

## Burledge Camp

BY MARJORIE CROOK, M.B., Ch.B., AND  
E. K. TRATMAN, O.B.E., M.D.S., F.D.S. R.C.S., F.S.A.

Ordnance Survey Map 6 in. to 1 mile, Somerset XIX N.W., National Grid Reference ST582285.

A short account of the discovery of this camp and a sketch plan have been published (Crook and Tratman, 1949). Since then a detailed survey has been prepared by Mr. John Crickmay (*Fig. 3*). In the course of making this survey Crickmay noted a number of features which call for brief comment.

The whole of the north side has been much mutilated by a series of shallow quarries and the original details are impossible to determine without excavation. It seems probable that there was originally a natural ledge, comparable with that along the south side between S-S' in *Fig. 3*. This northern ledge used to take a modern track, which is now only indicated by the line of the parish boundary. The track itself turned south across the western face of the camp below the plateau area. It is still visible under the northern part of the west end of the camp. This track where it leaves the line of the parish boundary and turns south occupies a shallow ditch with a low outer bank shown at V in *Fig. 3*. This part is in every way comparable with the outer ditch and bank along the south side between S-S'. Only excavation can determine if the portion at V is a part of the prehistoric defences or whether it is merely a sunken track.

At the north-west corner there is a pronounced artificial prominence which has been called "The Toot". It is much mutilated by shallow quarries and may in part be a natural prominence utilized by the makers of the camp. Its relation to the outer vallum at V and the supposed line of that vallum along the north side suggests that it may have served as a lookout, as it commands ground which is dead ground from the plateau area of the main enclosure.

The north-east corner of the camp and especially the outer vallum and fosse have been largely lost by quarrying. The line of scarping shown in *Fig. 3* follows the quarry line. It is probable that the outer defences across the eastern face extended considerably beyond their present end and may have returned to join with the lost works along the north side or to join the inner defences.

At L at the eastern end the form of the bottom of the outer ditch and the outermost bank are due to quarrying, which also accounts for the absence

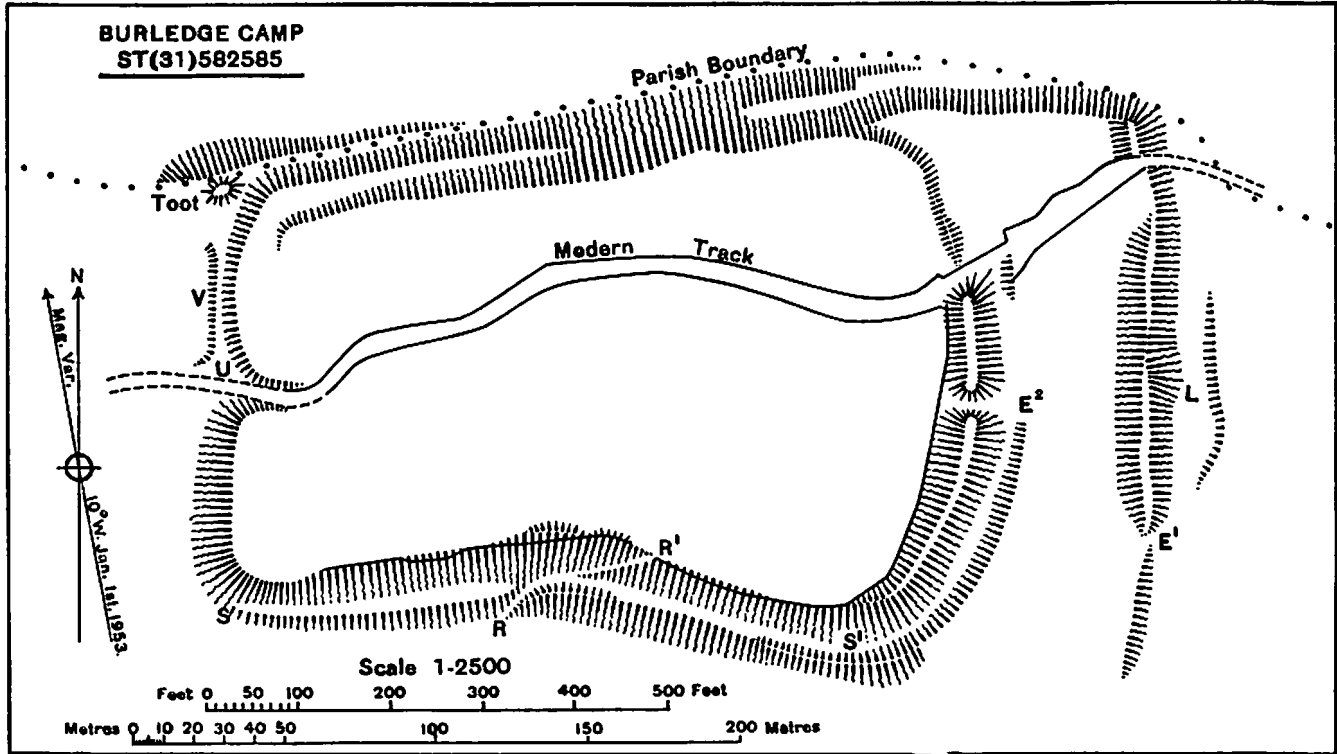


Fig. 3.—Burledge Camp. Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map, with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved.

of the outer ditch north and south of the present-day track. The exact form of the south end of the outer defences across the eastern face of the camp cannot be determined without excavation but it seems that they did not return west to meet the outer defence below the south side.

On the south side the survey shows clearly that the original entrance in prehistoric times was at R-R'. This would seem to have been the only entrance, though one may have been lost by quarrying on the north. It is just possible that the modern track has its exit westwards through a prehistoric entrance at U. It is of interest to note that the southern entrance would enable an attacker to have his shield on his left against his enemy while his right or sword side would be little exposed. This is the reverse of the usual arrangement. The entrances at E 1 and E 2, described in the first account, in the eastern face are now seen to be recent, as are the mound M and platform P of that account.

From several points of observation to the east of the camp other earthworks appeared at the east end of Burlledge Hill (N.G.R. ST588589). A search of the area was made and the banks found to be natural features somewhat altered by shallow quarrying.

#### REFERENCE

CROOK, M., and TRATMAN, E. K., 1949, *Proceedings*, U.B.S.S., Vol. 6, No. 1, 52-54.