ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK 1988

The Results of Test-Pit Excavations and Geophysical Prospection South of Quarter Wall

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INTRODUCTION

Lundy is an island rich in history, material remains representing almost continuous occupation between the early postglacial (c.10,000 BC) and the present day. Archaeology investigated to date includes flint scatters attributed to the Mesolithic period (Dollar 1932, Gardner 1957), Bronze Age hut circles, the early Christian cemetery at Beacon Hill (Thomas *et al* 1969) and the medieval sites of Marisco Castle (Dunmore 1982) and Widows Tenement (Wilson and Hurst 1965, 206-7). In addition general summaries have appeared in *Current Archaeology* (Anon 1968) and more recently in *Lundy: an archaeological field guide* by Keith Gardner. All emphasise the diversity of material remains present on the island as well as the potential for further investigations in a landscape obviously valued in the past, whether for qualities of exploitation or isolation.

Since much of this work was completed, the emphasis in archaeology has changed. Excavation of individual sites provides a 'key-hole' into the evolution of past landscapes. What became a feature of archaeology in the 1970s, however, was the desire to look beyond the limited view provided by excavation to a more complete picture of the landscape, a picture which revealed the relationship *between* individual settlements and between settlements and the physical and human landscape in which they were situated (eg. Dunnell and Dancey 1983, Thomas 1975). In short, excavation provided detailed information on how human behaviour was organised within a confined space. What was required was a means of analysing human behaviour away from the homestead, for example on hunting or foraging trips or when farming. Islands provide an ideal testing-ground for such investigations and Lundy, with its rich history and abundance of field remains, is especially attractive as a field laboratory.

It was therefore with this in mind that the 1988 field season was conceived. The area above the Landing Beach, between the Marisco Tavern and Quarter Wall, is potentially the most important on the island; it maintains a commanding view over the sheltered eastern approaches as well as being protected from the westerly winds. The soils in the vicinity are available for agriculture while access to flint on the landing beach represents perhaps the most convenient source on the island. This was therefore the area in which we felt our efforts would be best directed.

RESEARCH DESIGN

For the 1988 season, two stages were proposed, the first concerned with artefact collection, the second with relating the distribution of artefacts to the presence or absence of human activity as determined by geophysical prospection. The nature of the research design was necessarily limited, both by a series of specific questions considered worthy of investigation, by the funding (and hence manpower) available and the time-cost estimates of the prospection methods considered most appropriate. With this in mind, two long-weekend visits were planned, both in November 1988. These were arranged as follows:

A 11-14th November. Over this weekend a total of 17 hours were worked by a team of eight people (136 man-hours in total). As the fields under investigation are no longer ploughed, surface collection was impossible; another artefact recovery technique was therefore employed, that of test-pit excavations. This is a method now widely recognised and employed in areas where the ground surface is not visible, for example woodland and permanent pasture (eg. Kintigh 1988). It involves the systematic excavation, to a specified depth, of small square pits regularly spaced according to a predetermined grid. Working to an estimate of one test-pit per hour per team of two people, a total of between 50 and 60 test-pits were considered possible in the time available. Adopting the National Grid as a framework and spacing test-pits at 50m intervals, a total of 54 possible

