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**Symonds Yat Promontory Fort, English Bicknor, Gloucestershire:  
Excavations 1990-91**

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## Symonds Yat promontory fort, English Bicknor, Gloucestershire: excavations 1990–91

By CHARLES PARRY

### *Summary*

Excavation within Symonds Yat promontory fort in 1990–91 led to the recovery of a small quantity of grog-tempered and early Severn Valley ware pottery dating to the 1st century A.D. No contemporary deposits were observed, and the nature of the activity represented by the assemblage is uncertain. Pottery of this date is rarely found in the hillforts of Gloucestershire, and the assemblage is the only example known so far from a hillfort in the west of the county. A description of the excavations is preceded by a survey of literature relating to Symonds Yat.

### *Introduction: the archaeology of the locality*

Symonds Yat fort (centred on SO 564158) is located in the parish of English Bicknor on the western border of Gloucestershire (Fig. 1). The promontory upon which the fort lies is situated at a height of *c.* 146 m above O.D., overlooking to the north the Huntsham peninsula contained within a bend of the River Wye. The underlying geology is composed of a variety of rocks within the Carboniferous Limestone series, in which Drybrook Sandstone, Whitehead Limestone and Lower Dolomite are present (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 233, Monmouth). The site is of national archaeological importance, which is recognized in its designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County monument no. 78).

The locality of Symonds Yat contains a number of sites dating to the prehistoric and Romano-British periods (although a claim that a cave near the promontory fort contained examples of palaeolithic engraving has been discredited: Sieveking and Sieveking 1981). The Huntsham peninsula to the north contains a standing stone of probable Bronze Age date (Hart 1967, 7–8), and a Romano-British villa (Bridgewater 1965; Wilson 1965, 208 and Fig. 13). Several important sites lie across the River Wye. Located *c.* 500 m east of the promontory fort are two cave sites. King Arthur's cave (Symonds 1871; Taylor 1928; ApSimon 1992) was occupied at intervals throughout the prehistoric and Romano-British periods (Painter 1966, 14–16). Merlin's cave (Phillips 1931) has produced a noteworthy assemblage of Late Bronze Age pottery and metalwork (Harding 1987, 35–6). The area across the Wye also contains the closest examples of settlements enclosed with earthwork ramparts. Approximately 2 km due west of Symonds Yat lies the undated, but probably Iron Age, multivallate hill-top site of Little Doward, Ganarew, which covers *c.* 10 hectares/26 acres (RCHM 1931, 68); at approximately the same distance to the south-east of Symonds Yat, at Lord's Wood, Whitchurch, lies a small (*c.* 0.13 hectare/0.3 acre) univallate enclosure occupied during the 1st–3rd centuries A.D. (RCHM 1931, 254).

