

Robert Egerton Godwin - Clovelly Dykes & Lithics

Stephen Hobbs 2021.

Introduction:

The recent investigation by North Devon Archaeological Society (N.D.A.S.) of the fields south of Clovelly Dykes was then followed by Cotswold Archaeology in surveying the embanking and possible entrances. These were commissioned by North Devon Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Further projects were then undertaken including aerial imaging by Aerial-Cam covering the earthworks and immediately surrounding fields and importantly the Geophysics commissioned by N.D.A.S. on the central plateau of the earthworks, raised interest in the site which had lain without any real research or investigation for over a century, since Burnard & Gould in 1903 and Fox in 1953.

As part of the N.D.A.S. investigation, and subsequent report, I provided the research which enabled the writing of an historic background to the site, including previous investigations. It was during this research that I became interested in Robert Egerton Godwin who came to live at Clovelly c.1928. This in turn brought me to reveal that he almost alone was responsible for the 'finds' or artifacts that make the basic knowledge of lithics within the Clovelly area, although the items are often credited to others. I thought his story was worth promoting.

I wish to thank Frances Jewell Bell for assisting in the Genealogical research.

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Stephen J. Hobbs 2021

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Robert Egerton Godwin:

Our interest is raised in Robert E. Godwin as he is recorded as depositing a substantial number of artifacts at Bideford Museum and/or The North Devon Athenaeum [NDA] in the period 1935 to 1949 [Now held at Museum of North Devon [MofND (300+ flint implements) – 2020].



Figure 1 Godwin on left with Mr J. Moss at Hobby Gate

Robert Egerton Godwin was born 12th January 1884 at Eisey, Wiltshire to Henry & Elizabeth (nee Whitehouse). His father is recorded in the 1891 census as a farmer. Henry's farming enterprise fails, and he is declared a bankrupt as reported in a local newspaper [liability of £2615-14-4d due to depressed farm conditions and the debt to his father and sisters on taking over the farm in 1876]. By the 1901 census the family had moved to Swindon, Wiltshire and the father became a Traveller/Agent for Godwin Bros. Ltd, Brewery at Swindon [No family relationship]. Robert works as an accounts clerk.

The 1911 census places Robert (aged 27) at Burton-on-Stather, Doncaster, Lincolnshire where he is described as a poultry farmer and is lodging with an Edmund & Emma Crawshaw (farmer). There does not appear to be any family connection between the Godwin & Crawshaw families and no readily available information as to why Robert moved to Doncaster.

Robert's father dies in 1913 at Swindon and his mother dies in 1936 also in Swindon District. A Newspaper report states she died at the residence of her daughter Mrs Percy Morse, Thetton Cottage, Barton on Sea, Hants. After her husband's death she had initially lived at Portishead with her daughter Margery Morse.

There is no immediate knowledge of where Robert lived or travelled from 1911 until he is recorded as discovering a Roman coin hoard at Clapton in Gordano, Somerset in July 1924 (aged 40). In 1929

he is on the Electoral Roll as living at Burscott, Clovelly with his aunt, Lucy Charlotte Foster (nee Whitehouse). He appears to continue living at Burscott until he moved into the Castle Hill Nursing Home at Torrington where he died on 10th January 1961. He is buried at All Saints Church, Clovelly and recorded on the headstone of his Aunt Lucy and Uncle Henry Foster.

Probate for Robert was granted 7th March 1961 to Wilfred Crosley Christian who was living at 37 Kidmore End Road, Reading, an Insurance Company Branch Manager in the value of £2906-14-5d. There does not appear to be an immediately recognisable family connection between Godwin and Christian. [Wilfred Crosley Christian was born 1907 in Kent and died 1997 aged 90 at Honiton, Devon. Member of the Burma Star Association. Ex R.A.F.] Robert leaves £100 to cover executor costs then minor gifts to Arthur Whitmore; Rosamund Whitmore; George Jewell; Neil Braithwaite; 'Hooties' Braithwaite; Irene King all £100 each. Charles Prouse to receive £200. The remainder of the estate to his niece Daphne M.C. Braithwaite.

