

THE FIELD ARCHÆOLOGY OF DOLES,

With some introductory notes on its Coppices and Common.

The Manor of Up Hurstbourne or King's Hurstbourne was granted by Henry III to the Nunnery of Tarrant, in Dorset. It reverted to the Crown at the Dissolution, and was granted by Edward VI, in 1547, with other property in Hants and Wilts, to William Paulett, first Marquess of Winchester, for the maintenance of the fortifications and a garrison of nine men at Netley Castle. The present owner inherits from George Dewar, who purchased the Manor in 1782.

Doles Wood, known as Dowles in the 17th Century, is situated on the Chute ridge, south of the Hurstbourne stream. In the opinion of Professor A. Mawer, M.A., Director of the Survey of English Place Names, *Doles* is probably the common dialectal *dole*, denoting a portion or share of land. It lies partly in the parish of Hurstbourne-Tarrant, partly in Andover. Its area of 4.85 square miles forms the largest continuous patch of the Clay-with-Flints Plateau Deposit on Sheet 283 of the one-inch Ordnance Map.

It is stated in a document deposited at Hurstbourne-Tarrant vicarage that Doles Wood was within His Majesty King James Ist's Forest of Chute. Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, B.A., in the "Andover District," pp. 84-85, writes: "It (Finkley) then (A.D. 1323) probably included the woods of Doles and Doiley, while its relation to Chute Forest is not clear to us, and may not have been to the perambulators of the Forests."

The Coppices.—At the present time the Woods are divided into eight Coppices, namely:—

Blagdon.	Doles Farm Rag.
Doles.	The Withy Bed.
Doles Pound Coppice.	Long Coppice.
The Rag.	•Ridges.

The first three of these are in Hurstbourne-Tarrant, and the rest in Andover.

Between Blagdon and Doles lies the Hurstbourne Common. Before the Hurstbourne-Tarrant Common Award of 1820, that part of Doles which lies in Hurstbourne was divided into the Grubbed Grounds (comprised in the present Common) and the following twelve Coppices named:—

Upper Blackdown.	Pound Coppice.
Lower Blackdown.	Chilloway.
Stoney.	Knowle.
Ridgway.	Upper Drove.
Swineshore and Portway.	Lower Drove.
Fair Oaks.	Lady Long Coppice.

The number and names of the Coppices in Andover parish at that period are a little uncertain, but very likely included The Rag, Doles Farm Rag (or The Rag Wood), Ridges, and perhaps The Withy Bed.

Common Rights.—In eight of the twelve Hurstbourne Coppices the Freeholders of Ibthorp and Hurstbourne-Tarrant had shared common pasture immemorially with the Lord of the Manor, while four were enclosed until old enough for cattle in their turn. Here we have a fruitful cause for quarrels and complaints; for example, in the reign of King James, one Preston, a tenant of the demesne of the Marquess of Winchester, appears to have cut Coppices out of turn, and let in the Commoners' cattle to the young shoots, whereby they petitioned that they were in "great danger of having their cattle *Oaketted*, a distemper contracted by eating the buds of trees when too young, which often kills horned cattle." (*Oaketted* is a rare word, and does not appear either in Wright's *Dialect Dictionary* or the *New Oxford Dictionary*.) For all that, the Freeholders appear to have been able to look after themselves well, no doubt having been enabled, by the absence of any resident Lords of the Manor since very early times, to enclose comparatively large areas of the waste, not only for the cultivation of the soil, but of independence of spirit. In this they may well have been led by the Free- and Leaseholders of Ibthorp, a Manor united to that of Hurstbourne, and dating from Danish times. These, carrying on the traditions of the Northmen, claimed to be "equals and haulds" right down to the year 1881 (the year of the last Manorial Court held at Hurstbourne-Tarrant by the late Mr. A. W. Dewar), since they repeated yearly in the presentments of Jury and Homage that they themselves, and not their Lord, were "owners of the soil of the Commonable Land there." Nevertheless, at the same time they were directing payment of quitrents from the Ibthorp Freeholders to the Lord. As such payment would have stultified the claim to ownership, it seems that, from Norman times onward, the claim to ownership was a tradition only. At the present time Ibthorp has a special privilege, such as would be expected to belong to Danish conquerors, it shares in rights over Hurstbourne Tarrant Common, but has its own exclusive rights over Pill Heath.