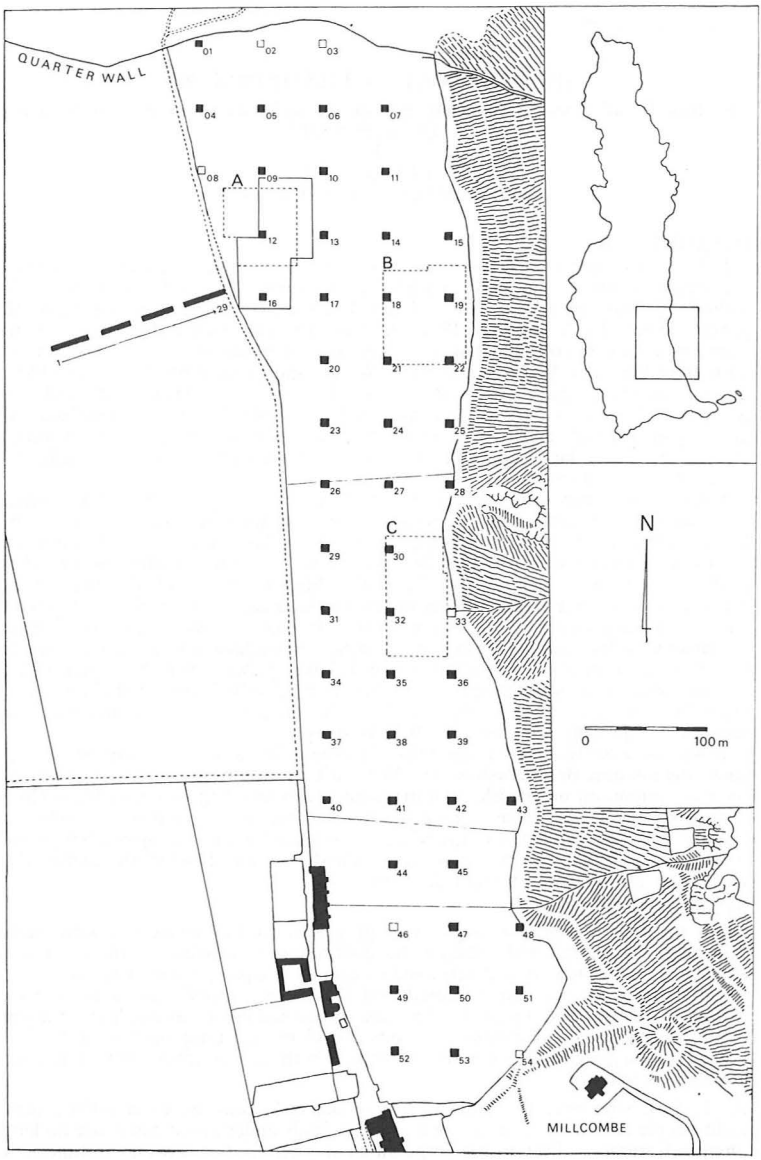

Fig. 1: Location of test-pits and areas investigated by geophysical prospection. Closed boxes represent excavated test-pits; open boxes represent test-pits not available for excavation (all drawn 4x actual scale). Closed rectangular units represent anti-glider trenches investigated by surface collection. Solid line in the vicinty of test-pit 12 represents area of resistivity survey. Broken lines around test-pits 12, 19 and 32 represent areas of magnetometer survey. Magnetic susceptibility survey covered the two fields north of a line joining test-pits 40 and 43.

collection units was suggested. This would provide even coverage of Brick and Tillage fields (the two fields running south from Quarter Wall adjacent to the cliff edge), extending south of Barton Cottages to a point east of the Marisco Tavern (Figure 1). Of this total six were unavailable (all waterlogged or out of the field) producing a final total of 48 test-pits upon which interpretation could be based.

Test-pit dimensions were standard. All were 1.0m square and excavated to a depth of 0.2m, approximating to the depth of ploughsoil in this area. Earth was removed by mattock and shovel with a regular proportion of about 10% of the earth being screened (sieved by 10mm mesh) in an attempt to recover smaller artefact classes.

Test-pit excavations are often criticised as an archaeological field technique, the argument being that by sampling such a small area, the results may bear little relation to those patterns actually present within the ploughsoil. Specifically it may be suggested that by spacing test-pits at 50m intervals, any sites with a radius of less than 40m could, potentially, be missed by four adjacent test-pits. In addition, criticism is levelled at the size of the sample. Spacing collection units at 50m intervals and assuming a standard size of 1m sq., only 0.04% of the area is being investigated. Such criticisms assume, however, that the primary aim of the survey is to find sites or areas of settlement or habitation. As landscape archaeology developed in the 1970s it became apparent that human activity was not confined to such places, but extended to the entire landscape. It was realised that only when the whole landscape was studied could information regarding land-use be attained. As human activity is spatially continuous, and as our aim was not to locate 'sites', test-pit excavations were considered a viable method by which meaningful data could be recovered.

B 25th-28th November. A total of 20 hours were worked by a team of six people (120 man-hours in total). The aim was, in the light of artefact distributions produced on the first visit, to use geophysical prospection methods in the hope of recovering structural remains such as outbuildings, boundaries, ditches or simply areas producing further evidence for a concentration of human activity. Three methods were employed (a summary of each is presented by Weymouth 1986). The location of areas surveyed is presented in Figure 1:

Magnetic susceptibility

This has been used as a prospection method in archaeology for over 20 years. It is a means by which variation in the magnetic properties of the soil may be recorded. Levels of susceptibility depend on the concentration of iron oxides which are available for conversion from weakly ferromagnetic forms to strongly ferromagnetic crystalline forms. It is this magnetic susceptibility enhancement which provides the basis for archaeological interpretation. What the results mean in terms of human activity is a matter of some debate. Burning, for example, will significantly enhance susceptibility and thus can be used to identify areas of human activity, while other processes, such as trampling may also aid enhancement. This was therefore considered a useful prospection method in terms of the survey design.

Resistivity survey

Resistivity surveying measures the resistance to an electric current of soil and possible archaeological features embedded in the soil matrix. Typically, large distinct features that differ substantially in dampness from the surrounding soil matrix can be detected as either anomalously high or low resistivity scores. Thus low resistance may indicate the presence of ditches while high resistance may suggest hidden walls or masonry. This was considered useful if clear artefact concentrations were located through test-pit excavations.

Magnetometer Survey

The magnetometer will detect slight variations in the earth's magnetic field. Some kinds of buried archaeological features, especially pits and structures that have been burned and hearths, produce such variations. The success of this prospection method was less predictable than other techniques employed. First, because a previous survey by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (Bartlett 1980) produced few results. The suggestion was that the complex geology of the island would create strong local magnetic anomalies which may obscure any archaeological features present. The results of previous work around Marisco Castle confirmed this, producing 'confused survey results which are mostly negative in their significance' (Bartlett 1980, 4). Second,

magnetometers are hindered by substantial magnetic background. This was present in the areas chosen for investigation in the form of electric fences and metal objects buried beneath the soil (probably nails and horseshoes). Third, the large, distinct anomalies detected by the magnetometer are relatively rare in the archaeological record. Despite these limitations, however the use of magnetometer survey was supported, mainly because of its ability to cover a large area in rapid time.

