

A lost map of Salisbury Plain?

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Early in the 1930s OGS Crawford, since 1920 the Archaeology Officer of the Ordnance Survey, won permission to publish a set of maps showing the extent of the Celtic earthworks to be found on Salisbury Plain. There was precedent in two maps, similar in nature, that he had already created which showed Celtic field boundaries, one at the 1:20,000 scale of the area north of Winchester, the other a county series six-inch sheet (Wiltshire 48 SW) of the Figheldean Down area.¹ Whether consideration was given to the six-inch map for Crawford's Salisbury Plain project is not recorded, but the 1:25,000 scale chosen was of course a much cheaper option.² But the only such map available at the time was the military 1:25,000 map of Great Britain, GSGS 3906, itself a conversion initiated in 1931 of the earlier GSGS 2748 at the 1:20,000 scale, and still little over 100 sheets strong. GSGS 3906 was a three-colour map, with outline in black, water in blue and contours in brown. The overprint in purple of War Office Cassini Grid values, an essential feature of the military map, was not wanted. Six sheets were selected, north to south 44/16 NW and NE, 44/16 SW and SE, 44/14 NW and NE. Red was chosen as the overprint colour of the detail that Crawford wished to include.

Crawford had been quick to recognise the potential value to archaeology of air photography, something he discovered for himself as an observer in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War. Over the years he gradually put together a reference library of air photographs, mostly of superseded RAF negatives. In preparing this map his method was first to locate sites on the six-inch, then to compile a draft map of the area by means of collation and interpretation of the air photographs in the office before going to Salisbury Plain (usually by bicycle) to check each site on the ground. He would be accompanied by his staff of two, William J Whitters, who joined him in 1930, and Roland E Curtis, in 1931. Neither of them were archaeologists, but draftsmen: Crawford however recorded that both men developed an excellent eye for recognizing earthworks in the field, and for distinguishing between ancient and modern features.³

The first sheet to be prepared and published was 44/14 NE, the military sheet number replaced by a sheet name, *Old Sarum*. Curtis was the draftsman, and the services of the Ordnance Survey's resident artist Ellis Martin were engaged to create a cover design that would serve the entire series, together with an index on the reverse incorporating the titles of the six intended sheets, Charlton, Everleigh, Yarnbury, Amesbury, Grovely and Old Sarum.⁴ The series title *Celtic*

¹ These were published in OGS Crawford, *Ordnance Survey Professional Papers New Series No. 7 : Air survey and archaeology*, London: HMSO, 1924.

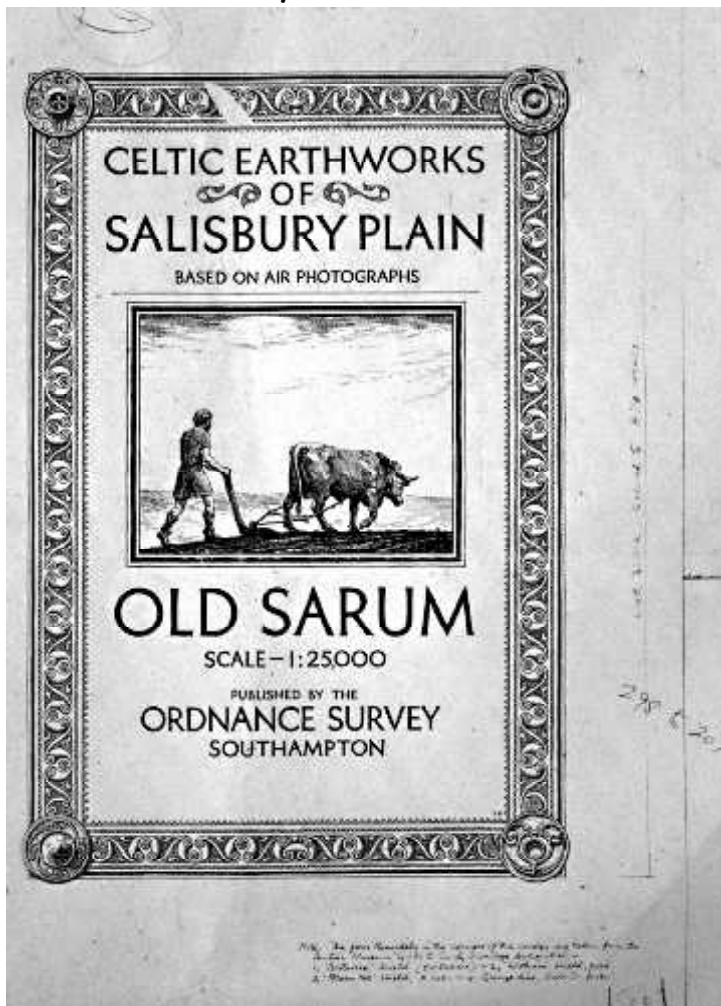
² Crawford's model for the map is on seventy six-inch sheets, admittedly covering a much wider area than that finally selected. They were bound into an atlas which is in National Monuments Record at Swindon.