By the Hurstbourne-Tarrant Common Award of 1820, parts of Stoney, Ridgway, the whole of Fair Oaks, and the Grubbed Grounds were incorporated into the new Common, and subsequently, by every day usage, Upper and Lower Blackdown were amalgamated under the name of Blagdon. Here a suspicion may be voiced, that those who drafted the act may have been led into an arbitrary rendering of Blagdon as Blackdown, the more ancient form now having reasserted itself.

In the act itself Swineshore appears as Swingshore, for which there appears no ground at all. Swineshore and Portway have now disappeared as Coppice names, the former only surviving curiously on the 6-inch map as "Swineshore Cottages," the latter as "Portlane End," a name applied colloquially to the junction of the Andover-Newbury Road at the Andover-Hurstbourne B.P., with the Lane which runs down the edge of The Rag Coppice to the village of Little London.

By the Common Award referred to, the Oak and Ash trees growing thereon, to the number of 2,200 (by which they were limited), were declared the property of the Lord of the Manor. No mention, however, was made of any other species of tree, so that the present ownership of the Beech, Pine, and a single Aspen, said on little enough authority to have been planted by Dame Magdalen Paulett, is an interesting, though dormant question.

Knowle, possibly the most ancient Coppice name, since it seems to appear in the Anglo-Saxon bounds of Hisseburna, A.D. 961, "*... on bittan cnolle to wuda : of bittan cnolle on woces geat :*" also fell into disuse. It appears to have lain to the south of Severall's Coppice, which was never a permanent Doles Coppice, with the "Knoldyche" (mentioned in the perambulation of "Fynkely," 16th, Edward II, A.D. 1323) in between the two.

The position of Chilloway is obscure, but certainly was central, as it was surrounded "on all sides by other allotments."

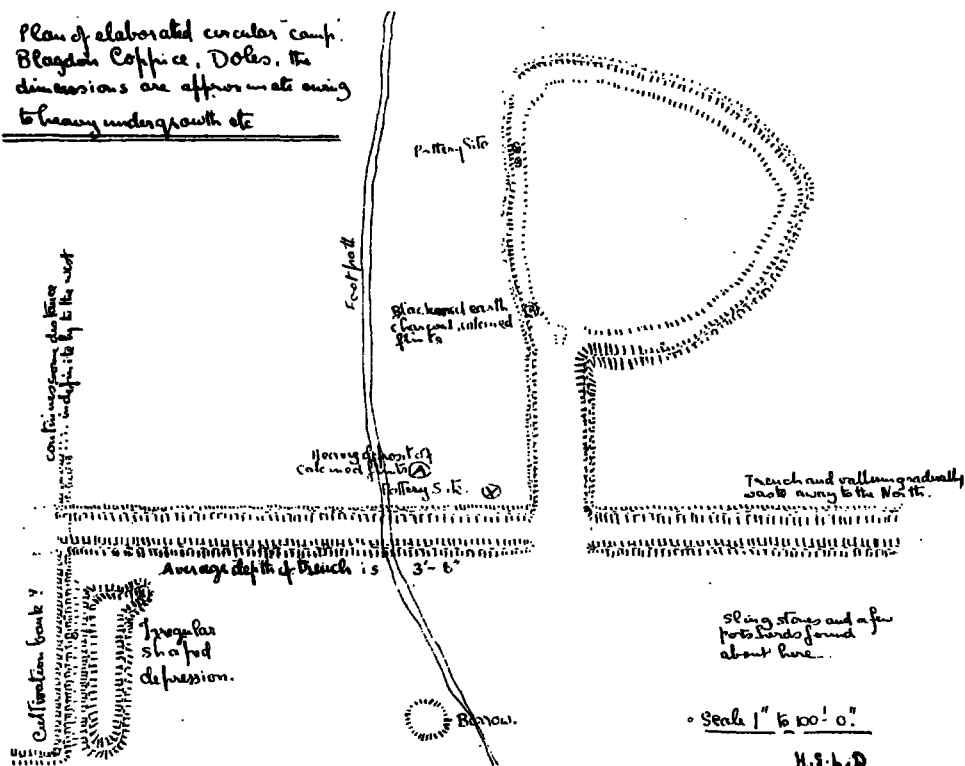
Upper and Lower Drove also became lost, while Lady Long Coppice disappeared strangely from the Parish of Hurstbourne, and reappeared more simply as Long Coppice on the other side of the Parish Boundary in Andover.

I am unable to discover anything regarding Lady Long, who remains as elusive as the more plebeian Betty Brown, whose name for generations has been applied to a meandering wood-track leading from Little London to the Swineshore Cottages already mentioned, or, as they were called more recently before their demolition, "Owl's Lodge."

