

There is, of course, no indication that the lead came from Somerset (Mendips) and indeed is more likely to have been derived from local sources known to have been worked in Roman times (e.g. Tylecote, 1962, *Fig. 13*).

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*Secondary Neolithic and Roman Site at Binegar, Somerset.* (ST 61394968.) In the garden of No. 1 Dalleston in 1964 Mr Dudden (tenant) found a quantity of Roman pottery and flint and chert implements. These were all found in that part of the garden west of the house. No buildings or remains are visible nor, so far, have any foundations been exposed in gardening trenches carried down to 18 in., at which level most of the pottery occurs. No pottery has been found in the gardens of houses immediately to the north and so the main site is probably to the south and where Mr. Dudden's garden extends across the back of some old cottages. The pottery, which represents at least thirty-two vessels, has been examined by Mr. Barry Cunliffe (University of Bristol) and pronounced as being a typical 4th-century collection. It contains typical straight-sided shallow dishes, bead rim bowls and other forms. The vessels include ware from Congresbury and New Forest kilns. The pottery is very fragmentary and much of it is badly weathered. Obviously the material has been dug over several times.

The site is of considerable interest as Wicks (1923) records his opinion that the road past the house is a minor Roman road joining, in the south, the Charterhouse—Old Sarum road about 300 yd. east of Whitnell Corner at ST 59024860 and running thence roughly north-east. Preliminary investigations by the author confirm Wicks's view that this is a minor Roman road but much detailed field-work is necessary to trace its extensions to the north-east and south-west.

About 100 pieces of flint and chert have been found. They are very fragmentary and battered in some cases. There seems to have been a great economy in their use for so many of poor quality flint or chert show signs of secondary working. In the collections are three steep end-scrapers, one unfinished, parts of two flat, small discoidal scrapers, part of a retouched knife and what seems to be part of a *petit tranchet* derivative. This little series is consistent within itself and consistent with a late Secondary Neolithic/Beaker age.

The collection is now housed with the Society.

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*Decoy Mounds on Blackdown, Mendip, Somerset.* Several enquiries about these mounds are made each year and as no easily available record about them exists an account of them is here set forth.

During the war, 1939-1945, a series of small mounds were set up on Blackdown. They consist of heaps of peaty turf cut from the surface in a circular form and piled in the centre of the circle so that the mound so formed is encircled by a shallow ditch. Each is about 12 ft. in diameter and each was, originally, about 5 ft. high but are now, 1966, much lower due in part to simple subsidence and in part to burning as they are composed largely of peat.

Their arrangement is in long double rows running in the main east-west but with other rows approximately north-south. They stretch from Charterhouse on the east to Shipham on the west. The whole is said to have been set up as a decoy for enemy aircraft so that the rows were presumably meant to represent a town or railway layout. The mounds were each wired to have a dim lamp lighted on them. These could be switched on to represent "black-out" lighting.

In addition, several great masses of inflammable material were placed ready to fire to imitate, it is supposed, fires in a town. It is doubtful if the mounds' system served their purpose as only one stick of four bombs was dropped anywhere near them. The craters of the bombs are well down the north slope of Blackdown.

Now the mounds are slowly decaying but are still prominent enough to puzzle the casual visitor and provide a trap for the unwary field archaeologist. At present their character and distribution make them readily distinguishable from the series of tumuli, presumably of Bronze Age date, which are distributed along the top of Blackdown. But in course of time these modern mounds will come to look like prehistoric structures, though their size and arrangement should prevent them being taken as such except by someone obsessed with alignments of prehistoric date.

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