

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

## **The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds**

by G. E. Daniel  
1963, Vol. 82, 5-17

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# The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds

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*Presidential Address to the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society  
delivered at the Wheatstone Hall, Gloucester  
on 9 March 1963*

WHEN, last year, you honoured me by electing me President of your Society for 1962–63, and I realized that when I relinquished my office as I have done today, I should be required to make a presidential address, I knew then and immediately what this address would have to be about: for private and professional reasons it would have to be about the prehistoric chambered tombs of this part of the world. It would indeed have to discuss the long barrows of the Cotswolds.

Thirty years ago, when as an undergraduate in Cambridge, I began to read archaeology at the feet of men like M. C. Burkitt, J. M. de Navarro, and the late Professor H. M. Chadwick, I first met our distinguished honorary member and former President, Mrs E. M. Clifford. Mrs Clifford was then embarking on the excavation of the Notgrove Long Barrow and invited me to join her team of helpers. This was the beginning of a long association of friendship and affection which has fortunately not ended. I worked with Elsie Clifford at Notgrove and later at Nympsfield and then, just before the last war, at Rodmarton: indeed the report on the Rodmarton Long Barrow with its comparative study of portholes appeared in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* for 1940 under our joint names.<sup>1</sup>

I am not a native of Gloucestershire: I was born and brought up on the other side of Offa's Dyke, and, like that great 17th-century antiquary who was Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum and author of the *Lithophylacii Britannici ichnographia* and the *Archaeologica Britannica* 'dont profess to be an Englishman, but an Old Briton'. South Wales, like Gloucestershire, is a country rich in megalithic tombs, many of them the same kind of chambered long barrow which we find in the Cotswolds. I spent most of my childhood and youth in the Vale of Glamorgan and soon became interested in the south Welsh megaliths.

<sup>1</sup> E. M. Clifford and G. E. Daniel, 'The Rodmarton and Avening Portholes', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* (1940), p. 133.

The obvious and fine burial chamber of St Lythans, which was the frontispiece of Sir Mortimer Wheeler's *Prehistoric and Roman Wales*, was only eight miles away from the village of Llantwit Major where I lived, and only a mile from the St Lythans chamber is the remarkable chambered long barrow of Tinkinswood excavated so well by John Ward before the 1914-18 war.<sup>1</sup>

The traditions of megalithic excavation were well served by John Ward, and he was fortunate in having Sir Arthur Keith to study the skeletal remains found. The burial chamber at Tinkinswood had at least fifty individuals buried therein, and of them Keith says, 'Men, women and children, at all stages of life, had their remains mingled together'.<sup>2</sup> Tinkinswood was also remarkable in revealing in a field adjacent to the tomb itself a small quarry site from which the great slabs used in the construction of the tomb could have and probably did come.<sup>3</sup> John Ward, himself midway between the work of General Pitt Rivers and the revival and development of Pitt Rivers's excavation techniques by Wheeler and Fox and others in the 1920s, inaugurated a new tradition in long barrow excavation which was continued and improved by Sir James Berry in his excavation of Belas Knap, published in our *Transactions*,<sup>4</sup> and brought to a high state by the work I have mentioned at Notgrove, Nympsfield and Rodmarton, and more recently by the excavations of Professor Piggott and Professor Atkinson in the long barrows of West Kennet and Wayland's Smithy.<sup>5</sup>

One of the most interesting and intriguing megalithic sites in South Wales is that of Parc le Breos Cwm in the Gower peninsula, a few miles from Swansea. This site was excavated in 1869 by Sir John Lubbock and Lord Swansea, and they found there twenty-four skeletons and sherds of western Neolithic pottery. The plan of the tomb was that of a parallel-sided Gallery with two pairs of transeptal chambers, rather like Notgrove or Hetty Pegler's Tump. One might have expected the site therefore to be a long barrow of the Cotswold-type but as planned by Lubbock and Swansea it was a round barrow. I visited it several times in the 1930s and was convinced that it was really a long barrow 85 to 90 feet in length by 55 feet maximum breadth. One is always chary of being certain about the form of barrows from field survey only: it was therefore very comforting when a few years ago the excavations

<sup>1</sup> J. Ward, *Arch. Camb.* (1915), p. 253 and (1916), p. 239.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Arthur Keith, *Arch. Camb.* (1916), p. 268.