Exactly why Robert came to live with his aunt at Clovelly by 1929 when he was 45 years of age is not known. It is a consideration that he was disabled in that he had a deformed leg and walked using a stick; if this was a disability from childhood or a later incident is unclear. There is no positive identification of him serving in the military during WWI. He was over-age for call-up in WWII.

By the 1939 pre-War registration census Robert is still at Burscott with his aunt who is then aged 92; she is listed as incapacitated. Robert gives his occupation as a 'retired poultry farmer' (aged 55). There appears to be a live-in housekeeper present, a Minnie Clements (aged 68). Lucy, the aunt, was born in Norfolk in 1847, married in London 1892. Her husband Henry P. Foster at one time was in business with two other members of his family in Birmingham as a metal dealer. The business partnership was dissolved in 1868. Henry & Lucy at some point moved to King's Nympton, Chulmleigh, Devon, before their final move to Clovelly. Henry died in 1917 and is buried at Clovelly.

Lucy C. Foster died at Clovelly in 1939 and was the eldest resident in the village at that time. She and her husband, when they came to Clovelly, had lived at Snaxland Cottage (normally reserved for Estate Gamekeepers), probably soon after her husband's death in 1917 (probate of £30-14-0d) she moved into (The) Cottage at Burscott where she lived until her own death in 1939. Her obituary is included in the Hartland Chronicle 17th May 1940 (page 13). It adds that she was well known in Birmingham Musical Societies as she had a beautiful 'contralto' voice. The mourners were Mr Robert E. Godwin, Mrs Percy Morse (nephew and niece), Mr & Mrs Hilton (Estate Manager), the Misses Hill, Mrs Caird (wife of an Estate manager), Mrs Vine, Nurse Loude and Nurse Janson (friends). Bearers; Messers Cobson, Pte H.T. Wonnacott, Geo Vanstone, W. Jewell, J. Clements and J. Westlake (Estate foreman).

This obituary notice is interesting in that it reveals, in comparison with other such notices in the same issue, that there were very few attendees at the service. Is this due to Lucy's long-term illness, causing her to be housebound or was she not as well-known as might be expected. She had lived in the parish for 22+ years, although she left little trace of her residency. Most of the people listed had some direct connection with the Clovelly Estate Company. Two others are interesting, Mr George Vanstone lived at Burford Farm and William Jewell at Burscott Farm, these are two of the main field areas that Robert 'walked' in his search for lithics, therefore this obituary would indicate that they were also family friends. The other people of interest are Mr & Mrs Hilton of East Dyke Farm. Mr

Hilton took the position of the Estate's Agent for Clovelly in 1922. On a personal note, Nurse Janson was an old flame of my father!

To sum up so far, we have a rather scant trail of evidence for Robert Egerton Godwin, no academic record to be found. His working life seems to be agriculture, mainly poultry, by his own description in the census. Anecdotal evidence from people who knew him while he lived at Burscott describe him as; educated, a private person almost a loner, walked with a stick, owned a car but never drove himself, collector of antiquities, large stamp collection etc (1 & 2). Had a gammy leg, house absolutely full of old stuff, kept to himself, had a number of educated friends, my mother & father looked after and drove him around. Number of people came & went as friends, not always a pleasant person (3). No-one passed comment on if he worked or had employment of any kind, so one could consider he was of 'independent means'? [correspondents: (1) Mr & Mrs G. Shackson; (2) Mr & Mrs J Jewell; (3) Mrs J Pomeroy, nee Whitfield.]

There is no evidence in Devon that he was a member of a local Archaeological Society although he joined the Devonshire Association in 1943 (from membership lists). However, he does appear as a member of the Somersetshire Archaeological Society from 1924 to 1928 with a home address as West Hill, Portishead.

