

have already appeared (Tratman, 1955, and Taylor and Tratman, 1957). The site lies about a mile east of the Hunter's Lodge Inn close to the south side of the road. It was first noted in 1926 as a possible archaeological site, but at the time the ground was so very much overgrown with tummy grass and brambles that no definite opinion could be formed about it. In 1954 it was examined again when the field was under the plough and the work showed up very clearly. It consists of an outer bank 3 ft. high and 30 ft. wide with a ditch 22 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep inside. Both bank and ditch are interrupted by a causeway entrance 10 ft. wide. The central area, 30 ft. in diameter, is generally flat, but there is an oval-shaped mound, with indefinite margins, placed eccentrically towards the causeway. This mound looks as if it might be much more recent than the rest of the structure and may be composed of stones collected from the field in recent times. The overall diameter is 154 ft.

It will be noted that the measurements of this work are very similar to those of Gorsey Bigbury on Mendip (Jones, 1938), and the entrance is in the same position. The structure seems more regular than Gorsey Bigbury but that is probably due solely to the difference in the nature of the ground. The site is in the floor of the head of a very shallow valley. There are several round barrows near (Tratman, 1938, T 234-T 238) and to the north, across the road, is a very large disc or perhaps a degraded bell barrow on slightly higher ground (T 239). The site has all the characters of a henge monument and has been, or is in process of being scheduled as an ancient monument.

E. K. TRATMAN.

Sun Hole Cave, Cheddar. Pleistocene Deposits. In an earlier note (Ollier, 1955 on samples of the Pleistocene deposits, sample 5 from the sixth foot was noted as containing fragments of a mottled yellow limestone from an unidentified source. Subsequently samples of limestone from a Triassic Conglomerate infilling of a small cave exposed in the north face of a quarry (N.G.R., ST 451555) on the road from Cheddar to Shipham were examined. They were found to be identical with the Cheddar specimens. Similar conglomerates occur at Chelm's Combe and Batt's Combe near Cheddar and these extend to within half a mile north of Sun Hole cave. The conglomerates run up to 600 ft. above sea level, whereas Sun Hole lies at about 300 ft. It seems most likely that these conglomerates are the source of the yellow limestone in the Sun Hole deposits. If so, the active Pleistocene swallet entrance beyond the present back of the cave must be looked for in a northerly direction towards the edge of the conglomerates.

C. D. OLLIER.

Investigations at Stanton Drew. On the weekend of October 2nd to 3rd, 1954, the writers, with Dr. and Mrs. H. Taylor and others, and by kind permission of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, and Mr. Lionel Smart (landowner), undertook a small probing and augering operation at Stanton Drew. The auger was kindly lent by the Geology Department of the University of Bristol.

The main purpose was to try to locate a continuation of the two stone avenues towards the River Chew. The ground from the lowest known stones of both avenues to and slightly beyond the winding hedge to the east was thoroughly probed and augered without locating any stones. It is possible that if they ever existed they may have sunk through the river alluvium; a suggestion previously made to one of us by M. P-R. Giot, of Rennes, from his wide experience of Breton megaliths. This suggestion is supported by the fact that very soft mud at a depth of about 2 ft. was brought up by the auger in various places east of the old hedge-line shown by a dotted line on the accompanying plan. (*Fig. 27, p. 111*).

As the ground is level between the winding hedge and the present course of the River Chew, we believe that it might well have been submerged in winter during the second millennium B.C., in which case the winding hedge would indicate the limit of the area then liable to winter floods. If this is so, the avenues may never have continued beyond the line of this hedge.

The incomplete part of the larger stone avenue was next probed and augered for missing stones, which were not located; it is evident that some of the stones must have been removed long ago.

At the junction of the Great Circle and its avenue, our operations met with more success. We were gratified by discovering a buried stone comprising the western

end of the south row of this avenue, on the circumference of the circle—only to find a fortnight later that it had been discovered by Rev. S. Seyer in the early nineteenth century, and marked on his plan (*Memoirs of Bristol*, i, 1821, plan opp. p. 92). It was, however, omitted from the plan by C. W. Dymond (*Stanton Drew*, 1896, 4to, p. 8 and large plan) which is generally considered by far the best. Dymond noted that it was marked on Seyer's plan but rejected it for reasons which we consider inadequate, as we made sure of its existence by taking several probings, and ascertained its approximate size as $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. \times 3 ft. 9 in. Its position is 68 ft. from the next stone eastwards and 27 ft. from the north end of the avenue. We also located a buried stone to the south of our first discovery, this being another addition to the irregularly spaced stones of the Great Circle. The position of each of these stones is marked on the accompanying plan by a dot within a circle.

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