RESULTS

a TEST-PIT EXCAVATIONS

From the 48 test-pits excavated, the majority produced archaeological material. Much of this was pottery, although a sizeable collection of flint was also recovered. The results will be divided into two sections, dealing with flint and pottery (including other finds classes) respectively.

1. lithics

Forty-seven lithic or chipped-stone artefacts were recovered, the majority of which came from Brick Field and appeared in the form of two concentrations (Figure 2A). One was particularly significant, situated on the cliff-top with a commanding view of the north Devon coast. The nature of the concentration may be usefully compared with those identified on Trevose Head, Cornwall (Johnson and David 1982). In this case the flint distribution covered an area of 60 x 100m, the centres of the concentration producing up to 18 flint artefacts per sq./m. and covering areas of between 100 and 200 sq./m. Artefact scatters in similar situations have also been recovered at Baggy Point, Hartland Point and Elmscott, the latter material having been compared to that recovered from Lundy (Gardner, personal communication).

The concentration in Brick Field is characteristically Mesolithic, a high proportion of blade segments being represented. Although much of the waste material is tertiary, those pieces with cortex do suggest beach pebbles as the flint source, most probably deriving from the offshore Haig Frais Cretaceous chalk deposits (Naylor and Shannon 1982). This supports the evidence from numerous coastal sites on the mainland (eg. Roberts 1987) with the flint being bluish-black in colour and of a high quality for tool manufacture. However, some artefacts collected by islanders and viewed during our visit, specifically waste flakes collected from Tibbets Hill, were not manufactured from beach flint and do suggest rejection of local beach sources at some stage during later prehistory.

The distribution from Tillage Field is of very different character. A high proportion of primary waste material is present (compared to virtually none from Brick Field) despite lower overall quantity. The pitted cortical surfaces confirm the view that beach sources were being exploited and suggest that, in this area at least, industrial activity was occurring though either on a small scale or for a limited period of time. One artefact was of particular interest, a hollow scraper recovered from test-pit 40. Such artefacts are a characteristic feature of both Mesolithic and early Neolithic assemblages but cannot necessarily be associated with the Mesolithic concentrations recovered in Brick Field. It does, however, confirm the view that extractive tasks were being performed by early inhabitants to the south of the island.

The question of a Mesolithic coastal economy has recently been discussed by Jacobi (1979), who pointed to a distinction between human activity on the granite uplands and the rocky coastline of north Devon and Cornwall, both being exploited as part of the same seasonal cycle by groups of hunter-gatherers. Coastal sites would, he suggested, be occupied during the spring and/or early autumn (1979, 82). For sea fishing, especially favourable around Lundy where fathom lines are closely grouped around the western coast, occupation at any time between late spring and late autumn would be advantageous, with numerous species coming inshore to feed. Seabirds would be present with young between late spring and early summer, seal pupping tends to occur in early autumn while limpet and mussel shells possess the highest meat to shell ratio in autumn and early winter (although for mussels there is a second peak in meat weight during March and April).

In summary, the date of the lithic assemblage is predominantly Mesolithic and probably represents human activity during the spring and/or autumn. In terms of distribution the focus of activity on the cliff-top, the low density but wide scatter across

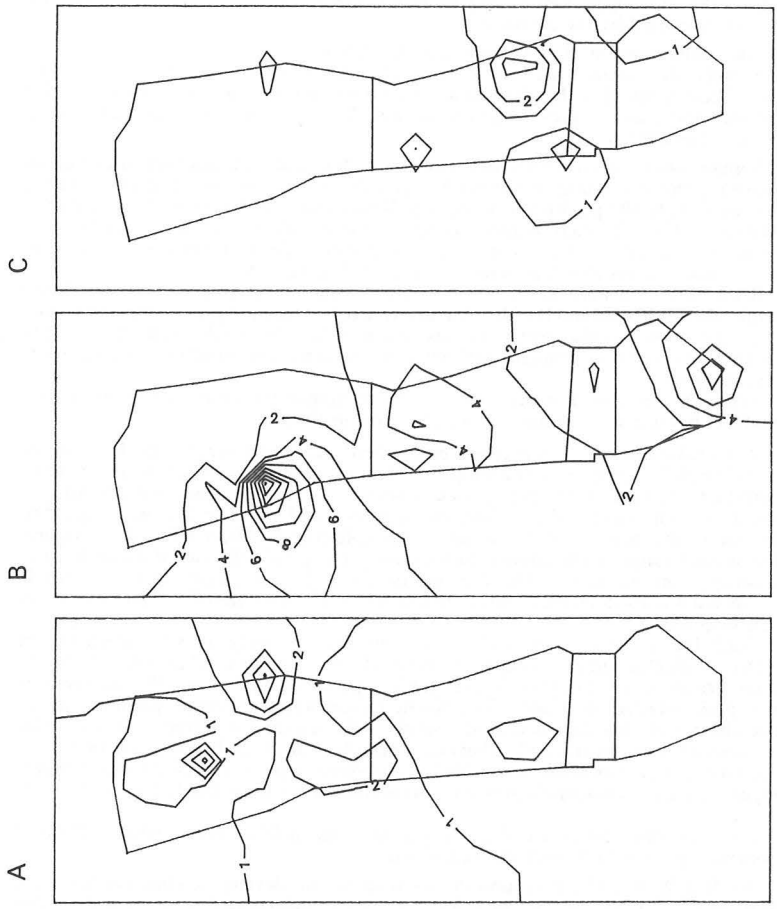

Fig. 2: Artefact distributions. A) chipped stone artefacts. B) pottery — North Devon fabrics. C) pottery — white earthenware.