One other hypothetical Coppice, which perhaps should be recorded, is "Lodge Coppice," a name applied arbitrarily to the south-east corner of Hurstbourne Common, said to be the site of a small hunting-lodge built there for Queen Elizabeth. I do not know of any justification for it.

The interesting name "Andascrat," which I think may possibly be "Andasceat," is applied colloquially to the field on the north-west of Swineshore cottage site, on the edge of the wood.

Plan of elaborated circular camp.
 Blagdon Coppice, Dole, the
 dimensions are approximate owing
 to heavy undergrowth etc



The division of the wood by broad and well-defined Rides, such as the North and the Long Rides, does not correspond with any division into Coppices, either ancient or modern, which, in the former case, seem to have been defined by banks, ditches, and hedges, with perhaps a Ride as one or two boundaries.

II.

The Field Archæology of Doles is extensive, and I should like at once to express my regret at my lack of training to do it justice in this paper.

It embraces three small Round Barrows, at least four "Camps," possibly five, though the fifth may be an undefended settlement site, a small temporary shelter site, numerous cultivation squares, some of which may possibly be wasted "Camps," and the Devil's Ditch, which has been alluded to by Dr. Stevens as passing through Doles. Apart from this ditch, the other sites have not been referred to or published elsewhere, if we exclude some undetailed comments on one of the Barrows and its furniture, written by Mr. G. A. B. Dewar for the *Standard* in 1905.

Barrows.—The largest Barrow is situated in The Rag Coppice (see map), measuring about 36 feet $\times$ 5 feet. It was examined first in 1904, and was observed to have a circular cavity about 17 feet $\times$ 3½ feet on its southern face, extending from near the centre to within a foot of the periphery, which had not been disturbed. From this I think we may infer the complete removal of a large mass of the Barrow material at some fairly distant date, possibly for building, since the remainder of the Barrow still contains large quantities of flints of suitable building size. On the surface of the top of the mound were discovered 54 potsherds, barely covered by the soil. By comparison with others of known date, I believe that they may be regarded as Romano-British, though, in the absence of Samian ware, one cannot be sure. The sherds include part of a straining vessel, and a fragment of the rim of a shallow bowl with a kind of *Cheval-de-frise* pattern executed in burnished scorings. A cutting made from west to east, from the periphery to the bottom of the cavity, revealed nothing of interest, beyond the fact that the Barrow at this point had been constructed almost entirely of flints and chalky rubble, the former increasing in number as progress was made towards the cavity. A trial shaft was also sunk in the centre of the cavity floor to the original ground level and, at a depth of 1½ feet, a thin layer of blackened earth, with charcoal fragments, was discovered lying beneath a layer of large flints, but no trace of any actual interment could be discerned.

The Barrow in Blagdon is the smallest of the three, and situated 110 feet to the south-east of the elaborated circular

"Camp." Its measurements are only 27 feet $\times$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet. This was dug into during 1905, and found to contain a richly-furnished, cremated interment. The furniture included four Platters, a large pedestal Urn, three smaller urns and beakers, a small cup with foot ring, two saucers with foot rings, a bronze fibula, and remnants of an iron, bronze, and wood bucket, a bronze bracelet, and, lastly, the remains of a small glass vessel. In the summer of 1928 a small amount of further digging was undertaken in the rim of the Barrow, at the suggestion of Professor G. Elliot Smith, to ascertain if any intrusive burials could be found. This I was lucky enough to do, and, during the first hour's work, at the depth of 15 inches, located a small pocket in the red clay, and flints packed with blackened earth, charcoal, calcined bones, and a dozen fragments of very soft and broken Samian ware, which Mr. Reginald Smith considers as dating from the 2nd Century, some of the thin, flat pieces being regarded as Antonine. One of the vessels, which is represented by one small piece of rim only, is of unfamiliar type, and does not occur in *Oswald and Price*.

Both the Barrows described, as well as the third, an account of which follows, are clothed in hazel clumps, and in two cases have timber trees growing near the summits, so that excavation is difficult and laborious in the extreme, owing to the roots. In the case of the Blagdon Barrow, the Clay-with-Flints is very dense indeed.

The third Barrow is in that part of the woods now known as Doles Coppice (probably in that part once known as "Knowle"), on the steep slope to the south of the Tangley-Stoke Hill trackway, overlooking Severalls. The mean height of this mound is about 4 feet 6 inches, the diameter approximately 30 feet. In spite of the fact that the apex has sunk into a small cavity, the shape is a great deal more conical than that of the other Barrows, while its composition is almost entirely flint and chalky rubble. Three feet to the east of the centre, after much fruitless digging, during which two or three very small fragments of pottery were observed, in the year 1906 I came upon a small, circular cist cut in the chalk, and packed with a considerable quantity of charcoal and charred bones. Parts of a human cranium were observed, and these were examined by Professor Elliot Smith in 1926, and pronounced provisionally by him as having belonged to a young adult, aged about 25, probably female. Just above the cist a small slab, of what is apparently some kind of sandstone, was found.