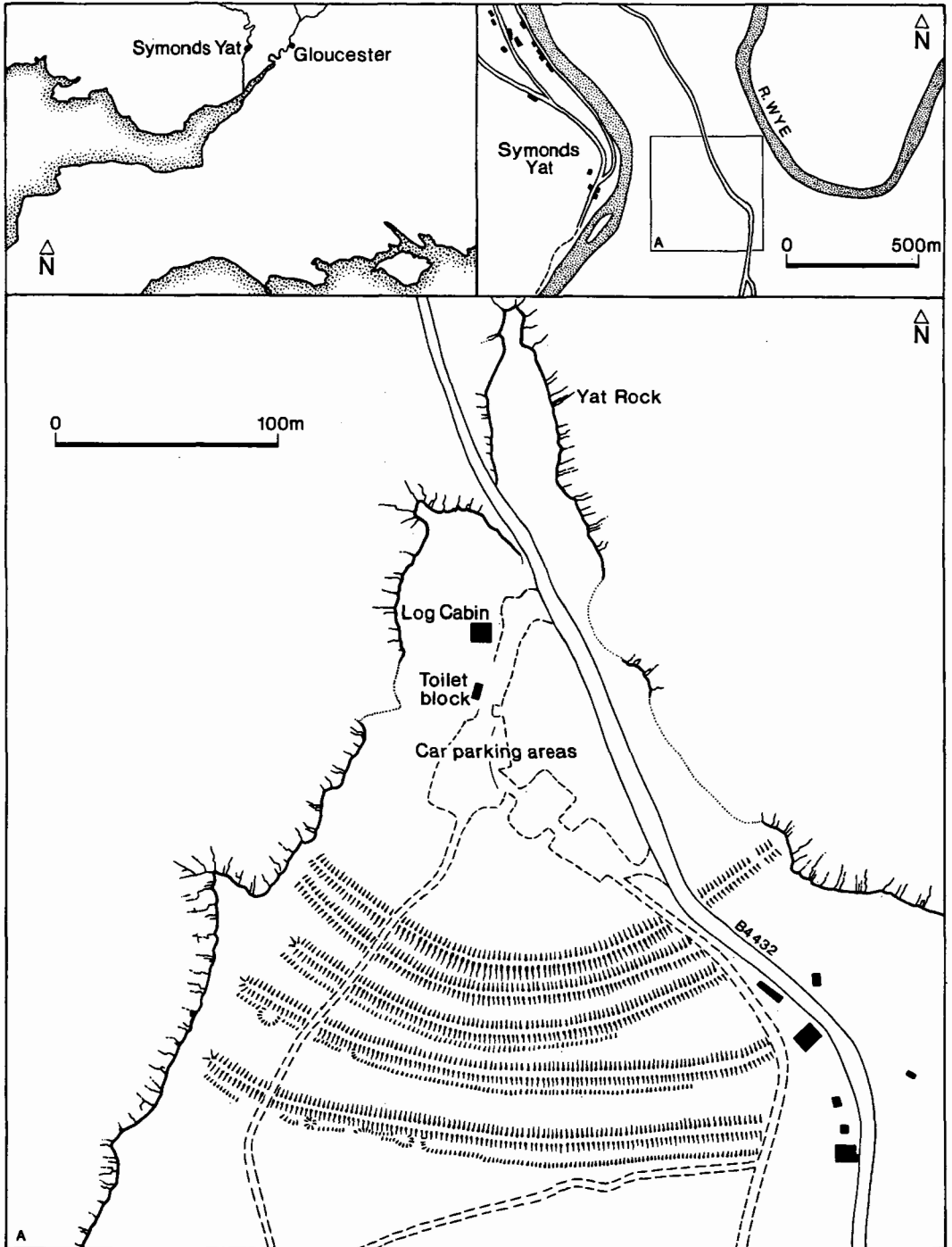


Fig. 1 Symonds Yat: location and plan of the promontory fort

*Symonds Yat: description* (Figs. 1 and 2)

The total area covered by the promontory fort is *c.* 6 hectares (15 acres). At least half of this area is covered by five banks and ditches forming a defensive system up to 100 m in depth. When complete, the outermost bank measured *c.* 400 m in length. No entrance gap through the defences can be identified, although it has been suggested that an entrance formerly lay where the B4432 road penetrates the eastern side of the defences (Fox and Phillips 1931, 25). North of the innermost bank the interior of the fort comprises *c.* 3 hectares (7.5 acres), or perhaps slightly less. The site is wooded, and probably has been for centuries; a significant proportion has undergone considerable disturbance from the construction of a minor road and several tracks through the defences and the interior, from quarrying immediately to the rear of the defences, and from the erection of buildings on the eastern portion of the defences and at various locations in the interior. A toilet block in the interior (shown on Figs. 1 and 2) was demolished in 1991 after completion of the excavations.

*Archaeological background*

Since the 1930s the promontory fort at Symonds Yat has been interpreted as a defended settlement dating to the Iron Age (Fox and Phillips 1931, 25). A recent review of the Iron Age in Gloucestershire notes that Symonds Yat is one of five defended sites situated on the periphery of the Forest of Dean uplands (Saville 1984, 143 and Fig. 1). From comparative studies of the morphology of hillforts on the Cotswolds it has been argued that sites showing pronounced multivallation can be dated to the Middle Iron Age (RCHME 1976, xxiv–xxvi and figure; Saville 1984, 145–6). If this typology can be applied to the west of Gloucestershire, the complex vallation of Symonds Yat would suggest that the defensive system took its present form during the Middle Iron Age. In addition, it has been suggested, tentatively, that the present form of the defences at Symonds Yat may obscure a less complex defensive arrangement dating to the Early Iron Age (Darvill 1987, 139). However, no archaeological excavation had been undertaken at the site prior to 1990–91, and there was no firm evidence for the date of construction and development of the defences, nor for the nature of any occupation in the interior.

The exterior of the promontory fort (the precise location was not stated) has produced a flint scraper dating to the Bronze Age (Price 1990). Approximately 100 m to the south of the defences, at *c.* SO 56381556, construction of car parking facilities by the Forestry Commission in 1989 led to the recovery of two sherds of early Severn Valley ware dating to the 1st century A.D. (pers. comm. Mr D. Roper of Symonds Yat: the sherds have been deposited with the 1990–91 excavation archive). Early Severn Valley ware was also found somewhere in the interior of the fort in 1989 among the roots of a fallen tree (Walters and Walters 1989, 39; Price 1990, 49).

