEON
ANTIQUARIAN ASSOCIATION*



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RECONNAISSANCE EXCAVATIONS AT COED Y BWNYDD, BETTWS NEWYDD, 1969-1971

By ADRIAN BABBIDGE

This paper presents a final report¹ of the excavations directed by the writer, initially on behalf of the Archaeological Society of University College, Cardiff, and then for the Coed y Bwnydd Excavation Committee and the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association. Finance was provided for the last two seasons by the Board of Celtic Studies of the University of Wales, the Cambrian Archaeological Association, and the (then) Monmouthshire County Council through its Welsh Church Fund; a proportion of the cost was met by private subscription. Our best thanks are due to all those bodies and individuals, and to The National Trust for permission to excavate on their property; the interest of Mr. C. H. W. Griffith, their Area Agent, was much appreciated. The Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the (then) Ministry of Public Building and Works gave permission to disturb a scheduled site. Eurwyn Wiliam acted as Deputy Director in 1970, and in 1971 undertook the detailed supervision of the work in the unavoidable absence of the writer. In this respect supervision was a combined effort, and the writer wishes to place on record a deep appreciation to Mr. Wiliam for his skilled assistance and willing co-operation; his report on the 1971 season has been integrated into the text below, though the final interpretation of the work remains the responsibility of the present writer. The excavation was fortunate in having as assistants for differing periods Jenny Thompson (Mrs. Britnell), Richard Margesson and Martin Smith; their expertise was a great asset. Eric Dobbin ran the 1970 camp with great efficiency. To the other volunteers, too many to name individually, our best thanks must go for hard work rendered in oft-difficult conditions.

The purpose of the work from the outset was no more than to sample the potential of the hillfort; the problems presented by this campaign can only be solved by large scale excavation.

The Site

Coed y Bwnydd (NGR 365 068) (fig. 1) is sited at about 195 metres (640 feet) OD on a relatively level promontory of the plateau of Clytha Hill in the civil parish of Llanarth Fawr. It commands an extensive panorama along the valley of the River Usk, looking in the west to the fringes of the plateaux of the South Wales Coalfield, and, to the north, the Black Mountains. Views to the south and east are largely foreshortened by the similar elevations of the remainder of Clytha Hill and of Trostrey Hill. The hillfort has a close geographical relationship with the Usk Valley — a primary communication route from the Bristol Channel into the heartlands of Wales.

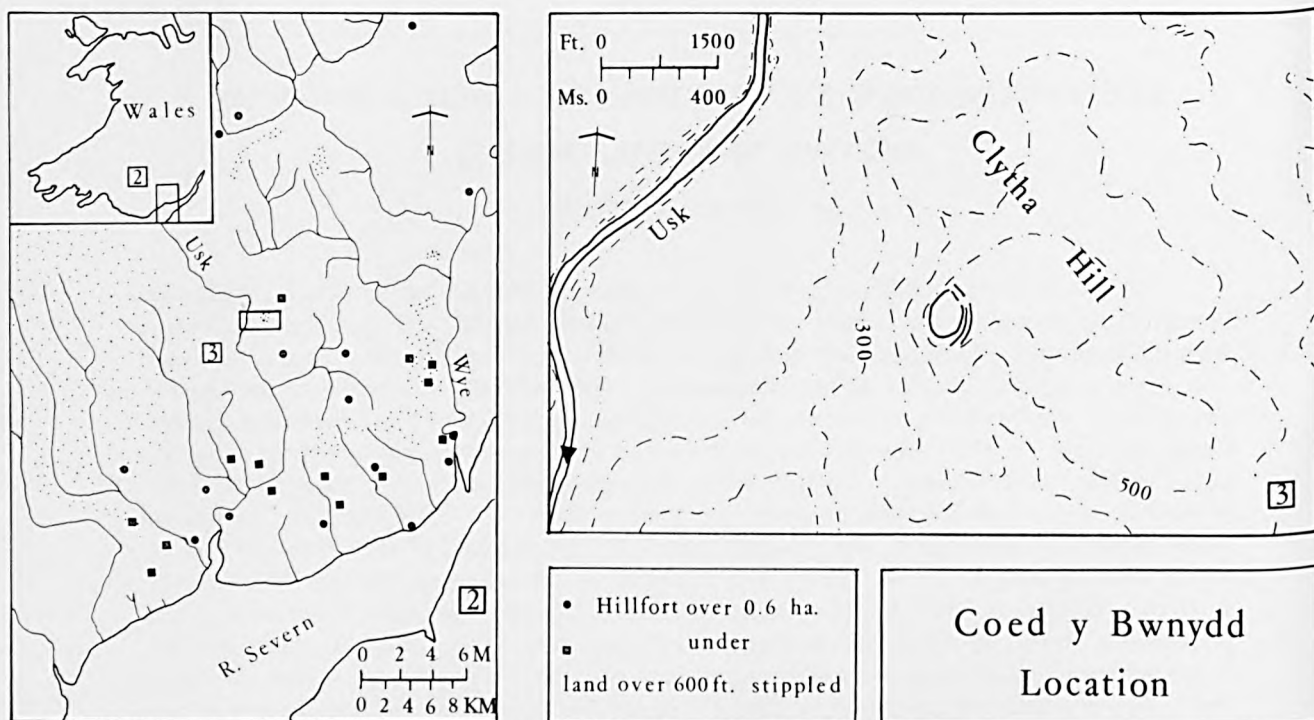


FIG. 1:

The whole of the Bettws Newydd area has been affected by glaciation, as is attested by a number of local moraines. Drift deposits cover Clytha Hill; the natural rock is limestone of the Ludlow Series overlain by layers of different coloured and textured clays set horizontally to the slope of the hill, and containing many water-worn stones, varying in size from pebbles to sizeable boulders. These are derived mainly from the limestone, but there are some erratics of Old Red Sandstone.

The ovate spur on which the site is located has natural features that make it ideally suited to fortification, and the defences, which enclose 1.4 hectares (3.5 acres) reflect this topographical situation (fig. 2; pl. 1). The need for man-made defences is obviated by precipitous slopes on its north-western perimeter; the easier gradient in the west is faced by a single bank, ditch and counterscarp and this is extended by a further line of defence at the south of the site. The defences are at their most formidable adjacent to the junction with the hill-top plateau in the east and especially at the north-east, where there is a level approach: here there are three

Coed y Bwnydd

SO 365 068

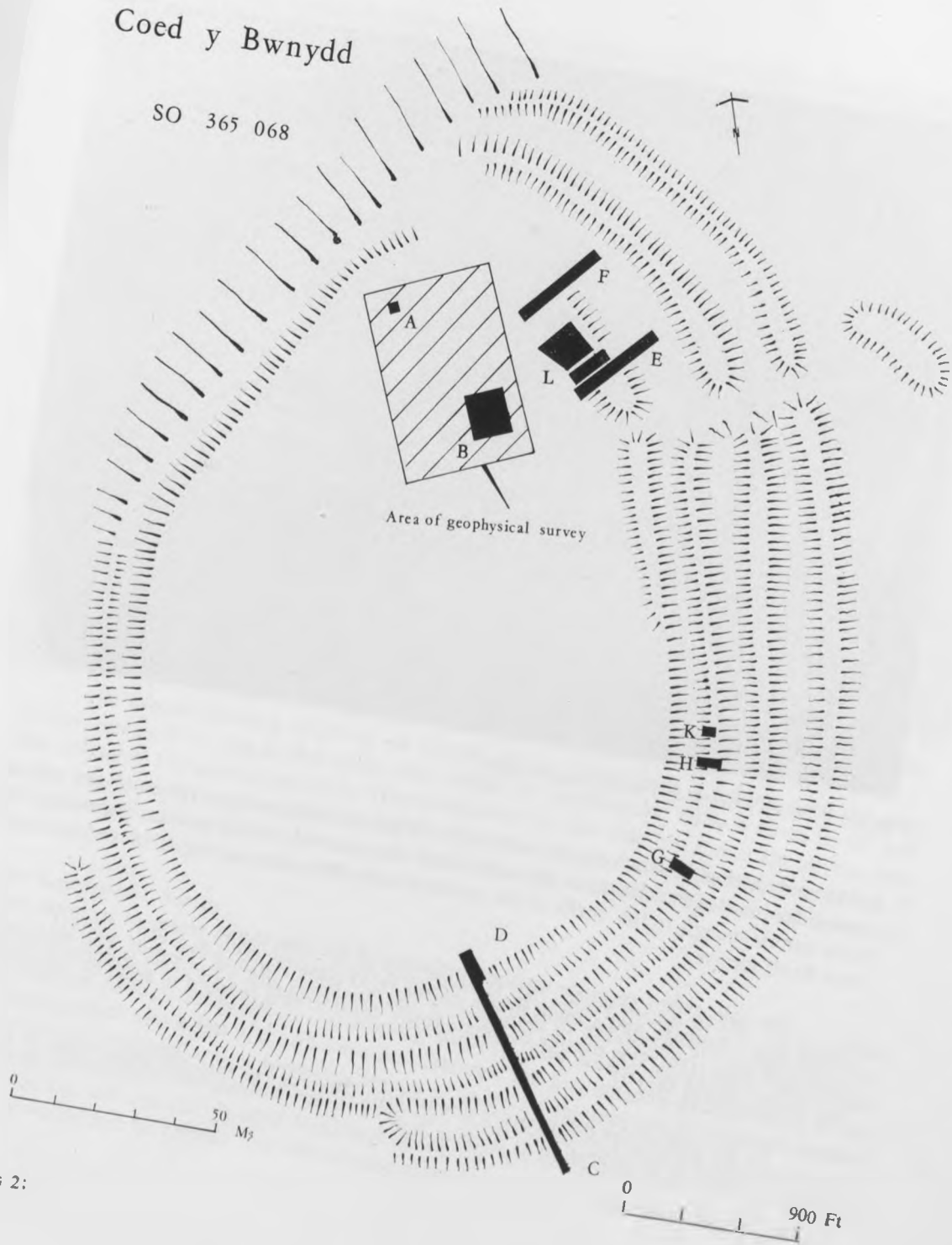


FIG 2:



PLATE 1. Coed-y-Bwnydd: The site from the east.

banks and ditches, and a counterscarp bank. Whereas only vestigial traces of the ramparts survive for most of the circuit, at this point there are more substantial remains (especially of the third bank), though to the north of the entrance only the counterscarp, third and part of the inner bank survive.

The sole extant entrance on the north-east of the site shows traces of incipient inturns on the inner rampart, and a slight inturn on the third bank north of the gate. The entrance gap is fronted by a transverse barring of lunate form, considerably reduced in scale by deep ploughing during World War II.

To the east of the defences are about thirty quarries cut into the scarp slope of the promontory; there is no indication as to their date.

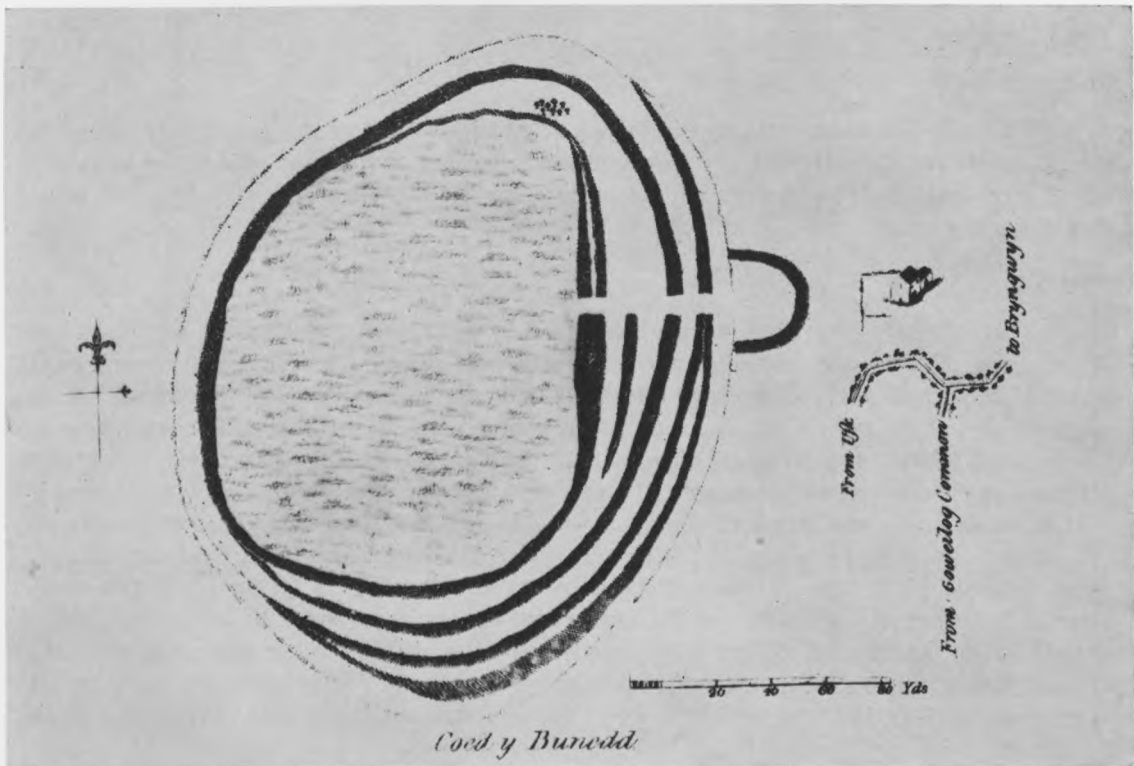


PLATE 2. Thomas Morrice's plan of Coed-y-Bwnydd from Wm. Coxe's *Historical Tour Through Monmouthshire* (1801)

The present wooded condition of the site seems to have been a feature since the 16th century; certainly it was in this state when visited by Archdeacon William Coxe in the late 18th century². The plan prepared by Thomas Morrice at that time (pl. 2) has altered but little in the intervening years, though Coxe describes 'towers' at the ends of the entrance barring of which no sign exists today. No record or tradition of earlier excavations has been noted, and the site has received little note since the days of Coxe.³

The Geophysical Survey

During 1969 a geophysical survey was made of 780 square metres of the interior using a Soil Anomaly Detector.⁴ The results of this were plotted in dot-density form, but produced no coherent picture. Although an exploratory sondage (Site A) demonstrated a relationship between plotted anomalies and archaeological features, the first season's excavation based on these results produced only a fortuitous spread of stone on the location of a sub-rectangular series of anomalies. Other unusual results were seen to be tree roots. Given the amount of loose stone in the soil and the wooded condition of the site it was decided that a full geophysical survey would not be helpful, and efforts were expended on traditional sampling exercises.

The Excavations — Description

Site A

This two metre square sondage was dug to test the results of the geophysical survey. A pit of two metres diameter and one metre deep was located; it had two phases, the earlier of which contained much burnt material. Adjacent to this pit was a smaller stakehole of 0.40 m. diameter at its mouth, and 0.30 m. deep.

Site B (figs. 3 & 9)

This excavation extended over an area of ten by eight metres, and was on the site of two linear series of anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey presenting a sub-rectangular form. After stripping-off turf by hand two spreads of stone were located in the topsoil of the southern part of the site on the site of the supposed features, but examination showed these to be spurious. Beneath topsoil was a dirty red soil lying directly on the natural clay, in which a series of stone settings was observed. B14 was of sub-rectangular form, and 4.50 m. across; 3.25 m. of its length was excavated though it was apparent that it extended beyond the edge of the excavation and under a tree. In the eastern end of the feature was B3, a flat-based straight sided periform pit 0.45 m. across and edged by vertical stones. Sited in the north and south sides of B14 were stakeholes B5 and B6, both about 0.20 m. deep and with uniform diameters of 0.15 m. and which seem to have been directly associated with B14 since gaps were left in the stone settings to accommodate them. Adjacent and to the east of B14 were two stone alignments at right angles (B15) and between B14 and B15 was an irregular cobbled area (B4) about 1.50 m. by 0.75 m.

Underlying these structures, cut into natural, was a line of equidistant stakeholes running north-east to south-west across the area; B7 to B9 were each about 1.5 m. apart; next in line was post-hole B12 (0.25 m. diameter at mouth and 0.35 m. deep); then there was a gap of 4 m. in the line before post hole B13 (0.25 m. diameter at mouth and 0.35 m. deep), and stakeholes B10 and B11, 1.5 m. apart. All the stakeholes were approximately 0.15 m. in diameter, and between 0.20 m. and 0.25 m. deep.

Site C (fig. 4)

This was a section dug by hand through the southern defences of the hillfort in order to examine their construction and establish their relative chronology. It was two metres wide except where it cut the inner rampart; here it was three metres wide.

After initial clearing the inner bank was represented by a badly disturbed yellow-brown soil, 0.30 m. thick, apparently a residue of disturbed yellow clay, containing many large stones (C2). Some of these stones were larger than usual for the glacial material on site (being up to 0.60 m. in girth), and, taken with atypical angular edges argue for quarrying from rock rather than their being drift material. C2 was underlaid by C3, a yellow brown soil with only a few stones; beneath this and immediately on the natural clay was a yellow clay band (C4) about 0.15 m. thick, and about 1.50 m. wide.