A more complete and detailed description of the pottery found in No. 1 Barrow will, we hope, be the subject of a further communication.

I shall now leave the Barrows, with the remark that in no case can the excavations, which have been done almost entirely by myself as time and the exigencies of work abroad permitted, be regarded as in any way complete or exhaustive.

"Camps."—At a distance of 110 feet from the Blagdon Barrow, as I have stated, lies an elaborated, roughly circular "Camp," with a broad entrance-way. The two flanking wings gradually waste away, both to the north as well as to the south, having, I believe, been ploughed down some time between A.D. 50 and 350. At the point where the ditch and vallum of the southern wing fade away, traces of a cultivation bank, forming part of what may be a square, cross the line of the fortification. On a similar bank, a few hundred yards away, I have found several potsherds similar in type to those within the "Camp," among which fragments of Samian occur. Other cultivation banks or terraces occur with some frequency in Blagdon Coppice, and, where possible, appear to have been made with a view to clearing the ground from excess flints in some degree, and also to stop the wash of soil from the slopes, since the banks, though angular and not contoured, follow frequently along the slope of the land.

In the angle which the southern wing of the "Camp" makes with the bank referred to, there is an irregular, rather oval-shaped pit, measuring about 140 feet $\times$ 30 feet, which does not appear to have any connection with the "Camp" itself, and may well be a Roman chalking pit.

Where the entrance-way makes an angle with the southern wing, I located, some years ago, a very large dump of potsherds, including fragments of several Samian vessels, New Forest ware, mock Samian, a piece of the flange of a 4th century Mortarium, and specimens of many dozen types of Romano-British vessels. This pottery site measures about 20 feet $\times$ 8 feet, while the depth varies from 3 to 10 inches, the deeper specimens having been recovered farther away from the ditch in all cases. In the bottom and sides of the ditch there are a few scattered potsherds below this site, having been raked down the slope by animal and other agency, as I assume.

Some few bones and teeth of various domestic animals, and two fragments of much corroded iron were found also at this site.

A few paces farther along the southern wing, and occupying a similar position on the bank to that of the pottery site, is a deposit of thoroughly calcined flints, together with blackened earth, measuring about 10 feet $\times$ 10 feet, the depth of which extends to a little over a foot. I estimate that over 90 per cent. of the material within this area has been very thoroughly burned, and, owing to the depth of the deposit, it does not appear possible

that it represents the result of surface fires, even over a long period of years. Dr. Williams-Freeman has suggested that it may represent the remains of a burned-out dwelling of wood and stone, but this I consider can hardly be the case, since fires in such instances do not cause such extensive and complete calcination. For the present the explanation must await further investigation.

At a distance of 5 yards from the point where the entrance-way merges into the southern section of the circular part of the "Camp," a small deposit of blackened earth and burned flint again occurs, this time in the bottom of the trench.

Continuing along the bottom of the trench for 120 feet, another pottery site is found. This differs in many respects from the first. The potsherds were found buried below the surface of the trench, from 1 foot to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, and they were observed to occupy a width of approximately 5 feet. There was no surface indication in the nature of any alteration in the level, but the soil appeared darker than that of the rest of the trench, and small scraps of pottery had been brought to the surface by moles. Throughout the section of trench where the potsherds occurred (25 feet), the soil was much blackened, and contained numerous animal bones and teeth, together with two iron spikes or nails, much corroded. One small piece of Samian was discovered, no New Forest ware, no Mortaria, while the remains of large black storage vessels predominated. Several specimens of iron pyrites, sandstone, and Purbeck stone were also brought to light. Dr. Williams-Freeman suggests that this site was probably where the cooking operations of the "Camp" were carried on, and in this opinion I fully concur.

No other sites containing pottery, etc., have been found in this "Camp" at present.

At a distance of just under a quarter-of-a-mile north lies a square encampment, measuring a little over 100 yards each way. There are traces of entrances at the corners, but whether these are ancient, or merely modern cart ways for the removal of wood, or if the latter followed the former, I am unable to suggest. This "Camp," which I regret to say I have had very little opportunity to examine thoroughly, has so far yielded only the base of a small thumb pot of New Forest ware, found on the surface of the soil under a large Beech, growing on the vallum on the north side.