³ OGS Crawford, *Said and done : the autobiography of an archaeologist*, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1955, 216.

⁴ The artwork of the cover design is illustrated on page 26, with, in the bottom right hand

Earthworks of Salisbury Plain was adopted, with the title of the specific sheet in larger lettering. Crawford himself wrote a short letterpress, and 500 copies of the Old Sarum map were published in 1933, with a reprint of a further thousand in 1937.

There is no record of whether field work on the series continued immediately, though there is plenty of evidence that Crawford was fully occupied with work on other projects. Certainly it was not until late in the 1930s that work began on drawing the second map of the series, *Amesbury*, the sheet to the north of *Old Sarum*. By this time two further draftsmen had been employed in the Archaeology Office, Reginald A Jerrard in 1936, who was busy working on the Monastic Britain maps, and Frederick J Stoneage in 1939: he was the man selected for the *Amesbury* sheet.⁵



As with *Old Sarum*, the six-sheet index and a legend were added in the bottom margin, the legend including a symbol for village that had not been used on the *Old Sarum* sheet. An overprint plate was created,⁶ and proof copies of the map were printed – the date cannot be ascertained, but before the outbreak of war in September 1939. But it was impossible for Crawford's superiors to permit the map to proceed to publication at the time, though clearly the project was not cancelled because some progress was made, deep into the war, when 300 copies of the accompanying letterpress were printed in April 1941.

What then of the subsequent history of *Amesbury*? The question may best be answered by endeavouring to piece together what is known of proof copies of the map. There is a rumour that

copies of the map were cut up for internal Ordnance Survey use during the war. But though I have never encountered any such scrap, I have found traces of three, perhaps four copies. First and foremost was that held in the Archaeology

corner in Martin's own handwriting, a note of the sources he used for the corner roundels.

⁵ His drawing on Whatman paper is in the National Monuments Record at Swindon.

⁶ Roger Hellyer, "The archaeological and historical maps of the Ordnance Survey", *Cartographic Journal* 26 (1989), 111-133. An extract of the overprint together with the legend which includes the village symbol is illustrated on p.116.

Office, still in the file after the war. This came up for review in 1948 by C W Phillips, successor to Crawford as Archaeology Officer.⁷ He wrote to Crawford on 9 July that year:⁸

‘With regard to the Celtic Field Maps I shall have to see what can be done, though I cannot give the matter much priority. The trouble is that everything has now to be done on a national grid basis and in relation to new sheet lines. This shoots the old Salisbury Plain scheme all to pieces and increases the number of sheets necessary to cover the area originally planned. I do not think that I have promised anything to anyone about the Amesbury sheet, but I do not want valuable stuff to go to waste.’

And the copy was clearly still on file eighteen months later, when for some reason Crawford, evidently still eager to hear of progress, appears to have sent another copy (presumably one he had retained for his own use) of the map to Phillips. Phillips wrote again to Crawford:⁹

‘I return the pull of the Amesbury sheet at once because we have a copy already. It is a good idea to have the thing multiplied soon and distributed to some key individuals and I will see what can be done....When we get the time we must con over the whole of the material belonging to the Salisbury Plain enterprise and see what can be done with it.’

After that the file copy disappeared, and with it any further hopes of publication, though not before a monochrome photograph of it was taken, which is now held by National Monuments Record (NMR) at Swindon. This reveals that post-war work was indeed done on the map, with National Grid values being added to it.¹⁰

And so to the third copy. On 25 May 1940, Crawford, clearly mindful of what was to come, sent one as a security measure to a colleague, Professor EA Hooton, at the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. Crawford’s covering letter survives:¹¹

‘I am sending you under seperate (sic) cover, in a roll, the following maps and would ask you to be so good as to keep them as records in case the originals and plates are destroyed.