this area of the island and the low proportion of primary waste in areas of higher density, suggest the main activity to be occupation, probably seasonal and thus of a temporary nature. Previous suggestions of long-term settlement and 'factory sites' in the vicinity are not supported by the evidence.

2. non-lithic material (C J Webster and A J Schofield)

A total of 273 ceramic sherds were collected from the test-pits; a mean number of 5.69 per collection unit. The distribution was far from uniform, however, and it is this that provides the major interest (Figures 2b and 2c). The non-lithic material may be described as follows:

a) Roman Pottery: A small bodysherd from the belly of a Black-burnished ware category 1 cooking pot was found in test-pit 12. The sherd is of the normal granular fabric associated with BB1 production at the large Wareham-Poole Harbour centre in Dorset (Williams 1977). The sherd is almost certainly Roman rather than Iron Age in date, and the acute-angled lattice decoration, which can just be made out on the unburnished area of the sherd, points to a date before the mid 2nd century AD.

Black-burnished ware was one of the most common forms of pottery in circulation within Roman Britain and the Dorset kilns were one of the most productive. It has been suggested, however, that pottery of this type may have been valued either as quality cooking wares or for the contents with which it was traded, one possibility for which may have been salt.

Although this does not necessarily prove a Roman presence on Lundy, it does establish beyond doubt some contact with Roman Britain.

b) Post-medieval wares: Just over half of the sherds recovered were North Devon wares with Gravel-Tempered Ware forming 49% of the total collection. Where forms could be identified, the Gravel-Tempered wares comprised jars and dishes, with porringers found in Non-Gravel fabric. Only two sherds could be identified with Sgraffito decoration although the eroded nature of the collection will have affected this figure. The limited range of identifiable forms makes dating the collection difficult but the majority seems to be of 17th/18th century date. A very similar fabric to Gravel-Tempered was also identified and contained substantial amounts of water-worn slate as well as quartzite.

North Devon pottery was produced and distributed widely from the north Devon centres of Bideford and Barnstaple, the Bristol Channel acting as a link with other parts of the British Isles and beyond. Coastal trade, especially with the south Wales coast, was at a peak between 1670 and 1700, North Devon wares appearing predominant in assemblages of this date within the south Wales catchment (Grant 1983,92). The location of Lundy, on a direct line between ports of departure and destination, makes the occurrence of pottery at this time a likely proposition, especially as North Devon wares appeared to have a monopoly over this part of the country in the late 17th and early 18th century.

The only other distinctive sherd was a rim from an 18th century white saltglazed stoneware plate with a 'seed' or 'barley' rim.

c) Modern Wares: The next most common fabric was developed white earthenware, forming nearly 1% of the collection. Most of this was undecorated but some underglaze-printed ware was found.

d) Other fabrics: The majority of the rest of the collection was formed from individual sherds most of which could not be assigned to known fabrics or dates, although several pieces of very burnt ceramic, possibly crucible, were recovered as well as pieces of brick identical to that used at the Castle and believed to have been made on the island.

With the exception of the Roman sherd none of the pottery is likely to pre-date the late medieval period. This may be due, in part, to the harshness of the burial environment as few of the post-medieval sherds were unabraded and most had lost much of their glaze.

The window glass was mostly float-glass but one sherd of crown-glass was found. The vessel glass was too fragmentary to make many deductions but 19th century perfume jars and what are probably 17th/18th century wine bottles are represented. In addition, several fragments of iron, mostly nails, were recovered together with clay-pipe fragments, burnt flint and one complete gin-trap.

The distribution of pottery was of particular interest. In Brick Field, a concentration of predominantly North Devon fabrics was located in test-pits 12 and 16, density falling off gradually in all directions, except to the east where a more distinct break in the distribution was apparent (Figure 2b). The distribution was confirmed to the west of Brick Field by surface collection along a disurbance caused by the filling-in of anti-glider trenches running E-W away from Brick Field for a distance of 150m. Collection at 5m intervals showed a high density of pottery in the first four collection units west of the wall, declining to a background scatter for the remaining 130m. The intensity and nature of the distribution suggested this may be representative of habitation sometime in the late medieval/early post-medieval periods, covering an area 150m from north to south and 50m from east to west. Another possibility, however, is that the area represents the location of a small field which was heavily manured. This seems unlikely, however, as early maps show no sign of field boundaries corresponding to this shape of distribution.

