

Peter Davis, having elicited comments on the nature of the Conference, proceeded to go through the "Guide to Ageing and Sexing" species by species, with the points that have been discovered during the past year. (I have access to copious notes on this stage of the proceedings, if anybody would like them). I suppose this was the most solidly utilitarian section of all. The points were each thrown open to discussion and many were contested by ringers from their own observations. There ought to have been sessions on the lines of this one, covering other topics, too. (Good 'conferring' at this point!).

After lunch on the second day we were shown more films and slides, and the Conference closed at 5.30 p.m.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, LUNDY 1966/67

### Introduction

The summer of 1966 saw the biggest archaeological expedition yet to visit Lundy. Some 30 people from all parts of England and two from the U.S.A., were engaged on excavations and surveying for two weeks, being visited at times by press and T.V.

Unfortunately Society funds do not permit full publication here but it is hoped to present a more detailed thesis in one of the mainland archaeological journals. This report must therefore be a summary of the results of recent field-work together with a resumé of the state of knowledge to date.

### 1. Middle Park II.

Following the identification of the huts and field enclosures at Halfway Wall as Late Bronze/Early Iron Age (L.F.S. 1964, p. 30) a brief investigation was carried out on a bi-cellular structure at SS/1370.4580. Again pottery of the first few centuries BC was abundant and further excavation is intended at a future date.

### 2. Beacon Hill I.

Seventy yards south of the Old Light at SS/1320.4425 are several apparent hut mounds. Excavation of the largest revealed a circular hut with 9 ft. thick cobble wall lined on the inside with granite slabs. Finds included a poor barbed and tanged arrowhead and a quantity of coarse pottery, again of the same broad S.W. type of the first few centuries B.C.

A low field boundary is noted running north-east, where it seems to be dissected by the Cemetery ditch, and continuing across field 32, possibly linking with the fields in plot 33 and 36, either side of the High Street.

### 3. Bulls Paradise Site III

Excavation continued on the ditched Medieval structure at SS.1365 44.28. An area N. of the 7 ft. wall was uncovered and with the aid of electro-resistivity equipment a second mass of masonry was discovered 60 ft. to the south.

The sequence of events here is now interpreted as follows:—

*Phase I.* Ditch and primary building represented by traces of a wall and flagstone floor. Pottery on floor and in primary silt of ditch is similar to mid 12th century fabrics from Devon and Cornish sites.

*Phase II.* Site levelled with pad of basalt 'concrete' sealing in pottery of a fabric similar to that found at Jenny's Cove I (q.v.). Main wall inserted in basalt pad.

*Phase III.* The northern wall shows signs of levelling and both this and the southern masonry is covered with rubbish of 13th century and later.

The general inference is that a defended building was constructed by the mid 12th cent., was levelled and rebuilt and demolished by mid 13th. This fits the period of the first Marisco occupation with a foundation date about 1150 A.D. an increase in fortification about 1220 A.D. and an enforced eviction and re-building scheme in 1242 A.D.

#### 4. Jenny's Cove, Site I

At the west end of the Halfway Wall, SS./1322.4590, is a rock platform artificially levelled and revetted so that it completely commands the western landing place. Its position is military rather than secular and the Ordnance Survey have classified it as a "Battery".

In clearing the site for photography sherds of 13th century pottery appeared and a short excavation produced nothing of later date. The fabric is similar to that found beneath the basalt pad in Bulls Paradise Site III and presumably represents a period of refortification.

Documentary evidence indicates (Close Rolls 1222 AD vide Langham p. 18) that Wm. de Marisco transferred to Lundy the magnonels made on his lands at Cameley south of Bristol. It is suggested that this could be the site of one of them designed to defend the "back-door" of Lundy.

#### 5. Bensons Cove (SS.1422.4375)

This man-made Chamber south of the castle was apparently concealed behind a small building. A map of 1775 shows a capstan in front of the building presumably for hauling cargoes up the cliff.

A trench through the entrance of the cave revealed a disturbed section producing coal shells, bones, iron, clay pipe fragments or pottery of 17th-19th century. Graffiti on the walls dates from 1726-1750. The Royalist Governor Thos Bushell, Miner and Mintmaster, seems the most likely candidate to have skillfully quarried out this vast store room.

#### 6. Surveying

A detailed plan was made of the Cemetery on Beacon Hill in preparation for future work.

Field systems were recorded on Aclands Moor running over the Quarter Wall; west and south east of "Stoneycroft", and around Tibbets.

At Easter 1967 a detailed plan was made of Widows Tenement—a fine example of a medieval long-house—and additional outbuildings discovered.

#### 7. Pollen Analysis

It is one of the convenient oddities of science that the most minute particles of pollen, can, under the right conditions, be preserved in the soil for many thousands of years, revealing to the palae-botanist details of prehistoric flora, crops and climate.

With the apparently undisturbed Iron Age fields at Middle Park it was felt that conditions were favourable, and our botanists, Miss Rhona Simpson, accordingly took a series of soil samples down through the old land surface.

The results are unfortunately not yet to hand, the samples still being in the queue at the London University Institute of Archaeology Laboratories but with luck we should learn not only details of prehistoric crops but also whether or not the island was ever afforested.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL GAZETEER — LUNDY 1967

1. **Mesolithic.** (i) *Tillage and Brick Fields*: N.G. Ref. SS/1370.4450.  
Scatter of microliths and associated waste material.
2. **Bronze Age.** (i) *Gannets Combe*. SS/1340,4770.  
Small community of ?Late Bronze Age huts (2 included in enclosure wall.)
3. **Early Iron Age** (i) *Middle Park*. SS/1370.4590.  
Rectangular field plots. Circular hut 30' diameter and bi-cellular structure.  
(ii) *Beacon Hill*. SS/1320.4425.  
Cobble walled huts and field system extending half a mile to the east.