

A POCKET HISTORY OF THE BEAULIEU RIVER

Beaulieu River Rises near Lyndhurst runs 12 miles to the sea at Lepe passing Beaulieu and Bucklers Hard

Quite a long history for such a short river. Three main events happened on the river Building of the Abbey. Ship building at Bucklers Hard and the build of the D-Day invasion fleet in WWII.

Will gallop through history most of the events that I mention could be a lecture in their own right but lack of time means that I will have to charge on by them!

As we pass through the ages I will attempt to show you some of the different vessels that may have used the river at those times. Some based on fact others on calculated guess work.

First Users of the River - Bronze Age many Bronze Age Burial Mounds (Butts) on heath land around Beaulieu River valley dated around 1500BC, but no evidence of settlement in area. Possible that forest was cleared by population in valley and that settlement remains to be located. These clearances on poor soil with cultivation without return of nutrients created ground that became increasingly impoverished. A limited range of acid tolerant plants took hold and the heathland developed. Located on ridges or rises where they could be seen and revered by other members of the tribe.

Bronze Age working vessels- log boats or hide boats- paddled. Eventually becoming planked boats using ash lashings to hold planks together.

Iron Age 500BC

- Hengestbury Head
- Buckland Rings 400BC Lymington
- Ampress Hole Lymington River
- Promontory Fort at Exbury possibly built by the Durotriges tribe, who also built Maiden Castle in Dorset.

Iron Age working vessels - wooden planked stitched together and eventually clenched with iron nails and iron anchors and chains. Rowed and sailed

Beaulieu River originally named Exe or Ichs by Celts

The Roman invasion in 43AD was ordered by Claudius. The first division of the Legions under Vespasian were given the task of subduing SW Britain starting from Chichester. Part of his forces conquered the IOW and crossed from Yarmouth to Lymington where they captured the Buckland hill fort at Lymington and then went onto Dorset and the West Country.

Romans used small light galleys called Liburian as patrol craft in coastal waters and rivers of Europe 12 pairs of oars one mast and sail and a Rostrum at bow for ramming.

Roman period working vessels- rowing galleys as warships and merchant ships based on local design, more sturdy than Med. Type. Able to land on beaches and deal with tides.

Romans - used New Forest clays for pottery

Built Roman road to Lepe about 100A

Port at head of Black Water near Stone Point (Silted up in storm of Nov 1703)

Main crossing to IOW is Lepe to Gurnard

The Romans generally left the Forest area alone as it was too infertile to bother about.

Dark Ages

- After Romans left in 480 AD, Jutes settled in area from IOW.
- New Forest was called Ytene.

Nydam Boat found in Denmark probably type used by Jutes

Saxons in 5th century Cerdic and son Cynric the founders of Wessex thought possibly to have landed on the Hampshire shore at Calshot. Raided in land to fight the Britons at a place called Natanleod (believed to be Netley Marsh) in 508AD

Vikings raids 787- 1015AD in area but not known if they came up the river. They were based on the River Medina IOW at Warrer from 998-1006 and from there raided the south coast. Alfred the Great active against the Saxons in late 890's and fought a successful sea battle against them off the IOW in 897AD.

Viking warship but also trading vessels

Middle Ages After 1066 some Saxon villages and isolated farmsteads were cleared by William I who applied Forest Law to make the New Forest. Hunting lodges were established throughout the forest to allow the Royal hunting parties to rest. The hunting lodge at Bellus Locus or Beau Lieu (Beautiful Place) was one of them. Beaulieu first mentioned in the Pipe Roles in 1199. Richard I ordered a boundary bank to separate land for the hunting lodge to be called Bellus Locus Regis (the beautiful place of the King)

William I lost two sons in the forest. Second son Prince Richard in sometime between 1069 – 1075 in a hunting accident and in 1100 the hated William Rufus shot in an 'accident' by Sir Walter Tyrrall.

Typical vessels at the time were this Snekkja light enough to be beached and not requiring a port. About 600 built to be used in the 1066 invasion of England by William.