<sup>3</sup> *Arch. Camb.* (1915), p. 275.

<sup>4</sup> Sir James Berry, *Trans. BGAS* (1929), p. 261; (1930), pp. 123 and 295.

<sup>5</sup> For a preliminary account of West Kennet see S. Piggott, *Antiquity* (1958), p. 235; for the full publication, S. Piggott, *The West Kennet Long Barrow: Excavations, 1955-56* (London, 1962). A preliminary account of the Wayland's Smithy excavations will appear in *Antiquity* in 1964.

of Professor Atkinson at Parc Cwm put theory to the test of the spade and showed Parc Cwm to be a Cotswold-type chambered long barrow.<sup>1</sup>

I have begun this account of the Long Barrows of the Cotswolds in a personal way, and will continue in the same vein. My interest in the Cotswold barrows and the megaliths of South Wales soon took me to see the monuments in one of the greatest centres of megalithic architecture, namely southern Brittany. In 1930 several British archaeologists interested in comparative megalithic studies had suggested that the nearest formal parallels to the Cotswold tomb plans like Notgrove, Nympsfield and Hetty Pegler's Tump were to be found in southern Brittany. This is what was said by Professor Fleure and the late H. J. E. Peake in their paper 'Megaliths and Beakers' published in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* for 1930<sup>2</sup> and by Professor Daryll Forde in his long article, 'The Early Cultures of Atlantic Europe' published in the same year.<sup>3</sup> Affected by these ideas I went eagerly to see sites like Mané Groh, Keriaval, Klud-er-Yer, and Herbignac in south-eastern Brittany; these sites are indeed very like the Cotswold long barrows, and it would not be surprising to find them a few miles from Stroud or Gloucester, or, for that matter Cardiff or Swansea.

These travels decided me to do some work on a serious scale on the Cotswold and south Welsh chambered long barrows, with a view to worrying out into the open possible solutions to two questions, namely the distribution and origins of these tombs. A study of the first question—where exactly were these Cotswold-type long barrows to be found—led to the appreciation that hitherto chambered long barrows and unchambered long barrows in England and Wales had not been studied distributionally as separate categories. The standard distribution map available thirty years ago was that prepared by Miss L. F. Chitty and published in Sir Cyril Fox's *The Personality of Britain*,<sup>4</sup> but this was a map of *all* megalithic and associated monuments and it grouped the chambered and unchambered long barrows of southern Britain together. It was then possible for some people to argue that on distributional grounds it looked as though 'long barrows' were introduced from northern France into Dorset and Hampshire and spread up into Salisbury Plain and on into the Cotswolds. On this distributional argument the south Welsh barrows would be the furthest extension of this spread and necessarily later than the long barrows of southern England.

<sup>1</sup> G. E. Daniel, *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* (1937), p. 71.

<sup>2</sup> H. J. Fleure and H. Peake, *Journ. Roy. Anth. Inst.* (1930), p. 47.

<sup>3</sup> C. D. Forde, *American Anthropologist* (1930), p. 19.

<sup>4</sup> The first edition of Cyril Fox, *The Personality of Britain; its influence on inhabitant and invader in prehistoric and early historic times* was published in Cardiff in 1932. The fourth edition is 1959. Miss Chitty's map was fig. 1, p. 10.

But when one took this general distribution pattern to pieces and plotted separately the long barrows with great stone chambers as distinct from those without megalithic structures, then one very interesting fact emerged. There was no continuous distribution of chambered long barrows from Southampton Water to the Cotswolds and South Wales. The chambered long barrows of southern Britain were to be found in six areas (1) Cornwall, and Devon (where there are one or two examples), (2) south Dorset with one or two examples of which The Grey Mare and Her Colts is the best known, (3) the so-called Medway group near Maidstone with sites such as Coldrum, Addington and Kit's Coty House, (4) the south-west Midlands, (5) the coastal fringe of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire, and (6) the Black Mountains area of south-east Central Wales.