1. Map of Monastic Britain, South Sheet, on a scale of 10 miles to the inch.

⁷ Crawford’s pre-war assistant, W F Grimes, in fact became the next Archaeology Officer in November 1945, but he resigned after a month to go to the London Museum. He retained responsibility for the department until Phillips’s appointment in January 1947.

⁸ Bodleian Library, Oxford, OGS Crawford mss 80, f.129, 9 July 1948.

⁹ Bodleian Library, Oxford, OGS Crawford mss 80, f.136, 17 January 1950.

¹⁰ It was probably this file copy that was used in OGS Crawford, *Archaeology in the field*, London: Dent, 1950, p.109, where the north-east section of the map appears as a monochrome illustration, though anything printed or handwritten beyond the neatline has been deleted.

¹¹ Bodleian Library, Oxford, OGS Crawford mss 2, ff 136-7.

2. Map of Roman Britain (3rd Edition), Scotland, Sheet 3, The Forth, Clyde and Tay. (The overprint of this is in red, but on the published edition it will be in black; this red overprint was an experiment that obviously failed, but it appears to be the only available copy).

3. The black overprint of No. 2., without the base map.

4. The Amesbury Sheet of the map of Celtic fields on Salisbury Plain; first proof, scale 1:25,000. This is the second sheet in the series to be published.

These three maps were ready at the outbreak of war, but not unnaturally it has not been possible to carry them through the last stages; consequently although the plates and one or two pulls are available, the maps have never been printed. As it looks as if this might become a rather hot spot, I am doing what I can to put the irreplaceable stuff in a position of safety, and have the Director General's authorisation to send these to you, so that some copies at least may be available if everything else is destroyed.'

No direct reply to this has been traced, but a letter dated 4 September 1941 from Hooton to Crawford is relevant:¹²

'Your map arrived safely and has been put with the previous ones in the safe of the Peabody Museum, to be disposed of according to your directions.'

What this map (singular) was is not recorded, but it is likely that "the previous ones" included *Amesbury*. I wrote to the Peabody Museum in the late 1980s, hoping to discover whether any of these maps were still there. But they could find no trace: possible explanations may be that the maps were subsequently held by Hooton himself, or that Crawford asked for their return after the war. In which case this Peabody copy could have been the one he sent to Phillips in 1950. But any copy held by Crawford himself has never been traced.

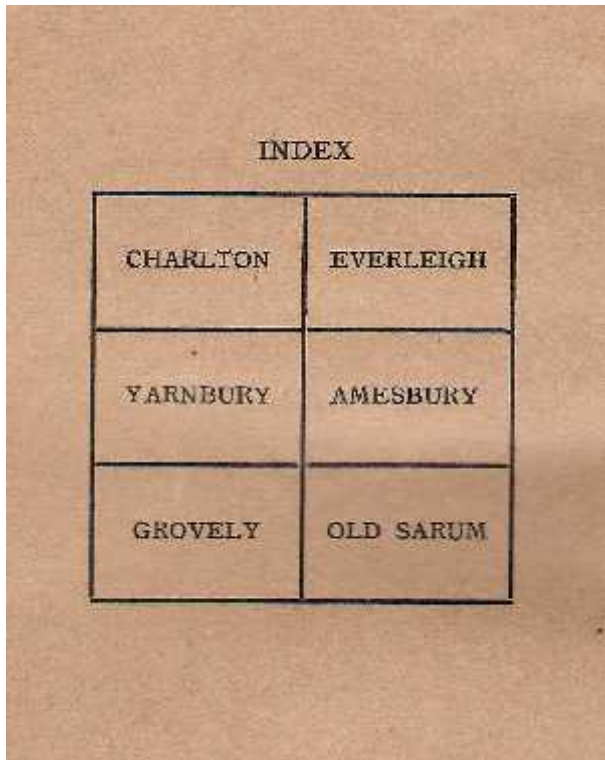
There is one final copy to be accounted for, the only one I have seen for myself, when researching the history of the Ordnance Survey period maps written up in an article in *Sheetlines*.¹³ A copy of *Amesbury* was held in the late 1980s in the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) office in Salisbury. This was a copy sent by Crawford to his colleague Harries Collins Bowen, sometime Director there. In the top right hand corner, Bowen had written "This pull is the second of two in existence: Crawford has the other". There is no date, but does his comment mean that he knew that already the OS file copy had disappeared, or did he just not consider it? The staff at Salisbury kindly made a (monochrome) photocopy of the Bowen copy for me, which I still have in my possession. The map itself, however, has also since disappeared. Logically it should have been moved to NMR at Swindon as part of the process of transfer of

