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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES*

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AVENING

A MILE south of Avening and two-thirds of a mile sw of Star Farm the boundary line between the parishes of Avening and Tetbury (LVIII, NW) takes a turn which should apparently be an angle, but in reality is a concave curve. The explanation of this appears to be that when the boundary was made one barrow at least stood here. Of this there seems to be a slight indication as if the barrow had been ploughed down to vanishing point. The possibility of a second barrow is also suggested.

WOODCHESTER

Of the interesting round barrow near Ivy Lodge, ignorantly destroyed last year, as reported in *The Times* of 29 August 1930, it need only be stated here that the *site* is marked (XLIX, NW) and so its situation is secure for future students.

BARROW ELM, HATHEROP

A mound stands by the roadside at the NE corner of the cross roads half a mile s of Hatherop (LII, NE). It is some 21 yds. long by 14 yds. wide, and 5 ft. to 5 ft. 6 in. high, with an axis SE by NW. Open to the road, it is divided from the enclosed field by a semicircular wall, impinging on its side and ends, and possibly marking a decreased area of the mound due to shortening. Its present proportions are curious, suggesting comparison

* The references to maps are those of the 6-inch (Gloucestershire) Ordnance Survey Sheets.

with the Hyde tumulus. It is covered with trees and shrubs, and seems to be the origin of the name of the adjacent farm, Barrow Elm Farm.

It is referred to by the Rev. E. A. Fuller in *Trans. B.G.A.S.* (IX, 333) thus :—

‘ The Hundred of Bryghtwoleysberg . . . was held at la Berge near Hatherop, i.e., at the spot known in that neighbourhood as Barrow Elm, though the elm was blown down some years ago, the Barrow being by the side of the Icknield way near its intersection with the Saltway’.

The mound is referred to by Rudder, *Gloucestershire*, 1779, p. 480, under Hatherop. ‘ *Aston Barrow* . . . is thought to be that which was antiently called *Brictwoldesberg*, and gave name to the hundred, now corruptly written *Britwell's barrow*’. If this identification be correct, the barrow seems to have been subject to considerable change of name.

PILLOW MOUNDS

These are puzzling and their full explanation remains for the future.¹ Our classical example is the Avenis barrow described in *Transactions B.G.A.S.*, XLVII; two other mounds somewhat of this type in appearance, whatever they may be in fact, may be recorded here.

1. Chalford

In a dip in a field at Old Neighbouring, on the left hand side of the road to Bisley (L, NW). It measures some 66 ft. by 33 ft. and is of irregular height, averaging about 5 ft. The axis is SE and NW: the latter end being irregular as if disturbed (also it might represent unfinished work). It is apparently of considerable age, as trees

¹ For ‘pillow mounds’ see O. G. S. Crawford and A. Keiller, *Wessex from the Air* (1928), pp. 18–24, and note by O. G. S. C. in *ANTIQUITY*, June 1930, p. 199.

seem to have grown on it, and the oak tree now standing is of many years' growth. Whether it has archaeological interest is problematical without excavation.

2. Pope's Wood, Cranham

Halfway between the 'Royal William' and Prinknash Park, about 20 yards w of the main road and close by a track leading to the Portway, is a mound 60 ft. long by 14 ft. wide with a ditch on the northern side and at the sw end (xxxiv, sw). Height some $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. This may be a 'pillow mound'.

ROMAN VILLAS

The Rev. W. L. Warne of Moreton in Marsh tells of the finding of fragments of Roman pottery and other remains at two sites near Stow on the Wold, suggestive of villas. It seems desirable that these should have permanent record.

(1) the grounds of Wyckhill House, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles s of Stow (xxix, nw).

(2) the field at the NE corner of the cross roads, Stow to Moreton and Broadwell to Donnington (xxii, sw). From its position the application of *villa* to this site seems too ambitious.

VARIOUS AND DOUBTFUL SITES

ASTON, MINCHINHAMPTON. About 600 yards NE of Dunkerpool (L, sw) is a curious and notable circular hollow, on the side of which is an old thorn tree at the SE, and two old thorn trees at the NW.

The 'basin' has a diameter of about 23 yds. 2 ft., and is about 2 ft. deep. Round the edge is a bank (doubtless made from excavated material) some $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide, bulging out, at the s in a semicircle about 6 yds. at its widest. The bank is made of fairly large stones.

Enquiries have failed to produce any explanation of this circle.

About 17 yds. E of this are two stony mounds, which may be refuse from the circle ; or, it is possible that they are the remains of a round barrow which has been cut through N and S. The overall measurement is about 23 yds. by 18 yds. If a barrow, the measurements may be original, (cf. Hyde tumulus, and Barrow Elm, Hatherop), or may be distortion by moving material in the cutting.

The name of the field, Oxley, gives no clue.

If of prehistoric origin it may have had a ritual use : and it may be suggestive or mere coincidence that in the same field is a covered well, and that the circle is about three quarters of a mile S of the Aston Down round barrow, NE of the Aston mound enclosure (*Trans. B.G.A.S.* L, 314) and E of the Devil's Churchyard.

LONGTREE, AVENING. In the field at the NE corner of the cross roads (LVII, NE) S of Longtree Barn and quite close to the road the ground levels indicate artificial formation. The origin and purpose are not obvious, but the site is not far from the site of an obliterated barrow (see AVENING, p. 275), and is beside the old road (mis-called Roman) running through Tarlton and Rodmarton towards Boxwell.

CUSTOM SCRUBS, PAINSWICK. At the foot of the Scrubs (XLII, SW) a stone bridge, of single, semicircular span, crosses a small stream on the line of the old road. This is such a wonderful improvement on the usual ford and so unlike the methods of comparatively recent times for such roads that the question of its age arises naturally, and whether it dates back to the great road-making period, the Romano-British.

BISLEY. 'The Wittantree' is marked on the map (XLII, SW) a mile N of the village. Doubtless this is the

site of the Hundred Moot, but nothing remains to show it unless a small quarry may be said to do so.

FLINTS

Some of the flint implements found on the Cotswolds bear evidence of re-chipping in a somewhat curious manner. In some cases the patina of the re-worked edge is much like the rest of the flint ; and from this there are varying stages until most of the implement is fully patinated while the re-chipped edge has scarcely any sign of patina.

Patina is a mystery, and the speed or slowness of its development is not understood. But when a flint flake is encrusted with white and the re-chipped edge scarcely shows any sign of patina it is a fair inference that a considerable period divides the original flaking from the re-chipping. How long it is impossible perhaps to say : but as the re-working was done presumably in the Bronze Age, say 3000 to 4000 years ago, it seems fair to assume that the man who made the flake originally was on the Cotswolds at a very much earlier period.