

Other birds of interest seen during the autumn included : Nightingale, three Wrynecks (two caught and ringed), two Short-eared Owls, two parties of Ortolan Buntings (one bird of which bounced off a mist net during a strong wind) and a cock Red-headed Bunting which lived in the Hotel garden for nearly three weeks in August.

I was struck with the similarity in species recorded this year with last autumn. All the above species were recorded in both years. Even a Pectoral Sandpiper was seen last year and a Red-headed Bunting ! It is difficult to believe the latter is an escaped bird when it turns up so regularly on Lundy in the autumn.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN 'THE BULLS PARADISE' LUNDY, 1961

BY K. S. GARDNER

In the Thirteenth Report of this Society reference was made to Bulls Paradise¹ or Plot No. 33 on the O.S. 25 inch map, and to the presence thereabouts of graves and other mounds. Since those notes were compiled, further investigations have been carried out, and in order to keep the records up to date the results, inconclusive though they may be, form the basis of this report.

Bulls Paradise is the field which bounds the Shippens and other High Street yards on their north and west sides. Its surface is irregular, interrupted with mounds, ditches and banks, some of which seem to have originally extended beyond the present field walls.

The first step in the 1961 investigations was to prepare a ground plan (Fig. 1) and this was carried out by our member, Mr R. Penwarden, and the writer.

The main points of interest are :

Site I. A large grass-covered mound of stones, roughly circular in plan.

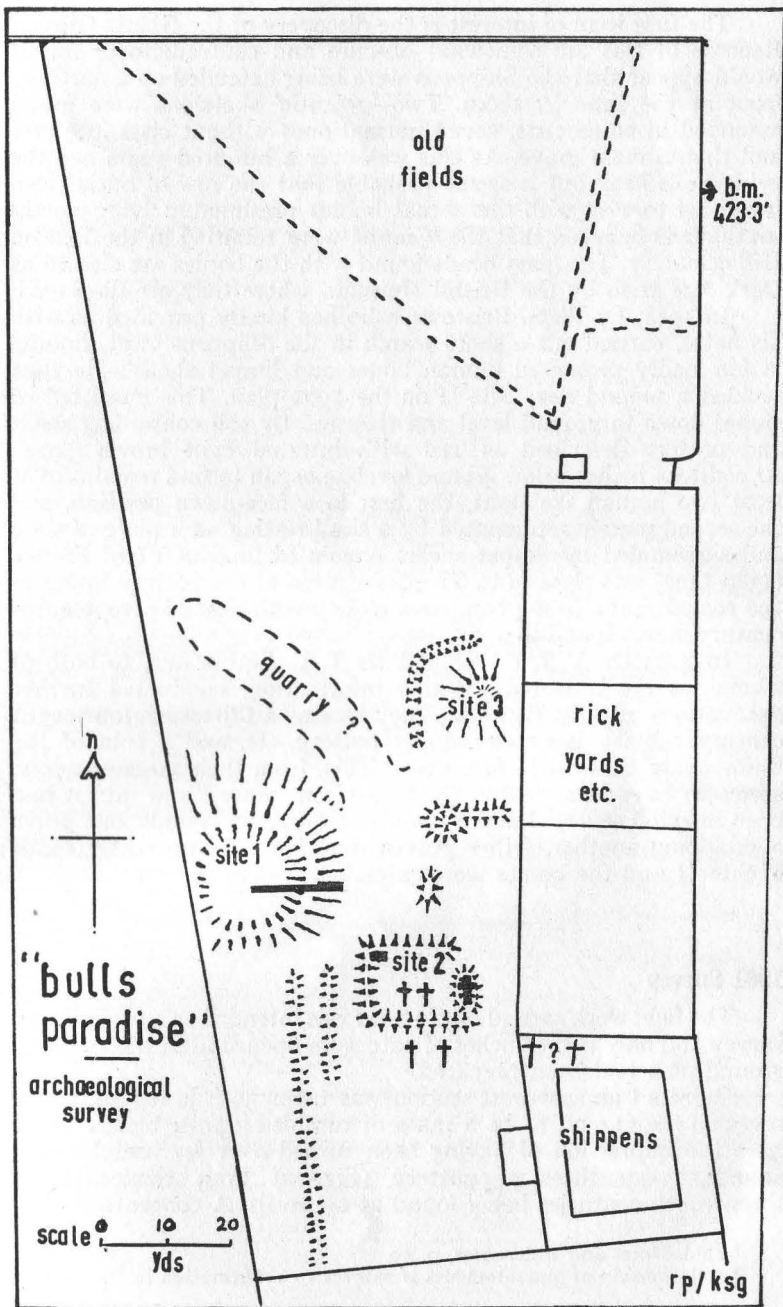
Site II. Traces of a rectangular enclosure.