¹² Bodleian Library, Oxford, OGS Crawford mss 5, f.27.

¹³ Roger Hellyer, "The archaeological and historical maps of the Ordnance Survey", *Sheetlines* 20 (1987), 2-8, *Sheetlines* 21 (1988), 6-15.

RCHME papers, but there is no record of its arrival or presence there. This was particularly disappointing to the members of the CCS committee, who had hoped that this map, with its complex overprint on a base map covering an area replete with military interest, would become the next in our series of facsimile maps.

All thus seemed lost, until I chanced upon a box of 35 mm slides that I had completely forgotten I owned, which had been made for a talk I gave on the OS period maps more than twenty years ago. And present among them is a copy, in colour, of the Amesbury sheet. But yet again we are to be disappointed. The quality of the image is not good enough to use as the source for a facsimile map, though we hope it may take its place in our collection of digital copies of rare maps in the CCS Archives at Cambridge. Thus yet another, and maybe the final, chance of turning this fine map into a printed publication is not to be. And yet perhaps not so? None of the three (or four) copies noted here can with certainty be said to have been destroyed, merely lost from knowledge: thus there remains a glimmer of hope that one of them, one day, will again be found.



left:

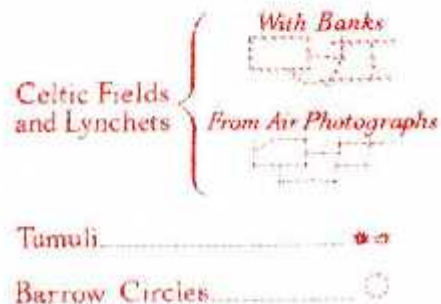
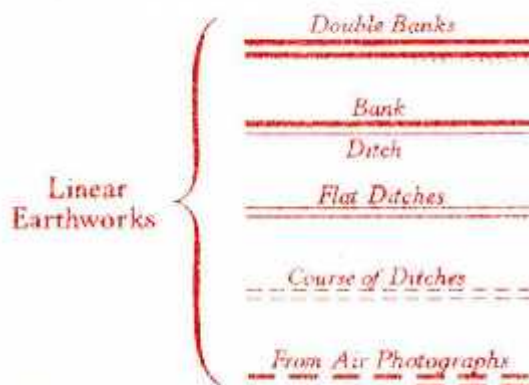
The index from the reverse of Old Sarum cover, showing titles of the six intended sheets.