*Topographical and antiquarian literature relating to Symonds Yat**Place name evidence*

The place name Symonds Yat is first attested by a document dating to 1256; the first element may derive from the Anglo-Saxon personal name *Sigemond* (Smith 1964, 212). The derivation of *Yat* is from the Old English *geat*, meaning a gate or opening. Fox and Phillips (1931, 25) and Noble (1983, 34) interpreted the word as signifying a closely-guarded access point through the

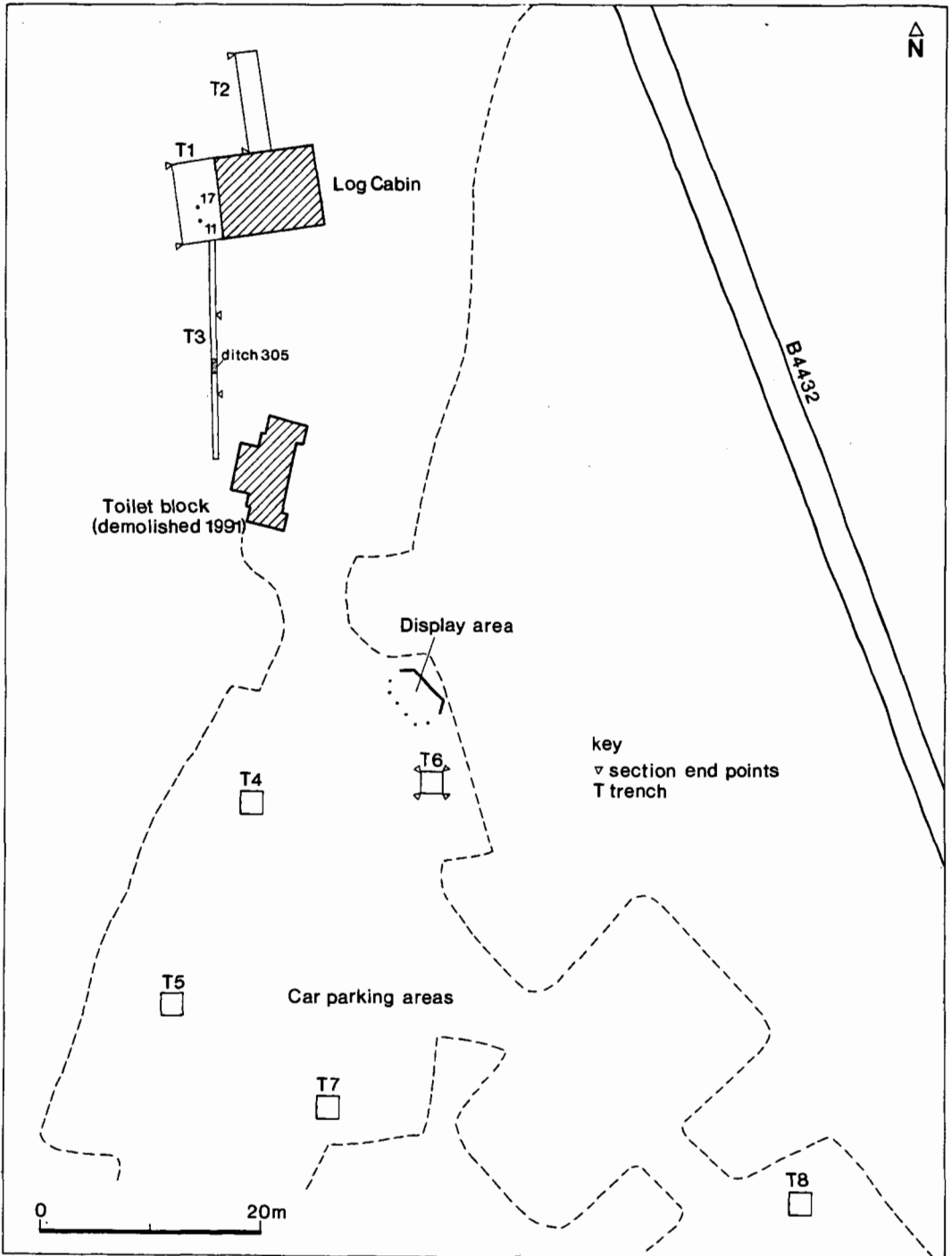


Fig. 2 Symonds Yat: location of Trenches 1-8

promontory fort, but Smith (1964, 212) more authoritatively suggested it applied to the gap or groove through which the River Wye flows below Yat Rock. Documentary references to Mailscot Wood (in the northern end of which Symonds Yat lies) suggest that the site was wooded in the 13th century, if not earlier: a document of 1279 mentions *Les Dikes in Mayleskoyt* (Smith 1964, 210 and 212), and this may represent the earliest mention of the earthworks forming the defences of the promontory fort (Noble 1983, 34).

### *Antiquarian descriptions*

Accounts of visits to the Wye Valley written in the 18th and 19th centuries make frequent mention of Yat Rock, which was considered one of the highlights of the tourist's itinerary (see for example Fosbroke 1826, 39; Murray 1867, 138). Typically, many visitors to Yat Rock were not aware of the existence of the promontory fort (Maclean 1880, 302): in an account of a visit to Symonds Yat made by members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society during the 1890s, the author made no mention of the earthworks forming the defences but enthused instead about the spectacular panorama obtained from Yat Rock (Anonymous 1894). However, it is evident that the site was well-known to antiquaries of the latter half of the 19th century, who made the first attempts to describe and interpret what they saw. The period 1877–83 saw a spate of three articles which described the site in detail. Playne (1877, 233–4, plates III and IV) provided the first account of the earthworks to include a plan and profile of the defences. Maclean (1880, 302–3, 305, plate VIII) wrote the most detailed account, and his plan (a reproduction of the Ordnance Survey 25" map published a year previously) was annotated with a profile across the defences. Witts (1883, 47–8) gave a concise version of the two earlier papers. In the early 20th century the site was described by Burrow (1924, 108), who added no new information but included an interesting sketch of a portion of the defences. Fox and Phillips (1931, 25; reiterated by Fox 1955, 186) visited the monument c. 1930, and their description suggests that little physical change had occurred to the site since the accounts of the later 19th century were written.