Robert's sister Margery had married a Percy Lapper Morse, a solicitor, living at Portishead. Margery was a registered Art Teacher. Her husband was killed in WW1 and is buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, 20th November 1917. By Probate Percy left his estate to his widow. Value £12069-17-10d (26th July 1918). Margery, at some point, moved to Fowey, Cornwall according to the WW1 War pension ledger. She died in Bournemouth District c.1965.

From an obituary of Margery's mother (Elizabeth Godwin), as they were both widows by 1917, they shared a house at Barton-on-Sea, Hants and then at Portishead. Therefore, it would appear that Robert had moved to live with, or support, his mother and sister at Portishead. It is after his mother's death that he may have moved to live with his aunt at Clovelly (also a widow). Within two newspaper reports there are suggestions that Robert may have been a regular traveller. In the Numismatic Chronicle 1927 they indicate that the research on a coin hoard find "*waited Mr Godwin's return to the locality*" and later, in 1954, in a planning application appeal for a caravan and piggery, Robert mentions his return from tours (he is 70 years of age at this date). The plot of land in the planning application is a third of an acre at Lighthouse Cross, Hartland [Bideford Gazette].

An elder brother of Robert, Harold Henry Miller Godwin, served in the 2nd Boer War and emigrated to South Africa where he married a Winifred Alice (unknown surname) and had six children. He died 18th November 1945. A further brother Raymond emigrated to Canada.

This all begs the question on how Robert became interested in archaeology and the collecting of such as lithics etc. We later learn from newspaper cuttings that he was collecting 'Flint Implements' whilst in the Doncaster area and may have built up a relationship with the Hull Museum as they held a collection of his lithics and/or coins [See Appendix]. Robert takes his 'collection' with him when he leaves the Doncaster area and has it with him at Portishead. Similarly, when he leaves Portishead, he takes his extended collection of artifacts with him to Clovelly. A second part of the same question is how, technically, Robert moved from Poultry Farmer to 'Archaeologist'. Did he receive any training or was he self-taught? He is recognised locally as one who had knowledge as revealed in the

following newspaper reports but as we will see in the timeline chart [See Appendix] he associated, when at Clovelly, with a number of people who are best described as Antiquarians in outlook.

Portishead:

The indication of Robert E. Godwin's archaeological interests come from newspaper reports of a find of Roman coins at Clapton-in-Gordano, Somerset. The find was well reported in local, national and indeed international newspapers possibly with the story gaining in fantasy by the telling – an American report talks of a *'Pirate's Hoard, seventeen centuries in the finding'*. It is worth interrogating the reports to establish a trail of Robert's involvement.

One of the earliest news reports is in the Bath Chronicle of 16th August 1924 titled *'Interesting Discovery in Somerset – Buried in skin bag within an urn'*. The piece introduces us to a chance find by a ploughman of 25 'Roman' coins approximately two years earlier and that a well-known local 'Research Worker' has devoted considerable time confident that further interesting specimens of historical interest may be found. 'Two-years ago Mr R.E. Godwin of Portishead commenced excavations near the site where the coins were found'.... It then states that, 'in total a further 3300 coins [were] within the remains of a receptacle'.



Figure 2 Image Credit: Bristol Times and Mirror, Wednesday August 13th 1924.

By 3rd Sept 1924, in the Gloucestershire Echo, Godwin is described as a 'young archaeologist' and the coin hoard has increased to 4000. A further variance is that the 'two-year period' has been omitted with a new time scale of July this year (1924) as the commencement of excavations. The report contains quotes from Godwin on the finds and his opinions of their condition and age along with a suggestion the site may have been a mint. Godwin states that *'he will be sending the collection to the British Museum to be examined and catalogued'*. A further paragraph informs that he did the

excavations' *single handed except for a week's assistance by two students from Bristol University*'. [This is an interesting note as does it indicate that Godwin was of some standing within the archaeological field at this point, or, that the Clapton-in-Gordano area was already of interest due to other finds and its proximity to Cadbury Castle? SJH 2021]