In Tillage Field, two features were apparent. First, a general scatter of red fabric across the field with a steady increase towards test-pit 33 (a spring situated on the cliff edge). This was the area which early maps suggest was the location of New Town, a farmstead which appears in maps of 1832, 1838 and 1840 but which disappeared after that date. Also in Tillage Field was a scatter of white earthenware. This appeared to the south, corresponding with the gateway and present field entrance (Figure 2c). This has all the indications of a manuring scatter, probably of 19th century date.

That the North Devon fabrics represent two types of activity, both in Brick and Tillage Fields, is suggested by a comparison of mean sherd weight between areas of supposed occupation and the remainder of the field. This is based on the principle that where sherds are scattered by the process of manuring, they will be more susceptible to destruction and a smaller sherd size will result. In the case of Brick Field, mean sherd weight of North Devon Wares from test-pits 12 and 16 was 3.52gm, from the remainder of the field, 2.28gm. In Tillage Field a similar trend was apparent. Mean sherd weight from the two test-pits closest to New Town was 4.69gm; from the remainder of the field the score was 1.92gm. Comparison of the means using the students t-test produced a 0.005 level of significance in each case. The pottery recovered from the two areas of possible occupation may therefore be considered to derive from a source of human activity other than manuring.

A third distribution was encountered to the east of the Marisco Tavern, in test-pits 51 and 53, the latter containing 34 sherds, 40% of which were North Devon. This distribution, unlike that in Brick Field, saw a fall-off to a virtual absence in surrounding test-pits. Furthermore a wider variety of fabric types were represented and coincided with a dense scatter of charcoal. The suggestion is that this area was used for a dump, probably for a long period of time, perhaps similar to that visible today on the cliff-edge adjacent to the incinerator.

In summary, therefore, various types of distribution are present within the survey area. These may represent different types of activity: 1) casual loss within the household itself, 2) incorporation of household rubbish within farmyard manure and scattering on the fields and 3) dumping of rubbish within middens or predetermined disposal areas.

b GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTION (C J Webster and A J Schofield)

1. Magnetic susceptibility

The entire area of Brick and Tillage fields was surveyed using a Bartington Instruments MS2 susceptibility meter with a MS2D field probe; readings were taken at 10m intervals. The results have been prepared by contouring using the Gridcont program, a modified version of that used by Haigh and Kelly (1987). Several features of interest are apparent; 1) an area of high readings at the north-east corner of Brick Field, 2) an area of extremely high readings crossing Brick Field, 3) an area of low readings running north-west to the north of 'New Town', and 4) a high area on the cliff top immediately to the south of 'New Town'. The results are shown in Figure 3.

The first anomaly is almost certainly caused by a build up of humic soil washing down from the top of the field combined with iron-rich deposits from the peaty water. The second is presumably, in view of its size and strength, caused by the underlying geology and coincides with the similarly large anomaly seen in the magnetometer survey (Figure 6). To the north of the main east-west anomaly is a smaller region of high values which lies at the north end of the anomaly seen in Figure 6. This may indicate some form of human activity. Another area of high readings can be seen at the western end and this

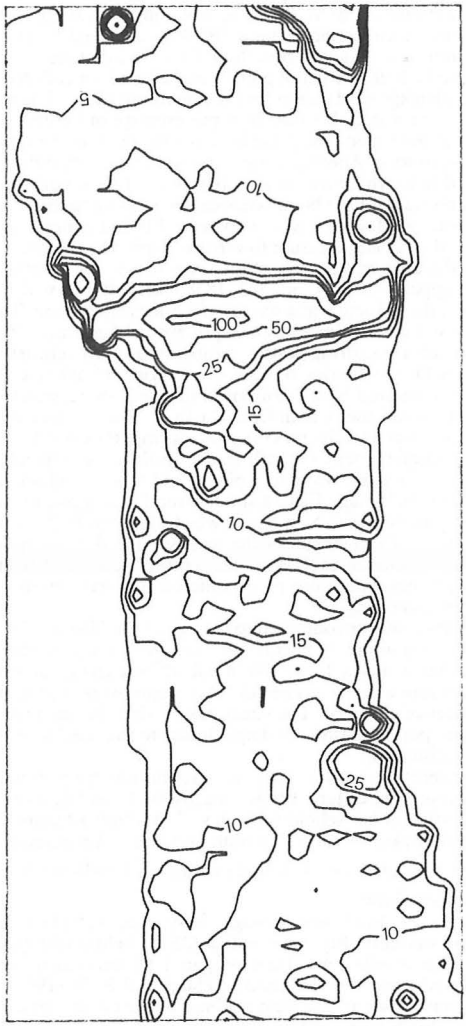

Fig. 3: Contour plot of magnetic susceptibility survey.

coincides with the area marked (G) on the resistivity survey (Figure 4); again this could indicate a centre of activity. The area of low readings to the north-west of New Town coincides with a craggy outcrop on the east Sidelands and may therefore be caused by thinner topsoil over this harder area of the granite. The area to the south of New Town is presumably associated with the settlement itself and perhaps indicates an area of humic enrichment such as a garden or midden.