Some of the accounts contain confusing descriptions of the number of earthworks forming the defences. Nicholls (1858, 6) referred to the 'triple dyke defending Symmond's [sic] Yat'. Playne referred to four lines of earthworks, the number shown on his plan, but it is clear from his description and profile across the defences that he considered the innermost two banks to form a single defensive line, so making five banks in all (Playne 1877, 233, plates III and IV). Perhaps for the same reason Fox and Phillips (1931, 25) referred to the 'fourfold defences'. Verey (1980, 184) identified only four banks in the defensive system: the fifth, outermost, bank he interpreted as part of Offa's Dyke. Some of the descriptions (Witts 1883; Burrow 1924; Verey 1980) also include an overestimation of the size of the defended area, quoted as 650 acres (260 hectares). This figure is apparently derived from Playne's hypothesis that the Huntsham peninsula was the main area of settlement, the fort representing a look-out post (Playne 1877, 234).

### *Antiquarian interpretations*

A significant proportion of the early literature concerning Symonds Yat promontory fort was given over to attempts to date the site. A summary of the range of views expressed by the antiquaries illustrates the difficulties of interpretation experienced by them. Nicholls (1858, 6) tentatively assigned the defences to the late Saxon period. Playne (1877) offered no interpretation. In a brief mention, Wyrall (1878, 226) interpreted the site as a Roman camp, but

was contradicted by an editorial note (Wyrall 1878, 227) postulating that the earthworks were a 'British' defence against the Romans. Maclean (1880, 307–8) concluded that the earthworks represented a sub-Roman response to a Saxon invasion of the 6th century, and dismissed a suggestion that the earthworks were connected with Offa's Dyke. The presence of Offa's Dyke at similar locations close to the River Wye has, however, led to further attempts to associate the two monuments. By the 1920s the earthworks were annotated 'Offa's Dyke' on Ordnance Survey maps (County Series 25" map, 1924), and Fox and Phillips (1931, 25: reiterated by Fox 1955, 186) allowed that the prehistoric earthworks 'may possibly have been utilised by his [i.e. Offa's] engineers'. There is no evidence to substantiate this theory, especially since Symonds Yat is located in an area where Offa's Dyke is absent (Noble 1983, 11) and its course, if ever present, is unknown.

### *Archaeological excavations 1990–91: introduction*

Symonds Yat promontory fort is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission, who actively promote the site – and especially the Yat Rock viewpoint over the Wye valley which it affords – as a tourist amenity. Until recently, almost all of the facilities for visitors were located in the interior of the promontory fort, which contained car parks, a toilet block, and a refreshment kiosk housed in a wooden structure known as the Log Cabin.

Proposals to refurbish facilities for visitors to the site were discussed with the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council, and with English Heritage: Scheduled Monument Clearance for a programme of work was granted in November 1990. The works having archaeological implications were, firstly, the construction of an extension of the Log Cabin; secondly, landscaping, and the erection of picnic furniture in the vicinity of the Log Cabin, and thirdly, the removal of car parking areas from the interior, involving the reduction of their hardcore surfaces to permit topsoiling and seeding with grass.