Of these six groups the most important numerically was that of the south-west Midlands comprising Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Berkshire, and Wiltshire. Of course I visited all these sites in the field but the material for a distributional survey was there all the time, in the early surveys of men like Witts, and particularly in the work of O. G. S. Crawford. Crawford published in 1922 his views and a distributional map in an Ordnance Survey Professional Paper called *The Cotswolds and the Welsh Marches*: it was the first of five publications of the Ordnance Survey's Megalithic Survey to come out between 1922 and 1936. Three years later, in his *The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds* (1925), Crawford gave us a detailed and most useful account of these tombs which has been our steady reference book until the new list published by Mr Grinsell and Mrs O'Neil in our own *Transactions* in 1960.<sup>1</sup>

From these sources it was very easy to construct a distribution map of the chambered long barrows of the south-west Midlands and South Wales, and one such map is reproduced here (FIG. 1). It showed that the area of concentration of these monuments in southern Britain was the Cotswolds and the lands of south-east Wales west of the Severn, and to demonstrate this distributional continuity and unity I referred to this group—which comprises items (4), (5), and (6) of my previous list—as the Severn-Cotswold group or culture. The questions we ask ourselves now are these: is this idea of a Severn-Cotswold group or culture, propounded a quarter of a century ago, still reasonable and cogent: secondly, if it is, did it all start by the colonization of the shores of the Severn by people from southern Brittany and thirdly, are the builders of these tombs in any way ancestors of the modern people of Gloucestershire and Somerset?

<sup>1</sup> L. V. Grinsell and H. E. O'Neil, *Trans. BGAS* (1960), Part I.

## THE LONG BARROWS OF THE COTSWOLDS

We must remember the variety of tombs in the Severn-Cotswold group. Thurnam long ago divided them into terminally-chambered and laterally-chambered tombs,<sup>1</sup> and Crawford developed this division.<sup>2</sup> We have already mentioned examples of these two types; Notgrove, Nympsfield and Parc le Breos Cwm are good examples of terminally-chambered long barrows, while Rodmarton and Belas Knap are good examples of laterally-chambered long barrows. It should be remembered that there is a great variety of chamber in the terminally-chambered class: the Transepted Gallery Graves are the tombs best known, but there are also Gallery Graves with apparently no side-chambers like Heston Brake, and large rectangular chambers like Tinkinswood.

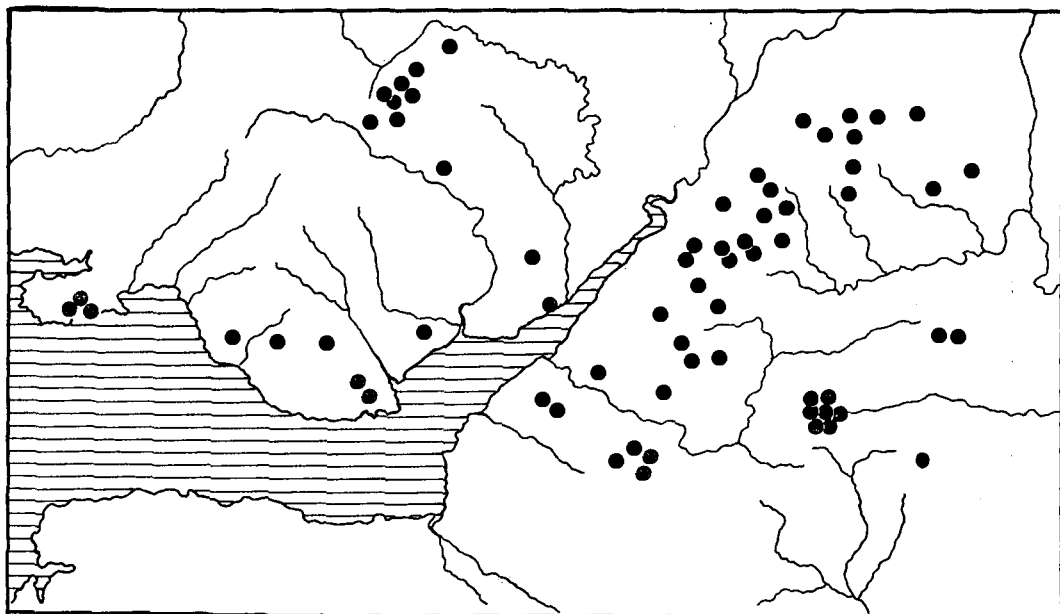


Fig. 1. Distribution of Severn-Cotswold tombs in south-west England and South Wales