The Building of Beaulieu Abbey 1204

King John, a much hated and ineffectual monarch, had lost the provinces of Normandy, Anjou and Brittany in the course of 2 years from 1202 to 1204. To raise money he levied a tax on ploughs to help cover a promised payment to King Phillip of France. The Cistercian abbots refused to pay this tax until they had the assent of the General Chapter. This Chapter with all 50 abbots took place in Lincoln where King John was meeting the King of Scotland and attending the Bishops funeral. After a highly emotional series of discussions it ended with the King promising to build a splendid abbey for their Order. This was originally to be at Faringdon in Berkshire but was eventually changed to the more remote site at Beaulieu in the New Forest where the King had a hunting lodge.

King John's dream. It was thought to be 'spin' to veil the emotional side of this decision that the version spread that the King was prompted by a dream of being beaten by Monks.

The King did not stand to lose much by giving away infertile land in the New Forest compared with the valuable and fertile site at Faringdon. It was also much cheaper to build at Beaulieu with access to water transport and good building stone. Building at Faringdon which would require much greater shipping distance.

Cistercian Monks(White Monks) Broke away from the Benedictines (Black Monks) in 1098. They planned to live an austere way of life in silence and poverty with an emphasis on manual labour and seclusion from the world both of Church and society. Wear grey-white habit, allowed no meat except if sick and follow a strict life of prayer. Their founding monastery was at Citeaux near Dijon in France

Choir Monks the educated monks formed the higher order little contact with the Lay brothers.

Conversi or Lay brothers only found in the Cistercian order accepted their lower position because of their desire to become monks. Some lived and worked on the Granges others were skilled craftsmen stone masons carpenters etc. Others were occupied in the domestic side of the monastery. Worshipped at the west end of the Abbey The Lane.

Building Stone from Quarr and Caen and marble for columns from Purbeck. Took 40 years to build. Stone shipped up river in vessels similar to the Knarr directly on site or landed at Gins Farm close to where St Leonards Grange Tithe Barn was eventually built.

Calefactorium (warming house) Fire place

Lane

Domus Conversorum Celler Lay brothersdorter -

Misericord meat not eaten in the Frater only later indulgences allowed meat 3 days per week. From misericordia an indulgence.

Infirmary

Outer Gatehouse - porter dispensed alms food and clothing to poor 1885 clock tower moved . Lane led to Great Gate House passed original water mill, for grinding corn and sawing timber, and barn

The Great Gatehouse nitch image of Madona and Child- gold - Sowely pond on dissolution nothing found in 1907 when pond drained

The abbey church was dedicated on 17 June 1246 in presence of King Henry III his wife Queen

Eleanor and son, the future King Edward I. The King's sister-in-law Isabella died in 1240 and was buried in the abbey. Young Edward fell ill and was nursed by his mother for 3 weeks (a woman inside the monastic enclosure) and given meat to eat both contrary to the regulations of the order. The Prior and the cellarer were deposed from office for this transgression!

The Granges Lands and Daughter houses A few monks lived at the Granges at St Leonards there was a Chapel. The original meaning of Manor means collection of buildings around a church or chapel.

St Leonards Barn one of largest monastic barns in country half million cubic feet Grain store oats and wheat had grain thrashing floor 16C part demolished to build smaller barn inside shell of the old one.

Chapel

Trading from the Abbey

Cistercian Wool commanding top prices in Flanders at end of 13th century. Abbot imported wine from Gascony in return for corn. Also fish from Cornwall and Great Yarmouth and grain from IOW. Venetians bought timber from Beaulieu estate poss shipped out of Hythe not Beaulieu

Hulcs and Cogs –

Gin is old term for primitive engine in which a vertical shaft is turned by horses driving a horizontal beam in a circle. This was the method used to operate early forms of crane - ingenium - when heavy lifting was required.

Typical vessel is the Knorr open cargo carrier sailed and rowed.

Not every ship made it Blocks of Purbeck Marble visible at very low water off beach at Lepe poss. sight of shipwreck.

The Layout

Precinct

Wall 10 ft high

The Abbey Church

The church erected for Beaulieu was the largest in area of all the Cistercian abbeys in England. 336 ft transept 186 ft

Looked like Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire Plain and functional.

Inside similar to Santa Maria de Veruela in Spain. Apse.

Chapels.Pulpitium or rood screen

North Aisle Isabella first wife of John's son Richard Lead coffin marble top body wrapped in lead. Discovered in 1855.

Cloister 138ft square

Refectory (Parish Church) - the Frater - choir monks dining room strict rules reading from pulpit in west wall.