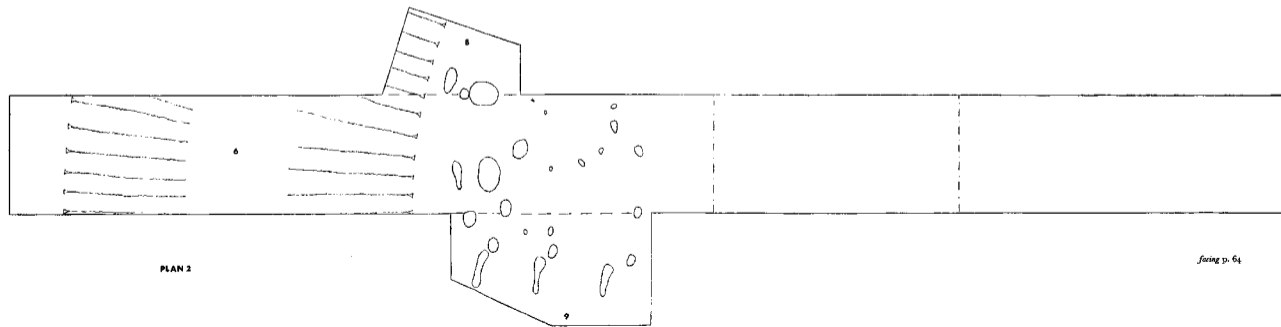
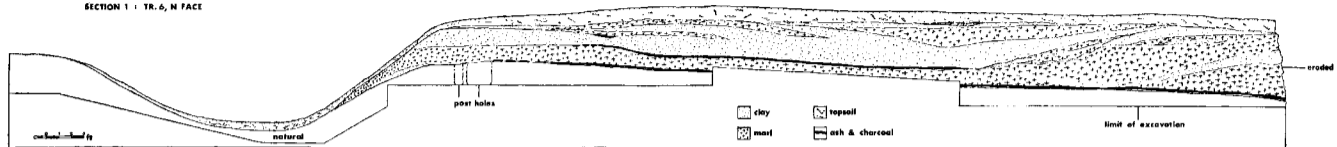
The archaeological implications of the works were unknown, and the Archaeology Section of Gloucestershire County Council was commissioned by the Forestry Commission to evaluate the areas affected by the proposed alterations. A discontinuous programme of excavation was commenced in December 1990, and completed in March 1991. A full description of the excavation (Parry 1992) has been deposited with the archive: a summary account follows.

### *Archaeological excavations: description (Figs. 2 and 3)*

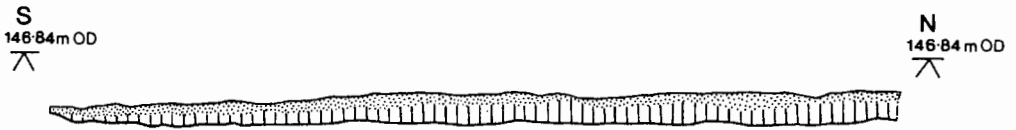
#### *Trenches 1, 2 and 3: The Log Cabin area*

Trench 1, measuring 7.3 m by 3.7 m, was excavated to test the archaeological impact of the proposed construction of a rear extension to the Log Cabin. Excavation of a maximum of 0.29 m of overburden revealed a subsoil composed of a reddish-brown clay incorporating frequent rounded limestone cobbles. At the centre of the trench firm limestone bedrock protruded through the clay. The clayey subsoil contained discrete patches of root-disturbed and weathered subsoil: when sampled, several contained small fragments of abraded pottery. Defined as soil anomalies at subsoil level were two small pits. The deeper example, context 11, measured 0.4 m in diameter by 0.27 m deep; the second pit, context 17, measured 0.56 m in diameter by 0.18 m deep. Both features were filled with redeposited tree-soils, and it would appear likely that the pits were cut from a modern ground surface. The date of the pits is uncertain: together, they were aligned with the rear wall of the Log Cabin, and are best interpreted as features relating to its construction or use. Over the subsoil lay a 0.18 m-deep deposit of reddish-brown silty clay with frequent soily discolourations caused by the numerous tree roots it contained, interpretable as a tree-soil which formerly constituted a ground surface. Cut into the tree-soil were four trenches carrying services to the Log Cabin.