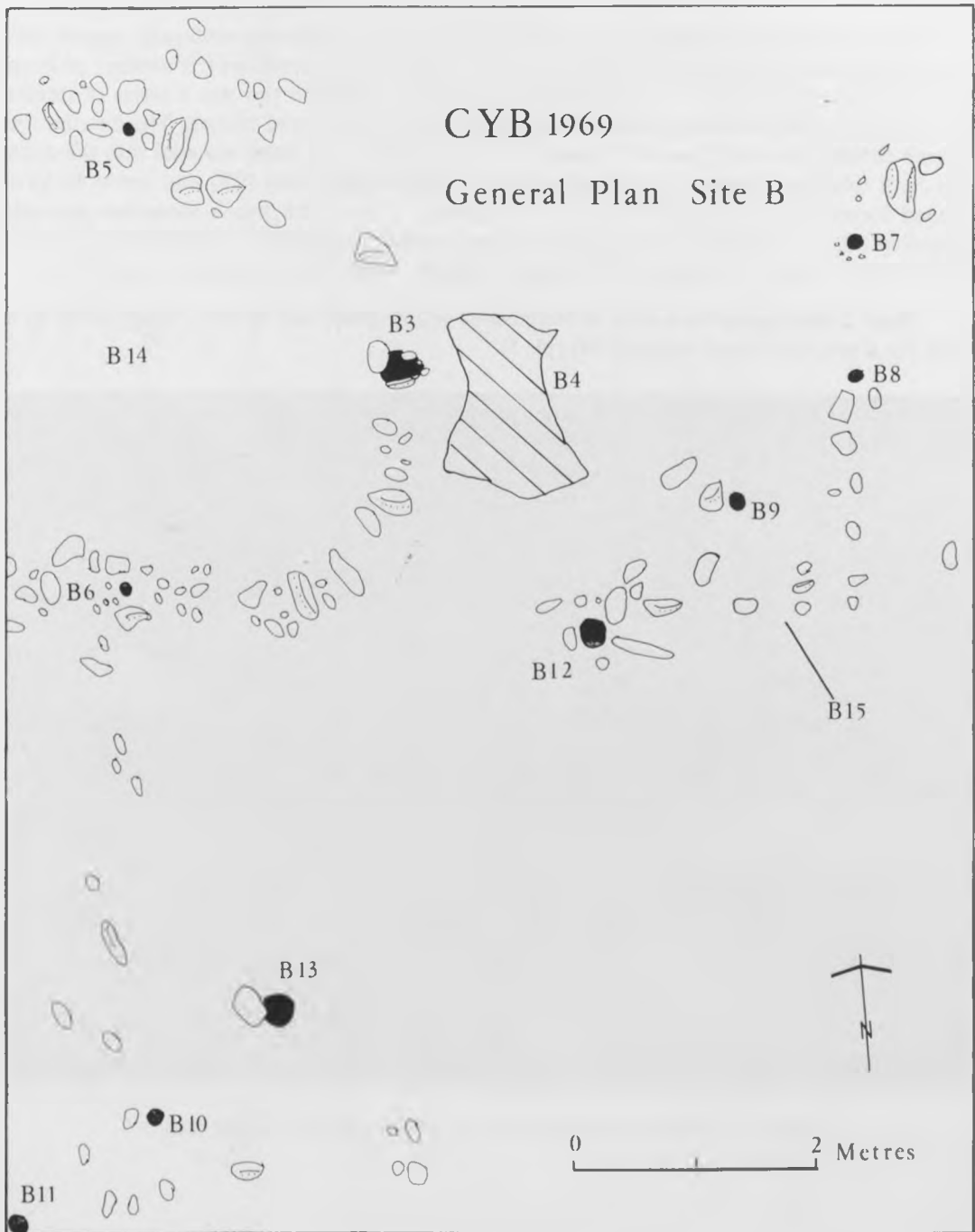


FIG. 3

Spreading into the first ditch from the inner rampart, immediately under the topsoil, was a soft yellow brown soil with a fairly high humus content (C5), containing a number of large stones similar to those on C2, demonstrating rampart slip. Beneath this was a series of similar layers of yellow clay, showing only marginal differences in colour and texture. The distribution of small pebbles in one of these (C7) seems to indicate collapse of bank material into the ditch from both sides, and related to this was an area of green-yellow clay (C8) that seems to have slumped forward from the north face. At the bottom of the ditch was a stone-free grey silt containing many wind-blown charcoal flecks that could be divided into secondary (C9) and primary (C10) silting. The depth of the inner ditch as completely excavated was 2.30 m.

Bank 2 was capped by a layer of redeposited yellow-green clay natural, which served as a plinth for a setting of large stones (C24) (pl. 3).



PLATE 3. Coed-y-Bwnydd Site C 1970: Stone setting (C24) on second bank.

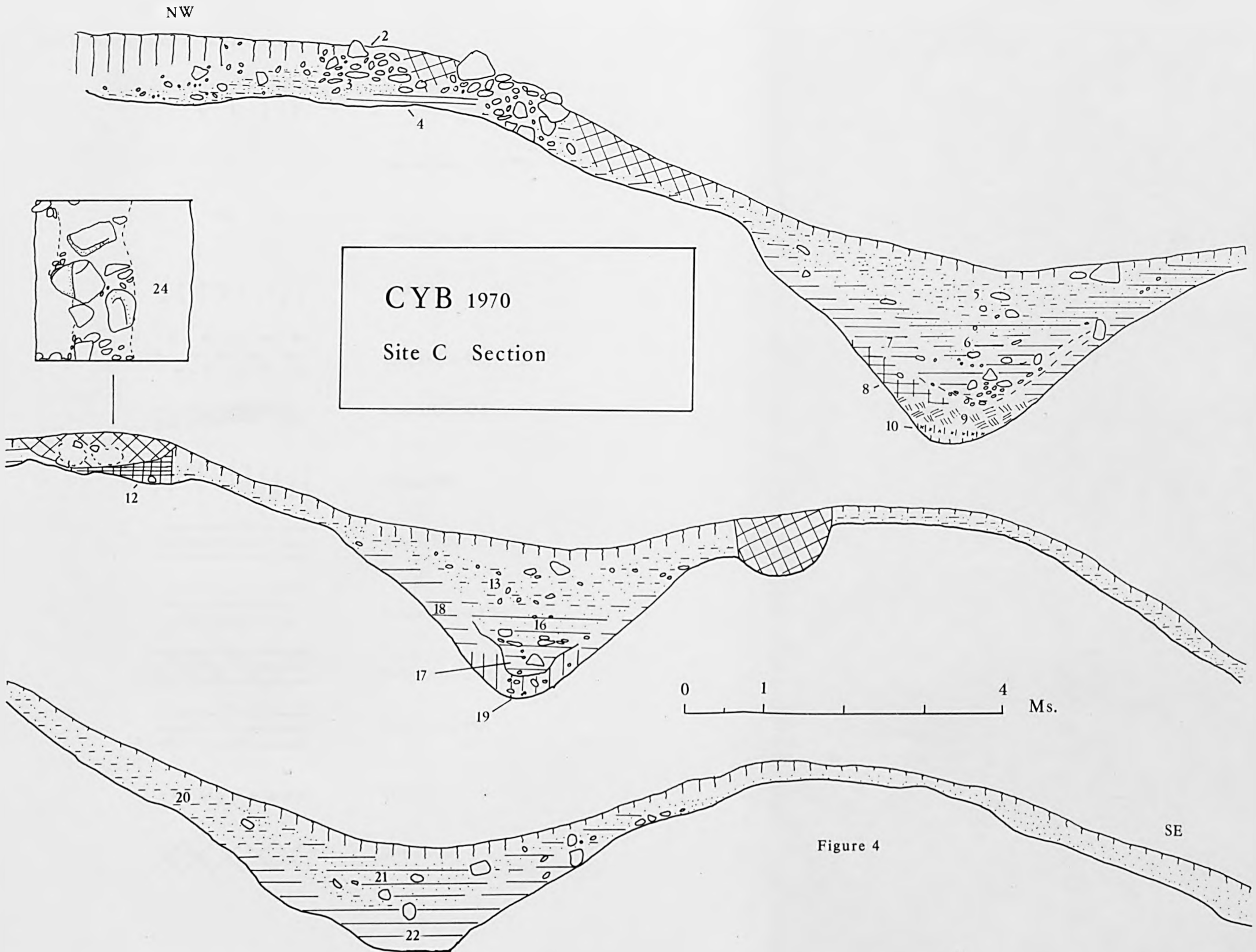
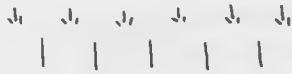
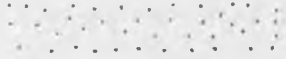


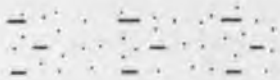
Figure 4



Top Soil



Brown Soil



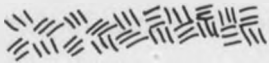
Brown/Yellow Soil



Red Soil



Red/Yellow Soil



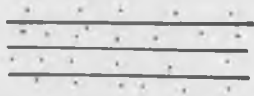
Grey/Black Soil



Humic Soil



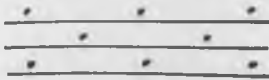
Yellow Clay



Yellow/Brown Clay



Yellow/Green Clay



Red/Yellow Clay



Charcoal



Disturbance

KEY TO SECTIONS

Ditch 2, which when completely excavated was 1.90 m. deep, was made up of a series of layers of yellow clay and yellow-brown soil, usually containing small stones, some of which seem to indicate filling from the southern bank. One such layer, C17, was unusual inasmuch it contained a number of large stones which taken with its angular profile pointed to its representing a recut of the original ditch; this secondary ditch would have been 1.65 m. deep. Beneath this layer, and at the base of the primary ditch, was C19, a layer of silting.

There was no trace of relaid material on the slight berm beneath Ditches 2 and 3; only a dirty brown heavily disturbed soil (C20) was present beneath topsoil.

In Ditch 3 below topsoil was a dirty yellow soil (C21), underlaid by a clean, concrete-hard yellow clay (C22), which was difficult to distinguish from the natural on which it lay. This ditch was 1.15 m. deep as fully excavated.

The counterscarp bank 4 was made up only of yellow brown soil, which has been subject to some loss of material downhill.

Site D (figs. 5 & 9)

This was an occupation area revealed behind the inner rampart at Site C.

After removal of topsoil by hand, slip from the inner rampart was encountered in the form of a yellow brown soil containing large stones (D2 = C2). Beneath this was a reddish clay layer in which a curved setting of large stones, a number of which were set on edge (D4), was observed; in between the stones were pieces of hard-fired daub. On the removal of these stones a plinth of yellow clay was noted, set in which were about 18 stakeholes, most of which were about 0.02 m. diameter, but five of which went up to 0.05 m. diameter. All had a grey ashy filling, and did not enter the natural: no coherent pattern of the distribution of the different sizes emerged. About one metre to the south of this feature was D5, an elongated negative feature about 0.10 m. deep and 0.15 m. wide, adjacent to which was an area of rough cobbling, one cobble deep.

After the removal of the reddish clay layer the natural was encountered. D6 was a sub-rectangular feature at the northern end of the trench, cut into natural, and about 2.5 m. by 2 m.; its top was 0.45 m. wide, and its bottom 0.25 m. It was 0.20 m. deep; only the south and east sides were extant, the remainder having been destroyed by D7. D6 had a dirty brown fill and showed bulges at its surviving corners.

D7 was an irregular depression about 0.20 m. deep and filled with dirty material including red clay. D8 was a post-hole of 0.20 m. diameter and 0.35 m. deep, with a black silty fill, cut into the edge of this irregular depression.

Beneath the area of cobbling in the south of the trench, and on natural, was a small patch of burning, of about 0.20 m. diameter.

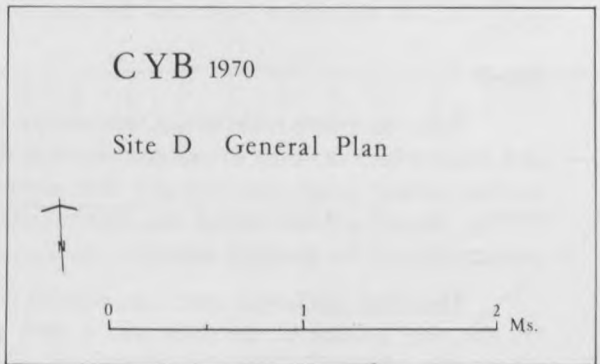
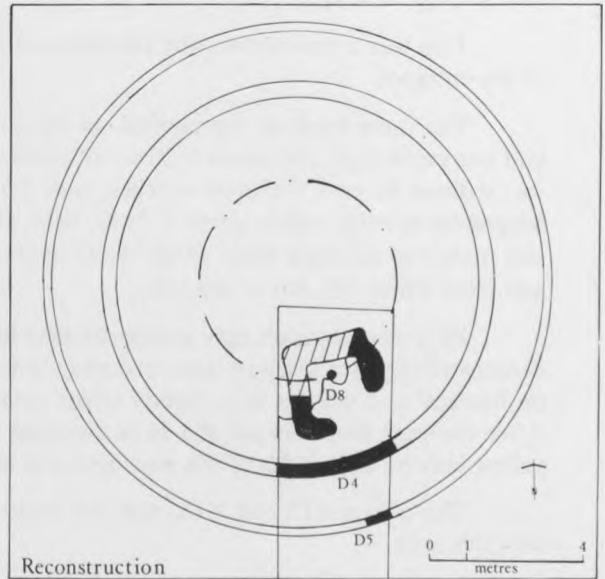
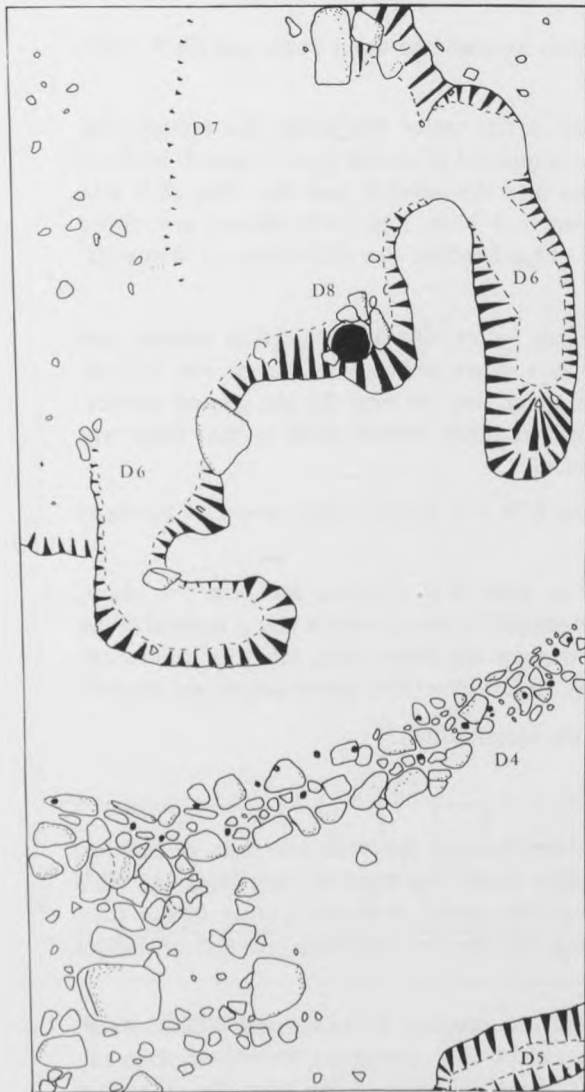


FIG. 5

Site E (figs. 6 & 8)

This was a one-metre wide machine cut section through the inner bank and ditch north of the entrance.

The inner bank as represented on the surface in this sector was about five metres wide and one metre high, the upper 0.20 m. of which was composed of a dark humic topsoil. Its front was defined by two V-shaped notches, one (E6) cut into the natural, and the other (E3) into heaped-up reddish yellow earth 1.75 m. wide and up to 0.40 m. high (E5). Behind and above this front was the main body of the bank, made up of hard yellow clay (E2) about 2.50 m. wide, and from which slip ran to the rear.

E4 was a rampart rear revetment post-hole (see below, Site L) revealed in section, and demonstrating that rampart and revetment belong to a single phase. This feature was 0.22 m. in diameter and was set in a slightly larger post pit which was cut into the old ground surface. After the post had decayed the bank material it had revetted slipped back so that there was yellow clay on both sides of the post pipe and above it.

The gullies L15 and L16, and the burnt area L14 (see below) were shown to continue into this area.

The inner ditch was 8 m. wide at its top, 2 m. wide at its bottom, and was 2 m. deep; there was a thin layer of burnt material on the bottom (E12), above which was a natural filling of hard yellow clay (E10). Above this, and tipping in from the inner bank, lenses of yellow-red clay (E11 and E9); these were beneath a stony, dirty-yellow clay (E8), above which was topsoil.

A 3 m. wide berm separated the inner from the second ditch.

Site F

This one metre wide trench was cut by machine through the inner two lines of defence, at a point where the only extant earthwork is the third bank. No trace of inner bank is visible on the surface; excavation revealed that nowhere in this trench was this feature higher than 0.10 m. No old ground surface was visible, indicating that the turf had been stripped off before construction of the rampart started.

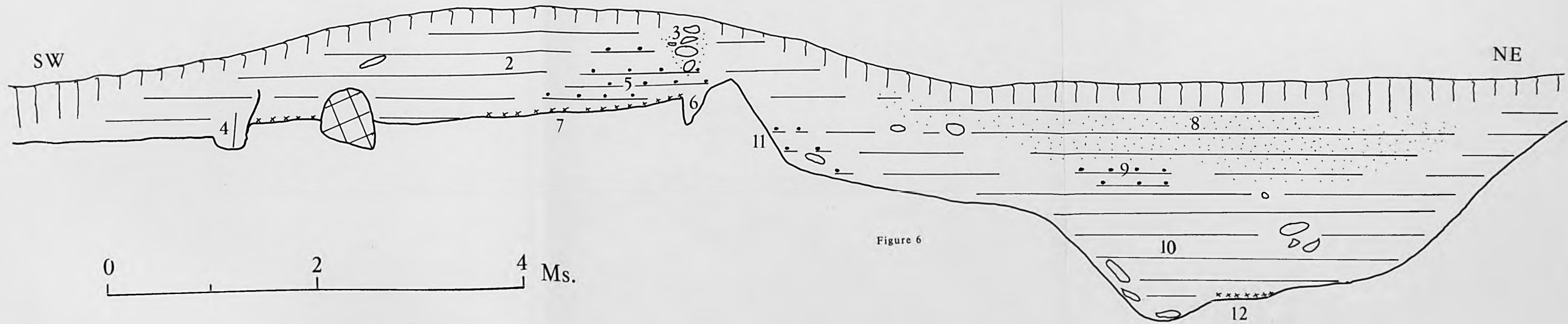
The inner ditch was over 7 m. wide at its top, was roughly V-shaped and 1.80 m. deep. On the very bottom of the ditch was a dark green-black clay composed mainly of charcoal. Above it were varying layers of yellow clay, as well as a large lump of slip from the outer face of the bank. Consolidation of the fill was marked by a layer of dirty earth with charcoal flecks.

On the south face of the ditch a larger area of burnt material was noted, which is more likely to have been burnt *in situ*⁵.

The second ditch was not completely excavated, but was around 7 metres wide at its top and 2 metres deep, and its fill was similar to that of the inner ditch.