It was the late Professor Gordon Childe who emphasized the study of the distribution of different types within a group, and this is most important in studying the various types of tombs in the Severn-Cotswold area. There can be no doubt that the terminally-chambered tombs form a distribution pattern which is significantly related to the shores of the Severn, whereas the laterally-chambered tombs are not so aligned.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. Thurnam, 'On Ancient British Barrows . . . Part I: Long Barrows', *Archaeologia*, XLII, (1868), p. 161.

<sup>2</sup> O. G. S. Crawford, *The Long Barrows of the Cotswolds* (Gloucester, 1925), p. 23, and *The Cotswolds and the Welsh Marches* (Ordnance Survey Professional Paper no. 6) (1922).

<sup>3</sup> V. G. Childe, *Trans. Glasgow Arch. Soc.* (1932), p. 120.

The answer to our first question does not seem to me difficult: the idea of a Severn-Cotswold group or culture still seems reasonable and cogent. The people who built these great tombs and were buried in them were people who sailed up the Bristol Channel—the Severn Sea—and settled on the plains of Glamorgan and Monmouthshire in the west and the Cotswold hills to the east. These folk then moved on into Berkshire, Wiltshire and Somerset on the one hand, and on the other up into the Black Mountains of south-eastern Wales. All this happened in the first half of the third millennium or even before 3000 B.C.

Here, in the matter of chronology, our views have changed extensively in the last quarter century. This change is the change that has come over our absolute chronology of the Neolithic in the last few years due to the discovery of carbon-14 dating and the determination of many dates by this remarkable technique which bids fair at the moment to revolutionize archaeology. Only a few years ago, indeed as recently as when Professor Piggott published his *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* in 1954, the generally accepted view was that the first peasant farmers of the Neolithic came into Britain around about 2000 B.C., and that megalithic monuments in Western Europe began somewhere between 2500 (if as early as that) and 2000 B.C. Now we know that these dates were quite wrong, and the result of intelligent guesswork. Now Dr Kathleen Kenyon has found a Neolithic in Jericho in the eighth millennium B.C., Mr James Mellaart a Neolithic in southern Anatolia in the sixth millennium B.C., the Neolithic of Eastern Europe is well established by 5000 B.C. and had spread along the loess lands to the Netherlands by 4500 B.C. It now seems certain that there were peasant farmers, technologically in the Neolithic of the old terminology, on the continental shores opposite south-eastern Britain by 4000 B.C. Other Neolithic villagers were well established in the west Mediterranean and south-western Europe before 3500 B.C. And our own first peasant villagers of our Neolithic are now to be dated between 3500 and 3300 B.C.<sup>1</sup>

What concerns us is where between 3500 B.C. and the beginning of metallurgy in southern Britain do our megalithic tombs come? Evidence is accumulating from France, Spain, Ireland, Britain itself and Scandinavia which suggests that the earliest megalithic tombs in north-western Europe date from at least 3000 B.C. and probably earlier. At the present moment in the development of archaeological

<sup>1</sup> See especially J. G. D. Clark and H. Godwin, 'The Neolithic in the Cambridgeshire Fens', *Antiquity* (1962), p. 10.

scholarship our earliest Severn-Cotswold tombs should be dated somewhere around 3000 B.C.<sup>1</sup>

