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**Church Moorlands, Frocester**

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# Notes

## A POSSIBLE ROMANO-BRITISH OCCUPATION SITE IN THE PARISH OF SHERBORNE NEAR THE VILLAGE OF CLAPTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

One morning during a very cold spell in late November 1973 whilst travelling from the village of Clapton to Sherborne, I noticed a newly opened trench in a field to the west of the road, excavated apparently for the purpose of laying a water pipe-line.

The trench ran from the vicinity of a farm, now called Upper Broadmoor, north to the village of Clapton, terminating just west of the Clapton-Sherborne and New Bridge road junction. At OS SP166173, about 200 metres south along the trench from the above road junction I saw that in the trench a rubble wall foundation of about one metre width had been cut through, and again fifteen metres further on another and similar wall foundation.

The soil profile between these two walls was darker than anywhere else along the trench and the excavated spoil between these two features contained a quantity of heavily burnt stone and a few bones. From the frozen dark coloured soil of the trench walls and spoil bank I recovered eight pottery sherds, listed below, suggesting Romano-British occupation.

The pipe-line ran for most of its length through oolitic limestone brash, at a depth of 0.6 metres, but at the Clapton end through tenacious clay. Before a modern drainage system had drained the clay this geological change could in all probability have provided a water supply for early occupation even at this 650 ft hill-top elevation.

### POTTERY

One sherd of soft soapy black paste with small grits.

One sherd of black paste with large grits.

One small piece of v. abraded rim, hard grey paste.

One sherd of grey paste with light orange surface colouring.

Two sherds of brick coloured hard sandy ware with grits.

One sherd of a thick walled pot, very coarse grey fabric with calcite grit.

One sherd of decorated hard grey paste, possibly with darker grey burnishing on outside.

P. E. GASCOIGNE

### OCCUPATION IN CHURCH MOORLANDS, FROCESTER

Church Moorlands<sup>1</sup> was in 1803 the name<sup>2</sup> of a group of some six or seven small fields lying on the east slope of the ridge on which stood the church of St Peter. Tradition maintains that the area is the site of a medieval village of Frocester destroyed by fire.<sup>3</sup> Today these relics of old ridge and furrow have been largely levelled and are now amalgamated into one field of thirteen acres.

In October 1973 eight 6-in wide parallel trenches twenty yards apart were cut across the slope in

1. O.S. Nat. Grid. so 772033.

2. Glos. City Library, RV 140.1, sale particulars.

3. R. Atkyns, *Ancient and present state of Glos.* (1712).