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Site E Section



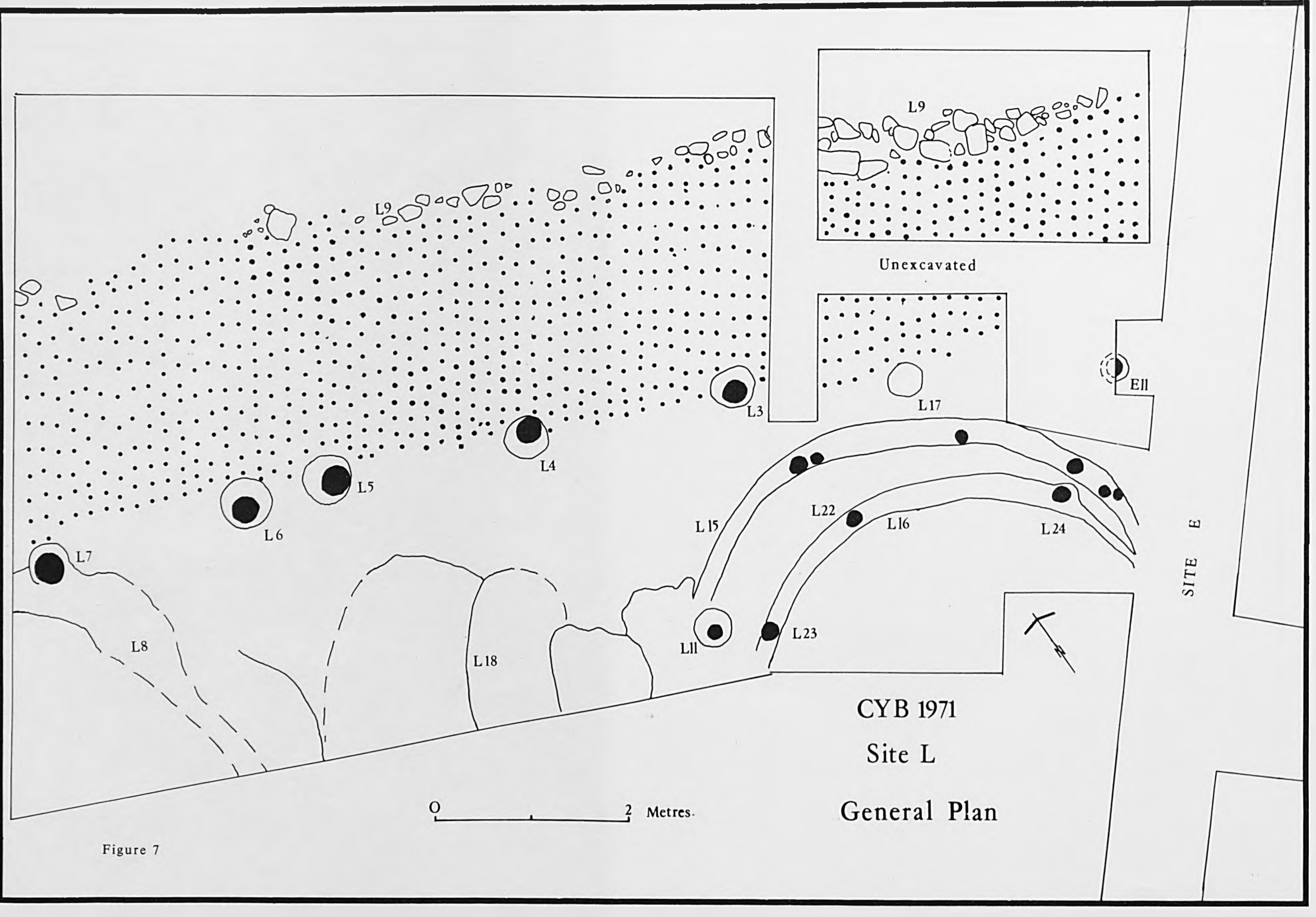


Figure 7

Between these two ditches was a 3 m. wide flat area; the angle of rest of the consolidation layers in both ditches indicated that there was originally a small bank, probably no more than 0·60 m. high; vestiges of such a bank are visible in an equivalent position to the south of the entrance.

Sites GHI and K

These small sondages, one metre wide, were dug across the second bank to test whether the stone feature noted at Site C (C24) was common to the rest of this line of defence. Traces of a stone wall following the line of the bank were observed in each case.

Overlying this feature on Site K, and extending beyond it, was a substantial stone footing 0·90 m. wide.

Site L (figs. 7 & 9)

The topsoil and some of the bank material was mechanically removed over an area 8 m. long by 6 to 7·60 m. wide on the inner bank in an attempt to determine its construction at this point north of the entrance. Half way along the site the bank died out on the surface, with the result that the excavated level was about one metre from the present surface in the south, but only 0·20 m. in the north.

After initial clearing the bank was seen to be running at a slight angle to the north east of the trench and was, with its wash-down at the rear, represented by a 2·60 metres wide band of red clay; it was fronted by the yellow clay fill of the ditch, and had a dirty soil to the rear. The bank stood to 0·40 m. height in places.

Between the ditch and the bank material were two series of solidly set pitched stones (L9). The lower and more clearly defined was only about one stone thick, but had been firmly set in a trench (L12) designed to receive it; this feature gave the appearance of a very definite face. The second line was cruder but more massive; its original front was about 0·30 m. behind that of the first and was 0·20 m. higher.

The rear of the bank was defined by a series of post-holes, L3 to L7, and L17, which showed up as yellow patches in the red clay natural, and were all about 2 m. apart. L5 was 0·55 m. wide and 0·30 m. deep, with a 0·20 m. diameter post-pipe being preserved for the whole depth. L6 was 0·50 m. wide and 0·20 m. deep, again with a 0·20 m. post-pipe. L7 was not represented on the surface, but was found in the excavation of L8, which it either cut or was cut by; it was 0·45 m. wide and 0·24 m. deep; the post-pipe here was not visible, except that the depression left by the post-base showed it to have been 0·20 m. wide.

The anomalous post-hole L11 was set back 1·50 m. from the rear of the rampart and was 0·27 m. wide at its top and was 0·16 m. deep, in a post pit of 0·40 cms diameter.

In the extreme south-west part of the site part of a circular gully, L8, was found. As excavated it varied in width from 0·50 to 0·70 m. on the surface, and at its base from 0·25 to 0·40 m. Its depth was between 0·12 and 0·18 m.

Patches of dirty soil behind the bank showed on excavation to be inter-cutting quarry scoops (L18); the deepest was about 0·80 m. deep, and had not been infilled by bank slip but by material thrown against the bank.

Beneath the bank slip a 0·2 — 0·3 m. thick layer of burning (L14) was detected, about one metre wide; this produced a carbonised timber 0·60 m. by 0·20 m., and 0·3 m. thick. Below this were two curving lines of dirty earth, L15 and L16 (pl. 4) set into the old ground surface (L19).

The earlier of these, L16, was about 0·20 m. wide at its top, 0·15 wide at its bottom, and 0·15 — 0·20 m. deep. The fill was of a dirty yellow stony earth, with a few flecks of daub, and contained three post-holes. L22 was 0·20 m. diameter, and penetrated 0·39 m.; L23 was 0·30 m. wide and 0·15 m. deep; L24 was damaged by an animal hole, but may have been about 0·20 m. wide and 0·25 m. deep.

On a slightly different alignment L15 was 0·25 m. wide at its top, 0·20 m. at its bottom, and was 0·15 to 0·20 m. deep (fig. 8). It contained remains of a wattle and daub wall, including a single burnt stake of 0·12 m. diameter and penetrated for 0·12 m. (L25). The impressions of two other stakes, which had been withdrawn or had decayed unburnt, of similar size, were also obtained. The position of several other stakes can be inferred from the curves in the wattle wall, which itself was about 0·5 m. thick and penetrated into its trench for at least 0·5 m.

Sections showed that the burnt spread L14 belongs to L15, and presumably represents the burnt remains of its wall which had collapsed internally. This clearly overlaid L16, which had 0·5 m. of trampled clay over it.

Radiocarbon Determinations

Two charcoal samples from L15 were submitted for radiocarbon dating to the C14/Tritium Measurements Laboratory at AERE Harwell. The results were:

HAR-546	2390 ± 70 BP (440 bc)
HAR-547	2350 ± 90 BP (400 bc)

The Excavations — Interpretation

The Defences

The rampart sections at Sites C and E/F/L are incompatible, indicating construction at different stages in the development of the defences. Unfortunately the excavations were unable to demonstrate a direct stratigraphical relationship between these different areas or between the different lines of defence, precluding the statement of a definite sequence. Even so, the evidence does indicate a probable relative scheme.

The inner rampart at Site C seems to indicate two phases: the earliest represented by traces of a clay bank (C4) destroyed during the construction of a second phase clay bank on a stone footing, the material for this coming from a quarry ditch to the rear (D6). There was a ditch 2·50 m. deep fronting this second phase bank, the section of which taken with the original

section of Ditch 2 contrasts sharply with that of the outer ditch; these two were open long enough for initial silting to have taken place, whereas such material was absent from Ditch 3, the clean fill of which argues for its backfilling soon after it was dug. It seems likely that the construction of this ditch can be related to the recut of Ditch 2, which also has a clean fill.

The sequence therefore is that the first and second ditches were open contemporaneously; the outer of these was allowed to deteriorate and part of the bank allowed to collapse into it. Consequently it was recut and a further line of defence constructed outside it, and a counterscarp added. Phenomorphic evidence supports the view that the outer bank was a later addition since it terminates in the southern part of the site, which is hard to explain from the strategic aspect since the slope does not steepen for some distance from this point. It would appear therefore that the outer line was an unfinished addition to a bivallate scheme.

Although the second line of defence does not include the whole site, its extinction in the south-east can be related to the increasing steepness of the slope; its bank continues beyond this point as a slight counterscarp, and there is a possibility that the downhill slope beyond has been artificially scarped. It is not improbable that this second line was in fact the expansion of a univallate defence represented by the primary phase of the inner rampart, though it is not possible to demonstrate this with certainty.

The evidence from the sites north of the entrance is not directly relevant to this scheme, though there is a broad general similarity between the ditch sections here and those at Site C, indicating a likely common sequence of events in the final stages of the hillfort's history. Though the filling of the quarry ditches (L18) previous to the building of the roundhouses L8 and L15/16, which were contemporary with the surviving rampart, must mean that material had been dug out for an earlier rampart of which no trace was located by excavation, the inner rampart here was demonstrably of one phase. It was made up of a clay bank faced with a turf wall (E5) on stone footings (L9), but revetted to the rear by timber posts with some form of scantling infilling. The notches E3 and E6 may be related to some sort of front revetment. A simulation of the inner rampart in relation to the volume of material removed from the inner ditch would show it to have been about 2.50 to 3 m. in height above the old ground surface, with the sloping front rising to a walkway about one metre wide.

One of the more unusual aspects of the surface features of Coed y Bwnydd is the absence of ramparts to any height for most of the defensive circuit; especially is this true of the inner rampart which only survives adjacent to the entrance, though even in this area the zone between the first and third ramparts has been levelled, obliterating all traces of the other rampart and the two ditches. It is unlikely that this can be assigned to natural causes; the local clay sets like concrete to render complete collapse unlikely, and the substantial remnant of the third bank north of the entrance illustrates the potential permanency of the defences. The very uniformity of the result around most of the circuit argues for a systematic destruction, and the ditch fillings at Site C points to this taking place soon after their latest refurbishing. Similarly, the revetment wall on the second bank at Site K was superseded by substantial stone footings of non-defensive type (possibly part of a sheepfold) indicating that the bank had disappeared by the time of construction. This seems to demonstrate that the end of the Iron Age history of the site is marked by a deliberate — and organised — slighting of the defences.

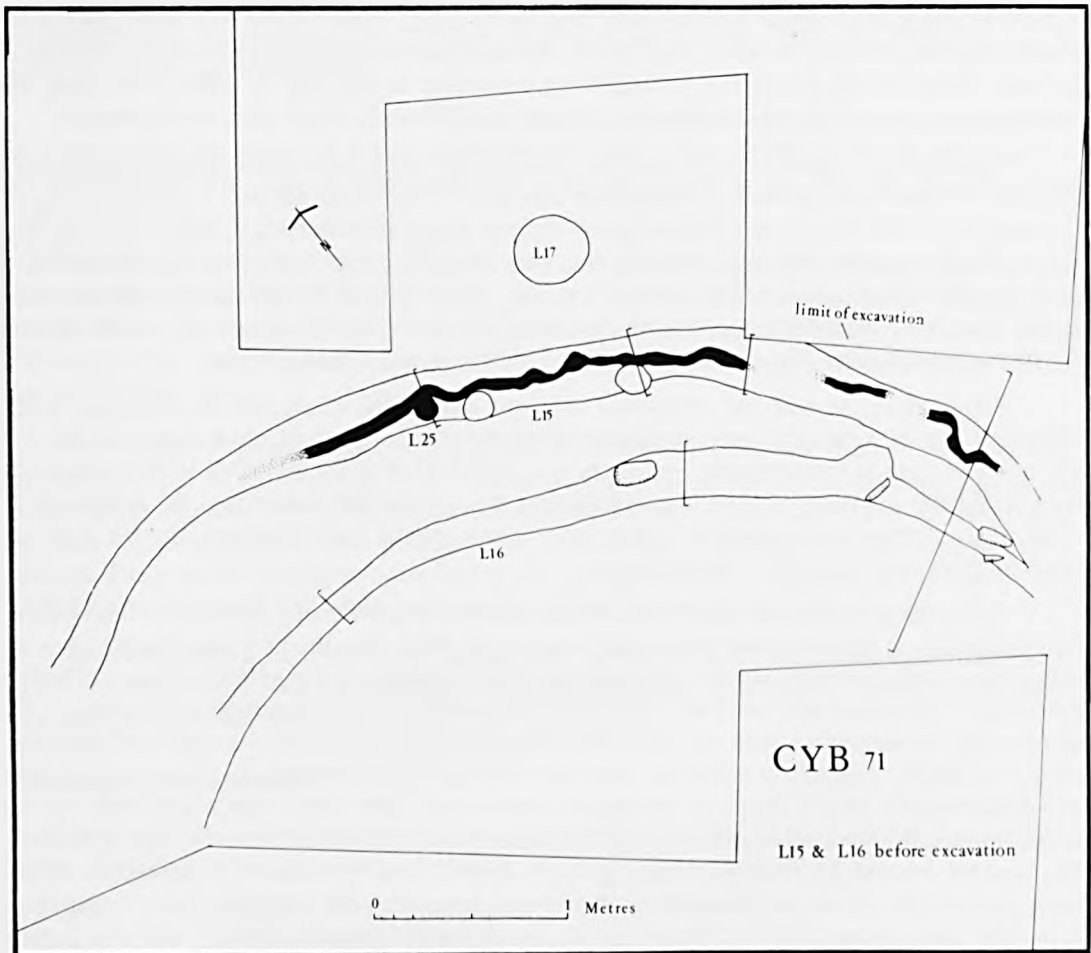


FIG. 8

The Internal Structures

Excavation revealed evidence of four round-houses. On Site L there was the drip gully (L8) of such a structure, and the construction trenches (L15 and L16) of a house of two periods which did not have a drip gully. No evidence for roof support was forthcoming other than for a number of substantial timbers in the construction trench of the later period house. Walling was in the form of wattle and daub, some of which survived due to firing. On Site D the single example, with a drip gully (D5) differed in construction. The wattle and daub walling here was set on a stone and clay footing, and the post-hole D8 may represent an internal roof support, as its position on a plan reconstruction of this structure (fig. 5) suggests. Each of the roundhouses located on Site L would originally have had a diameter of about five metres, that on Site D nine metres, and the areas were devoid of domestic rubbish in all cases. The anomalous post hole L11 may be part of an entrance structure.

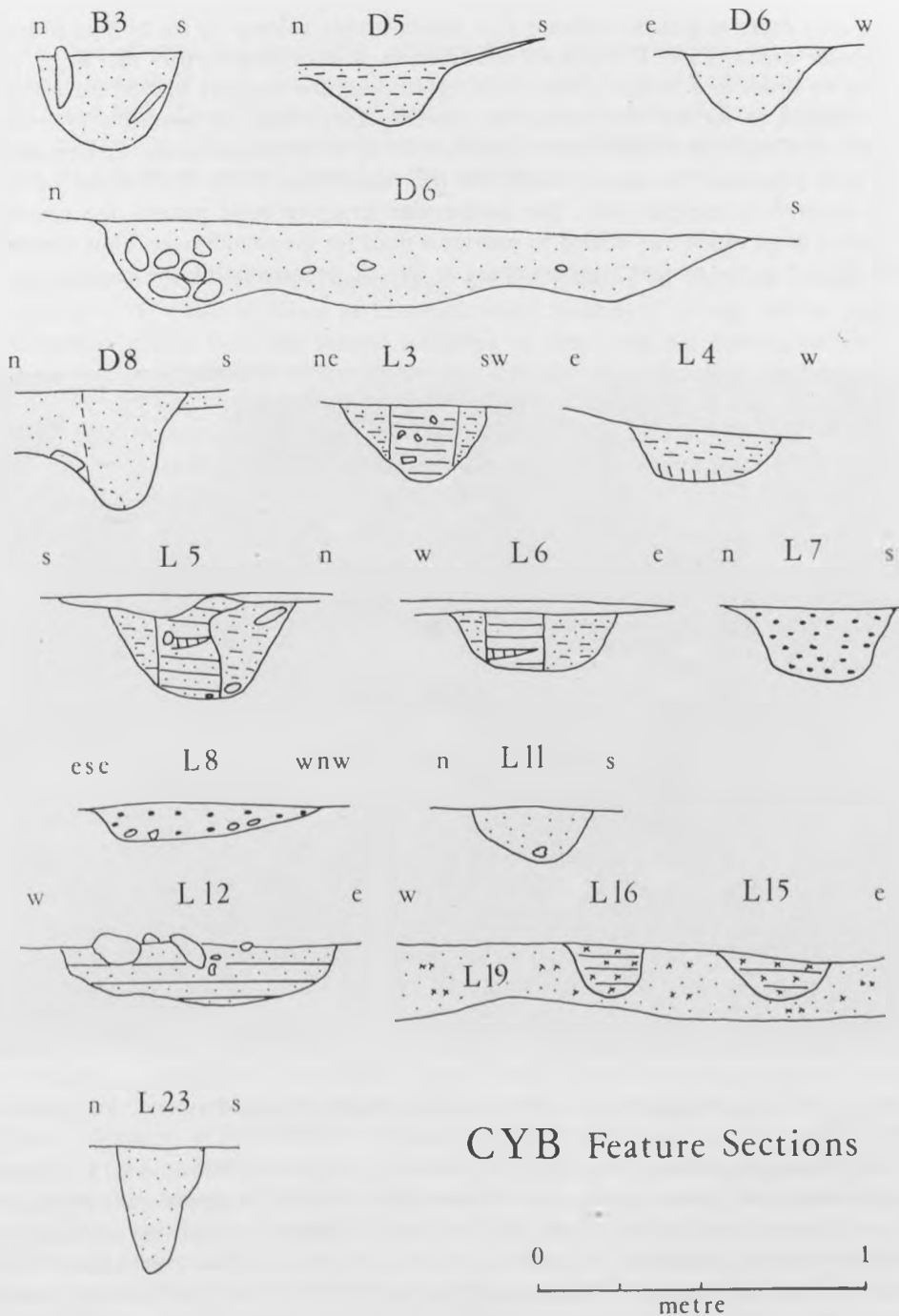


FIG. 9.