Two publications give, in my view, a more complete description of the events leading to the find and the subsequent embellishments. The 1927 edition of the Numismatic Chronicle Vol XII gives a specific date of 1922 when during the ploughing of a field belonging to Mr C. Williams (see photo credit above where he is named as Charles Withers) twenty-eight coins came up in the furrow. No further search was carried out until July 1924 when Mr R.E. Godwin, to whose notice the find had been brought, returned to the locality. The ploughman who made the original discovery pointed out the find spot, Godwin searched without success, but at further distance found twelve more coins scattered over an area of several yards. Further exploration disclosed the hoard at a depth of about a foot below the surface. This draws together a few of the facts contained within the previous newspaper reports.

We can now turn to The Times of 15th October 1924 whose report was repeated in an American newspaper (with elaborations one suspects). 'Farmer Finds Caesar's Cache' The additional information included is that the original twenty-eight coins were sent to the British Museum by Godwin for identification.

That later further coins were occasionally turned-up, until at one point a further substantial 'coin find' came up. Godwin came to investigate and found many more. Staying late in heavy rain he filled his pockets having found the coins by feel in the dark. He returned the next day with a fork and riddle and some tins. However, he found so many that he carried the finds home in the riddle, also stating, they came up in clumps of fifties and hundreds stuck together with every spit of the soil. Further detail of the 'Urn' is also given – the coins had been placed in a skin bag enclosed in an urn or vase which had been shattered by the plough. The urn was of black unglazed pottery and had no bottom, but stood upon a piece of wood in turn resting of two stones, the foot of the urn being hooped with iron.

But the interest of the discovery does not end with the number and variety of the coins. Observing that the soil where they were found was reddened, as if by exposure to heat, Mr. Godwin sank a pit several feet deep and crossed it with trenches at right angles, finding a few more coins, what appear to be unstamped disks of bronze, fragments of pottery, red and black some with traces of incised linear decoration, scraps of coal and cinder, small irregular slugs of pure lead, and lumps of ironstone; and on the sides of the trenches the red colour can be seen dying away into the soil around. Taking into account the variety of the coins, the suggestion of a mint— or at any rate a workshop of some sort— is difficult to avoid. A few yards from the place of the coins Mr. Godwin found large flat stones, irregular in outline but evidently flattened artificially, with fragments of pottery beneath; and extending his searches from here he has come upon what seems to be a rude, curving causeway, composed of several kinds of stone, including lumps of a red sandstone not common in the locality, arranged with some skill, the outer stones at the shoulders of the curve being tilted inwards as if to give support. Carefully scraped away, the soil above the causeway continues to yield fragments of pottery of different kinds.

There, for the moment, the matter rests and it need only be added that Mr. Godwin, who is in touch with the British Museum, and has already made a considerable collection of flints from this neighbourhood, is proceeding in his work with the most exemplary care and thoroughness.

[Note the Somerset H.E.R. uses The Times report as the basis for its record of the find: Unique ID: IARCH-1AB39C]



Figure 3 Coin 'hoard' - Nicholson Museum image

Although indicated previously that the original find of coins was sent to the British Museum it appears the 'hoard' was also later sent there. After identification of the hoard by the museum the coins were returned to Mr Godwin. An exhibition was arranged at Pill Church Rooms nr Clapton-in-Gordano over a six-day period (1st to 6th August 1927). The exhibition also included a display of prehistoric flint instruments found locally, together with others found on the east coast (the east coast finds were likely to be Godwin's collection from his time in Lincolnshire). Eventually the hoard was split, 109 coins are in the Somerset County Museum along with the remains of the container, 118 coins are in the Hull Museum. [Note: email correspondence with Hull Museum indicates that during wartime bombing the Museum was hit and the contents destroyed. See Appendix] The remainder stayed with Godwin who eventually put them into an auction where the Nicholson Museum, Sydney purchased them for £50 in 1949 [see Appendix note]. The Nicholson Museum did not display the find until an English researcher in 2007 brought the collection to their attention, they were 'rediscovered' still in their biscuit tins from the auction.