We can now move to the second of the three questions we posed. Did the Severn-Cotswold settlers, arriving in Britain at a date a good thousand years earlier than, ten years ago, we thought they did, come from that area in southern Brittany and north-western France suggested in the thirties by Fleure, Peake, Forde, Childe and the present writer? It seems to me that this is still the most likely suggestion, and that tombs like Mané Groh, Klud-er-Yer, Herbignac, and Grah-niol are the most likely continental parallels and origins for our Severn Cotswold tombs. Piggott has published a distribution map of what he calls the Pornic-Notgrove group of chambered tombs,<sup>2</sup> and the present writer has also published the same basic pattern in a map which is reproduced here (FIG. 2).<sup>3</sup> But this is only half the answer to this question. What is the ultimate origin of these monuments in southern Brittany which so closely resemble our Transepted Gallery Graves in the Severn-Cotswold area? There is surely nowadays very little doubt about the general problem of the origins of the megalith builders of Brittany: they came from the south, that is to say from Iberia and southern France, and it is here that we should seek for the detailed parallels to the Breton Transepted Gallery Graves, and the origins of their builders.<sup>4</sup>

It has been argued, however, particularly recently by Giot, that this form of tomb developed in Brittany out of existing types.<sup>5</sup> While this is possible, an origin further south seems more likely, and there are two possible areas. I have argued for an origin in southern France and the Balearics, where long tombs with transepted chambers exist,<sup>6</sup> but the researches of Georg and Vera Leisner have discovered in the Reguengos area of south-west Spain interesting tombs such as those at El Pozuelo, which could be ancestral to the Breton tombs.<sup>7</sup> I suggest the fairest way to put this answer at the moment is to say this; our Cotswold megalith builders ultimately came from Iberia and the west Mediterranean, and the form of their tombs was devised in those areas, or later in Brittany based on ideas from those homeland areas.

<sup>1</sup> S. Piggott, *The West Kennet Long Barrow*, pp. 71-3; and G. E. Daniel, *The Megalith Builders of Western Europe* (Harmondsworth, 1963), pp. 143-6.

<sup>2</sup> S. Piggott, *The West Kennet Long Barrow*, pp. 59-60.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. ed. I. Ll. Foster and L. Alcock, *Culture and Environment* (London, 1963), p. 17.

<sup>4</sup> G. E. Daniel, *The Megalith Builders of Western Europe*, and *The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of France* (London, 1960), p. 191.

<sup>5</sup> P. R. Giot, *Brittany* (London, 1960).

<sup>6</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* (1941), p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> Cerdan and G. and V. Leisner, *Los Sepulcros Megalíticos de Huelva* (Madrid, 1952), pl. vi.