The only other structural evidence that demonstrably belongs to the hillfort phase is the sub-rectangular structure D6, of cill-beam construction, with bulging corners that might indicate replacement by posts in a second phase. Although its position respects that of the roundhouse wall, it is difficult to see the two features as contemporary, since the post-hole D7, seen as a round-house roof support, coincides with one of its walls, which argues against contemporaneity. This post hole postdates the quarry ditch, and the roundhouse is the final phase on this site since it is covered by rampart slip. This rectangular structure must precede the round-house and the quarry ditch which was infilled to provide a floor for the roundhouse. Thus this structure should be related to the earliest rampart phase at Site C, represented by the vestigial clay bank (C4).



PLATE 4. Coed-y-Bwnydd Site L 1971: Construction trenches of roundhouses (L15 & L16).

The structural evidence from Site B is somewhat enigmatic. B14 and B15 represent the footings of a structure, associated with the cobbled floor B4. Roof support was provided by the gable post B3 and wall posts B5 and B6. A fragment of 'Tiger Ware' located with one of these footings dates their construction to the late seventeenth century. The insubstantial nature of the structure and the absence of domestic material points to the building being used only periodically; it may be some sort of shepherd's hut, related to a sheepfold on Site K.

The line of stake and post-holes, stratigraphically earlier than this structure, can be best interpreted as supports for a fence, with a gate represented by a gap edged by two substantial posts B12 and B13. The stratigraphical position, and the absence of Iron Age occupation in this area, contrasting with the apparent heavy density of settlement elsewhere on the site, may argue for its use as an animal pound in this period.

Discussion

Little excavation has been undertaken on the hillforts of southern Gwent since the campaigns of V. E. Nash-Williams at Llanmelin⁶ and Sudbrook⁷ in the 1930's; consequently the information gained from the limited trenching at these sites has dominated consideration of the Iron Age in South-East Wales. Recent work by Dr. S. C. Stanford further north on the Welsh Border at Croft Ambrey,⁸ Midsummer Hill,⁹ and Credenhill¹⁰ has produced a whole mass of material contrasting sharply with the cultural implications of the Llanmelin/Sudbrook excavations; yet the general lack of detail from the earlier excavations has precluded the consideration of relationships between the two areas.

Even so, the indications have been that the hillforts of southern Gwent present a distinct group from those further north. The contrast between the Llanmelin/Lydney style of pottery¹¹ and the linear-tooled and stamped types further north, taken with certain differences in hillfort architecture, certainly suggest such a dichotomy. This idea has been supported by the distribution of hillforts, which are noticeably absent from a zone six or seven miles wide astride the Trothi Brook in north Gwent, thereby effectively separating the Herefordshire hillforts from their Gwent counterparts. Given the apparent cultural differences and this distribution the argument for a political division was strong. Yet it is worthy of note that the material heretofore available relates only to the last three centuries BC, and tells nothing of the earlier cultural relationships between the two areas.

The Croft Ambrey excavations have produced late 3rd century BC radio-carbon dates that, when taken with the structural evidence of refurbishing of defences with substantial dump ramparts and entrance fortifications, and the economic indicator of the introduction of distinctive pottery types and fabrics, seems to show a period of political and cultural change.¹² The termination of the history of Coed y Bwnydd at approximately the same period as these political and economic upheavals presents an immediate synchronism, reinforced by its contemporaneous aceramic tradition with Croft Ambrey. Similarly, the lunate form of the entrance barring at Coed y Bwnydd is unmatched elsewhere in South Wales but can be recognised at Coxall Knoll in Herefordshire,¹³ and the timber rampart features at CYB L may reflect an allied tradition to the timbered ramparts at Fridd Faldwyn (which run between 700 and 400 BC on Dr. Stanford's calculations¹⁴). The multivallate form of Coed y Bwnydd in the period around 400 BC is more unusual, since this aspect of hillfort architecture is traditionally said to have been introduced in the later Iron Age. Even so, the hypothesis has been advanced that the final multivallation at Coed y Bwnydd took place at the end of its history, and a 5th century BC bivallate fort has been recognised at Rainsborough in Northants.¹⁵ Although this phenomenon has not previously been recognised in Wales or on its borders, the presence of haematite pottery in a significant position at Old Oswestry may demonstrate a similar situation there.

The evidence from internal structures, though, presents greater problems. The presence of round-houses, including a two-period example demonstrating a long type-life at Coed y Bwnydd contrasts sharply with the square four-post buildings of Herefordshire.¹⁶ However, the rectangular sleeper beam construction on CYB D (itself an infrequently observed type, but recognised at West Harling¹⁷ and Midsummer Hill¹⁸) may argue for the currency of this style previous to the advent of the round-house. The Coed y Bwnydd sample is too small to provide any depth of evidence, but further work presently being undertaken on other Welsh Border sites may serve to clarify this complex matter.

Although this lack of detail regarding the hillfort interior precludes any detailed demographic discussion, it does seem to have been densely covered. Rebuilding on identical sites should presuppose the absence of adjacent free plots, and the filling of quarry ditches to allow level ground for building suggests both a considerable population and a degree of social organisation. The agricultural basis of the community should relate to both arable and pastoral activity. The immediate area has light well drained soils and is suitable for cultivation; the evidence for some sort of beast pound might relate to the keeping of cattle, preceding the evidence from other Gwent sites (Llanmelin, Sudbrook, Tredegar Camp (Newport), Pen Toppen Ash and Gaer Hill (Penterry)) for a beast-based economy in the last three centuries BC.

REFERENCES

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- 3 Bradney, J. *History of Monmouthshire*, II (1) (1911), III Savory, H. N. 'List of Hillforts in Wales and Monmouthshire: II' 'Monmouthshire' *BBCS* XII.4 (1950), 234.
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- 8 Stanford, S. C. *Croft Ambrey* (1974).
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- 11 Cunliffe, B. *Iron Age Communities in Britain* (1974), 43.
- 12 Stanford, S. C. *Croft Ambrey* (1974), 234.
- 13 RCAM *Herefordshire* III, fig. 44.
- 14 *Croft Ambrey*, 225.
- 15 Avery, M., Sutton, J. E. G. and Banks, J. W. 'Rainsborough, Northants' *PPS* XXXIII (1967), 207-306.
- 16 *Croft Ambrey*, 124.
- 17 Clark, J. G. D. and Fell, C. 'An Early Iron Age Site at Micklemoor Hill, West Harling, Norfolk' *PPS* XIX (1953), fig. 9.
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ROMAN COINS FROM THE SEVERN ESTUARY AT PORTSKEWETT

By RODNEY HUDSON

The discovery during late 1977 and early 1978 of a number of Roman coins in the oozy mud of the Severn foreshore at Black Rock, Portskewett, is a rare example of how metal detectors in the hands of responsible and discerning operators can make a positive contribution to archaeology without causing damage or disruption to any site. Only an electronic detector could have revealed the presence of these coins in the mud and tribute must be paid to Mr. W. Evans of Llanover, not only for persevering with his survey in unpleasant conditions but also for his commendable action in depositing the coins on loan in Newport Museum and Art Gallery for study and temporary display. All the coins were found individually in an area approximately 100 yards each side of the slipway at Black Rock, NGR 513882.

The 94 coins found by Mr. Evans represent in total 300 years of the Roman occupation, ranging from Claudius (AD 43) to the issue of Gratian from Arles mint, struck between AD 367 and 375. They are all bronze, with the exception of a silver denarius of Titus and a siliqua of Valens.

The total number of coins representing each emperor is as follows:

Claudius (AD 41—54): 2	Gallienus (AD 253—268): 2
Nero (AD 54—68): 1	Tetricus I & II (AD 270—273): 4
Vespasian (AD 60—79): 3	Probus (AD 276—282): 1
Titus as Caesar (AD 71—79): 1	Carausius (AD 287—293): 3
Domitian (AD 81—96): 4	Allectus (AD 293—296): 1
Nerva (AD 96—98): 1	Diocletian (AD 284—305): 2
Hadrian (AD 117—138): 2	Constantine I (AD 307—337): 7
Antoninus Pius (AD 138—161): 1	Helena: 1
Constans (AD 337—350): 5	Crispus (AD 316—326): 1
Magnentius (AD 350—353): 1	Constantine II (AD 337—340): 8
Valens (AD 364—378): 7	Valentinian I (AD 364—375): 2
Barbarous and illegible: 6	
Commemoratives from Constantine Period: 7	

The following mints are represented: Arles, Aquileia (Italy), Constantinople, Cologne, London, Lyon, Rome, Siscia (Sisak in Yugoslavia) and Trier. The barbarous issues were struck at unknown mints in Gaul and Britain, the Romano-British copies of Claudian types possibly being minted in the Gloucester area (the Roman Glevum).

THE LIST OF COINS

The following works have been used in compiling the list:

R.I.C. *Roman Imperial Coinage* (Mattingly & Sydenham, *et. al.*)

L.R.B.G. *Late Roman Bronze Coinage, AD 324-498* (Carson, Hill & Kent)

CLAUDIUS (A.D. 41-54)

No.


1. Æ AS, (Barbarous British imitation). Ref.: (for regular issue) R.I.C., 66.
Reverse: S.C. Minerva advancing right.
2. Æ AS, As No. 1 Obverse legend illegible.
NERO (A.D. 54-68)
3. Æ AS, Rome mint, struck A.D. 61/62. Ref.: R.I.C., 364.
Reverse: PONTIF MAX T.R.POT IMP PP. S.C. Nero stands
right as Apollo.
VESPASIAN (A.D. 69-79)
4. Æ AS, Rome mint, struck A.D. 71. Ref.: R.I.C., 489.
Reverse: IVDAEA CAPTA S.C. Jewess seated right.
5. Æ AS, Rome mint, struck A.D. 71. Ref.: R.I.C., 497.
Reverse: S.C. Eagle on globe.
6. Æ Dupondius, Rome mint. illegible.
TITUS AS CAESAR (A.D. 71-79)
7. AR Denarius, Rome mint, struck A.D. 78/79. Ref.: R.I.C. 218.
Reverse: [ANNONA AVG] Annona seated left.
DOMITIAN (A.D. 81-96)
8. Æ AS, Rome mint, struck A.D. 87. Ref.: R.I.C. 354b.
Reverse: MONETA AVGVSTI S.C. Moneta standing left.
9. Æ Dupondius, Rome mint, struck A.D. 87. Ref.: R.I.C. 351.
Reverse: [VIRTVTI AVGVSTI] S.C. Virtus standing right.
10. Æ AS, Rome mint, illegible.
11. Æ AS, Rome mint, obverse illegible. Reverse: [FORTVNAE AVGVSTI S.C.]
Fortune stands left.
NERVA (A.D. 96-98)
12. Æ Dupondius, Rome mint, struck A.D. 97. Ref.: R.I.C. 87.
Reverse: LIBERTAS PVBLICA S.C. Liberty standing left.
HADRIAN (A.D. 117-138)
13. Æ AS, Rome mint, struck A.D. 119. Ref.: R.I.C. 577b.
Reverse: PONT MAX TR POT COS III S.C. BRITANNIA
Britannia seated, facing right.

14. Æ AS, Rome mint, struck A.D. 125/128. Ref.: R.I.C. 678.
Reverse: SALVS AVGVSTI. S.C. COS III Salus stands left feeding
serpent around altar.

ANTONINUS PIUS (A.D. 138-161)

15. Æ Sestertius, Rome mint, struck A.D. 140-144. Ref.: R.I.C. 610.
Reverse: MONETA AVG S.C. Moneta standing left.

GALLIENUS (A.D. 253-268)

16. Æ Antoninianus, Rome mint, struck A.D. 260-268. Ref.: R.I.C. 157.
Reverse: ABVNDANTIA AVG Abundance standing right.
17. Æ Antoninianus, Rome mint, struck A.D. 260-268. Ref.: R.I.C. 321.
Reverse: VIRTVS AVG  Mars standing left.

CLAUDIUS II (A.D. 268-270)

18. Æ Antoninianus, Rome mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 54.
Reverse: IOVI VICTORI Jupiter standing left.

TETRICUS I (A.D. 270-273)

19. Æ Antoninianus, Cologne mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 100.
Reverse: PAX AVG Pax standing left.
20. Æ Antoninianus, As No. 19.
21. Æ Antoninianus, Cologne mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 140.
Reverse: [VICTORIA AVG] Victory advancing left.
22. Æ Antoninianus, Trier mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 124?
Reverse: illegible, SALVS AVGG type.

TETRICUS II (A.D. 270-273)

23. Æ Antoninianus, Trier mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 270.
Reverse: [SP]ES AVGG Spes walking left.

PROBUS (A.D. 276-282)

24. Æ Antoninianus, Rome mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 187 (A.D. 276-282).
Reverse: ROMA E AETER Roma in Hexastyle temple.
25. Æ Antoninianus, Siscia mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 745.
Reverse: SALVS AVG Salus feeding serpent around altar.

CARAUSIUS (A.D. 287-293)

26. Æ Antoninianus, London mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 108.
Reverse: PAX AVG $\frac{B|E}{MLXXI}$ Pax standing left holding vertical sceptre
27. Æ Antoninianus, London mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 123.
Reverse: PAX AVG $\frac{|}{ML}$ Pax standing left holding transverse sceptre.
28. Æ Antoninianus, London mint?
Reverse: PAX AVG $\frac{|}{[ML]}$ Pax standing left holding vertical sceptre.
29. Æ Antoninianus, London mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 118.
Reverse: PAX AVG $\frac{S|P}{ML}$ Pax standing left holding transverse sceptre.

ALLECTUS (A.D. 293-296)

30. Æ Antoninianus, London mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 28.
Reverse: PAX AVG $\frac{S|P}{[ML]}$ Pax standing left holding transverse sceptre.
31. Æ Quinarius, 'c' mint. Ref.: R.I.C. 128.
Reverse: VIRTVS AVG $\frac{|}{QC}$ Galley.

DIOCLETIAN (A.D. 284-305)

32. Æ Follis, London mint, struck A.D. 300-305. Ref.: R.I.C. 6A.
Reverse: GENIO POPV LI ROMANI Genius standing left.
33. Æ Follis, Trier mint, struck A.D. 303-305. Ref.: R.I.C. 576A.
Reverse: As No. 32. $\frac{S|F}{PTR}$

CONSTANTINE I (A.D. 307-337)

34. Æ Follis, London mint, struck A.D. 310-312. Ref.: R.I.C. 153.
Obverse: CONSTANTINVS PT AVG Laureate bust right.
Reverse: COMITI AVGG NN $\frac{|^*}{PLN}$ Sol standing left.
35. Æ Follis, London mint, struck A.D. 310-312. Ref.: R.I.C. 184.
Obverse: CONSTANTINVS AVG Helmeted bust left.
Reverse: As No. 34.
36. Æ Follis, London mint, struck A.D. 316/317. Ref.: R.I.C. 94.
Reverse: SOLI INVICTO COMITI $\frac{T|F}{PLN}$ Sol standing left.
- 37 & 38. Æ Follis (reduced), Trier mint, struck A.D. 319. Ref.: R.I.C. 223.
Reverse: VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINP $\frac{|}{PTR}$
Two victories hold shield inscribed VOT PR

39. Æ Follis (reduced), Almost illegible but type as No. 37.
40. Æ Follis (reduced), Trier mint, struck A.D. 322. Ref.: R.I.C. 342
Obverse portrait holds sceptre.
Reverse: BEATA TRANQVILLITAS $\frac{|}{PTR}$. VOT IS XX on altar.
41. Æ Follis, Trier mint, struck A.D. 323. Ref.: R.I.C. 390
As No. 40 but obverse portrait laureate bust right.
42. Æ 3. Trier mint, struck A.D. 330-335. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 60.
Reverse: GLOR IA EXERCITVS $\frac{|}{TRP}$. Two soldiers and two standards.
43. Æ 3/4. Constantinople mint, commemorative issue, struck A.D. 337-341.
Ref.: L.R.B.C. 1041.
Obverse: DV CONSTANT INVS PT AVG veiled bust right.
Reverse: $\frac{|}{CONSA}$ QUADRIGA to the right.
- HELENA (Commemorative issue A.D. 337-340)*
44. Æ 3/4 Trier mint. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 104. Obverse: FLIVL HELENÆ AVG
Reverse: PAX PVBLICA $\frac{|}{TRS}$ Pax standing left.
- CRISPUS (A.D. 316-326)*
45. Æ Follis (reduced), Siscia mint, struck A.D. 320-321. Ref.: R.I.C. 161.
Reverse: CAESARVM NOSTORVM Around VOT.V within wreath $\frac{|}{ESIS}$
- CONSTANTINE II (A.D. 317-337 as Caesar and 337-340 as Augustus)*
46. Æ Follis (reduced), Siscia mint, struck A.D. 321-324. Ref.: R.I.C. 182.
Reverse: As No. 45 but VOT X $\frac{|}{ASIS}$
47. Æ Follis (reduced), Lyon mint, struck A.D. 324-325. Ref.: R.I.C. 230.
Reverse: PROVIDENTIAE CAESS Camp gate.
48. Æ Follis (reduced), Rome mint, struck A.D. 321. Ref.: R.I.C. 244.
Reverse: As No. 46 but $\frac{|}{RT}$
49. Æ 3/4 Trier mint, (struck A.D. 330-335), Ref.: L.R.B.C. 63.
Reverse: GLORIA EXER CITVS $\frac{|}{TRP}$ Two soldiers and two standards.
50. As 49, Ref.: L.R.B.C. 56, but mint mark $\frac{|}{TRS}$
51. As 49, struck A.D. 335-337. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 88 but one standard.
52. As 49, struck A.D. 330-335. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 68, but mint mark $\frac{|}{TRP^*}$

- 53 & 54. As 51, Arles mint, struck A.D. 335-337. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 399, but mint mark $\overline{\text{PG}}\overline{\text{NST}}$
 55. Æ 3/4 Uncertain mint, struck A.D. 330-335. As No. 49 but mint mark illegible.