Clovelly:

Leaving the 'Hoard' discovery and moving the focus to Clovelly. As previously stated, Godwin is recorded at Clovelly by 1929 (Electoral Roll). Could it be considered that he brought a degree of celebrity with him or was he already a well-known face locally due to visits to his aunt?

Clovelly in the late 1920's had several interconnected people in place. We have Mr. James C. Hilton M.C. ex-military, living at East Dyke Farm (see Appendix note), who has wide ranging interests and involvements with local organisations. He is known to be interested in the earthworks adjacent to his house and over a period assembles a collection of artifacts including a glass bead, axe head, flints and pottery. Both Mr Hilton and his wife Dorothy were member and associate, respectively, of the Devonshire Association from the 1930s.

Mr George E.L. Carter who lived at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, had a paper read at a meeting of the London Devonians Association in 1927 on his research of Clovelly Dykes. Lastly, in this period we have Richard Pearse Chope, an Antiquarian living at Hartland who is interested in all things related to Hartland, and a collector of artifacts and Folk Lore.

If Robert Godwin did indeed arrive to settle in 1928/9 then he just misses the period of activity when the archaeologist George E.L. Carter had researched and then written his report on the Dykes [see Appendix timeline chart]. Godwin would have been in regular contact with Mr Hilton as Agent for Clovelly Estate from whom his aunt rented their cottage. An obvious shared interest led to a friendship and no doubt conversations regarding their finds. Any direct involvement with Chope by Godwin may be questionable as Chope was not on the best of terms with Christine Hamlyn, owner of The Clovelly Estate, so may have avoided contact within the parish.

George E.L. Carter [see Appendix note] is an interesting character, of a military background and interested in the Indian sub-continent. By 1913, although still in India, he is a member of the London Devonian Association of which Richard Pearse Chope is the yearbook editor. Carter maintains his membership when he returns to live at Budleigh Salterton. There is a lifelong friendship, with Chope referring to Carter as his 'good friend' in an article on Frankpledge in the Hartland Chronicle (1909). In 1916 Carter donates £1 to the repair of the church of St Nectans, Stoke. He also apologised for being unable to attend Chope's funeral in 1939. Carter joins the Devonshire Association in 1928 (a year after his paper on Clovelly Dykes) and eventually serves on the committee. One of the shared interests with Chope is folk lore, with Carter contributing to this section of the Transactions of the Devonshire Association edited by Chope on occasions and also Carter published a paper on Pixies in the 1932 Devonian Yearbook. We have an approximate date of 1926 for Carter being at Clovelly to walk and map the Dykes. This date therefore places this investigation as one of his first since his return from India to live in Devon. [The Devon Heritage Centre hold an uncatalogued collection of Carter's notes, photographs and correspondence.]

How well George Carter's paper on the Dykes was received is unknown. It was published as an offprint in booklet form, there is no indication by way of a printed price on the booklet to suggest it was for sale generally, only by application maybe. In the discussion of flint or lithic finds in the area Carter includes reference to this within his booklet, particularly in relation to Summerwell Farm. It would seem his question was, as partially today, where did the population live that built this earthwork? Carter's investigations may have been guided by Chope to include the area around Bursdon Moor and to inspect the 18th century Dean Milles Survey documents which suggested that these areas were the sites of substantial habitations in an earlier age. The paper by Carter certainly extended knowledge the previous information from such as the work on the Dykes by Parry, then later excavation by Burnard & Gould.

In Vol 61 of the Transactions of the Devonshire Association (1929) is a report on flint implements and flakes from Hartland. It reads: "*In the summer of 1926, Mr G.E.L. Carter picked up some worked flints in a ploughed field of Summerwell Farm, adjoining Bursdon Moor. Subsequently others were obtained for me (Pearse Chope) by the children of the farmer, Mr Thomas Colwill. Of these five have been selected by Mr R. Hansford Worth to be photographed and described*" Figure 4. [That is Pearse Chope's collection not Carter's. There is no definite indication of if or where Carter may have

deposited his 'Summerwell' finds, the suggestion being that it may be within the deposit boxes at the Devon Heritage Centre].