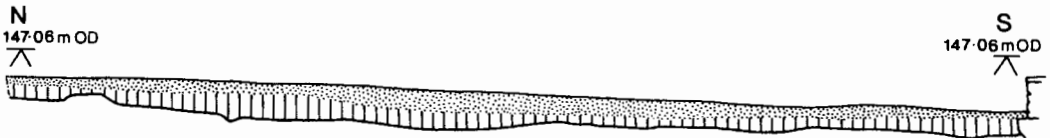
SECTION 1 | TR. 6, N FACE



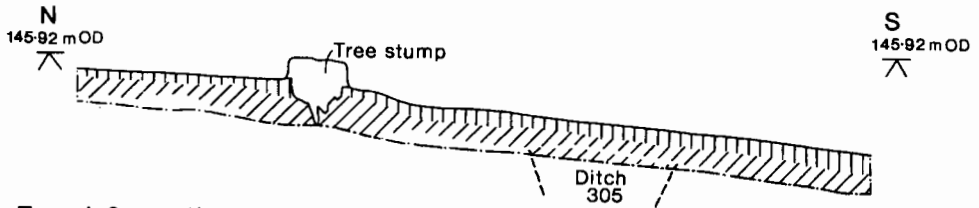
Trench 1, east-facing section



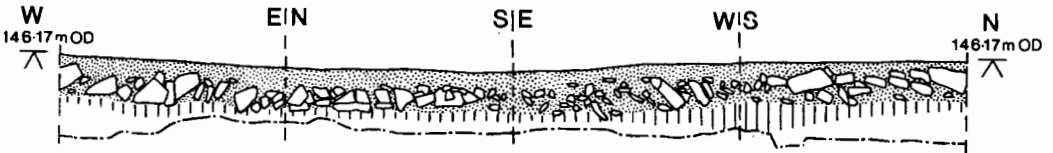
Trench 2, west-facing section



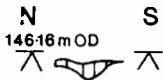
Trench 3, west-facing section



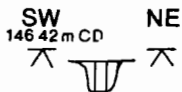
Trench 6, sections



Trench 1  
W-facing section 17



Trench 1  
SE-facing section 11







-  Modern rubble/hardcore
-  Tree-soil
-  Weathered subsoil
-  Subsoil



Fig. 3 Symonds Yat: sections of Trenches 1, 2, 3 (central portion only) and 6

Two service-trenches (containing an electricity cable and a water-pipe) were fully excavated: both measured approximately 0.4 m wide by 0.4 m deep, their bases intruding up to 0.2 m below the surface of the subsoil. Sealing the fills of the service-trenches was a deposit of hardcore, a maximum of 0.16 m deep, which formed the ground surface when excavation commenced.

### *Trench 2*

Trench 2, measuring 2 m by 9 m, was excavated to test an area where it was proposed to insert and secure legs of picnic tables. The deposits encountered during excavation were similar to those observed in Trench 1 nearby. Removal of a maximum of 0.31 m of overburden revealed a weathered reddish-brown clay subsoil incorporating fragments of limestone. Covering the subsoil was a reddish-grey silt, a maximum of 0.24 m thick, incorporating profuse quantities of charcoal fragments and flecks. The deposit is interpreted as a tree-soil, the charcoal deriving, perhaps, from the burning of timber in the vicinity. Cutting through the tree-soil was a modern service-trench, which was excavated only to the level of the subsoil surface. Sealing the fill of the service-trench, and covering the former tree-soil, was a deposit of hardcore, a maximum of 0.17 m thick, which formed the ground surface at the commencement of the excavation.

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 was excavated to insert a drainage pipe serving the new extension of the Log Cabin. The trench commenced near the south-east corner of Trench 1, running some 19.7 m southwards to connect with the existing sewage system of the toilet block. The trench measured a minimum of 0.6 m wide by 0.3 m deep. A clay subsoil was exposed over the entire length of the trench, being preserved at depths of between 0.18 m – 0.35 m below ground level. (The varying profile was a result of the location of Trench 3 on sloping ground forming the edge of the promontory.) Cut into the subsoil was a ditch-like feature, recognized as a soil anomaly aligned east-west, having parallel edges 1.14 m apart. The fill, context 305, was a dark reddish-brown clay: the uppermost 0.1 m of the fill was excavated, but no finds were recovered. Above the subsoil, and sealing the ditch fill, was a 0.3 m-deep deposit of root-disturbed reddish-brown clay, interpreted as a weathered subsoil, deposited as slumped material from the slope above. Over this layer was a tree-soil forming the modern ground surface.

### *Trenches 4–8: the car parking area*

To assess whether significant archaeological deposits would be affected by the proposed removal of the hardcore surface of the internal car park, the area was evaluated by excavating five small trenches, each measuring 2 m by 2 m, at random (Trenches 4–8). Similar deposits were observed in each trench. A buried ground surface, indicated by the presence of a dark, rooty, soil some 0.1–0.2 m deep, was detected at depths of between 0.29 m (Trench 7) and 0.48 m (Trench 4) below car park level. Excavation of the soil revealed a root-disturbed subsoil. Above the buried soil lay dumps of stones and hardcore forming the surface of the car park.

### *Dating*

The weathered subsoils and tree-soils sampled in Trenches 1–8 produced a range of finds including pottery, animal bone, metal objects, metalworking slag and bottle-glass. The contexts are dated to the modern period by the latest finds incorporated within them: they also, however, contained small fragments of abraded pottery dating to the 1st century A.D., which can be interpreted as originating from an earlier phase of activity on the site.

### *Discussion of the 1990–91 excavations*

With the possible exception of the ditch tentatively identified in Trench 3, the evaluation trenches found no evidence for the presence of significant archaeological deposits lying *in situ*.

However, in view of the limited coverage of the trenches, it must remain uncertain whether the apparent absence of such deposits represents an accurate reflection of the archaeological potential of the interior as a whole.

The soil-profiles observed during excavation, and the finds of modern date recovered from the tree-soils and underlying weathered subsoils, indicate that the ground surface of the interior of the promontory fort has suffered erosion, with the result that it would appear likely that few, if any, surfaces contemporary with the occupation of the promontory fort survive intact. The truncation of the stratigraphy means that it is probable that any archaeological deposits contained within the defences would be preserved in discrete features cut into the subsoil. The most notable contributor to the erosion of the site has been (and continues to be) disturbance from tree-roots, which, in every trench, were found to have penetrated underlying subsoil. In addition, the construction of the Log Cabin and toilets, with their associated services, has undoubtedly resulted in further, discrete, disturbance. On the evidence of Trenches 1–3, it would appear that even small reductions in the level of the ground surface would be potentially damaging to any archaeological deposits that might be contained in the subsoil.