2. Resistivity survey

Over 4000m^2 were surveyed in the area between test-pits 12 and 16, an area where test-pit excavation had shown large quantities of post-medieval pottery in the top-soil. The survey was conducted using a Geoscan RM4 resistance meter with on-site plotting using the RSCS program (Kelly *et al* 1984) running on an Epson HX-20. The results were prepared for publication using the DDP program written by the author (CJW). The results are displayed in Figure 4.

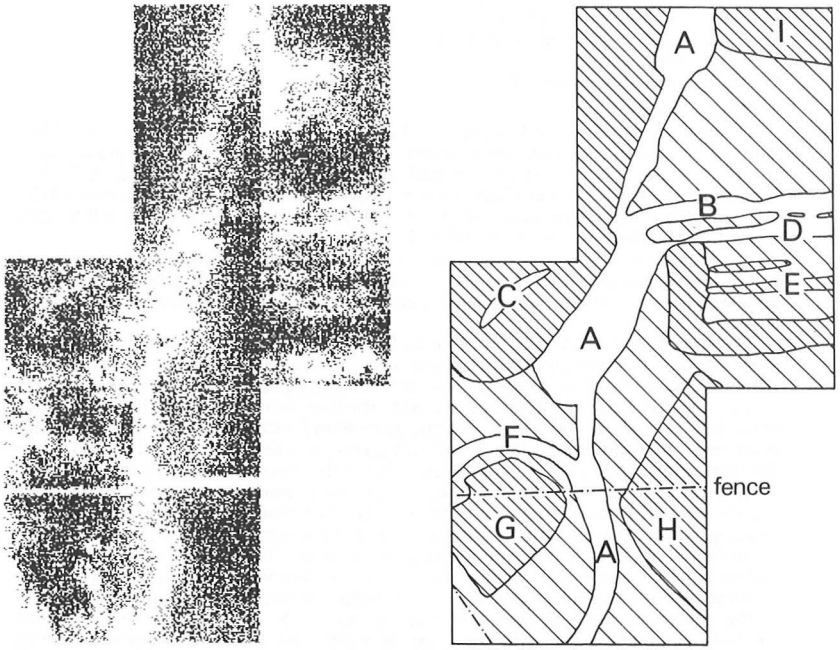

Fig. 4: Dot density plot of resistivity survey (left) and interpretation (right). For location see Figure 1; for interpretation see text.

The most obvious feature is the large area of low resistance which crosses the survey area from north to south following a sinuous course (A on Figure 4). This may be geological, caused by a local thickening of the topsoil over an eroded weakness in the granite. It.is also possible, however, that it represents a broad boundary ditch or, more likely, a hollow-way which has again produced local thickening of the modern topsoil. This hypothesis is strengthened by the fact that the pottery concentration (in as much as it can be measured with any precision on a 50m grid) seems to respect the anomaly with high numbers in test-pits 12 and 16 and low values in 13 and 17. The fall-off to the north and south is much less sharply marked.

Another low-resistance feature (B) can be seen running from the west, crossing the area with a slight curve to the south. There is a gap in the feature to the west of (A) but it then continues to the west (C). Other features (D and E) can be seen to the south of (B) and east of (A). Of these (D) may be associated with (B) but the ridges of (E) may be caused by farming practices. Of these (B), (C) and (D) are almost certainly archaeological in origin.

A further low-resistance anomaly (F) can be seen curving away from (A) surrounding an area of high resistance (G). This is similar in nature to (B) and may also represent a boundary ditch. The high resistance areas (G), (H) and (I) may represent areas of rubble, perhaps from buildings, but it is more likely that they are geological. A similar case may be argued for the area to the west of (A).

If it is believed that anomaly (A) is not natural then a possible interpretation would be:

A — hollow way.
B & C — boundary ditch running up to A, continuing after a gap.
D — ditch on other side of bank?
E — ridge and furrow cultivation.
F — boundary ditch.
G, H, I — probably geological.

3. Magnetometer Survey

Three areas were surveyed, coverage totalling 12,500m^2; (1) in the area where 'New Town' is shown on early nineteenth century maps (around test-pit 33), (2) in the area of the flint scatter around test-pits 18 and 19, and (3) around test-pit 12. A Philpot Electronic DM02 fluxgate gradiometer was used with direct logging into an Epson HX-20 using the GREAD program supplied. The results were prepared for publication using the Magplot program written by the author (CJW).

The area around test-pit 12, where the resistivity survey had shown several features of interest, was disappointing when surveyed magnetically (Figure 5). The area displayed no anomalies of possible archaeological significance and was the quietest of all the areas surveyed.

The area around test-pits 18 and 19 was chosen because of a concentration of chipped stone artefacts recovered in this area and was designed to locate features, such as hearths, which might indicate prehistoric settlement. In fact the area contained several anomalies of unusual strength, presumably unrelated to the flint-work (Figure 6). Running across from the east is a huge anomaly measuring up to 600nT with sharply defined edges. This is far larger than any archaeological anomaly and is presumably geological in origin. The distinct eastern end, however, may argue against this interpretation. To the north-east of the large anomaly is another curving anomaly, very similar in scale to that detected in the area around New Town (below). If the interpretation of the latter as a field boundary is accepted then the present anomaly may demand a similar interpretation. From an examination of the local micro-topography it is certainly unlikely to be a field drain. In addition there is a subsidiary feature leaving the main line which may indicate a previous alignment of the feature as well as several smaller anomalies which may be pits.