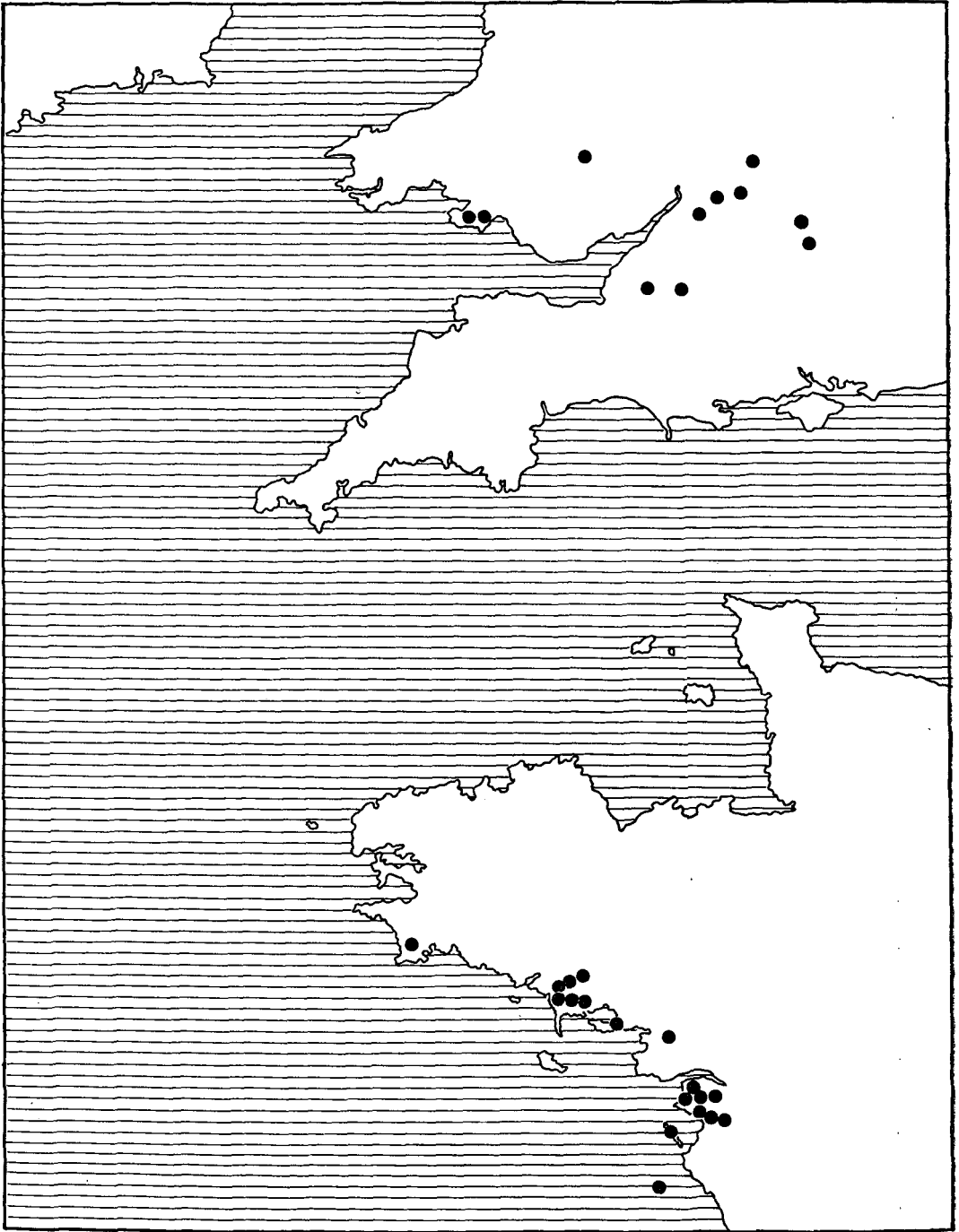


Fig. 2. Distribution of Transepted Gallery Graves in north-western Europe

This we can argue on the basis of comparative tomb plans, but it should never be forgotten that our Cotswold tombs are characteristically set in long mounds, often wedge-shaped mounds with cusped forecourts. Can this type of barrow be found in the continental homelands we have indicated? There are no comparable long barrows known to me in Iberia. There are, however, long barrows in southern France and in the islands of the Western Mediterranean, though none of them, at least so far, is known to have a wedge-shaped outline or a clearly defined forecourt. The *tombe dei giganti* of Sardinia are not considered here because their cultural and chronological contexts make them impossible ancestors for our Severn-Cotswold tombs.<sup>1</sup> There are long barrows in Brittany with wedge-shaped outlines, but they do not contain megalithic burial chambers. There are certainly extraordinary long barrows in Brittany (such as St-Michel) and we must bear constantly in mind that the idea of a great long barrow—the idea which we find developed in West Kennet and East Kennet—was part of the complex of funerary ideas existing in Brittany.

It is often said that all the Breton Transepted Gallery Graves are in round mounds. Some of them are, but others are in oval longish mounds. What we now want to know is whether mounds like Herbignac and Keriaval have defining walls, a wedge-shape and a forecourt. Only excavation will show this. It is curious that no French excavation of one of these sites has done more than explore the burial chamber.