Lavatory bath twice a year whether they needed it or not!

Chapter House - each day chapter read from the rule of St Benedict. Management of affairs and discipline - .Used as burial place for distinguished members.

Parlour monks allowed to converse with one another at certain times

Dorter (above Chapter House) 8 x 6ft wooden cells - Night stairs down to South Transept

Rere Dorter (toilet ran into stew pond where fresh fish were kept)

Dissolution 1538

Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn in 1533. In 1536 Thomas Cromwell put the idea into Henry's head that the monasteries needed disciplining because they would not accept his ecclesiastical authority at the same time filling a depleted treasury.

Sir Thomas Wriothesley, served Cromwell and eventually became the King's favourite and was granted extensive lands between Winchester and Southampton. He made Titchfield Abbey his country seat and purchased Beaulieu for £1350-6s-6d and a rent of £10-5s-8d.

The abbey buildings were stripped of their valuables the abbey church was dismantled and used to build of Hurst Castle, East and West Cowes, Calshot and Yarmouth 1544 to protect against invasion from France and Spain.

Monks pensioned off or found other appointments within the new church.

Sanctuary - Beaulieu only place in South9ifi that offered permanent sanctuar1. Perkin Warbeck the Yorkist pretender to the throne who claimed to be one of the Princes in the Tower fled from Taunton to seek sanctuary, pardoned captured executed 149g' various others. Countess of Warwick claimed sanctuary at Beaulieu for 14 years until freed by Henry VII. At dissolution sanctuary ended, murderers and felons sent away to be tried but debtors allowed to go free.

Granges were rented out and continued to be run as farms. The Abbey Gate house turned into a hunting lodge for Wriothesley.

Ship Building

1698 Baileys Hard HMS Salisbury 4th rate 50 guns 682 tons 134ft long 34ft beam captured by French 1703 off Orford Ness. Recaptured by British off Scotland 1708 named Salisbury Prize and then HMS Preston in 1716 Rebuilt in Plymouth 1739 - 1742 Hulked Trincomalee 1748 Broken up 1749.

Lepe - Yard near Coastguard cottages. Lepe used 1744 - 1749 remained unused until 1763 when used to build HMSEuropa

HMS Greenwich 1748 50 Moody Janverin Captured by French 1757 Caribbean Wrecked France 1758

HMS Fowey 28 1749 Janverin Sunk 178

Bucklers Hard HMS Woolwich 1749 Janverin Sold 1762

Lymington Town Seal - Trading cogs carried about 100 tuns A tun being the standard cask for carrying wine about 250 gallons, tonnage still used today! The Abbot at Beaulieu was sent a tun of wine from King Edward I to replace wine drunk at his visit.. Ships at the time unloaded into lighters or on the beach at low tide as no adequate quays available until 15th century.

In 1279 the Abbot had own ship the Salvata and traded Beaulieu wool to Flanders at a good price. Also owned la Maiote in 1254 and la Stelle in 1268 both poss. sailing out of Southampton or Lymington.

The Mill

Until Industrial Revolution most technical advances were made in Monasteries. Cistercians derived watermill technology from Roman sites and developed excellent hydraulic engineering techniques.

Tidal Mill built at Beaulieu Original site was adjacent to Abbey gate house on the other side of river within the Abbey walls. Monks made the mill pond and a permanent bridge. Not known when mill moved to present site but it may well be before the Dissolution.

Existing mill on this site since 17thC and continued in operation until 1942. Mill normally ran for 4 - 5 hours or 10 hours if required by working both tides. Mill could grind 5 cwt per hour when stones freshly dressed. Stones re-dressed after grinding 600cwt. Fire damage in 2006 but now nearly restored.

Monks were not encouraged to linger at the mill were ideal gossip was possible while waiting to off load grain or collect ground flour. For some reason the keys to the mill and to the wine and beer cellars could not be held by the same person!!

The Abbot was required to visit the Order's mother house at Citeaux in France every Autumn and was often used as an ambassador for the King. He was often required to travel on various missions to Europe.

Hundred years war. Many French raids in the area but not at Beaulieu also Black Death 1349 The whole organisation extremely wealthy and ripe for Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell to plunder.