CONSTANS (A.D. 333-337 as Caesar and 337-350 as Augustus)

56. Æ 3/4 Arles mint, struck A.D. 335-337. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 401.
 Reverse: GLORIA EXERCITVS $\overline{\text{S}}\overline{\text{CONST}}$ Two soldiers and one standard.
 57. Æ 3/4 Arles mint, Almost illegible but as No. 56.
 58. Æ 3/4 Trier mint, struck A.D. 341-346. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 140.
 Reverse: VICT [ORIAE DDAVGG QNN] $\overline{\text{TRS}}$ Two Victories stand facing each other.
 59. Æ 3/4 Lyon mint, struck A.D. 341-346. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 258.
 Reverse: As No. 58 but mint mark $\overline{\text{PLG}}$
 60. Æ 3/4 Trier mint, struck A.D. 341-346. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 142.
 Reverse: As No. 58 but mint mark $\overline{\text{TRP}}$

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES (A.D. 330-335)

61. Æ 3/4 Trier mint, struck A.D. 330-335. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 51.
 Obverse: VRBS ROMA Reverse: $\overline{\text{TRS}}$ Wolf and twins.
 62. Æ 3/4 Trier mint, as No. 61 but mint mark $\overline{\text{TRP}}$ Ref.: L.R.B.C. 58.
 63. Æ 3/4 Constantinople mint, as No. 61 but mint mark $\overline{\text{CONS0}}$ Ref.: L.R.B.C. 1008.
 64. Æ 3/4 Type as No. 61, Legend illegible, uncertain mint.
 65. Æ 3/4 Trier mint. Obverse: CONSTANTINOPOLIS
 Reverse: $\overline{\text{TRP}}$ Victory on galley prow Ref.: L.R.B.C. 59.
 66. Æ 3/4 Type as No. 65, legend illegible, uncertain mint.
 67 — 70. Type as Nos. 65 & 66.

MAGNENTIUS (A.D. 350-353)

71. Æ Centenionalis, Trier mint, struck A.D. 350-351. Ref.: L.R.B.C. 48.
 Reverse: FEL TEMP REPARATIO $\overline{\text{A}}\overline{\text{TRP}}$ · Emperor and Victory on galley.

VALENTINIAN I (A.D. 364-375)

72. Æ 3. Rome mint, struck A.D. 367-375. Ref.: R.I.C. 23A.
 Reverse: SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE $\overline{\text{SM}}\overline{\text{RP}}$ · Victory advancing left.
 73. Æ 3. Siscia mint, struck A.D. 367-375. Ref.: 14A.
 Reverse: GLORIA ROMANORVM $\overline{\text{F}}\overline{\text{AR}}\overline{\text{RSISC}}$ Emperor drags captive right.

VALENS (A.D. 364-378)

74. AR Siliqua, Trier mint, struck A.D. 367-375. Ref.: R.I.C. 27E.
Reverse: VRBS ROMA $\frac{|}{TRPS}$ Roma seated left.
75. Æ 3. Aquileia mint, struck A.D. 364-367. Ref.: R.I.C. 11B.
Reverse: As No. 73 but mint mark $\frac{|}{SMAQP}$
76. Æ 3. Rome mint, struck A.D. 364-367. Ref.: R.I.C. 15B.
Reverse: As No. 73, but mint mark $\frac{|}{SMRQ}$
- 77 & 78. Æ 3. Rome mint, as No. 76. Ref.: R.I.C. 17B.
Reverse: As No. 72.
- 79 & 80. Æ 3. Uncertain mint, almost illegible type as last.

GRATIAN (A.D. 367-383)

81. Æ 3. Arles mint, struck A.D. 367-375. Ref.: R.I.C. 15.
Reverse: GLORIA NOVI SAECVLI $\frac{OF | III}{CON}$ Emperor stands facing.

BARBAROUS AND ILLEGIBLE TYPES

82. Æ Barbarous radiate, circ. late 3rd C. A.D.
Obverse: Style of Tetricus I. Reverse: Fides type figure.
83. Æ Barbarous radiate, circ. late 3rd C. A.D.
Obverse: Illegible. Reverse: Mars type figure left.
84. Æ Barbarous radiate, circ. late 3rd C. A.D. Obverse: Head right. Reverse: Blank.
- 85 & 86. Æ Barbarous radiate, illegible.
87. Æ Barbarous, minimi, circ. 4th C. A.D.
Obverse: Diademed bust right Reverse: Victory left.
88. Valentinian I period, circ. A.D. 364-378. Æ 3, illegible type as No. 72.
89. Type as above, illegible type as No. 73.
90. As No. 88.
- 91 — 94. As No. 89.

* * *

In addition to the above find of coins, Mr. C. Williams of Newport, also using a metal detector, discovered seven Roman coins in the same area. I am grateful to him also for allowing me to examine and report upon them. They include:

- 3 Æ Asses of Domitian (R.I.C. 354);
1 Dupondius of Trajan (A.D. 98-117) — illegible;
1 BEATA TRANQVILLITAS reverse type of Constantine I — almost illegible;
and 2 Æ 3's of the Constantinian period, also illegible.

MONMOUTH PRIORY AT THE SUPPRESSION: 1534-37

By DAVID H. WILLIAMS

(Keith Kissack, the noted Monmouth historian, has already published a great deal of material of these years in the Journal of the Historical Society of the Church in Wales,¹ and the object of this article is to present certain new evidence).

By 1534 the Benedictine Priory of Our Lady and St. Florence at Monmouth had fallen on bad days; few monks remained, and, under pressure from the Duchy of Lancaster Council, the prior, Richard Evesham, was deposed.² Amongst the reasons cited for this were his "unseemly, incontinent and unpriestly living," and an allegation that he had "wrongfully allowed the priory church to go unserved, and has suffered both church and priory buildings to fall into disrepair, and suffer ruin and ugliness."³ Evesham's deprivation took effect on March 16th, 1534, and the following day he was succeeded by a monk of Bermondsey, Richard Taylbus.⁴

The scarcity of monks was nothing new; Monmouth as an alien priory had relied centuries before on a supply from the French mother-house at Saumur in Anjou, a system still in operation here in 1378, but not so much, thereafter, if at all, and in 1414 Bishop Mascall of Hereford authorised the priory to receive suitable persons in order to improve the performance of divine service. This trend continued in the sixteenth century; in 1519, George Ambrose, a monk of Winchcombe, transferred to Monmouth "on account of sicknesses," and in 1521, another monk of the same house, Thomas Sudelay, came to Monmouth, "for the quietening of conscience and the augmentation of holy conversation." In 1531 at a time when there were factions amongst the monks and opposition by some to Prior Evesham, two, presumably young, monks received minor orders (Henry Egewyn as acolyte and Giles Charite as sub-deacon), but augmentation was still a necessity and in about 1533/4 Prior Evesham was paid 20 nobles for receiving William Christchurch, a monk of Cerne, sent to Monmouth after laying allegations, seemingly justified, against his own abbot; brother William went from the fat into the fire, it being claimed that at Monmouth Priory he was "very ill handled."⁵

Taylbus's accession did not effect any improvements in the fortunes of the priory, and he obviously came under a variety of pressures. The Priory had years before (1514) appointed the Herberts of Troy to be Stewards of their possessions (at a fee of £1-0-0), and on April 28th, 1534, Taylbus appointed that Herefordshire man of many parts, John Scudamore, because of his "good counsel, friendship and advice" to him and the priory, to an ill-defined "office of general oversight" of all the monastery's possessions, (at an annual fee of £2); he was in fact the Receiver of the house. This belated appointment reflects the request of the Duchy of Lancaster Council in November 1531 to a dilatory bishop of Hereford to commit the temporalities of the priory into Scudamore's care. The later grants of annuity and indeed of the domestic buildings themselves, described below, were made in the prior's name, but probably owed much to Scudamore's influence.⁶

When Taylbus became prior, several annuities and corrodies already formed a charge on the priory; there was an annuity of £3-6-8 to William Bunting (from a corrody at Monmouth granted to him by the Crown in 1513⁷); there was an annuity of 13/4d to Antony Ayleworth,

given for "his counsel" in 1520;⁸ there was a fee of £3-0-0 due to Richard and Margery Aley (or Alen) each year because in 1525 they had remitted to the priory all their interest in two messuages in Monmouth and a meadow lying at Vineyard;⁹ and there were the rights granted in 1528 to the monastic attorney, Dr. Hugh ap Rhys, — an annuity of £1-0-0, and when he came to the priory on business, food and a chamber for himself and his servant (perhaps this was the Auditor's Chamber referred to later); he also received stabling and fodder for two horses in winter-time, rights of pasture in summer.¹⁰

Now, Taylbus seems to have been obliged to make a series of further grants of annuity,¹¹ — to Thomas Baker, 13/4d (on 20 Nov. 1534) and 26/8d (on 15 June, 1535) for "good counsel before this time"; to Edmund Harvey, £3-6-8 (on 30 Nov. 1534) "for good service,"¹² and then, matters not improving, in July, 1535 (3rd or 30th), and not only because of "true and faithful service done at all times," but, more significantly, by way of reward "for a certain sum of money" lent to the priory. William Gattys, a London citizen and clothworker, was granted an annuity of £2-0-0, together with the messuage "next unto Monkgate, in the which dwelleth now Davy Dyar," and a "broad cloth" worth 13/4d, annually, for livery.¹³

Of the earlier annuities only Bunting's finds mention in the 1534 *Valor*; however, by the decrees of the Court of Augmentations, the several corrodians and annuitants continued to receive their pensions after the suppression, but no compensation appears to have been made in cases where "perks" were lost. Payments can be traced to 1543 in the case of Ayleworth, to 1544 in the cases of Hugh ap Rhys and Richard Aley, (together with another annuity of 13/4d paid to Jerome Heydon); to 1545 in the cases of Gattys and Baker (and also a Robert Owen), and to Bunting as late as 1546. At this time too there was still paid annually £6-13-4 as a corrody due to the Master of Christ's College, Cambridge.¹⁴ Another annuity (of £1) received until at least Nov. 1545 was that of William Davy (*alias* David); he appears to have been the same person as William Davis, who with the same monetary amount and also a gown yearly, was appointed in 1502 to supervise all the domestic arrangements of the priory. He was, with a helper, to "take charge and occupation of the bakehouse and brewery" and to have "oversight of ye buttery, larder house and kitchen." Davis, a 'yeoman,' was to be a "true and diligent servant," to work perfectly as a brother of the house, and to be ready to account for "all occupations concerning ye wealth of ye place, except only husbandry on field." As well as a pension of £1 and a gown yearly, he was provided with a chamber and as much meat and drink as the prior's yeoman.¹⁵

Years before, the priory had demised to Philip Hopkin the rectory of Llangattock-vibonavel with its tithes and those of St. Maughan's, and early in his priorship Taylbus granted their reversion (for £6) to Thomas Williams, the monastery's bailiff,¹⁶ while Prior Evesham had leased to the Herberts nearly all the lesser tithes pertaining to the priory.¹⁷ Now, in the closing months, Taylbus went much further and on Jan. 27th, 1536, he granted for seventy years and for a rental of £6-13-4, the site and mansion house of the priory, together with all its lands, houses, and other possessions to one Robert Terghwhyth who that day had paid an entry fine of £20. Terghwhyth was to take over in effect all the temporal life of the priory, but of course he also became responsible for paying all annuities and other "incumbrances" pertaining to the

monastery.¹⁸ Clearly suppression could not be long delayed, and on March 1st (Ash Wednesday that year), Dr. John Vaughan wrote from Brecon to Cromwell that whilst Monmouth was “not in my commission,” the scandal of the situation was such that he intended to suppress the priory; the prior, he wrote, was in sanctuary at Garway, and there was only one other monk “who boards in the town.” Whoever the other monk may have been, he had of course no alternative by this time but to lodge out; however, Vaughan’s hearsay evidence was stretched when he alleged that “there is no pot, nor pan, nor bed, in the said house.”¹⁹

The precise date of its suppression is unknown, but the extant accounts of John Scudamore, Particular Receiver for Herefordshire and other counties, suggest that it “presumably took place before Michaelmas.”²⁰ Taylbus was cited on June 3rd as prior to attend Convocation, but the fate of the house had certainly been settled by June 21st, when Bishop Rowland Lee (of Coventry and Lichfield), President of the Council in the Marches, visited Monmouth and thought that the house’s stone and timber would be suitably employed in rebuilding Monmouth Castle, though in the event it was not used for this purpose.²¹

Lee’s evidence is of interest in that he adds that “there is no lead in the priory.” This is however at variance with Scudamore’s accounts which do list ten shillings worth remaining on the steeple; presumably the roofs and part of the domestic buildings were in decay as suggested two years earlier. The steeple contained three bells (weighing 12 cwts, and valued at £10-16-0), and the house possessed seventeen ounces of gilt plate amongst its valuables. At the close of the fourteenth century the priory had been credited with numerous and important relics, but the suppression accounts make no mention of these. We have however some knowledge of the vestments of the church; these included two tunicles of red velvet, and a chasuble of tawny silk, which perhaps matched “a cope of crimson velvet adorned with cloth of gold and pall of crimson Baudekyn.”²²

On February 28th, 1537, a sale of goods was held at Monmouth,²³ (there was a similar one the next day at Abbey Dore), and this sale, though small, does belie Dr. Vaughan’s more extreme assertions. It is also of interest in that it reveals a little of the buildings of the priory, which included a Bishop’s Chamber (probably the principal guest chamber) and the Auditor Chamber. The accounts of the sale are reproduced in the appendix to this article; practically all the goods were acquired by the priory’s bailiff, Thomas Williams.

In 1539, the last prior, Richard Taylbus, was granted a pension of £9-0-0 per year, and, as many other religious, he paid a ten per cent “first subsidy” on this in 1540.²⁴ But he was more fortunate than many in continuing to enjoy, certainly as late as 1545, both this pension, and a further £5 annually as stipendiary curate of “the church beyond the Monnow” (*i.e.* Overmonnow). He was still living in Monmouth, possibly retired, in the reign of Edward VI (1547-53), and then owned a house and garden. As for the buildings of the priory their later history has several times been described elsewhere; suffice it here to note that in the reign of James II (1685-88) enough remained for the old chapel of St. Cadoc to be used for recusant worship, but in 1743 the old priory consisted of “great ruins, and very gothic ones.”²⁵

APPENDIX

(PRO C/115/D.21/1937).

“ County of The Sales of Goods made at the
Hereford. dissolution of certain religious houses there
as appeareth hereafter following, —

Monmouth

Sales of goods there made the last day of February (*28th Feb. 1537*) at the dissolution of the house there as appeareth hereafter following,—

Church

First, sold to Thomas Williams, a coffer (6d) and two candlesticks of brass (12d).
.....18d

Hall

Item, sold to Thomas Williams, two table boards (3/4d), two forms (8d), a cupboard (2/-), the hanging of stained (*i.e. dyed*) canvas (5/-), and two pairs of trestles (2d).
.....11/2d.

Old Buttery

Item, sold to the said Thomas, a cupboard (16d), a chest (12d), and an almery (12d).
.....3/4d.

Little Buttery

Item, sold to the said Thomas an old table cloth of drape (4d), a towel of drape (6d), an almery (2/4), an old chest (5d), a basin of pewter (4d), and two candlesticks of brass (4d).
.....4/3d.

Kitchen

Item, sold to Thomas Williams, four brass pots (13/4), one brass pan (16d), one broach (12d), a pair of racks (2/-), and two water buckets with iron chains (12d).
.....18/8d.

Bishop's Chamber

Item, sold to Thomas Williams, a trussed bedstead (2/-), a cupboard (16d), a great pair of old andirons (2/-), the hanging of stained canvas (12d), a table board (4d), two trestles (2d), two forms (2d), and two chairs (6d).
.....7/6d.

Auditor's Chamber

Item, sold to Thomas Williams the hanging of stained say (12d).
.....12d.

(Sections on Aconbury and Dore, are then followed by

Monmouth

Item, sold to William Baker and William Levins, a vestment of red velvet streaked with gold (40/-), an altar frontal of the same (20/-), and a vestment of tawny silk (10/-) with two altar frontals, one of dornick and the other of fustian and say.70/-
Item, a tunicle of red velvet sold to Mr. Auditor.6/8d.
Item, sold to Mr. Scudamore, a tunicle of red velvet.6/8d.

(The writer is indebted to Mr. J. Lucas Scudamore of Kentchurch for first drawing his attention to the Duchess of Norfolk MSS at the PRO of which collection this document forms a part).

GLOSSARY

(based on the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary)

Almery	—	a cupboard, often for containing victuals.
Andiron	—	a horizontal bar on short feet, placed at each side of the hearth to support burning wood.
Baudekyn	—	baldachin (a rich brocade).
Broach	—	a roasting spit.
Dornick	—	a linen cloth, originally made in Flanders.
Fustian	—	coarse cloth made of linen and flax.
Say	—	woollen cloth.