One major anomaly was detected in the area around New Town (Figure 7); this took the form of a linear feature running from the north-west of the area towards the spring on the cliff edge. A linear area of disturbance was noted on the ground which we were informed had been caused by the laying of a plastic drainage pipe but this did not coincide with the anomaly. It is possible that the anomaly represents a previous drainage trench containing a tile-drain, although its width (>3.0m) may argue against this. The distinct kink in the line at the eastern end also argues against this interpretation. Studies of field boundaries shown on old maps suggest that these may follow the line of the anomaly as may a track running from New Town to the north-west. This appears in numerous cartographic references and is, therefore, the preferred interpretation.

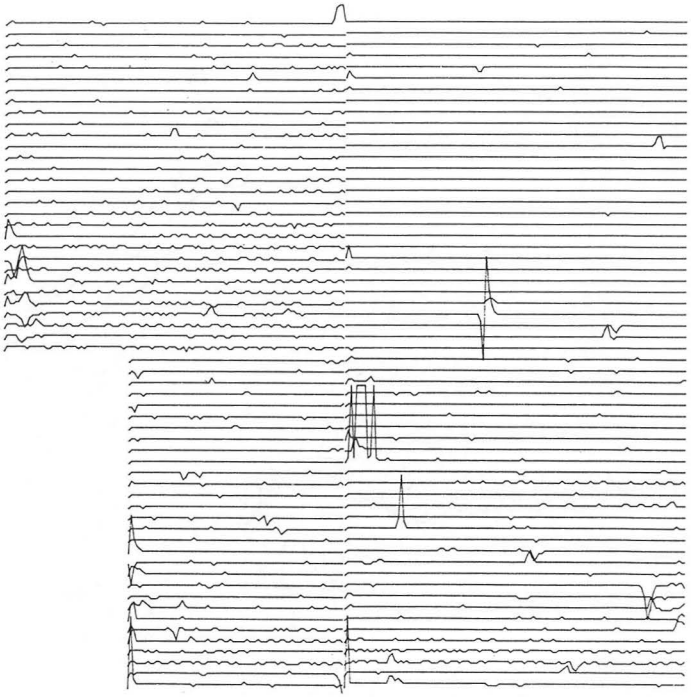

Fig. 5: Plot of magnetometer survey in the vicinity of test-pit 12. For location see Fig.1[A].

c CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

One of the main questions to emerge from the 1988 season concerned the nature of post-medieval land-use both in the area around New Town and that on the western side of Brick Field. It was surprising, for example, that an area well documented as being the location of a homestead in around 1840 should produce such negative results, while an area for which no remains are suggested in any of the references, should produce both geophysical anomalies and a substantial pottery concentration. Early maps of the island were considered useful in this respect and in terms of the possible field boundaries located by magnetometer survey.

In the case of New Town, early maps provide conflicting views. In the 1832 Admiralty plan of the island, a settlement in the form of two buildings (one L-shaped, one square) is recorded in a location close to the spring and thus adjacent to test-pit 33. In a map of the island produced for a monograph by H R Chanter (1877), the site of ruined cottages is suggested for the same location. However, in 1840 Lundy was offered for sale and a map was produced by Robins which accompanied the prospectus. This

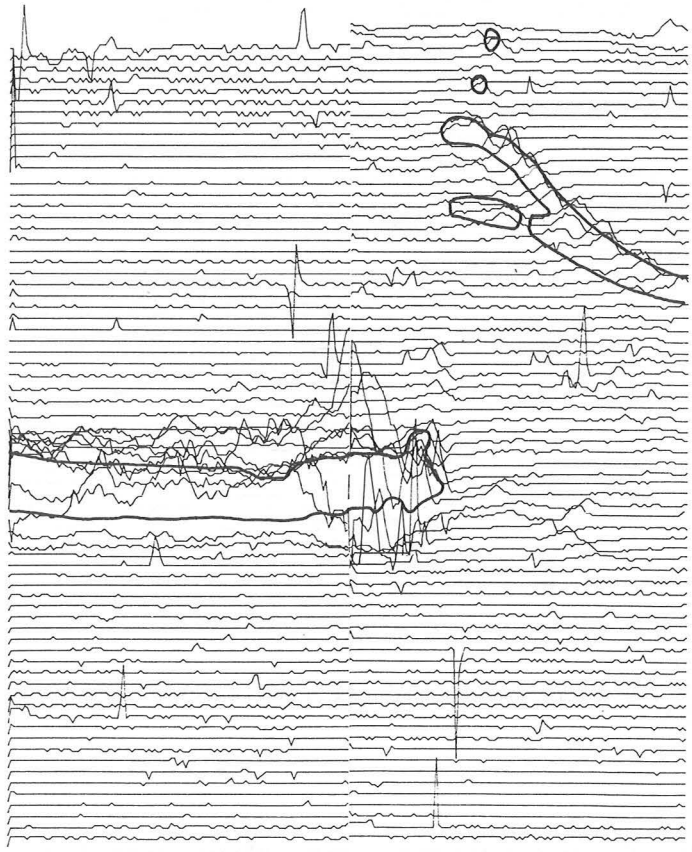

Fig. 6: Plot of magnetometer survey in the vicinity of test-pit 19. For location see Fig.1[B].