Seven Years war ended 1763 led to contract to build HMS Europe 64 1763 - 1765 Adams at Lepe. American War of Independence 1777 - 1782 Payed off 1784 Prison Ship Plymouth 1796 Broken up Plymouth 1814.

Working vessels Hoys and barges

Bucklers Hard - 2nd Duke of Montagu Sugar Import 1722 - 1749 St Lucia and St

Vincent Capt Uring

Puckles Gun

Montague Town partly built. Bankrupt

Timber Export

Ship Building 1740.s at Bucklers Hard

List of Ships

Henry Adams Office overlooking slipways numbered workers Hoist up number 4! Look out your numbers up!

- Iron Foundary at Sowley Charles Pocock revived in 1789 . Iron ore shipped in from Lancashire
- HMS Agamemnon Nelson's favourite ship Lost eye while commanding ship but was ashore at Gun Battery in Calvi 1794. Shown here in Mar 1795 firing on the French Ca Ira (80) being towed by a frigate after collision damage
- HMS Illustrious 74 Largest type of ship built at Bucklers Hard. Last built by Henry Adams. Launched in 1789 King George III and Queen Charlotte in Lyndhurst did not attend 21 gun salute fired from ship before she was launched. Banquet for 150 guests in Master Builders House. 584 men and boys.

Decline after Napoleonic wars ended

Baileys Hard Brickworks.1734?-1934. Beaulieu White Bricks light straw colour from local clay Used on Beaulieu Estate and Southampton Docks. Small light railway for transporting clay.

Lepe wooden quay brickworks oysters

Solent Brickworks

Coastguard station 1828

Steamers to Gosport

Oyster Beds at Clobb Copse 1869 Newtown Oyster coy 1880's Beaulieu oysters considered great delicacy expensive to produce 1906 beds closed.

WW1 - Fairmile ML's ?

Queen Mary visit 1927 picked up from ' Victoria and Albert' in Lord Montagu yacht 'Cygnet' ant to Palace House for tea in Rolls Royce Phantom

WW2 -

Small RN vessels MTB's at Bucklers Hard.

Minesweepers fitted out at Bailey's Hard by Husbands

D Day preparations. HMS Mastodon at Exbury House HQ J - Force Assault Group for west Solent Embarkations. 6000 men.

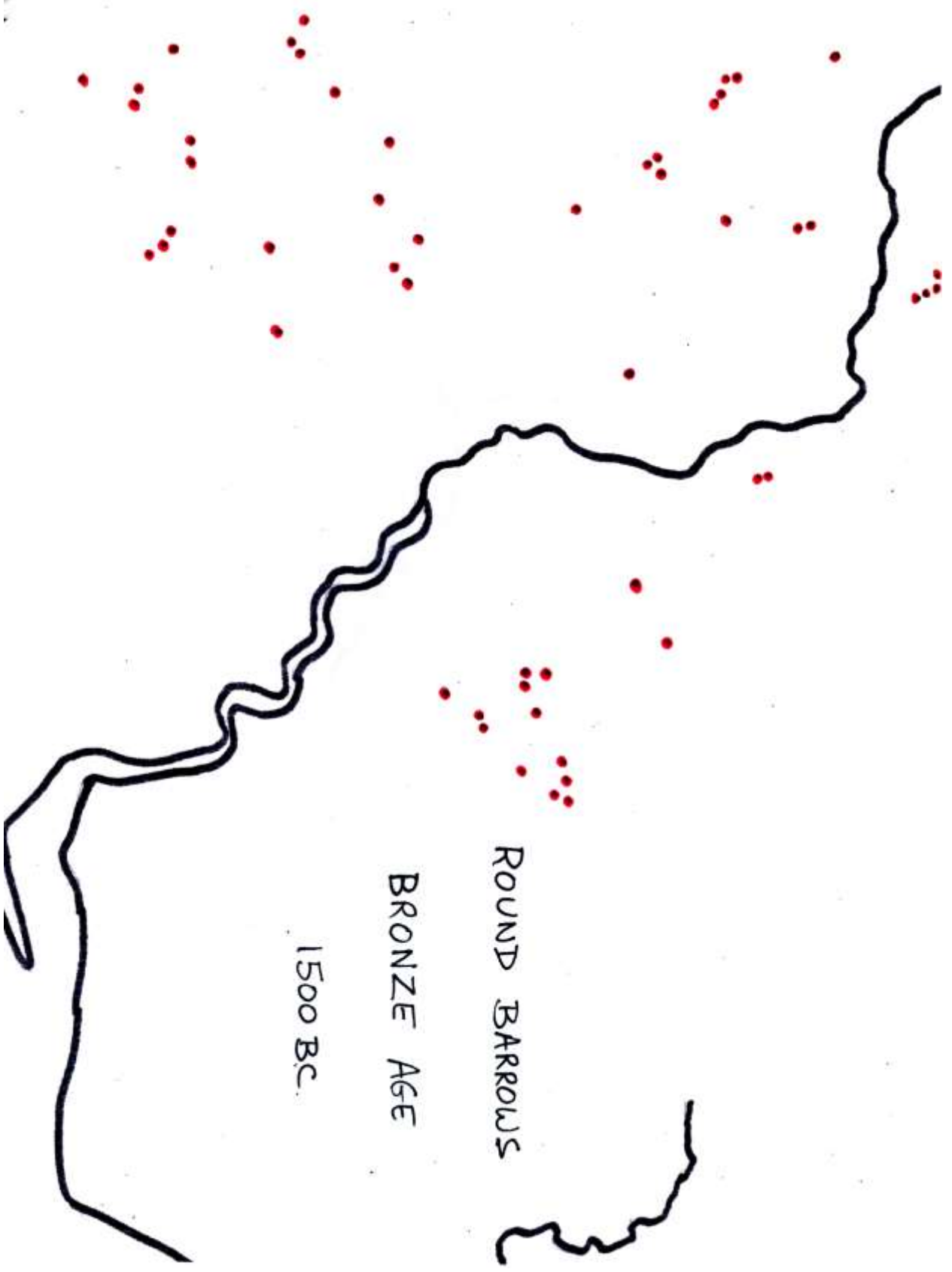
Landing Craft 60 in river just before D Day.

