

Smith

PR Box 2/W15
Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.



Xatesbury Rectory, Calne,

Aug: 28. 1882

Dear General Pitt Rivers

In my big book on the "British and Roman Antiquities of Wiltshire" I pointed out a spot near Wansdyke where I thought were indications of British dwellings [B vii d and C vii k pages 63 and 65] But I should be very sorry to mislead you by any conjectures of mine which had not sufficient basis to support them.

I should like to visit the spot again.

and make another careful examination
of it, and I am writing to my
Co-Secretary Mr. Bellinck, to ask
him to meet me there on Thursday
next, if fine, that together we may
carefully examine the ground.

Unhappily I am obliged to be
dependent on the weather, as I dare
not go out in the damp; but in a
very few days I hope to write to you
again more fully.

Your letter addressed Old Parker
has only just reached me, as we are
spending the summer months here.

Believe me
Yours sincerely
A. C. Smith.

~~Mr. Bellinck~~

I ought to have said how much
the Society was interested at the meeting
at Coleridge, when I read the story of
Osborne Dyke from your letters.

Smith

Old Park PR Box 24
WIS

Driggs

April 6/89

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I have delayed writing to you for a day or so, as I hoped to have been able to call, but I have been so terribly laid up this winter, and especially with the last few days with neuralgia that I am obliged to be extra careful of exposure.

It is also to me a source of much vexation that I could not ask you to take up your quarters here instead of at the Old, but Mrs Smith has been so very unwell but weak and is now obliged to be so quiet that

I am obliged to be thus inopportune.
It is however so much better that I
venture to ask if you will come and
dine here in our quiet way at the
early hour of seven on Monday
next (8th inst) in which case I
will ask Mrs. Halliwell and Mrs. Penrose
to meet you: and we shall then be
able to talk over all you have
done and are doing.

It is a source of great regret to
me that I cannot get out to Hans Dyke
and witness the excavations, but
that I know is out of the question.
I most sincerely hope your labours
will be crowned with success.

While you are on the Downs above

Calstone, I should like you to examine
the ground to the South of Hans Dyke, or
to Hill. Your practical eye will judge
whether (as I conjecture) there are traces
of early occupation, in addition to the
many pits made by flint diggers. I
have spent hours together in wandering
over these hills, and I always come
away with a strong impression that some
sort of British occupation had been there.

Believe me
Yours very sincerely
A. C. Smith

Smith

Old Park ^{P.R. Box 21} WIS

Devizes

April 5/89

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I write - like to thank you
for so kindly telling me of your
progress at the Dyke.

It would be an impertinence on
my part to venture an opinion where
you know so much as well as I do
what is likely to be the truth of the
date of origin of New Dyke. But
I cannot help the conviction that
your suggestion as to its dating from
Roman times will prove to be correct.

I am very sanguine that you will
find more yet, and I love little doubt.

that before you have finished with it
you will have settled the question of
date as you did at Berkeley

How I wish I could get on the
train to see you at work!

The nail and the knife together are
facts not to be quibbled.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

A. C. Smith

Smith

Old Park ^{P.O. Box 21}
UIS

April 16/89

Dear General Pitt Rivers

It is most tantalizing
to me to think that you have
been at work at Wans Dyke for
a good fortnight, & that I am
shut up here in the house, & have
no chance of seeing you at work,
unless the wind & weather very
much change for the better. At
present I dare not put my nose
out of doors.

Your excavations are certainly
not without results. This fresh
find of Samian pottery, added
to that of the knife & nail, is
very telling: & I congratulate
you on having found something.

which bears a recognized date.

I forgot to ask you what you propose
in regard to the record of this excavation.
I don't say you intend to give it
in detail in your next volume,
if you publish me, corresponding to
those on the Excavations of Cranborne
Chase: but if not, I need hardly
say that I should rejoice to print in
our magazine anything you like to
give me for the purpose.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

A. C. Smith

Smith

PR 8ae2/W15

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.



~~Yatesbury Rectory, Calne,~~

Old Park Drings April 26 1889

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I thank you most heartily for the admirable plans and the full account of your most interesting work at Avebury which you have been so good as to send me. I have been studying it all the morning, and speculating on it and can scarcely put down the sketch.

I feel it would be presumptuous in me to offer any opinion, when you know so very much more than I do of these matters: but so far as I can form a judgment, it appears

to me that you have proved beyond
doubt that Iron Age is certainly not
Earlier than Roman times, but how
much later there is as yet no evidence
to show.

What you say of the animal bones
found is very interesting, and they seem
to point to a period not much later
than Roman.

I sincerely hope you will make
another cutting, and carry it out in the
thorough manner you have done in this
section. It has never been my good
fortune to see anything so systematically
and thoroughly carried out. I am still
unable to get out, but as soon as I can
go, I shall certainly visit the section.

May I keep the two plans drawn
to scale for a little time? my colleague

Mr Mallinott will be very pleased to
study them with me, and perhaps he will
accompany me to the spot.

I will write to you again as soon
as I have been there.