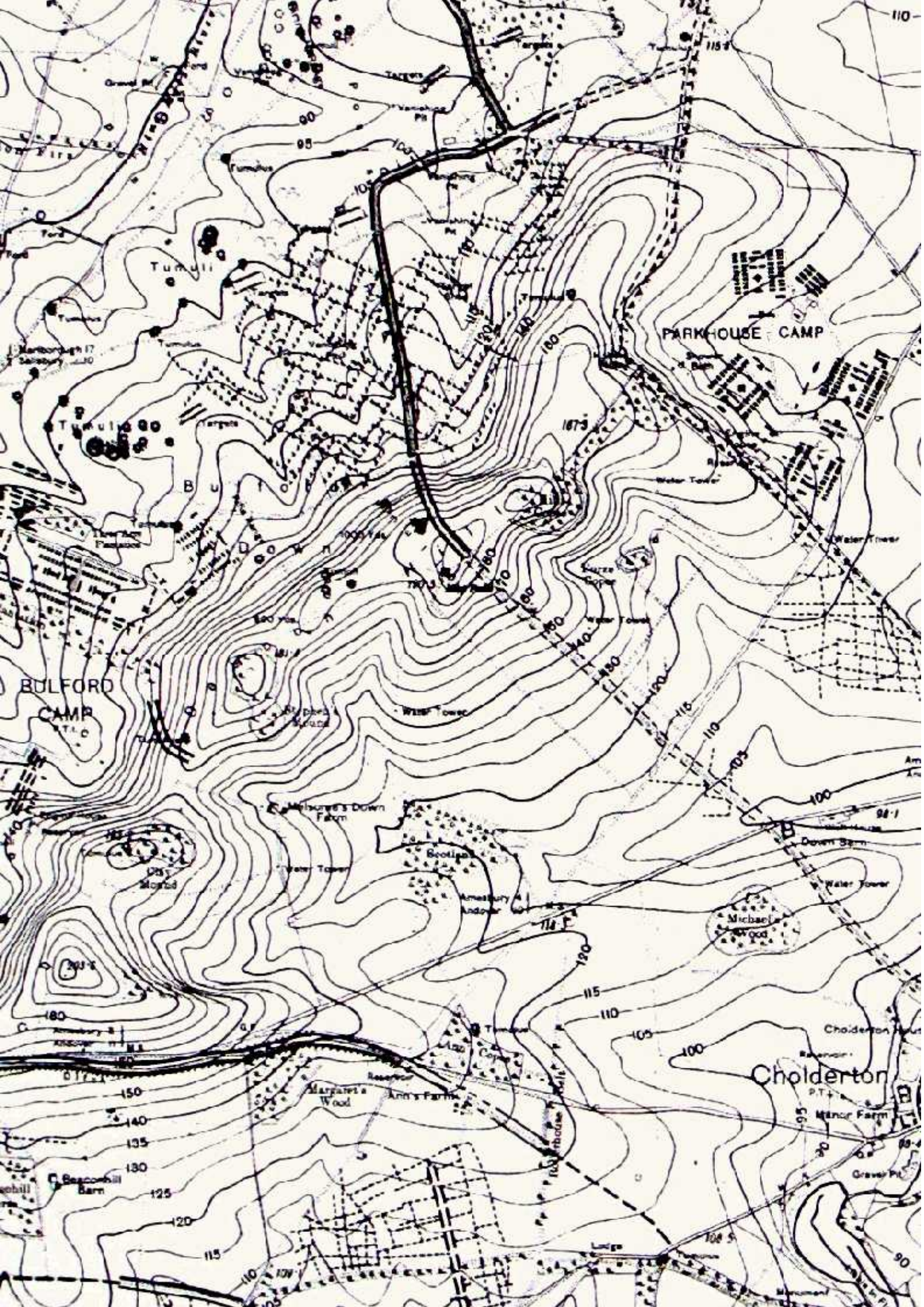
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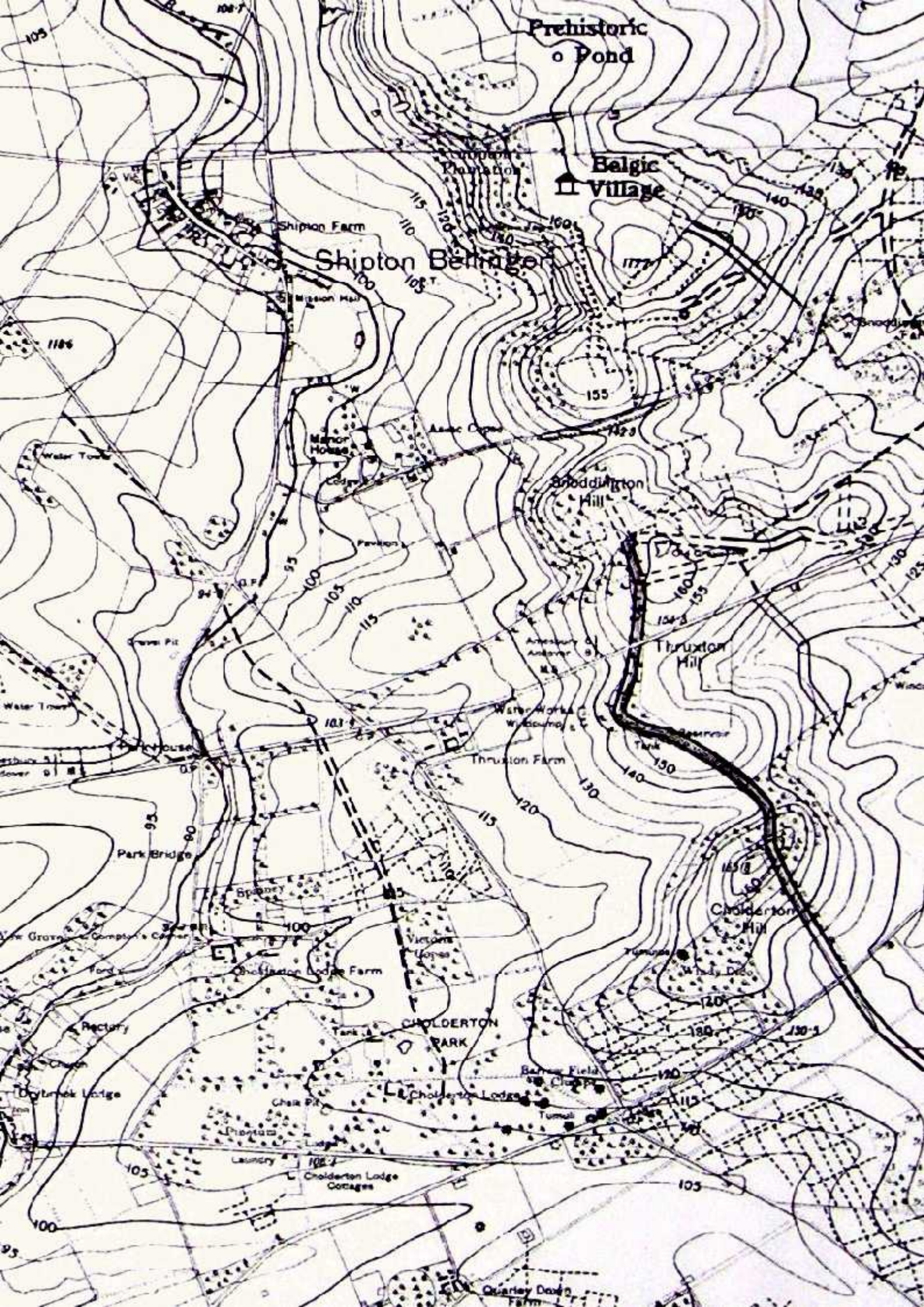
The archaeological features shown on the maps were depicted with red overprinting.