- Mulberry Harbours
- PLUTO
- Experimental Floating Dock concrete dock because of shortage of steel launched
- 25 March 1944 used to repair destroyers in Ceylon North Africa and Norway. Mr Downer Estate Harbourmaster pilot monster out in a rowing boat.
- SOE training in area

Richard Waters.

1 DEC 2013

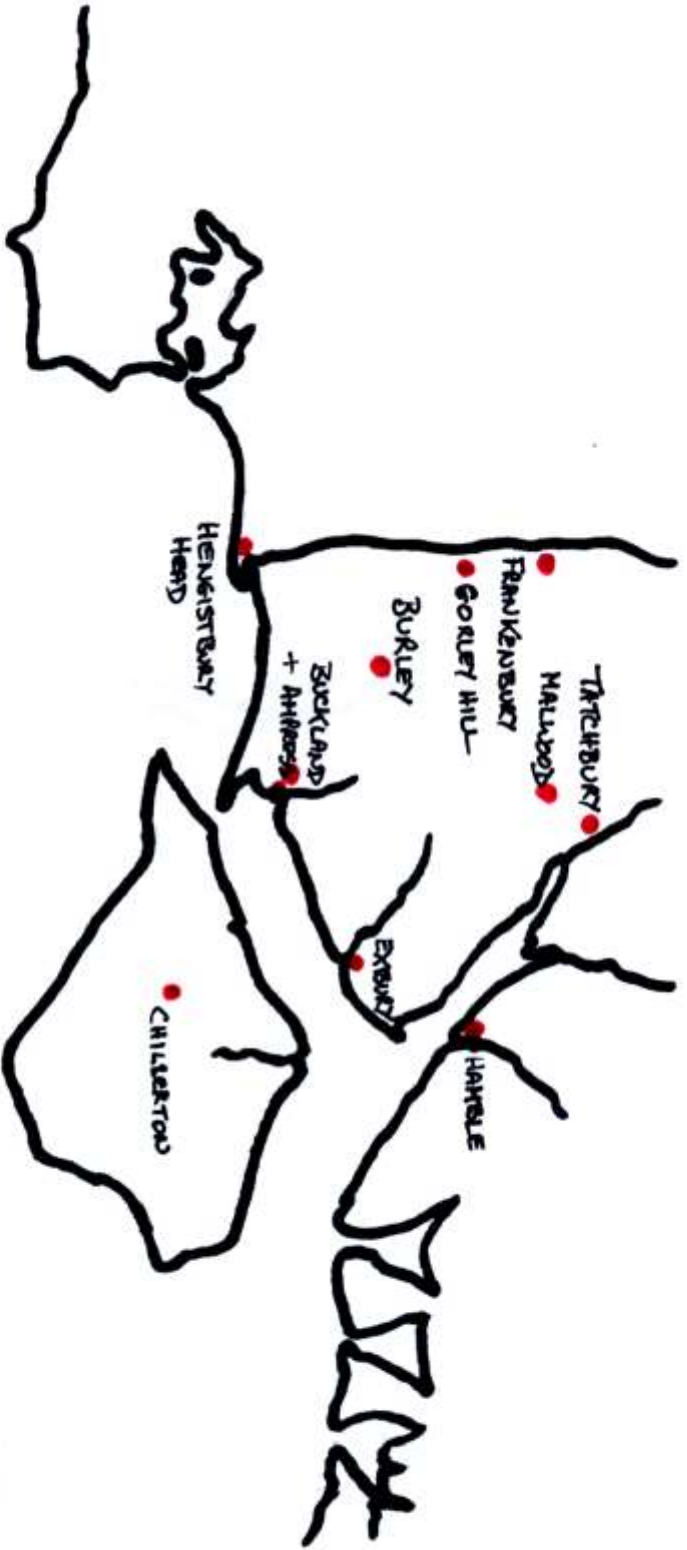
R.S. WATERS.