Nevertheless, no evidence was found during the excavations to suggest that the works proposed by the Forestry Commission would damage the archaeology of the site. Excavation undertaken in the vicinity of the Log Cabin found no conclusive evidence for the presence of significant deposits. Excavation within the car-parking area demonstrated that a controlled reduction of level, no deeper than the former ground surface, would safeguard any archaeological deposits potentially present.

### *General discussion*

The 1990–91 excavations within the promontory fort at Symonds Yat represent the first detailed archaeological investigation of the monument. Although no deposits of proven significance were encountered, the presence of an apparently widespread scatter of residual Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery (see below) provides the first firm dating evidence for any phase of activity on the site. However, in the absence of evidence for contemporary features, the nature of the activity represented by the finds cannot be ascertained, and their significance must remain questionable.

In view of the Middle Iron Age date postulated for the construction of the defences of Symonds Yat, it might seem surprising that no pottery of that period was recovered. The excavations were, however, too limited in scope to determine whether the apparent absence of Middle Iron Age pottery is significant.

The association of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery with Symonds Yat is of some interest, for there is little evidence to indicate that the Middle Iron Age hillforts of Gloucestershire continued to be occupied at a later date. Only Salmonsbury hillfort, Bourton-on-the-Water, has produced conclusive evidence for both Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/early Romano-British phases of occupation (Dunning 1976). A second, possible, site with a Middle and Late Iron Age/early Roman sequence is Ditches hillfort, North Cerney; however (as at Symonds Yat), the Middle Iron Age origin of Ditches has been postulated entirely on morphological parallels for the arrangement of the defences (Trow 1988, 38–9). Apart from Symonds Yat, the only hillfort examined by excavation in the west of Gloucestershire is the example at Lydney (Wheeler and Wheeler 1932), where prehistoric occupation was confined to the Middle Iron Age. Thus, although the nature of the activity represented by the pottery scatter found at Symonds Yat is uncertain, the material is, nevertheless, significant in representing one of few Late Iron Age/early Romano-British assemblages found within the hillforts of Gloucestershire, and the only

example known so far from the west of the county. Considered from a regional perspective, however, the pottery assemblage from Symonds Yat need not be viewed as especially rare in its location. To the west of Gloucestershire, in south-east Wales, Middle Iron Age defended sites excavated at Sudbrook (Nash-Williams 1939) and Mynydd Bychan (Savory 1954 and 1955) have both produced Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery assemblages containing early Severn Valley ware (Savory 1955, 38; Timby 1990, 248).

*Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery* (Fig. 4)

*Quantification: the fabrics* (Table 1)

The Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery assemblage from Symonds Yat totals 115 sherds weighing 610 grammes. With an average weight per sherd of only 5.3 grammes it may be appreciated that the majority of the sherds are small. The sizes of individual sherds, and the fact that all show signs of abrasion, provides confirmation of the residual nature of the assemblage postulated from the contexts in which the sherds were found.

Two fabrics are present, both of which can be paralleled in Gloucester City Excavation Unit's Type

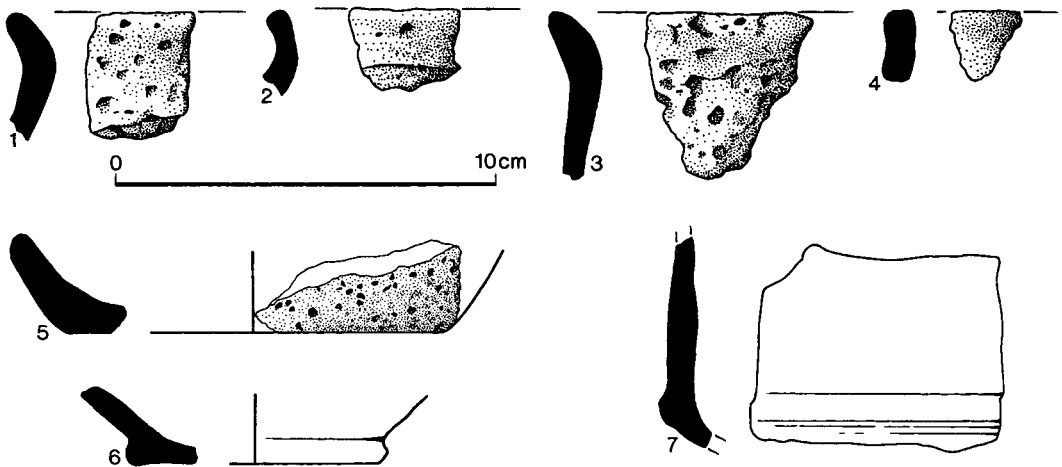


Fig. 4 Symonds Yat: the illustrated pottery (scale 1:2)

Sherds 1-5: Fabric 1 (grog-tempered)

