

PR Box 2/WS

3 Gloucester Row
Weymouth
17 Oct. 1853

My dear Sir,

I am not sure that you will remember me as a Lover of Geology and Archaeology at the meetings of the British Association. The last time I had the pleasure of seeing you was at the meeting at Dublin. Since that I have been an invalid and unable to attend public meetings of any kind. You know

However, my Daughter, Lady Hester,
for some time ago she told me
she had been visiting you.

My object in now writing to you
will be explained by the enclosed
newspaper clips. "Mr Old Britain"
is myself and I wrote upon the
subject to Sir John Lubbock who
refers me to you as the "Inspector
of Ancient Monuments." Perhaps
if you could give poor Wade your
attention you might be the means
of saving future desecrations.

Believe me Dear Madam Yours
Sincerely W. S. Murray

I am very much interested here
in some remarkable Drifts
which indicate some extensive
earth movements since the
Mammoth period and Cavern
history in England.

WORLEBURY AND ITS CLAIMS UPON

WESTON 1888. P. 2/105

SIR,—I have read with great interest the remarks of "E. B." in the *Weston-super-Mare Gazette* for March 24th, on the British Camp, on Worle Hill, called Worlebury. I have, in my time, travelled far and wide in search of Archaeological and Natural History lore wherever I could find it. I visited Weston well nigh forty years ago, when it was a very different place from the present fashionable town, and I can recall the delight with which antiquarian friends, now dead and gone, first looked upon "the mysterious relic of antiquity," as Mr. Warre called Worlebury. It was then far more perfect, especially on the western side, than it is now. I visited Weston later on for the purpose of investigating the history of the Hanwell bone caves, and knew "old Beard" right well, and the "test bone" with which he declared he puzzled Professor Owen. He was in possession of a fine skull of *Bos longifrons* somebody gave him, which was found at Worlebury, and the lower jaw of an ancient Celt, with the teeth worn down to the gums. I was again at Weston-super-Mare some twelve or fifteen years ago, and it appears to me that more stone has been carted away from the western rampart since that period. As a mere visitor from time to time I am altogether ignorant respecting the proprietorship of Worlebury, or whether the inhabitants of Weston-super-Mare have it in their power to prevent the reckless demolition of the encampment "for ornamental rockeries, or for building purposes, or for patching the Kewstoke-road." But if they have let me implore them with "E. B." to save one of the grandest relics of antiquity in the British Isles from further desecration. What would the Romans say if road surveyors quarried the Coliseum? What would Malvernians say if they caught a fellow carting away at the entrenchments on the Herefordshire Beacon and Camp Hill? Surely the Westonians of the 19th century, who can find money to build such streets, villas, institutes, and churches, I see have arisen as if by magic, should shield themselves from those anathemas of a future generation which will assuredly await the destroyers of Worlebury.

AN OLD VISITOR.

THE ENCAMPMENT. 185

We can boast of a British encampment which even that celebrated and clever antiquary, the Rev. P. Warre acknowledged was "one of the most remarkable and mysterious relics of antiquity that he had anywhere seen," and yet ten out of every dozen Westonians disregard it, and are ignorant of and careless about it. Encroachments, horrible encroachments, have already been made upon it; loads upon loads of the stones of which its walls were formed have been carted away for ornamental rockeries or for building purposes, and have even been used for the degrading purpose of patching the Kewstoke-road. The loose stone outworks facing Cardiff are now condemned we hear, and the sight of the ominous surveyor's pegs makes our heart ache, and sorrowfully we think that what we have heard must be only too true. The Birkett-road, a good enough scheme, however, cannot be made unless some of the hill is scarped away, so everything must give way to the improvement craze, the road must be formed, and a snap of the fingers for the old British camp. Before long we do hope that the excellent provisions of Sir John Lubbock's Ancient Monuments Preservation Act will be made to extend to Worlebury, and so effectually save what remains of it from wanton destruction, and preserve, for the benefit of antiquarians yet to be born, that which the Westonians now despise and ignore.