ROUND BARROWS

BRONZE AGE

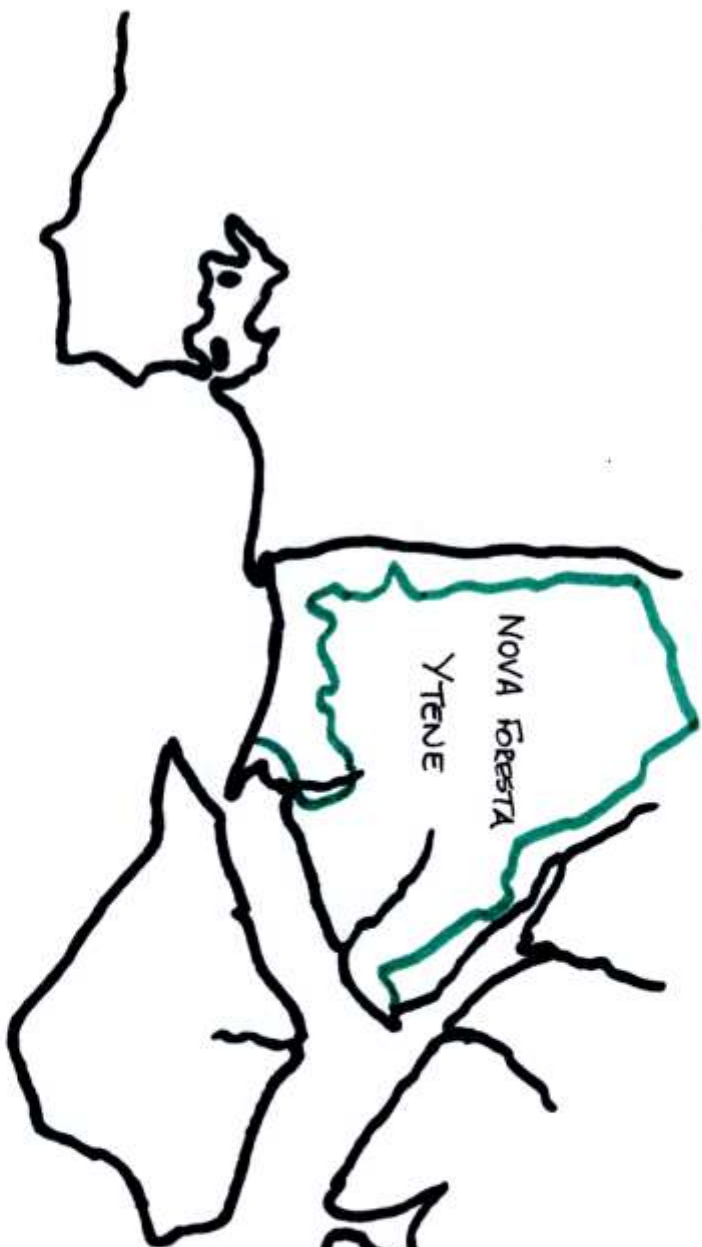
1500 BC



IRON AGE FORTS

800 BC - 200 BC



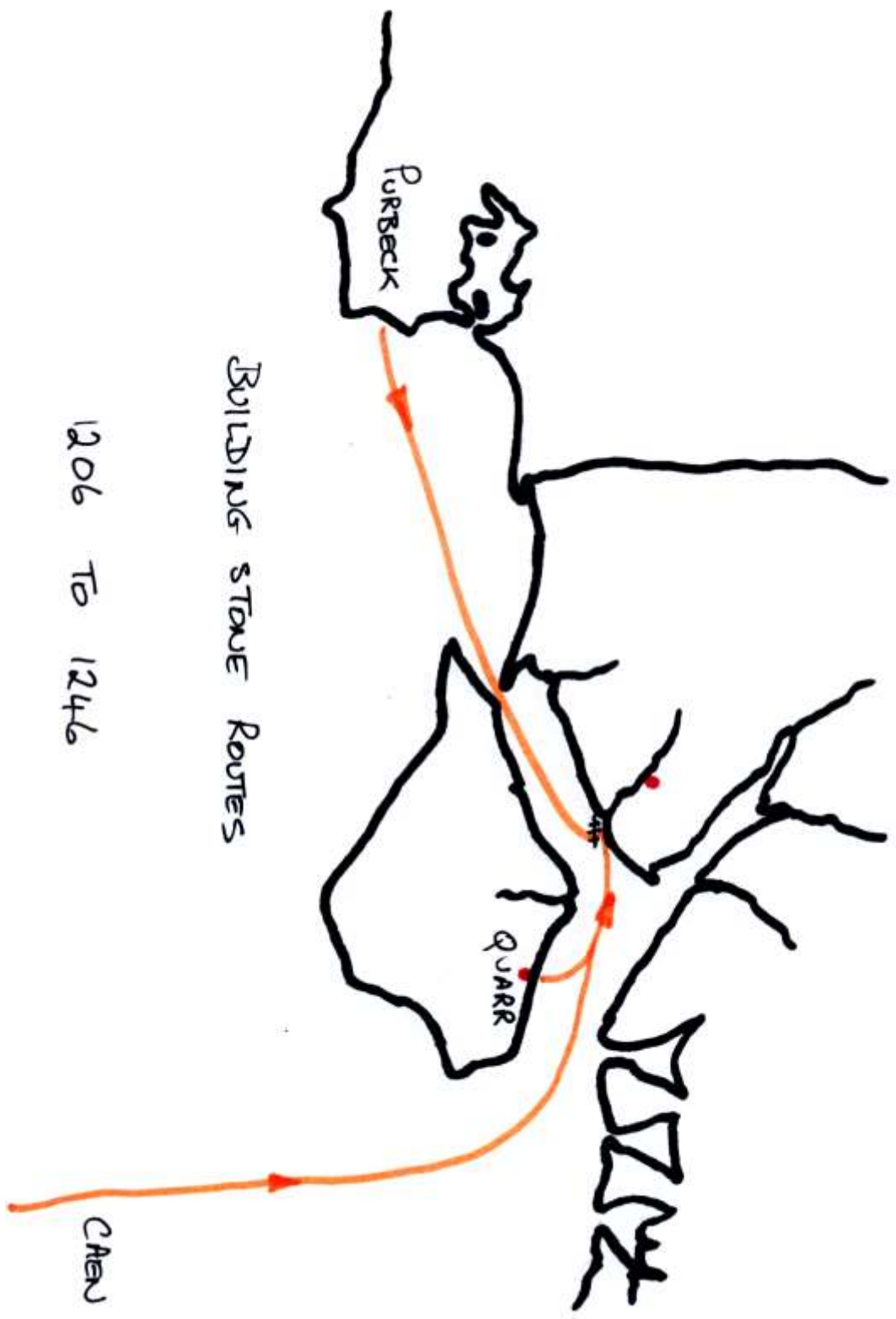