Until excavation has resolved this issue for us in southern Brittany we can put forward two possibilities. The first is that the Severn-Cotswold settlers arrived in South Wales and Gloucestershire with a funerary scheme of wedge-shaped long mound plus various forms of terminally-placed chamber such as a Gallery Grave, a large rectangular chamber or a Transepted Gallery Grave. The second is that our characteristic British field monument of wedge-shaped long barrow incorporating these types of terminal chambers is the result of the fusion of two ideas—that of the Transepted Gallery Grave in a round mound (or oval mound) from Brittany, with a native British artifact—the wedge-shaped unchambered long barrow. The excavations at Wayland's Smithy are particularly relevant in this connexion: here (and the excavations are not yet published and it is only by the courtesy of Professor Atkinson that I can mention his important finds), an unchambered long barrow seems to have been used as the focus and centre for a later chambered long barrow built over and on top of it. We should consider whether in southern Britain we have the fusion of

<sup>1</sup> M. Guido, *Sardinia* (London, 1964).

two traditions—one the well known tradition of chambered tomb in a round or oval mound based on the western seaways and well represented in Iberia and western France, and the second a tradition of a long grave with many burials, a tradition, perhaps a funerary version of a long house, which appears in northern and central Europe in various forms, such as the *langdysser* of Denmark, the Kujavian graves of Poland, some of the Dutch *hunnbedden*, and perhaps in French sites like Bonnières, between Paris and Rouen.<sup>1</sup>

A particularly interesting feature of the Severn-Cotswold tombs is the porthole device. It occurs at Rodmarton and I shall myself never forget the excitement when, digging there with Mrs Clifford, we found the blocked porthole. Nor do I forget the researches we made together into the complex history of the Avening portholes. The porthole is rare in the British Isles. The Cotswolds have more (and better examples) than any other area in our country. The porthole is a device which occurs in many areas. It is very common in Portugal and southern Spain. It occurs in the south of France. It is to be found in Brittany in sites like Kerlescant near Carnac. It is an occasional element in megalithic architecture which, when it appears in the Cotswolds, emphasizes the connexions of the builders of the Severn-Cotswold tombs with the west Mediterranean, their original homeland.<sup>2</sup>

Some megalithic monuments are decorated with designs, and these designs include several special patterns including a goddess figure, and geometrical arrangements of lozenges and spirals. We have, at least so far, never found any geometrical art in the Cotswolds: there are no spirals or lozenges, but Mrs Clifford has often drawn attention to one stone at Rodmarton which, viewed in certain lights, could be thought to display the stylized features of the goddess so well represented in unmistakable form on tombs in France and objects buried with the dead in collective tombs in Iberia. I must say honestly that I am not convinced by this representation at Rodmarton, but I also say honestly that the recording of megalithic art is difficult—after all we remember that the art at Stonehenge was found and attested only a few years ago, whereas that great and remarkable monument had been visited and regarded carefully by the public and by antiquaries and archaeologists for hundreds of years. It is by no means impossible that there may be art on the walls of our British megalithic tombs that has been completely missed. I am not suggesting that you should spend long hours in Hetty Pegler's

<sup>1</sup> E. Basse de Ménorval, 'Allée sépulcrale néolithique de Bonnières-sur-Seine', *Bull. Soc. Arch. Hist. et Scientifique de Bonnières-sur-Seine* (1953), p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> For a general discussion of portholes, see Clifford and Daniel, *op. cit.* note 1.

Tump and elsewhere looking for mural megalithic art. All I am saying is that our current dictum that there is no art in the Severn-Cotswold tombs may spark off field-workers, young and old, to find some indisputable evidence of designs on the tombs.

We always refer to the Cotswold chambered long barrows as tombs, and it is of course certain that they yielded skeletal remains and mainly inhumed remains. Tinkinswood yielded the remains of fifty-two people, as I have already mentioned. Many archaeologists have commented on the fragmentary, fractional and disturbed state of the bones in these chambered tombs and the fact that often there are more bones than one would reasonably expect to be present if all the persons represented were buried at the same moment. Various explanations have been offered for these strange circumstances—the ossuary theory, the successive burial theory, the *décharnement* theory. What was wanted was a fresh excavation of an undisturbed tomb, and this happened at West Kennet.