REFERENCES

- 1 Vol. XIV (1964), in his article, *Religious Life in Monmouth*, 1066-1536.
- 2 Kissack, op. cit. 46-7; D. C. Somerville, *The Duchy of Lancaster* (1953), i. 287; Cal. Letters and Papers, Henry VIII, viii (1535) 46; Glanmor Williams, *Welsh Church from Conquest to Reformation*, 387-8.
- 3 E. N. Dew, *Hereford Cathedral Registers* (1932) 156; Canterbury and York Soc. *Reg. C. Bothe*, pp. 287-8, 348; P.R.O. *DL* 42/95 f.126d.
- 4 D. J. A. Matthew, *The Norman Monasteries*, 155 (for names of four monks returning to France in 1378); Rose Graham, *Four Alien Priors of Monmouthshire in Jnl. Brit. Arch. Assn* (1929) 102-21; PRO. *E* 135/18/11; 315/94/244b; *Valor Ecclesiasticus* iii. 16.
- 5 PRO. *E* 135/18/11; Rose Graham, op. cit. 102-21; LP. op. cit. viii. 46; Somerville, op. cit. 287.
- 6 PRO. *E* 315/94/91b, cf. *Valor* iii. 16; Somerville, op. cit. i. 287n (after PRO. *DL* 42/95 f.126v).
- 7 PRO. *E* 315/92/122b, cf. *Valor* iii. 16; *LR* 1/228/72d.
- 8 PRO. *E* 315/91/63.
- 9 PRO. *E* 315/97/56; *LR* 1/228/42.
- 10 PRO. *E* 315/92/64b; *LR* 1/228/26.
- 11 For points re more ancient corrodies, see PRO. *F* 315/37/195.
- 12 PRO. *E* 315/92/82b, 99/73, 101/158; *LR* 1/228/29d, 30d.
- 13 PRO. *E* 315/100/286b, *LR* 1/228/27.
- 14 Glanmor Williams, op. cit. 384; BM. *Add. MS* 11,058; *Valor* iii. 16; LP. xviii. I. 260, and xxi. II, 444; *LR* 1/228/105d (for 6/8d p.a. for procurations and synodals on visitation of the monastic churches).
- 15 PRO. *E* 210/D.5512.
- 16 PRO. *E* 210/D.4833 (where 1533 is presumably an error); *LR* 1/228/214 (gives 1534).
- 17 PRO. *SC* 6/7319, f. 2d; (Williams' fee as bailiff was £3 p.a. — *Valor* iii. 16).
- 18 Kissack, op. cit. 49; PRO. *SC* 6/7319, f. 2d.
- 19 Kissack, op. cit. 49; LP x (1536) 160; PRO. *SP* 1/102/127, (Vaughan's letter to Cromwell was sent by means of "an ancient gentleman" who had given Vaughan "great cheer," i.e. good hospitality).
- 20 Joyce Youings, *The Dissolution of the Monasteries* (1971) 107, (where a full discussion of some points arising from the Scudamore accounts).
- 21 xiii. II Kissack, op. cit. 50; LP x (1536) 491 (1178).
- 22 Youings, op. cit. 216; Cal. Papal Letters v. 258; PRO. *E* 315/278, f. 135 et seq; LP x (1536) 491 (1178), (1538) 176.
- 23 PRO. *C* 115/D.21, f. 1937.
- 24 LP. xiv. I. (1539), p. 603 and xvi. (1540-1) 731; BM. *Add. MS* 11,058.
- 25 Catholic Record Society, Misc. ii. (1956), p. 301; E. Owen, *MSS relating to Wales in the British Museum*, iv 917.

SALE OF GOODS AT ABBEY DORE

By DAVID H. WILLIAMS

Introduction

On St. David's Day, 1537, the day after the sale of effects at Monmouth Priory noted in the foregoing article, a similar sale took place at Abbey Dore in Herefordshire, the Cistercian monastery which has been the subject of two previous articles in this journal. This transcription is published here as a sequence to those articles, and once again I must express my indebtedness to Mr. J. Lucas Scudamore of Kentchurch for first drawing my attention to the Duchess of Norfolk MSS at the Public Record Office, amongst which collection of papers I discovered this manuscript. The spelling has, generally, been modernised.

Transcription

(Part of PRO. C 115, Bundle D.21. No. 1937).

“ Dore

Sales of goods there made the first day of March in the 28th year of king Henry (*i.e.* 1537) at the dissolution of the house there, as appeareth hereafter following.

Kitchen

First, sold unto John Scudamore,¹ eight platters (4/-), six pottingers (18d), three saucers (4d), five counterfeit dishes (6d), two chargers (16d), four brass pots (6d), a dodenett (12d), a chafern (12d) and a chafing dish (4d), two pans of brass (20d), a dripping pan of iron (6d), a frying pan (6d), a broach (6d), a mortar of stone (2d), two mustard-mills in one stone (6d), a brandiron (2d), two cobards (12d), two pothangers, two pairs of pot hooks and two hooks of iron (6d), two almeries (12d), a hogshhead (2d), two powdering tubs (2d) and a gridiron (4d).

.....(23/-).

Parlour

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, a table board (2d), two trestles (2d), two forms (2d), a chair (2d), and a cupboard (2d).

.....(10d).

Buttery

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, two flaxen table cloths (2/-), two hurdyn tablecloths (8d), three flaxen towels (4d), six flaxen and hurdyn napkins (4d), five candlesticks (16d), four salt cellars of tin (4d), a basin and a ewer of pewter (12d), seven ale stands (16d), an almerly (16d), and a table board (1d).

.....(8/9d).

Brewhouse

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, two furnaces of brass (26/8), a mash vat (12d), eight scales (16d), a yeling vat (8d), a bulging whitcher (2d), a kneading trough (2d), two tubs to keep bran in (2d), a moulding board (2d), a great trough to keep corn (2d), a water cowl (4d), a vat to wet malt (2/-), a hogshhead (2d), a water trough (4d), a flock bed (4d), a blanket (2d), and a coverlet (4d), and a keeler (2/-).

.....(36/6d).

*Saint Thomas of Lancaster's Chamber*²

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, a featherbed (5/-), a mattress (8d), a flock bed (12d), two bolsters (7d), a green coverlet (10d), four trestles (4d), two table boards (6d), six forms (4d), a cupboard (4d), a chair (4d), three quishins (6d), and two chests (2/-).
(12/6d).

Little Chamber

Item, sold unto the said John Scudamore, a coffer (8d), a round table (2d), a little cupboard (2d) and two forms (2d).
(14d).

*New Chamber*³

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, a featherbed (5/-), a bolster (6d), a coverlet of tapestry (6d), a flock bed (4d), a bolster (1d), and a coverlet (2d).
(6/7d).

Cattle

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, twenty four oxen (£16), twenty kine (£8-6-8), two sows (3/4d), and four horses (13/4d).
 (£25-3-4).
 Item, sold to Mr. Palmer, three young horses (20/-).
(20/-).

Ploughgear

Item, sold unto the said John Scudamore, two cornwains and two cornwains within (?) the great gate and the postern gate to the same (26/8d), eleven iron taws (5/6d), four shares (1/-), four cult-irons (2/-), twelve yokes (2d), and two pairs of horse harrows (2/-).
(40/2d).

Corn

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, three quarters of wheat in the barn (£4-10-0) and ten and a half quarters sown over the ground, two quarters of barley in the barn (6/8d), and twelve and a half quarters of oats in the barn (25/-).
 (£6-1-8).

(Miscellaneous)

Item, sold to the late abbot,⁴ a carpet (4d) and a brass mortar with the ponners (1/8d).
(2/-).

Buildings

Item, sold to Thomas Baskerville,⁵ Myle ap Harry⁶ and John Scudamore, esquires, the old firmiry⁷ without the roof (40/-), and all the glass and iron of the windows of the dorter, frater, and chapter house⁸ (24/-).
(63/-).

Item, sold to the said John Scudamore, the roof and the slate and timber of the frater, and the old house by the wayside next to the bridge, and the organs in the quire (40/-).
(40/-).

Church

- Item, sold to John ap Watkin Vaughan, a vestment and two tunicles of blue thread and gold leather (15/-).(15/-).
- Item, sold to the late abbot, twelve palls (9/-), four stained frontals (2/8d), a pall of white sarsenet (16d), a cope of blue silk with angels (6/8d), and a vestment and two tunicles (5/-).(24/8d).
- Item, sold to James Gedge, a cope of white sarsenet (1/-).(1/-).
- Item, sold to Harry Hodnet, a vestment and two tunicles of blue thread⁹ without albs (6/8d).(6/8d).
- Item, sold to Thomas Baskerville, esquire, a suit of vestments of green silk (13/4).(13/4d).
- Item, sold to William Sayce, a cope of blue satin bruges (30/-).(30/-).
- Item, sold to William Parry, a vestment and two tunicles of blue satin bruges (30/-).(30/-).
- Item, sold to the parson of Moccas, a holy water stock (1/8d).(1/8d).
- Item, a pyx of copper sold to Mr. Parry (1/8d).(1/8d).
- Item, sold to Mr. Auditor, eight altar cloths (2/8), and a cross of beryl (2/-).(4/8d).
- Item, sold to Mr. Scudamore, a censer (8d).(8d).

NOTES

- 1 John Scudamore, a Herefordshire gentleman of many parts, and Particular Receiver in the county for the Court of Augmentations, appears to have been largely responsible for these sales of monastic goods, and clearly was himself the chief buyer, accounting for 4/5ths of the £50 the sale realised.
- 2 Never officially canonised, earl Thomas of Lancaster achieved a considerable measure of popular acclaim as a saint after his execution in 1322.
- 3 The "New Chamber" was, latterly, the home of a retired abbot of Dore, a scholar, antiquary and bibliophile Thomas Cleubery.
- 4 This was John Redborne, abbot from 1529 to the dissolution in 1536.
- 5 Thomas Baskerville, once steward of Dore, tenant of some of its land, died in 1551 and was buried in the chancel at Kentchurch.
- 6 Ap Harry came of another local family, closely connected with Dore and of note in Herefordshire.
- 7 Seemingly the medieval infirmary had by this time fallen into disuse.
- 8 The chapter house, of which nothing now remains, was of course a noted polygonal building.
- 9 The several vestments of blue material are a reminder of the importance this colour clearly played in some medieval English Uses.

GLOSSARY

(based on — *The Oxford English Dictionary*
 J. O. Halliwell, *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*.
 H. Kurath, *Middle English Dictionary*.)

- Almery — cupboard, particularly for holding victuals.
 Brandiron — stand for a kettle.
 Broach — a spit for roasting meat.
 Bulting — sifting.
 Chafern — vessel for heating water.

Chafing Dish	—	to heat anything put upon it; vessel to hold burning fuel.
Cobard	—	a support for a spit, or one of the two supports on which the spit turns.
Counterfeit	—	imitation ware.
Dodenett	—	not traceable.
Flaxen	—	linen.
Gridiron	—	metal framework for broiling over a fire.
Hurdyn	—	made from the coarser parts of flax.
Keeler	—	a tub for holding liquids, sometimes with the specific purpose of keeping them cool.
Mash Vat	—	the vat which contained the malt in brewing.
Pottinger	—	a small soup basin.
Quishin	—	cushion.
Sarsenet	—	soft silk material, often used for linings.
Satin bruges	—	as the name implies, originating in Flanders.
Scales	—	drinking bowls or cups.
Taws	—	leather attachments.
Whitcher	—	chest or coffer.
Yeling	—	brewing.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSES AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS AT NANTYGLO 1811-1845

By JEREMY LOWE

Introduction

The Nantyglo Ironworks was owned and managed by Joseph Bailey, in partnership from 1811 with Matthew Wayne, and from 1820 with his brother Crawshay Bailey. During this time many workers' cottages were built near to the forge and the furnaces, on land owned or leased by the Baileys. Field studies in the past decade have shown that these houses, particularly those with only two rooms, combined an unusually low standard of space and finishes with a structure that was almost perversely uneconomic. Was this curious combination the reflection of a definite policy of the Bailey management?

It was not easy to recognize at first sight that there was anything remarkable about the two-room houses of Nantyglo, because such qualities as they possessed were mostly negative. Even in the early nineteenth century, when they were being built, they were among the smallest and meanest dwellings constructed for Welsh industrial workers. It is true that they were not built back to back, but this was of little advantage for there were no back doors giving access to the land behind the house, nor any windows except for small ventilators opening on to it. In the Heads of Valleys district the two-room house was relatively rare, but at Nantyglo some 25 to 30 per cent of houses were of this type, three or four times the normal proportion for the district as a whole. This difference must not be exaggerated. As elsewhere in the Heads of Valleys, the commonest house type at Nantyglo had four rooms. But there were also some early three-room dwellings, of a kind found mainly around Merthyr Tydfil. It was the *diversity* of house types, together with other circumstances peculiar to Nantyglo, which first prompted this study.

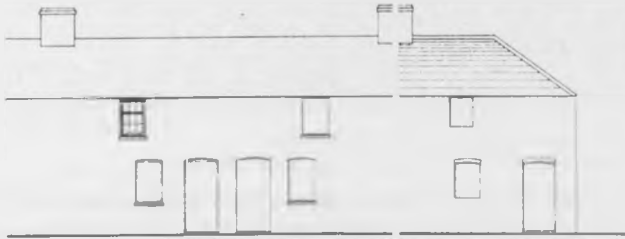
Description of the houses

In 1971, when field work was begun at Nantyglo, two types of two-room house could be found. The simple type, fig. 1 (a), was practically cubic in form, almost as plain as can be imagined: the later developed type, fig. 1 (b), had a lean-to pantry or food store attached at the back, though there was still no back door. All the three-room rows had been demolished, but some records of the houses were kept in the Local Authority offices, and there was one surviving gable wall, embedded in the end of an adjacent building. There were plenty of four-room houses to record, all of the double-fronted type.

Only two rows of the simple two-room houses survived long enough to be accurately surveyed: both had been greatly altered. The row demolished in 1971 was known simply as 36-47 Chapel Road, and it contained only one house in anything like original condition. In the other row, 33-62 King Street, otherwise Bayliss Row, alterations had been more drastic still. The houses had been 'turned round,' new doors and windows being cut in what was previously a blank wall broken only by larder (and perhaps bedroom) ventilators, while the original front windows were blocked up. One house in the row (No. 47), though just a gutted shell, was studied in detail, providing evidence that in construction the two rows were almost identical.

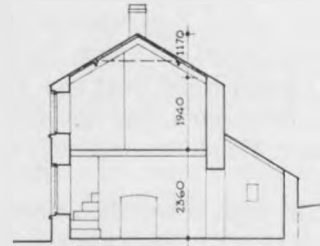
NANT-Y-GLO : CHAPEL ROAD : Numbers 36-47
 BAYLISS ROW : (Numbers 33-62 King Street)

TWYN-Y-DERYN : Numbers 1-6

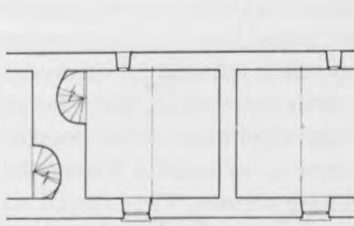


ELEVATIONS : Chapel Road

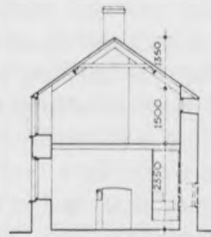
Bayliss Row



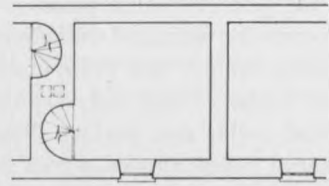
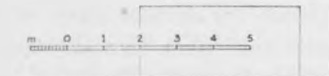
CROSS-SECTION



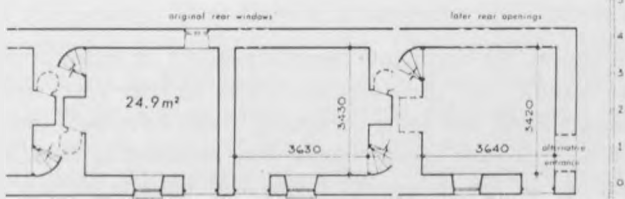
FIRST FLOOR



CROSS-SECTION

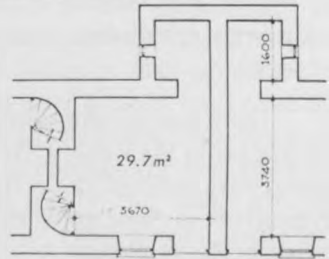


FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR PLANS : Chapel Road

Bayliss Row



GROUND FLOOR

NANT-Y-GLO : LIONS ROW

CHAPEL ROAD : Numbers 23-30

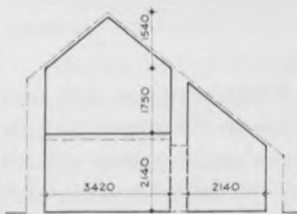
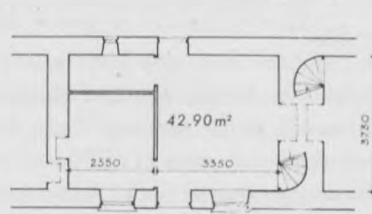
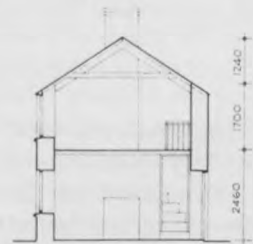


DIAGRAM SECTION : 27.8 m²



PLAN



CROSS-SECTION

FIG. 1. (a) The Simple Two-Room House (upper left)

(c) The Three-Room House (lower left)

(b) The Developed Two-Room House (upper right)

(d) The Four-Room House (lower right)

The plan dimensions suggest that the front and back walls of the row were set out first to an overall width of 4.560 m (15' 0"). The rough sandstone rubble walls were unusually thick at 560 mm and the window openings were small. The ground floor windows on the original front of Bayliss Row were no more than 670 mm wide and 870 mm high, and the first floor windows, tucked up under the eaves, were smaller still, about 630 mm wide by 730 mm high. In 38 Chapel Road there was evidence of a window or other opening in the back wall of the ground floor room, and also there were small ventilators opening through the back wall to the first floor. There were definitely no back doors to the Chapel Road row.¹

In both rows, the internal dimension along the row varied. The average was about 3.660 m (12' 0"). The walls containing the fireplaces were particularly massive, with a minimum thickness of more than 600 mm at the back of the stair recesses. Despite this profligate use of material, the circular stairs were steep, relatively narrow, and roughly built with widely irregular treads and risers. In each house there was only one fireplace, built partly below the stairs. Out of the side of this fireplace, at least in the Chapel Road houses, opened a brick oven, formed beneath the stairs of the adjoining house. The fireplace openings were spanned by heavy iron bars carrying 9 inch brick arches. There were no ceilings either downstairs or up, the floor and roof timbers being fully exposed. The roof was heavily built, with a principal rafter couple, a bolted collar and purlins. Plain purlins would have been sufficient in so small a house. Substantial rafters carried a roof finish of thick slates laid in diminishing courses. The internal wall surfaces were plastered in ash-lime composition, and the underside of the slates with a lime-hair plaster. The interior of the walls and roof had been lime-washed many times. When the houses were demolished some had stone-flagged floors, but the original finish of the floor is unknown.

There was no water supply to the houses, the occupants being dependent on wells, ponds and streams in the locality. Nor in all probability was there any sanitation. In later years small gardens were enclosed in the front of many houses, and some occupants would have built themselves privies in these gardens; it is unlikely that such arrangements were common in 1845. By that date the deplorable sanitary conditions in the ironworks towns had become known to central government, principally through the 1842 Report from the Poor Law Commissioners on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population (the Chadwick Report). But there is no field evidence of these early circumstances nor of measures taken to relieve them. As elsewhere in the Heads of Valleys area, the effective sanitary history of Nantyglo is confined to the second half of the nineteenth century.

The developed type of two-room house was less common. A partly ruined row of six stood at Twyn-y-deryn, and just outside Bailey territory there was a pair in the middle of Prince Street, Pen-y-garn Fach. The obvious extra feature of this developed type was its pantry or larder, a solidly-walled low roofed lean-to structure. In both cases measured, this larder was built back into the rising ground behind the house, so that it was partly below ground level. In other respects the developed houses resembled the simple type — except that they followed standard practice of the 1840's in having outside walls 460 mm (18 inches) thick. They had semi-circular arches over the doors and did not possess ovens.