WILLIAM I 1079
CLOSED MORE THAN
20 HAMLETS AND PARISHES

1086

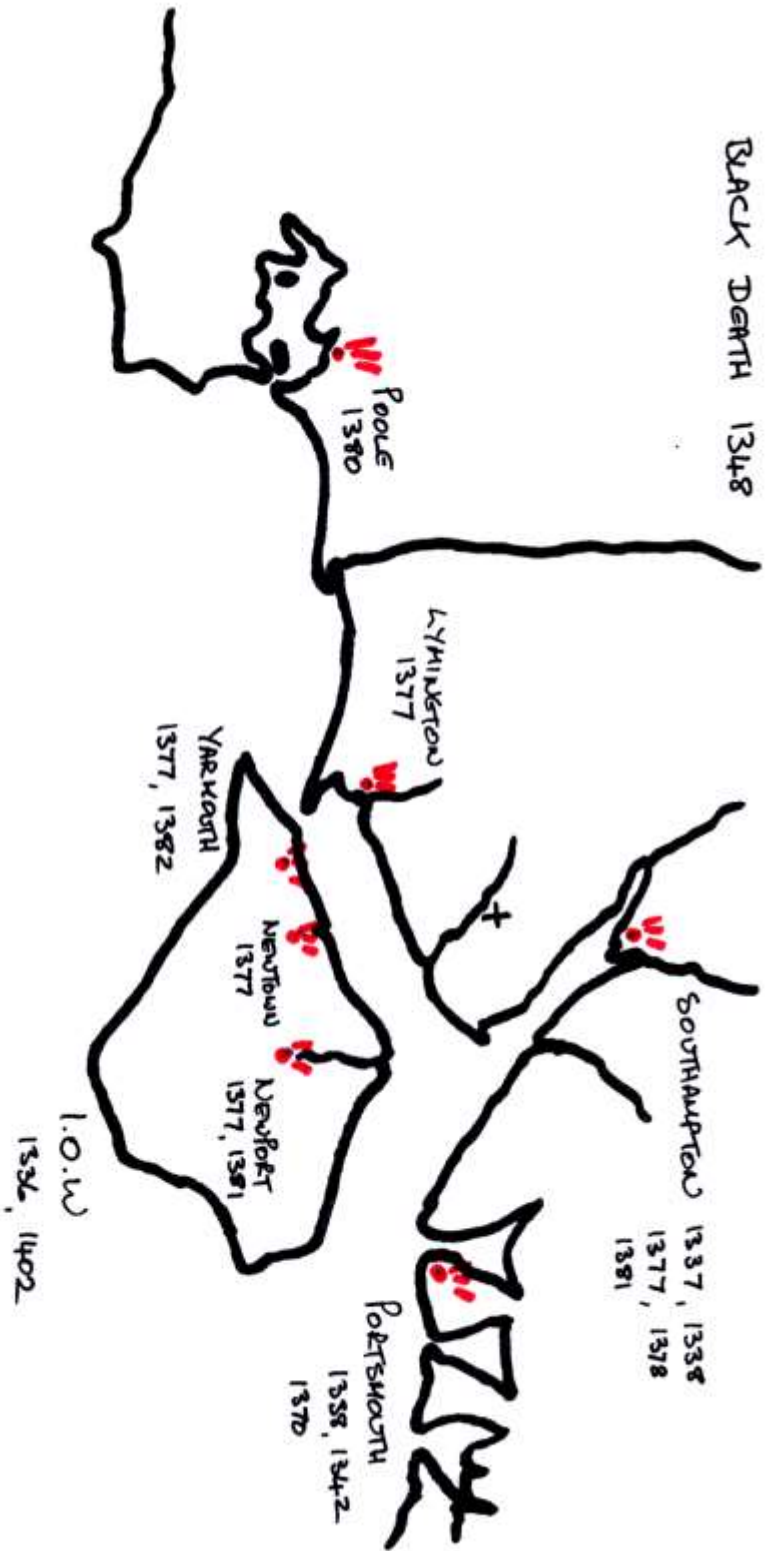
TWO WILLIAM I'S SONS
DIED IN THE NEW FOREST

PRINCE RICHARD 1081
KING WILLIAM II 1100
(WILLIAM Rufus)



BUILDING STONE ROUTES

1206 TO 1246



FRENCH ATTACKS

HUNDRED YEARS WAR 1337 - 1453

BLACK DEATH 1348