The excavations at West Kennet in 1955–56 have thrown great light on our knowledge of megalithic ritual. In almost every instance, the primary burials, all of the dolichocephalic ‘Neolithic’ race, were incomplete or disarticulated to some degree. Professor L. H. Wells, who reported on them, could not find the disordered condition of the skeletons explicable by the various theories that have been advanced to date: his conclusion was that ‘during what must have been a considerable period of time when successive burials were deposited in the chambers, and access to them was still possible . . . a number of bones, mainly skulls and thigh bones were abstracted from the tomb for ritual purposes’.<sup>1</sup> All five chambers and the approach passage appear to have been filled to the roof with a filling of chalk rubble, sherds, animal bones, flint implements, beads and other objects, deliberately inserted and covering and sealing the skeletal remains on the chamber floors. The sherds were of a quantity which amounted to representing no less than 250 vessels including Peterborough Ware (in all its subdivisions of Ebbsfleet, Mortlake, and Fengate variants), Rinyo-Clacton Ware, and Beaker ware consisting of Bell-Beaker, Cord-Zoned B, and Long-Necked Beaker. The Vertical and Lateral distribution of these sherds showed that all pottery types were inserted during a single operation. Piggott concludes that ‘their occurrence can best be explained by the assumption that they, and the other artifacts and animal bones, represent offerings made over some centuries in some

<sup>1</sup> Summarized by Piggott in *The West Kennet Long Barrow*, p. 68. Professor Wells’s ‘Report on the Inhumation Burials from the West Kennet Barrow’ is printed as Appendix I (p. 79) of this book.

temporary repository, to be ultimately consigned to the tomb to which they were dedicated in the act of final blocking and closure'.<sup>1</sup>

This certainly gives us a new way of looking at the funerary rituals that went on in megalithic tombs. Indeed the more we think about the West Kennet evidence and the details that emerge when any untouched tomb is excavated at the present day, the more it seems that no one explanation for the rituals in megalithic tombs is sufficient. And it has seemed to me in the last few years that we too easily assume that all megalithic chambers are necessarily and primarily tombs. They may have all had funerary usages but some may have developed into temples.<sup>2</sup>

Our final question and one that is not often asked, is this: what happened to the builders of the Severn-Cotswold tombs? Did they die out, or become replaced by later and new people, Beaker folk or folk of the Early Bronze Age? Surely some of these long barrow builders merged into the subsequent population of southern Britain, but I believe that many of them moved away from the Severn-Cotswold area to other parts of the British Isles. It has become the habit to divide the chambered long barrows of the British Isles into three main groups, the Severn-Cotswold group, the Clyde-Carlingford group and the Caithness group, and for long it has been argued that the horned cairns of northern Ireland and south-west Scotland were directly derived from the continent of Europe. Sardinia and Malta were the two areas most canvassed for the origin of the Clyde-Carlingford tombs, but we cannot find here real and convincing parallels for our Irish and Scottish monuments. It seems to me that the origins of the Irish and Scottish chambered long barrows is to be found in the Severn-Cotswold area. In a word, Rolleston, Greenwell and Joseph Anderson were right in their constant references to the similarity between the Caithness and Cotswold monuments.<sup>3</sup>

The megalithic colonization of the British Isles now appears to have involved two main elements: the Passage Grave builders who spread along the western seaways from Iberia and Brittany leaving behind such magnificent monuments as New Grange and Maes Howe, and the builders of the chambered long barrows. These latter came across from north-western France, settling on both shores of the lower Severn, and then went up the Irish Sea to south-west Scotland and north-east Ireland, and then on to the north of Scotland. Carn Turne,

<sup>1</sup> Piggott, *The West Kennet Long Barrow*, xi.

<sup>2</sup> G. E. Daniel, *The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of France*, p. 215.

<sup>3</sup> Idem., 'The Megalith Builders', in (ed. S. Piggott), *The Prehistoric Peoples of Scotland* (London, 1962), p. 39.

## THE LONG BARROWS OF THE COTSWOLDS

Trefignath and Capel Garmon may represent small settlements on the way from the Cotswolds to the Clyde and ultimately Caithness. The Cotswolds were then an area of primary settlement in one of the two primary colonization movements of the megalith builders of the British Isles. This is why the long barrows of the Cotswolds are not only of great interest to those of us who live and work here, but to all concerned with unravelling the complex archaeology and history of the British megalith-builders.