From the surviving fragment of Methodist Row it appears that the three-room houses were similar in detail. They were of the outshot type, looking like two-room houses with small ground-floor bedrooms and larders added at the back. The roofs, fig. 1 (c), were catslides with long continuous rear slopes covering half the first floor rooms and all of the outshots.² Internally the treatment of the floors, walls and roofs, was similar to that of the two-room houses. The remains were insufficient to determine the form of the roof structure, but like catslide houses elsewhere, those at Nantyglo probably had substantial principal rafters extended at the back over the outshot.

The four-room houses, many of which survived into recent years, were similar in cross section to the two-room houses though generally more amply proportioned. The plan, fig. 1 (d), was of course longer in the direction of the row. Just inside the front entrance a door led into a small ground floor bedroom with a fireplace, behind which was the larder. This had a small ventilating window through the back wall. Some four-room rows had original back doors, others did not. From the main ground floor room the usual circular stair led up to an 'outer' bedroom beyond which was the 'inner' bedroom. Neither had a fireplace. In no house could an original ground-floor ceiling be found but some of the first floor bedrooms might have been ceiled over from the start. Others were definitely open to the roof timbers, like the two-room houses, having the same plaster and whitewash finish to the underside of the slates. Only a few houses are known to have had ovens.

The historical background

Documentary material relating to these Nantyglo houses is both fragmentary and defective. The most useful sources are maps, especially those which result from a general survey of the locality. They provide a comprehensive statement of the positions (and sometimes the numbers) of houses at fixed dates. The sequence in which houses were actually built must then be inferred, in the absence of specific data, from observations in the field and from our knowledge of the way in which the works developed as a whole. As it happens the first attempt to work iron at Nantyglo led to the building, circa 1794, of a large row on the 'dual' principle, with single-storey tenements below and two-storey tenements above.³ These houses, later known as Office Row, were not demolished until 1962. But since neither Joseph Bailey nor his first partner Matthew Wayne had any interest in the works when Office Row was built, and since the design and siting of the row had absolutely no effect upon subsequent house-building at Nantyglo, its existence is irrelevant to this particular study. The first event of significance is the appearance of Joseph Bailey and Wayne at Nantyglo in 1811.

Bailey was an energetic young man who had inherited a quarter share in the Cyfarthfa Works following the death of his uncle Richard Crawshay in 1810. Crawshay's grandson, William wished to regain sole control at Cyfarthfa, so no doubt it was he who encouraged Bailey to take over the semi-derelict Nantyglo works, providing him with technical and managerial support in the person of Matthew Wayne, one of the Cyfarthfa executives.⁴ The plant that they took over on 25 March 1811, on a 58-year sub-lease from Thomas Hill of Blaenavon, was then nearly 20 years old, but had never been successfully worked. First promoted in 1791 by Hill and his associates at Blaenavon, it was intended that it should exploit the western side of the vast acreage of mineral rights leased from the Earl of Abergavenny in 1788. The Blaenavon partners, being

short of capital, undertook the Nantyglo scheme as a joint venture with Harford, Partridge and Company of Bristol. But when the works were finished in 1795, a dispute arose between the partners so that the furnaces were worked for only a few months. Coxe, visiting the site circa 1799, was shown “two furnaces, several forges, a steam engine, and the necessary buildings and machinery for smelting and forging iron ore . . . hastening to decay.”⁵ In 1802, Thomas Hill made another attempt to start the works; this soon ended in acrimonious exchanges between him and his intended partner Joseph Harrison of Newport.⁶ Hill must have been delighted when Bailey and Wayne began to negotiate their sub-lease, eventually taking over 1,400 of the 12,000 acres covered by Hill’s lease for a rent of £2,075, almost one-third of Hill’s annual payment of £6,275 to the Earl of Abergavenny.⁷ Bailey and Wayne re-opened the works in a boom period, of which they took good advantage. In 1812 only 1168 tons of Nantyglo iron were shipped through Newport, but output then rose rapidly, scarcely checked by the post-war depression which affected nearly all the other Monmouthshire works. By 1820 shippings had reached 8,826 tons, and either 3 or 4 furnaces were in blast.⁸ In that year Matthew Wayne retired to an estate which he owned at Gadlys near Aberdare, and his place was taken by Joseph’s younger brother Crawshay Bailey, then probably in his early twenties.⁹

The new partnership, styled J. & C. Bailey, continued the active policy of expansion. The works had first been connected to the Brecon and Abergavenny Canal early in 1814, by a branch from the tramroad between Rhyd-y-blew (Beaufort) and Glangrwyney, which reached the canal at Gilwern. In 1821-2, J. & C. Bailey built at their own cost a second tramroad to Govilon where a wharf was built. The line was carried on over the canal to connect with the Llanvihangel and Grosmont tramroads. The partners also built at this time the magnificent tramroad which runs round the edge of Mynydd Llangattock to the Darren Cilau limestone quarries.¹⁰ A fifth furnace was in blast by 1823, and others in 1826 and 1827, making seven at work by 1830, when shippings at Newport had reached 17,115 tons, and the total make was 23,883 tons. By this time Joseph Bailey had given up the management of the works to his brother who lived at the Great House, some 400 metres south-west of the works.¹¹ Crawshay Bailey had contemplated starting his own business as early as 1826, when he entered a bid for the Rhydney estate of Benjamin Hall,¹² but the next expansion was still a joint venture of the two brothers. On 25 March 1833, they took over the nearby Beaufort works, with four furnaces in blast and a total make of about 8,000 tons. During the eighteen-thirties one or two more furnaces were opened at both works. Shippings on the Monmouthshire Canal rose steadily to a combined total of 36,700 tons in 1840, but by then Crawshay Bailey’s interest was dwindling.¹³ In 1837 he bought the Aberaman estate of Anthony Bacon (the younger) who had died the previous year. An old furnace stood at Aberaman, but it was not until 1845 that Bailey was able to instal his nephew Henry at Nantyglo, and take up his home in his new property while he supervised the building of the largely unsuccessful Aberaman works.¹⁴ Though the brothers had moved away, they did not lose interest altogether in the Ebbw Fach valley; but their attention was concentrated more upon buying up neighbouring businesses than upon expansion of their own works.¹⁵ There were a few additions to the southern ‘suburb’ of Pen-y-garn Fach, but this lay outside the original Bailey territory. At Nantyglo itself there was little further change during the rest of Crawshay Bailey’s life. After his death in January 1872 the whole district slumped into depression.

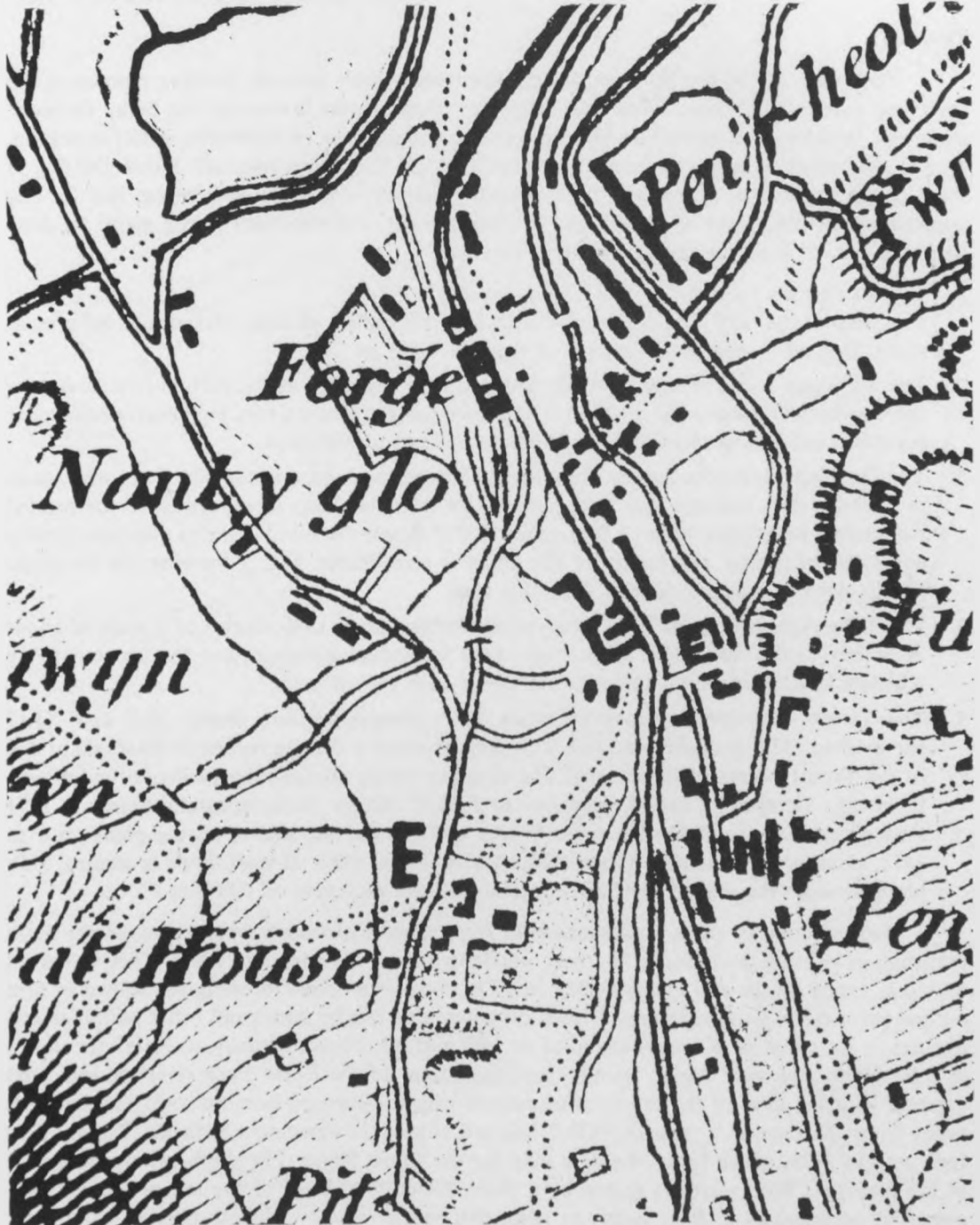


FIG. 2. Enlarged reproduction of the One-Inch Ordnance Survey Map, 1832, re-surveyed and revised circa 1828-29.

The Site

Today the site of the Nantyglo Works has been entirely cleared. Nothing remains of the sprawling mass of buildings, sheds and enclosures, their skyline broken by the bulky furnaces, chimneys, launders and catwalks which appear in a watercolour of the works in full operation, now in the collection of the National Museum, Cardiff. The visitor may still follow the line of some of the tramroads, and at the time of writing identify some of the housing. But for any appreciation of the layout of the site and its development, it is necessary to use maps. Of these there are five, all based upon contemporary surveys:

1. The sketch map reproduced by Lloyd dated after 1798-9.¹⁶
This map shows only the first abortive works. It is therefore of little relevance to the present study, beyond showing the position of the first furnaces.
2. The Two-Inch Map, Sheet 194, made between 1813 and 1817 as the preliminary survey for the One-Inch Ordnance Survey Map.¹⁷ This map did not attain a very high degree of angular accuracy, but it does show individual blocks or rows of buildings.
3. The One-Inch Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 42, with its revision notes. The latter were made in 1828-29; it is unlikely that information of a later date was incorporated in the printed map before its publication on 1 September 1832.¹⁸ Bearing in mind that this map was directly engraved on copper, the clarity of the detail is remarkable. Fig. 2 showing the Nantyglo Works Area is enlarged directly from this map.
4. The Tithe Apportionment Plan, Aberystroth Parish, dated 1840, drawn to a scale of about 24 inches to the mile. This map shows each individual building, and the accompanying schedule lists the owners, occupiers and use of each plot of land.¹⁹
5. The Twenty-Five Inch Ordnance Survey Plan, Monmouthshire Sheets XI.7 and XI.11 surveyed in 1879, published in 1880. This map provides a definite record of Nantyglo at one of the lowest points in its fortune. The troubles which affected the Nantyglo and Blaina Ironworks Company Limited, successor to J. & C. Bailey, from its establishment in 1871 through the closure of the Nantyglo Works in 1874 and the sale of all the plant prior to 1878, make it probable that no new industrial building, either of workshops or houses, took place between the end of the Bailey regime and the surveying of this map.²⁰

Reproduction of these large maps with this article is obviously impractical, so the main information relevant to housing has been condensed into one diagram, fig. 3. This shows all buildings extant at the end of the Bailey era. The rows of workers' housing are shown in firm outline (with the individual houses divided off where this can be done) and other buildings and features in light outline. Chapels are filled in with a cross; houses actually surveyed are shown in solid black. The two works' 'ponds' and the course of the Ebbw Fach river are indicated together with the lines of the principal tramroads which influenced house layout. The lines are taken from the One-Inch map of 1828-9 but are aligned in agreement with the Twenty-Five Inch map of 1879, which forms the base map for the whole figure. The south-eastern boundary of the Nantyglo Works area is shown by a chain-dotted line. Land to the left of this line was owned or occupied by J. & C. Bailey in 1840, that to the right by William Brewer, Ironmaster of Coalbrookvale.

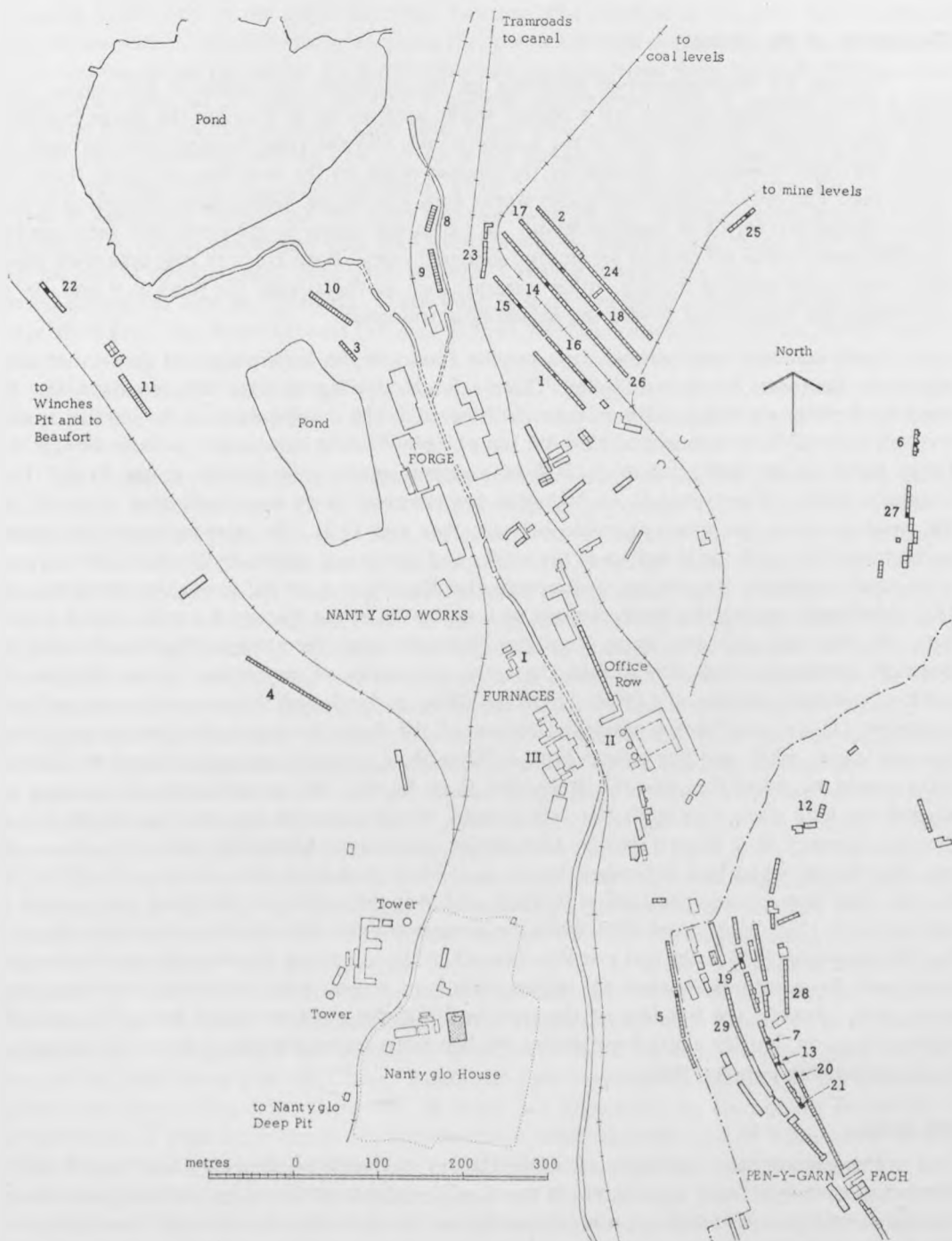


FIG. 3. Housing and Settlement Patterns at Nant-y-glo based on 1 : 2500 Ordnance Survey Map, 1880.

The Layout of the Houses

Though the arrangement of buildings on the Nantyglo site seems at first rather haphazard it is not difficult to pick out a central works area on fig. 3. This has the Forge buildings at its northern end, the Furnaces at the southern end, and the river running right through the centre. Its outer boundary is formed by the smaller pond on the west and the canal tramroad on the east. The only housing within this works area was the old Office Row. Outside it is possible to define two forms of housing layout. In a compact group to the north-east there are five 'parallel rows,' while all around are many 'scattered rows.' Both kinds of row take their alignment from a pre-existing feature, either natural, such as the stream for rows 8, 9 and 10, or man-made, the majority of rows lying alongside a tramroad.