Site III. A mound partially enclosed by a well defined ditch.

At the north end of the field are a number of old field boundaries, in the middle portion several other mounds and a possible quarry, and at the south end traces of parallel banks.

In order to put the whole site into its true perspective it is now necessary to consider any previously discovered facts about it, and the 1961 investigations included a search on the mainland for such information.

¹ L.F.S. Proc. XIII, pp. 56-57, 'Dark Ages Remains on Lundy', K. S. Gardner.



The first item of interest is the discovery of the Giants Graves. Records of this are somewhat obscure and contradictory² but it would appear that the Shippens were being extended on a northern front at the time (c. 1860). Two 'gigantic' skeletons were found extended in stone cists, seven normal ones without cists in a row and then a mass grave. As this was over a hundred years ago the evidence is hazy but it seems probable that the row of burials ran from east to west with the actual bodies presumably lying north-south. It is believed that the 'Giants' were reburied in the Beacon Hill cemetery. The glass beads found with the bodies are classed as Dark Age Irish by the Bristol Museum, where they are displayed.

In 1928, Dr W. S. Bristowe, who has kindly provided us with his notes, carried out a short search in the Shippens yard, finding 'a few badly preserved human bones and limpet shells'. He then tackled a mound near Site II on the 1961 plan. This consisted of stones down to ground level and then mostly soil containing shells and pottery described as 'red with internal light brown glaze'. At eighteen inches below ground level he began to find remains of at least two human skeletons, the first in a face-down position, and the second merely represented by a skull resting on a piece of slate and surrounded by limpet shells. A coin of Charles VI of France (1380-1422) was close to it. The description of the pottery found in the sealed grave filling compares closely with that of seventeenth-century wares found in 1961.

In 1933 Dr A. J. Dollar and Mr T. C. Lethbridge, to both of whom we are indebted for this information, conducted further excavations in Bulls Paradise. They located a thirteenth-fourteenth century rubbish layer containing pottery, etc. and a coin of the unfortunate Edward II (ob. 1327). This, from their measurements, seems to have been within the Site II enclosure,³ and into it had been inserted several human burials at different periods, one grave overlapping another. Other graves were located apparently south of Site II and the bodies were extended, feet to the east.

1961 Survey

The field work carried out in 1961 was intended as a preliminary survey and only two trenches of note were opened after the essential ground-plan had been prepared.

On Site I an east-west section was taken 39 ft in length, which revealed the mound to be a mass of tumbled granite blocks which gave the impression of having been turned over for useful stone, abundant quantities of pottery (Fig. 2) from thirteenth to seventeenth centuries being found at all levels. A concentration of

² Ibid. Notes and References, p. 59.

³ Relationship of measurements is subject to confirmation in the field.