Yours truly Believe me

Yours very sincerely
A. C. Smith.

Smith

PA Box 2/W15
Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.



~~Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society,~~
Old Park Drivings. Long S. 1889

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I thank you very much for the Photographs which are most interesting, and which will be viewed with pleasure by many of our friends here who take an interest in the work.

As to the Ancient Monuments, we will not (if I can help it) be behind hand in Wiltshire; as soon as I can land another Committee, I will bring the matter before them; and then, backed by their authority, I can write with much more force than if I was acting

alone. When people say "it's only some
fad of the Secretary."

In regard to another Section, I would
say by all means as soon as convenient
to yourself: for (1) the days are long and
bright now. and (2) laborers can be had;
but in a very short time, every man will
be engaged in bargaining or mowing or
hoing.

As to myself I am such a poor creature
that I dare not make any engagements
but I shall think I could go in the
down soon, if ever. I have to be in
Norfolk (if possible) in the first week in
June: and towards the latter end of that
month, I expect to be returning to
Yesterling for part of the summer to
bid a final adieu to my parish: so
that from now to the end of July seems
to be my best chance of being some-
-thing of the work: but my attendance
is so uncertain that I have no right to

ask you to consider me.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

A. C. Smith.

Smith

Old Park ^{PR Box 21} W15

Dring

May 18 1889

Dear General Pitt Rivers

At last I have been up to
the Station and when I went there
I seemed like visiting an old friend
with all the details of which I was
familiar: for I had so carefully
studied your most accurate Plans
that I took it all in at once. Most
interesting is the line which marks the
original Rampart. I am not quite
sure that I found the horizontal
marks which you had so shown. There
were some lines but to me they looked
like simple struts in the individual
ground: perhaps however I was looking

in the wrong place.

Though I ran out of the station
very slowly at home on a beautiful day,
I paid the penalty of walking there by
bringing on a sharp attack of asthma
which kept me ~~awake~~ all night. I
only mention this to show you how utterly
useless I am in any work that is
going on, and I must not be relied on
for anything.

Now I try to congratulate you
on the happy event which I see by
the paper has taken place in your family.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

A. C. Smith.

Smith a.c

PR Box 21
WIS
Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.



~~Hatchbury Rectory, Calne~~

Old Park. Devizes. June 21 1889

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I am just preparing my
"Report" to read at the Annual
Meeting of the above Society which will
this year be held at Wootton Bassett at the
very end of July and beginning of August.

The great Archaeological news of the year
in Wiltshire is most certainly the result
of your excavations at Avebury: and
I must say something about it in the
"Report", but it would come very much
better, as well as a first hand, from your

pen. would we you (to obviate all chance
of misstatements on my part) like to send me
a short account of your sections and the
results? That would be most satisfactory
to all of us.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

A. C. Smith

Your account might be read (not necessarily
in the Report) at the Washington meeting, to the
great interest of the members.

Wansleyke

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

P.R. Box 2/15

Answer



~~Yatesbury Rectory, Calne,~~

Old Park. Devizes. Aug. 9 1889

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I intended to have taken advantage of your offer of looking over that part of my Report which dealt with the Wansleyke Excavation, but I was driven into a corner at last and had no time to send it you.

So I contented myself with the very bald description, only observing that the work was now no longer to be pronounced

Mr. Brown. You have perhaps by
this time seen the Report in some
County paper.

Our President the Bishop was not
present when the Report was read, but
I explained to him all you had done.
And at the ensuing Conference he
proposed a special vote of thanks to
you from the Society, which I had
the honor of seconding, and which I
trust was carried by acclamation.

I think I may say that the
Society is keenly sensible of the very
interesting work you have done.

I should have written this before
but that I have been away at yesterday

making preparations to resign my
living in October

Believe me
Yours very sincerely
A. C. Smith

Wansbury

PR Box 2/w15

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.



~~Wansbury Rectory, Calne,~~

Old Park Drive, Aug. 31 1885

Dear General Pitt Rivers

Your letter finds me again laid up with a sharp attack of bronchitis, and a prisoner to the house, which at this time of year is as unwholesome as it is disagreeable. I don't know whether I shall be able to get on to the Downs this autumn, but I shall be vexed if I am again hindered from doing so when you come.

At the last Committee meeting I brought forward your suggestion as to the Committee urging owners to place their monuments under the protection of Government, and I moved that the Committee should instruct me to write to Major Henshaw with reference to Oldbury Camp. Knowing Major Henshaw so well as I do, I was certain he would decline, but I took special pains to point out that it was only the Campsite of the Camp and not the area that is wished to be protected.

You would be amused at his answer wherein he told us that he declined altogether: and thought it most extraordinary that the Society, born from "mutilating" Wans Dyke should

wish to protect Oldbury Camp: and he suggested that the first thing we should do would be to get Wans Dyke under the protection of Government, which would not then be defaced and injured as it has been of late!

Such is the result of our attempt on Oldbury, but I am not easily subdued, and am ready to go on again at some other river.

Believe me
Yours very sincerely
A. C. Smith