Sherds 6-7: Fabric 2 (early Severn Valley ware)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Everted rim (of jar?)<br>Context 302 (Trench 3, weathered subsoil) | 4. Rim (of jar?)<br>Context 7 (Trench 1, weathered subsoil)              |
| 2. Everted rim (of jar?)<br>Context 302 (Trench 3, weathered subsoil) | 5. Base (of jar?)<br>Context 16 (Trench 1, weathered subsoil)            |
| 3. Everted rim (of jar?)<br>Context 302 (Trench 3, weathered subsoil) | 6. Base (form uncertain)<br>Context 202 (Trench 2, tree-soil)            |
|   | 7. Body-shoulder (carinated bowl/cup)<br>Context 4 (Trench 1, tree-soil) |

Fabric Series (GTF). Sherds assigned to Fabric 1 (a total of 32 sherds weighing 133 grammes) are derived from vessels hand-made in the Iron Age tradition, which are tempered with rounded and angular fragments of grey and black grog. Fabric 1 can be paralleled within the range of GTF 2 (Hurst 1985, 84). Sherds assigned to the second fabric found at Symonds Yat (a total of 83 sherds weighing 477 grammes) originate from wheel-thrown vessels: these are exactly paralleled by GTF 11D (Hurst 1985, 81), otherwise known as early Severn Valley ware. The fabrics are quantified on Table 1. The assemblage is dominated by early Severn Valley ware, which constitutes over two-thirds (72% by number, 78% by weight) of the total.

An interim report of the finding of Middle Iron Age pottery within Trench 1 (Parry and Sims 1991) was incorrect, the grog-tempered sherds of Fabric 1 having been mistakenly identified.

#### *Vessel forms (Fig. 4)*

The fragmentary nature of the pottery prevents a detailed analysis of the forms of the vessels represented. Eight rim-sherds and one base-sherd from Fabric 1 are present: a minimum of five vessels (jars?) appear to be represented. Three of the illustrated rims (Fig. 4, nos. 1–3) show the eversion typical of their period of manufacture. A fourth rim (Fig. 4, no. 4) appears to be upright: its small size, however, makes an accurate assessment of the angle uncertain, as also in the case of no. 2. From Fabric 2 only one form, a carinated bowl or cup (Fig. 4, no. 7), could be positively identified: a base (Fig. 4, no. 6) is from a vessel of uncertain form.

#### *Distribution*

The recovery of pottery from trenches spaced up to 90 m apart (i.e., the distance between Trenches 2 and 7) indicates that the scatter covers a substantial portion of the interior of Symonds Yat. The density of the pottery scatter should be regarded as a minimum, for no special recovery techniques (such as sieving) were undertaken during excavation. Table 2 demonstrates that the average amount of pottery recovered from excavating a square metre of ground ranged between 0–3 sherds. This range of recovery is not great enough to indicate that the scatter was concentrated in any one location, and although the greatest number of sherds came from trenches located around the Log Cabin, the small areas investigated away from that area do not allow meaningful comparisons to be made between the rates of pottery recovered from each trench.

#### *Discussion of the pottery*

The pottery fabrics and forms found at Symonds Yat are represented within numerous assemblages excavated elsewhere in Gloucestershire (Saville 1984, 159), to which an approximate date of manufacture in the 1st century A.D. can be assigned. Recent analysis of a large and varied assemblage excavated from Ditches hillfort (which incorporated many types of vessel, and included closely-dateable importations from continental Europe), has suggested that pottery of the type found at Symonds Yat was in use no earlier than the years immediately following the Roman conquest (Trow 1988, 64–76). A Claudian, or Claudio-Neronian date, for the pottery found at Symonds Yat is, therefore, possible.

However, the post-Conquest dating of the types of pottery found at Symonds Yat is not beyond doubt, since the period of their introduction into Gloucestershire is disputed. In particular, Timby (1990) has interpreted a number of simple assemblages from the county (in which early Severn Valley ware pottery is found only in association with hand-made grog-, limestone-, or calcite-tempered vessels) as being specifically Late Iron Age in character. Alternatively, therefore, the Symonds Yat assemblage could date to the decades immediately prior to the Roman conquest.

TABLE 1  
*Incidence of Fabrics 1 and 2, by trench*

		no. of sherds	weight (gm)		
Trench 1	Fabric 1	15	78		
	Fabric 2	56	345		
Trench 2	Fabric 1	1	5		
	Fabric 2	4	41		
Trench 3	Fabric 1	16	50		
	Fabric 2	22	84		
Trench 7	Fabric 1	—	—		
	Fabric 2	1	7		
				% by no.	% by weight
	Total Fabric 1	32	133	28	22
	Total Fabric 2	83	477	72	78
	Combined total	115	610		

TABLE 2  
*Fabrics 1 and 2; average no./weight of sherds recovered per excavated square metre*

Trench	square metres	no. of sherds	weight (gm)	average no.	average weight
1	27	71	423	2.62	15.66
2	18	5	46	0.27	2.5
3	12	38	134	3.16	11.16
7	4	1	7	0.25	1.75

#### Notes

Fabric 1 = Grog-tempered ware

Fabric 2 = Early Severn Valley ware

No sherds were found in Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 8

#### Acknowledgements

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