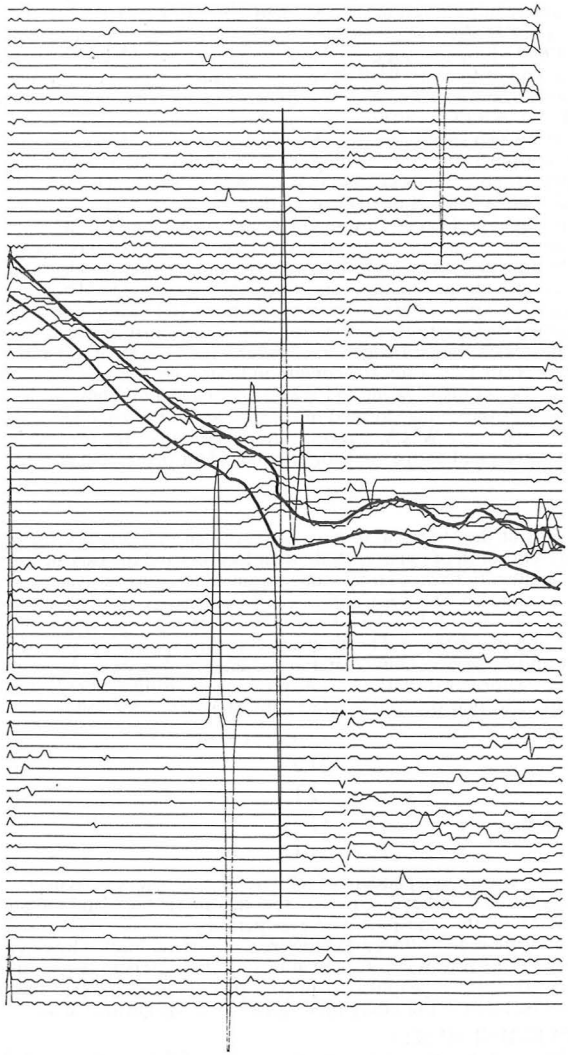

Fig. 7: Plot of magnetometer survey in the vicinity of test-pit 32. For location see Fig.1[C].

was based on the 1820 1" Ordnance Survey map, but shows New Town, not adjacent to the cliff edge or in what is now Tillage Field (the location marked on the OS map), but rather adjacent to the track and close to Quarter Wall. This map is reproduced by Ingham (1966) whose text suggests that a settlement called New Town is indicated near the eastern end of Quarter Wall. The area around test-pit 33 is marked as containing little more than an enclosure, of similar dimensions to that which occurs adjacent to the cottages in the Admiralty Plan.

Which of the two areas represents New Town is in little doubt, although it should be stressed that from a purely archaeological point of view, the activity around test-pits 12 and 16 appears more intensive than that around test-pit 33. That a cottage was marked on the Sale Plan as being close to Quarter Wall, however, does suggest the presence of a building in this area. That no clear foundations have appeared in either location through geophysical survey is no surprise; various cottages were demolished sometime after 1880 in order to provide stonework for the construction of the church.

Maps also provide information concerning the location of field boundaries. The 1840 Sale Plan, for example, appears to show an additional field boundary to those which exist today, running east-west in a position roughly in the centre of what is now Brick Field. This terminates on the cliff edge somewhere in the vicinity of test-pits 15 and 19 and may be represented by a linear anomaly indicated on the magnetometer survey. In addition, a series of maps dating to between 1809 and 1840 show the location of tracks running towards the cottage located in the area around test-pit 33. This runs from the site of the cottage in a WNW direction up to the line of the present track. This also appears to correspond with a 3m wide anomaly identified in that area through magnetometer survey.

SUMMARY

The results of the 1988 season have produced an indication of the types of human activity present south of Quarter Wall, their location and the varying intensity of land-use through time. In terms of total scores, from 48 test-pits excavated, 47 flint artefacts and 273 ceramic sherds were recovered, mean scores per test-pit of 0.9 and 5.7 respectively. To establish a broad comparison of land-use intensity through time, ubiquity scores may be used. The ubiquity score for a specific period is the percentage of collection units which contain material remains of that date. Assuming that all the pottery is post-medieval (with the exception of the Roman sherd and modern white earthenware) and that the flint artefacts are Mesolithic, the following scores apply:

PERIOD	UBIQUITY SCORE
Mesolithic	54.2%
Roman	2.1%
Post-medieval	81.3%
Modern	27.1%

This provides a score independent of total number of artefacts recovered and confirms the view suggested in earlier discussions, that this area of the island was fairly intensively used in the Mesolithic and post-medieval periods.

Work in future years will focus on the areas of activity located by extensive survey in 1988. This will involve test-pit excavations at 10m intervals across areas of activity, combined with further geophysical prospection. It is also hoped that the extensive survey may be extended to cover other areas south of Quarter Wall.

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