E. B.

PR Box 2/WS
Park Lodge, Weston Super Mare
Sep. 4. 1873

Dear Sir

In conjunction with my friend Mr C. W. Dymond
C. Z., F. S. R. I am occupied in writing a Memoir
on Worlebury to accompany the illustrations by a
very careful plan and plates, &c. I have long
wished to have some conference with you
on this matter & should be very glad, if you
can visit Weston during this autumn, to
show you all the relics from Worlebury here
and at Taunton, & the information which I
have written, with some letters from my
friend, the late Rev. T. Warre, Mr Marsh
Atkins & others.

I believe I am the only survivor in Weston
of those engaged in the explorations in
1851-4. The late Prof. Rolleston
would have come to visit me & inspect
these things, but his lamented death
prevented it.

I have been deeply interested in your paper
on Caburn Camp in the Archaeologia.

If you can visit Weston in October or
November I will ask Mr Dymond (who now
lives in Bath) to meet you here. We are
very desirous of losing no time in preparing
for the press. Believe me

Yours faithfully

Henry George Tomkins
Late Vicar of Branscombe
Hon. Local Secy. Somerset Archaeol. Socy

PL Box 21WS

Park Lodge, Weston Super Mare
Sep. 10. 1883

Dear Sir

I beg to thank you for your letter
just received & the copy of the Receipt
Month Act which you have been so good
as to send me.

Will you please me by accepting a printed
paper on Warlebury which I enclose.

It is of earlier date than the last work
done by Mr. Diamond & myself in re-examination
of the ramparts, pits, & trenches, & we
can now add much information in
detail.

I shall have to be at Reading during
the week of the Church Congress which
begins on the 2nd Oct^r & trust it
will be convenient to you to visit
Weston after that week. October is
generally a fine & pleasant month
here.

Two or three years ago I corresponded
with Sir J. Lubbock as to the protection
of Warlebury under the Contemplated
Act, but it did not seem practicable

to include it in the Schedule.

I cannot but think that Mr Cecil Smyth Piggott the present owner may be found willing to agree to the protection of the ramparts, & perhaps one special pit lined with dry masonry, such his grandfather provided with good fencing for a time for its preservation. (see p. 7 of my Paper, & drawing at the end.)

The protection of the ramparts is earnestly desired by all who take any interest in this important stronghold. I trust you will be able to visit Dolebury on the Mendips when you are in this neighbourhood. There you will see on the ramparts a face of dry masonry in the style of the work at Worlebury.

I am Dear Sir
Yrs sincerely
Henry George Tombling

Major Genl Pitt Rivers

I shall be very much obliged by as soon long notice of your visit as you can conveniently give me. that I may communicate with Mr Dymond at Bath.

PR Box 2/WS

to Major Genl Pitt-Rivers
with the Author's Complts
Sep. 10. 1883

THE ANCIENT

Stronghold of Warlebury.

BY

REV. H. G. TOMKINS.

READ BEFORE THE

Bath Natural History & Antiquarian Field Club.

PR Box 2/WS

PARK LODGE,
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

5. Larkstone Road

Wracombe

July 7. 1884

Dear Sir

Your letter has found me here. We are staying at Wracombe till (probably) the end of this month & I am sorry for the delay. But I will write today to Mr Cecil Smyth Pigott, the Lord of the Manor of Weston & Shorn Worsborough, below. He is quite a young man & is much interested in archaeological matters & lately visited me & helped him in excavating a Roman villa near Yatton, on land of his.

Will you be so good as to send a copy of the act to Mr Pigott (Cecil Smyth Pigott Esq The Grove Weston Super Mare) as I have not my copy here, & I will tell him I have requested this. And I will write to you as soon as I hear from him, or probably he may write to you himself. His father-in-law Mr Ruscombe Poole is a solicitor & acts as his steward. He is an educated & enlightened man in such things, & I hope the right thing may be done to preserve the ramparts & some pits as specimens.

By the way, some very interesting pits (dwellings, with hearths &c) have been carefully

Found by Mr Henry Cunningham of Desage
on Beekhampton Down within the last
3 or 4 weeks.

Also Mr Sayer wrote to me a little
while ago that he had, ^(found by Sayer) but upon a palaeo-
-lithic settlement on the hill above
Bauwell Castle.

Possibly you may be glad to hear of
these discoveries.

I should be particularly glad to have
an opportunity of meeting you at Weston
if it were possible.

Believe me
Dear Sir
Sincerely yours
Henry George Tomkins

I trust you received my letter &
printed paper at Rushmore.