Leaving Blagdon for Doles Coppice, the next "Camp" to be noticed is one which occurs to the east of the Long Ride, in the narrow strip of wood next to Frenches Farm Fields. This measures just under 100 yards each side of its square, and contains a pit of 50 feet diameter. On the west of this pit is an area a

little over 10 feet $\times$ 10 feet, laid down with massive flints, among which I have found a number of potsherds, scraps of iron, querns, briquets, etc., pointing to occupation. A second pottery site occurs just inside the "Camp," opposite a small gap in the vallum; this has lately been occupying my attention, and investigation will be continued next year. Both the "Camps" mentioned are of the single ditch and vallum type, the ditch in each case approximating 3 feet in depth, the width over all approximating 50 feet. In the case of the Blagdon "Camp," as well as the latter, three sides of the square are in a far better state of preservation than the fourth, which in each instance is on the east.

On the west of this "Camp," forming an apparent continuation of the northern ditch and bank, a much-wasted double bank can be observed for some distance before it becomes lost finally.

The fourth "Camp" is near the north-west corner of the Hurstbourne-Tarrant Common, and appears to be circular, but the density of the surrounding thorn thickets is so great, that I have not been able to gain access to it for many years, nor have I been able, in consequence, to take any measurements.

There are traces of a fifth "Camp," or settlement site, in the small, triangular Coppice, known as The Withy Bed, on which I picked up several potsherds many years ago. Unfortunately, in recent years, the cutting of the undergrowth has generally been done during my absence abroad, so that I have not been able to take any measurements, or make any further investigations for the subject of this paper.

Shallow Depressions.—Throughout the Doles Coppices there are many hundreds of shallow depressions, measuring some 4 feet to 6 feet in diameter, the depth in many cases being only a few inches. The majority of these I believe to be the sites of former tree-stools, or "mores," as they are called colloquially; but one, at least, which was carefully excavated by my wife and self in the year 1919, seems to have been a temporary shelter site. It contained a number of indifferently-flaked flints, cores, etc., and a fragment of a small bronze vessel fused at the edge. Portions of both the upper and lower halves of the vessel are contained in the fragment, and have every appearance of being soldered together. Dr. Bulleid, F.S.A., has examined this, and agrees as to the method of joining.

I have examined many of these depressions subsequently, but have not been able to find any traces of human occupation.

Pits.—In addition to these small depressions, a large number of pits, of all sizes and shapes, occur throughout the woods,

and, in one instance at least, in Blagdon, there are sunken entrance-ways, with raised banks at both ends, of a large oblong pit with rounded corners. Having regard to the fact that Doles was almost certainly under forest in Elizabethan times, when there was a burst of chalking activities, I think we may conclude that these pits are probably of Roman origin in the majority, though the large pit on Hurstbourne Common, known as the Marl Pit, has certainly been used in much more modern times, as well as the pits in the paddocks to the south and west of Doles House.

Cultivation Banks.—In various parts of the woods, especially near the top of the ridge overlooking the Hurstbourne Valley, in what was probably Knowle Coppice, there are further traces of cultivation, which take the form of long parallel banks of flints, at frequent intervals. These are arranged up and down the slopes, not along them, and occur in greatest numbers where the soil is naturally most flinty.

Flints.—Notably in Blagdon Coppice, flints have been collected in the bottoms of small valleys to a depth of 4 or 5 feet, leaving the slopes comparatively clear.

In Doles Coppice I have come across two flint dumps, one roughly square, with some semblance of containing banks or low walls, also of flint. The other is of very large flints collected into a chevron-shaped bank, the angle of which is to the north. The height of this is roughly 3 feet inside, while outside the wings the top of the bank is level with the surrounding soil. This latter does not seem to have any connection with cultivation, as the flints have mostly been selected for size, and must have been brought for some distance, as such massive specimens are not found normally scattered about the surface in Doles.

In conclusion, I should like to remark that considerable difficulty has been experienced in examining and even approaching most of the sites mentioned in this paper, owing to the thickness of the undergrowth, which is bedded frequently with brambles. In all of them the difficulty of carrying out careful and systematic excavation has been greater than is usual, owing to the nature of the soil, which is matted throughout with roots. For the greater part, such digging as has been done has been accomplished single-handed, so that I trust due allowance will be made when comparing the number and extent of the sites with the small amount of work carried out, and the results achieved.

I am indebted to my brother, Mr. Willoughby Dewar, for help in compiling the introductory notes of this paper.

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