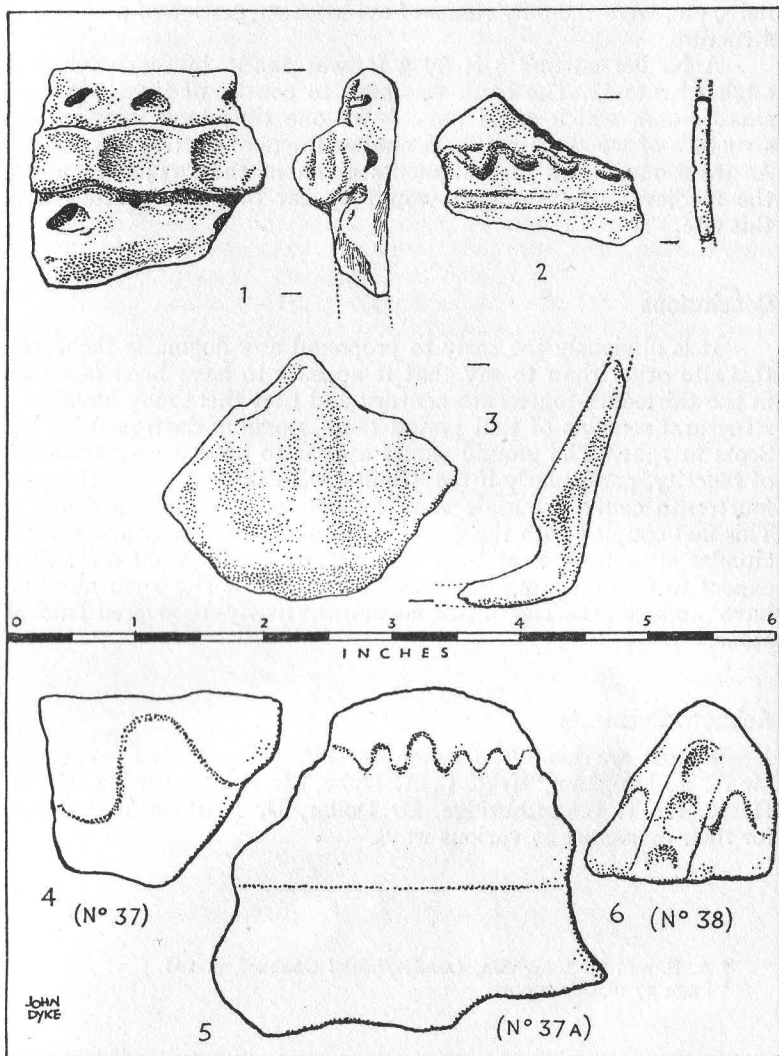


Fig 2. 1, 2, 3 Pottery from Bulls Paradise, Lundy, characteristics of which can be closely matched on 12th-13th Century sherds from Beere, Devon. 4, 5, 6. (Medieval Archaeology, Volume II, page 112.)

larger stones beneath the crest of the mound and a number of iron nails, etc. were the only items of evidence suggestive of a collapsed structure.

A further cutting 6 ft by 3 ft, was made in the north-west angle of Site II. The bank was seen to consist of tightly packed small stones which could possibly at one time have supported a structure of wood or wattle. A similar range of pottery was noted. As mentioned from measurements given in the 1933 field notes, the medieval rubbish layer would appear to be associated with this site.

Conclusions

It is obviously too early to propound any dogmatic theory on this site other than to say that it appears to have been occupied in the thirteenth-fourteenth century and that there may have been structural remains of that period there, possibly destroyed by the Scots in 1321.⁴ The ground would appear to have a long tradition of sanctity, particularly if the 'Giants' were Dark Age and the post fourteenth century burials were as late as seventeenth century. This fact coupled with the ground plan of a rectangular and several circular structures, is at least commensurate with what one might expect to find on a originally Celtic ecclesiastic site such as must have produced the Tigernus stone and the newly-discovered Tulocus stone.⁵

Acknowledgements

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⁴ A. F. and M. Langham, *Lundy-Bristol Channel*, p. 101.

⁵ Page 27 of this report.