overleaf:

Monochrome extract of Amesbury covering the area east of Bulford Camp. Water is blue and contours brown on the original, with the overprint of archaeological features in red. The village symbol (not used on Old Sarum) may be found at the Belgic Village in the north east. (approx 20% enlargement)







Men of 16 Survey company

It may be of interest to *Sheetlines* readers that a record of marriages and children for some of the men of 16 Survey company has been newly indexed at The National Archives (TNA). The names and details for soldiers and their wives, and their childrens' births and baptisms, have been transcribed and placed online by the Friends of The National Archives military volunteers team, as part of a wider project.

The register of marriages of men serving in the company between 1901 and 1929, together with the birth dates of children, has the document reference OS 3/341. The register also records some earlier marriages, and some events in a soldier's life at later dates. It may record for instance, discharge from the service or death.

The register is in the record series of Ordnance Survey Miscellanea. The series contains a variety of materials, including some relating to William Roy including his commissions as an army officer; the Survey of Jerusalem, technical papers, and correspondence relating to the early Survey from men such as Yolland, Colby, Budgen and Robert Dawson.

You can look at the index by going to the new online TNA catalogue on its website, called Discovery at <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

The register is held by TNA with other records documenting the work of Ordnance Survey as a government body. An online research guide outlining the records held, ranging from records of levelling, to policy files on the introduction of a new type of map is at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/ordnance-survey.htm>

Rose Mitchell, Map archivist, The National Archives



First edition One-inch Scotland, sheets 3 and 4 have Latin names added below the local name for such features as Loch Ryan, Wigtown Bay and Luce Bay. Richard Oliver explains that their appearance on these sheets seems to be part of the design experiments c.1853 mentioned on pp 34-5 of Engraved maps.¹

¹ Hellyer & Oliver, *One-inch engraved maps of Ordnance Survey from 1847*, CCS, 2009.