Such scattered and parallel rows can be found in the early stages of growth of most ironworks towns in South-east Wales. There is some overlap in time between them but the scattered form is generally earlier in date. At Blaenavon the development of the parallel system was still incomplete in housing of 1836-39, but at Ebbw Vale it appeared in a loose form in the Forge Rows about 1820, and in 1825-26 in a rather similar arrangement at the British Iron Company works, Abersychan.²¹ At Nantyglo few scattered rows were built after 1828-29, but the parallel system was much extended between then and 1840. The relationship of the houses to the tramroads, and the bisection of the works and tramroads system by the river, may appear to be useful evidence for placing in sequence the construction of the rows. Unfortunately, the 1813 map shows us that the main outlines of both halves of the tramroad layout existed at that date. On the west, rails ran north from the Nantyglo Deep Pit towards Winches Pit and the Beaufort Ironworks. This line formed the spine of a series of connecting routes between the earliest Nantyglo furnaces of 1794-96 (FURNACES I in fig. 3) and the west bank coal and iron workings. On the east bank a tramroad connected the Forge area with the Brecon and Abergavenny canal, while another passed behind Office Row to reach the point where, in 1828-29, there would be other furnaces (FURNACES II in fig. 3). The parallel rows of housing are aligned not with these tramroads but with a third, which conveyed raw materials to the top of the new furnaces. It is known that by 1823 Bailey and Wayne had added three furnaces to the two that existed when they arrived. It seems most likely that these three stood at FURNACES II, that they were under construction in 1813, and that they were put into blast successively in 1815 or 1816, 1819 or 1820 and 1823, when the tonnages of iron shipped show marked increases.²² By this reasoning 1816 is the last possible date when the alignment of the third east bank tramroad could have been established. Of course there is no reason why there should not have been some delay between the building of the tramroad and the erection of the first of the parallel rows of housing, but the sharp bend where the line turns round the end of Row (14) suggests a close relationship between them.

Discussion

The generally uniform character of the Baileys' Nantyglo housing is evident from Table A. Houses of each type were built to much the same standards of floor area and enclosed volume throughout the period of their management at the works. Only a few rows are noticeably different. One of these is Winches Row (22), easily identified on the 1813 map by its isolated position,

and quite unlike any of the other Nantyglo housing. For example it has iron floor beams or joists, of inverted 'L' profile, which run along the row rather than across it in the usual direction. These iron beams are carried on the party walls and on an internal partition wall 370 mm thick within each house. At 39 degrees the roof is pitched more steeply than is normal. Such a pitch is often an indication of a relatively early date. It was also found on Masons Row (8) and Lions Row (9), thus confirming that the two outlines which appear on the 1813 map, near to the actual positions of these rows, do represent them. There is little to connect Winches Row with the arrival of Bailey and Wayne, but the other two rows were of the 'catslide-roofed outshot' type. This design is closely associated with the Cyfarthfa works, where it was much used during the wartime period of expansion, circa 1795 to 1815.²³ Wayne would have seen many such houses erected during his time at Cyfarthfa. There were at least two other catslide rows at Nantyglo. Forge Row (10), like Rows (8) and (9), was aligned with the course of a stream, rather than a tramroad, which suggests that it too was built at an early date, say about 1814 or 1815, before the works were in full operation. Methodist Row (11) is aligned with the west bank tramroad (extant in 1813), but its character, especially its flatter roof pitch, suggest a slightly later date. It is still likely that it was built while Wayne was in the partnership, before 1820.

As the figures for shippings on the Monmouthshire canal reveal, the growth of the works was more or less continuous up to 1827. The state of development at the end of this time is conveniently shown by the One-inch map, dated as a survey to 1828-29. Most of the scattered rows on both sides of the river can be seen on this map, together with parts of three or four parallel rows. Houses of all three types are included among these rows, making it impossible to give a firm date for the introduction of the two-room type. The departure of Wayne and arrival of Crawshay Bailey in 1820 would obviously have brought some changes, but why such an inefficient design should have been introduced is far from clear. Table A shows that the two-room houses provided only some 60 per cent of the floor area and enclosed volume normal for the four-room type, but they did not show a proportionate economy in the use of building materials. If the constructional techniques then in use at Blaenavon had been applied at Nantyglo, the amount of material employed in these houses would have enclosed a volume nearly 50 per cent greater than that actually achieved — almost as large as the four-room houses, in fact. Even without its special Nantyglo extravagances, such as the thick party walls and unnecessary roof timbers, the two-room house is an inefficient structure. It requires a large area of wall and roof to enclose a relatively small volume, thus exposing a greater surface to wind and weather for each useful unit of space provided. In this respect, too, the Blaenavon works housing was some 50 per cent better than the Nantyglo two-room type.²⁴ As spatial units, these houses were inadequate in many ways. There was no marital privacy, nor shelter of the entrance, features which the enlightened John Wood had laid down as essential forty years before.²⁵ The position of the stairs made it impossible for occupants to enter or leave the only sleeping space without crossing the main living area. In Chapel Road, the food preparation facilities of the two-room houses were almost ludicrous; there was an oven, but apparently no storage for foodstuffs.²⁶ The provision of separate ovens is not uncommon in small isolated rows of houses built in the 1820's, but is rare in more densely built up areas, presumably because it became difficult to find the necessary supplies of brushwood firing. The ovens of the Chapel Road houses cannot have been much used, but when they were fired, the stair in the next house would have been warmed, perhaps to the inconvenience of the neighbours.

Map No.	Modern Address	No of Houses	Gross plan area sq.m	Net floor area sq.m	Roof pitch degrees	Enclosed Volume cu.m	Notes
Two-room houses:							
1	Chapel Road 36-47	12	20.9	24.9	35½	56.4	Small Houses (1881) or Road Row (1880?)
2	Perks's Row 1-5	12	21.9e	—	—	—	Lennox Row (1873)
3	Little Forge Row	6	20.9e	—	—	—	
4	Wain Ebbw Row	24	22.0e	—	—	—	
5	Bayliss Row	31	20.9	24.9	35½	56.4	Hafod-y-Pwll (1880?)
6	Twyn-y-Deryn 1-6	6	26.1	29.7	30	72.1	
7	<i>Prince Street 31-32</i>	2	22.3	24.2	35	50.4	
Three-room houses:							
8	Masons Row	8	30.0e	27.8e	39e	67.8e	Chapel Row (1881)
9	Lions Row	12					
10	Forge Row	14	30.7e	30.8e	35½e	71.0e	
11	Methodist Row	11	31.9	32.0e	31½e	80.4e	
12	<i>Garn Road</i>	3	34.8	—	—	—	
13	<i>Prince Street 36</i>	2	30.2	30.2	35	65.4	
Four-room houses							
14	{ Limestone Road 4-19	15	31.1	41.5	32½	91.5	Govilon Cottages (1881) Massey Row (1873) (straight flight stairs)
		6	35.2	48.0e	—	129e	
15	Chapel Road 11-22	12	32.0	41.7	34	100.6	Richardson's Row (1874). Large Row (1881)
16	{ " " 23-30	8	31.8	42.9	33½	101.5	Habbakuk's Row (1874)
		5	31.5	42.8	36	104.2	
17	Griffiths Row 1-21	21	29.6	38.5	30	83.3	Grave Row (1873)
18	" " 24-33	10	29.0	38.8	28½	84.3	
19	<i>Prince Street 6-9</i>	4	30.0	39.4	35	89.0	
20	" " 58-63	6	29.8	36.8	33½	76.7	
21	{ " " 44	1	27.7	36.2	33½	79.8	Foreman's house ?
		1	36.2	48.8	33½	107.6	
22	Winches Row	5	29.6	39.3	39½	90.5	(Cast iron floor joists)
23	Chapel Road	5	30.5e	—	—	—	Mechanics Row
24	Perks's Row	20	29e	—	—	—	
25	Pen-yr-Heol Esgyrn	6	30.0	39.5	31	93	Six Houses
26	Limestone Road	10	31.2e	—	—	—	Upper Row
27	Twyn-y-Deryn	14	30.9	39.8	31	95	
28	<i>Garn Road</i>	8	30.4e	—	—	—	
29	<i>Duke's Row</i>	20	miscellaneous sizes		—	—	

c: dimension estimated from map or Local Authority records.

Net floor area does not include the stair enclosure.

Addresses *in italic* show houses in Pen-y-Garn Fach outside Nantyglo Works Area.

TABLE A: SALIENT DIMENSIONS OF ROW HOUSES AT NANTYGLLO, 1811-1845

It is tempting to connect these two-room houses, perversely combining extravagance in materials and meanness of sizing and finish, with the stereotyped capitalist image often attached to Crawshay Bailey. Table A shows that houses just as cramped and equally primitive stood on William Brewer's lands at Pen-y-garn Fach; in fact, Brewer's houses in Prince Street, though of the developed version, were the smallest of all the two-room dwellings in both floor area and enclosed volume.²⁷ On the other hand, the general standard of finish of almost all Nantyglo houses was poor. The stairs are narrow and irregular, the headroom in openings minimal, the wall finishes uneven and the roofs open and unceiled. Building of the three-room type apparently ceased about 1820; after 1828-29 only a few two-room houses were constructed, all in the developed version. Otherwise all building from 1830 to 1845 was of four-room houses, nearly all of the same dismal quality. In just a few cases, Massey Row (14) and 45 Prince Street (21), higher standards are found; perhaps these were foremen's houses. Though the trend is scarcely significant, standards in the four-room dwellings seem to decline after 1828-29. Row (25) has an exceptionally light floor, with joists spaced 570 mm apart. Rows (17) and (18) and originally perhaps Row (24) are noticeably smaller than the norm in both floor area and enclosed volume. The two-room houses improve a little after 1830 with the introduction of the developed type. Throughout the period, the standards used at Pen-y-garn Fach are noticeably inferior to those of Nantyglo proper.

It might be argued that it was necessary for works proprietors to build housing of different sizes to suit the circumstances and incomes of different households. In practice such necessary variety arose almost everywhere in the course of time. Most works built up a stock of housing gradually, so that even if concerted building of one type took place over several years, as was the case at Blaenavon, there was still a range of house sizes, and presumably rents, available for the work-people. The Census returns show that within a single row of houses of one type, a great variety of household sizes could occur. At Blaenavon in 1841 the occupancy of some three-room houses varied from two to thirteen persons, and of two-room houses from one to eight.²⁸ Unfortunately, the Census enumerator's returns, for both the 1841 and 1851 Censuses, fail to distinguish adequately between the various rows in Nantyglo proper and in Pen-y-garn Fach, and the oldest surviving list of rents is no earlier than circa 1880, so that there is no material evidence upon which to base any defence of the builders of the two-room houses. It is not possible to correlate occupancies with house sizes, nor rentals with occupations. Bearing in mind the poor quality observed in nearly all its housing, the accusation against the Bailey management, that without adequate reason it wilfully depressed housing standards at its works below the norms for the Heads of Valleys district, stands therefore unproven but unlikely to be dismissed.

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- 7 Particulars . . . of property comprising the Blaenavon Iron and Coal Mines . . . which will be sold by auction . . . 22nd November, 1833, Gwent R. O. D.7. 154.
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- 9 Lloyd, J. op. cit. 174, Wilkins, C. op. cit. 76.
- 10 Hadfield, C. *Canals of South Wales and the Border*, Newton Abbot, 1967, 166.
- 11 Lloyd, J. op. cit. 174, Scrivenor, H. op. cit. 129.
- 12 Wilkins, C. op. cit. 187.
- 13 Lloyd, J. op. cit. 174, Scrivenor, H. op. cit. 129.
- 14 Lloyd, J. op. cit. 112.
- 15 Lease of a home owned by J. and C. Bailey in Hope Street, Blaina, dated 1846. Gwent R. O. D.397 1341.
- 16 Lloyd, J. op. cit. face page 167.
- 17 Harley, J. B. *Cartographical Notes* accompanying Sheet 58, Brecon, of "Reprint of the First Edition of the One-inch Ordnance Survey of England and Wales," Newton Abbot, 1969.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 Gwent R. O. Note that this is a copy of the original map.
- 20 Gwent R. O. Coloured Edition of 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Monmouthshire Sheets XI 7 and 11, 1880. Introductory note on the Nantyglo and Blaina Ironworks Company Limited.
- 21 Gray-Jones, A. *A History of Ebbw Vale*, Risca, 1970, 95; Map of the Lands of the British Iron Company? Abersychan, 1825, National Museum of Wales, Dept. of Industry; *Iron Industry Housing Papers* 4 and 5, UWIST, Cardiff, 1971-2. The parallel row layout should not be confused with the grid-iron plan where housing is developed on both sides of previously determined street lines. The grid-iron plan, variously modified, can be seen as early as 1813-14 at Georgetown, Merthyr Tydfil and at Tredegar.
- 22 Scrivenor op. cit. 126, 129.
- 23 *IIH Papers* 5, figure 21. Iron floor beams were used later by the Baileys in the 'barracks' built north-west of Nantyglo Great House.
- 24 *IIH Papers* 7, 63-64. Lowe, J. B. *Welsh Industrial Workers' Housing*, 30-31 and 37.
- 25 Wood, J. *A Series of Plans for Cottages or Habitations of the Labourer, etc.* 1781, repr. Farnborough, 1972, 5-6.
- 26 Houses built without larders at Blaenavon in the 1790's were provided with external larders before 1812 *IIH Papers* 6, 48.
- 27 The date of construction is uncertain, but is probably after 1828-9 and certainly before 1840.
- 28 *IIH Papers* 4, 23 and 6, 51.

Acknowledgements. The author wishes to thank the members and officers of the former Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District Council (now absorbed into Blaenau Gwent District) for their assistance in obtaining access to empty houses here described, and for information about houses now demolished. Mr. Baker and his staff at the Gwent Record Office provided much help in disentangling the land ownerships listed in the 1840 Tithe Survey, and the staff of the National Library of Wales also assisted in this respect.

NOTES

Four Missing Stones from Caerwent

During the Caerwent excavations of 1899-1913, a Museum was maintained in a temporary building on the site. The bulk of the collection is now in Newport Museum, whose claim to it had very soon become paramount; for Cardiff did nothing to attract it, and there was no room at Caerleon. The *South Wales Argus* carried the public announcement of Lord Tredegar's gift on 4th July, 1916. It can easily be understood that conditions in the site-museum, never very satisfactory, had been worsened by neglect since the suspension of the excavations — effectively in 1912, for 1913 saw only a piece of 'rescue-work' on the so-called temple outside the east gate. W. A. Gunn, appointed in 1913 as the first Curator of Newport Museum, has left a dismal note, preserved in the archives of the Museum, regarding the condition of the site-museum and the difficulties of moving and storing the finds in war-time. It is not surprising that some of the important specimens mentioned in the *Archaeologia* reports are not now to be found in Newport (or indeed elsewhere). The most grievous losses, however, are not among small objects but among sculptured stonework, of which all too little of note had in any case been turned up. An estimated three waggon-loads of stones had been left at Caerwent when the remainder of the material had been transferred to Newport, and were inspected by members of Newport Museum Committee in 1920. A Minute (no. 315, 18th October 1921) recorded the decision that 'the material from the Corporation Yard, Lyne Road School and Caerwent be removed and stored behind the Carnegie Library (in Corporation Road) and that the Curator (Mr. Gunn) be authorised to reject and leave at Caerwent any of the material which . . . should not be moved.' Five portions of large sandstone columns, including a complete Tuscan capital, remained in the grounds of the Library, where Mr. Barnett and I saw them in 1974.

The following four items of signal importance are missing. It cannot be known for certain that they ever reached Newport; they may easily have been left at Caerwent in 1916-17, and may have been taken for use as garden-ornaments. If after such a lapse of time any Member of the Association or any other reader of these lines can throw light on their fate, or on their present whereabouts, he or she would render a great service to Romano-British Archaeology.

1. **Inscription**, unpublished, reading /.../.../[.]PTE or PT/[.]ANA/... .
2. **Monolithic table-top**, published, *Archaeologia* LXII (1911), 436, fig. 16. The upper surface has a beaded rim, and the side illustrated here has so-called 'chip-carved' decoration; it measures 56 cm. Bath stone. The largest of several fragments, six others conjoining to form the opposite side and part of the bow-front of the table-top, also decorated likewise. Fourth century A.D.
3. **Corinthian capital from the Basilica**, published, *Archaeologia* LXI (1909), 573, fig. 1. The lower drum illustrated here measures about 64 cm. in diameter. There was also another fragment fitting above the right-hand side (as shown in the photograph), completing the volute to the level of the abacus; this second fragment measured about 36 cm. in its longest dimension. Bath stone. First to second century A.D. The loss of these pieces is the most serious of all, for such things are extremely rare in Romano-British contexts.



PLATE 1. Four missing stones from Caerwent.

4. **Enriched cornice from the Forum-Basilica**, published *ibid.*, 581, fig. 6, where as here the two conjoining pieces are shown upside-down. Together about 85 cm. long. Bath stone. First to second century A.D.

GEORGE C. BOON.

A Palstave from Mynydd Machen, Gwent

The palstave (fig. 1) which is the subject of this note was a surface find discovered in 1976 by Mr. I. Twose on Mynydd Machen in the area of ST 224 894. The palstave is an unlooped example of Smith's¹ low-flanged type which appeared in Burgess's Taunton phase² of the Middle Bronze Age. The original surface of much of the blade and flanges has been destroyed by corrosion and no evidence remains of the former existence of decorative features. The dimensions of the palstave are 15.1 cms. x 5.8 cms. The weight is 320 grammes. The find has been donated to the National Museum of Wales (accession no. 77.13H) by the landowner, the Forestry Commission.

H. STEPHEN GREEN.

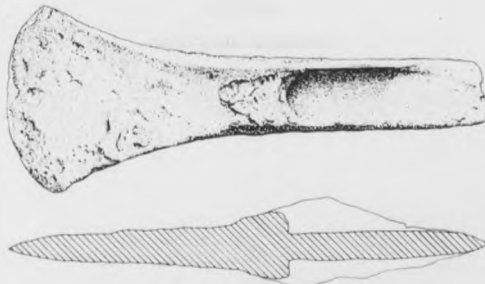


FIG. 1. Palstave from Mynydd Machen.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Smith, M. A., *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 25 (1959), 167.

² Burgess, C., in Renfrew, C., (ed.) *British Prehistory: a New Outline* (London, 1974), 203.

An Unpublished Coin from Caerwent

Whilst re-cataloguing the collection of Roman coins from Caerwent at Newport Museum, I came across a specimen of a rarity which justifies its being recorded here. It was one of a great many coins of the late fourth century which were discovered during excavations on the site of House VI(S) in 1902.

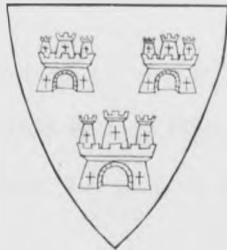
Bronze Æ 3., Obverse: *DN ARCADIUS (PF) AVG*, diademed, draped and cuirassed bust right. Reverse: *VOT X/MVLTXX*, within wreath, *LVG* in the exergue, from the mint of Lugdunum, between AD 383-388.

Until this specimen came to light, the only known *VOT X/MVLTXX* reverse issues of Lugdunum have been the silver issues of Valens, minted between AD 367-375. The Valens issues with exergual marks *LVG* and *PLVG* are also of the highest rarity.

RODNEY HUDSON.

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