This article therefore discloses that Carter explored a wider area than just the earthworks at Clovelly and was engaged with Chope in an interest in this area. It also indicates an association with R.H. Worth as a photographer. Carter was a controversial figure as an archaeologist and his views were challenging. Numerous reports of his research appear in such as the Western Morning News over an extended period of time [Chope news cuttings book HA_RPC-018.pdf].

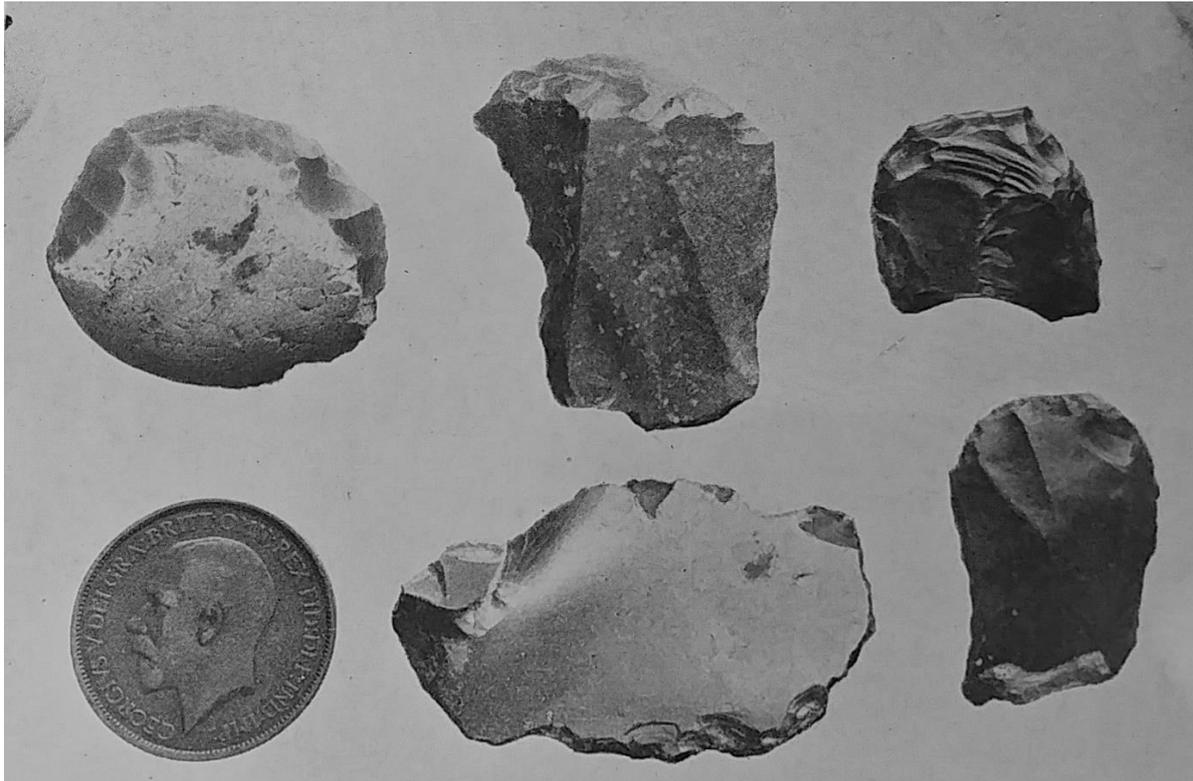


Figure 4 Flints from Summerwell Farm 1929 (Pearse Chope's collection)

We can extend further that Robert Godwin was engaged in collecting artifacts in the area recorded in a small number of reports in four issues of the Hartland Chronicle in 1935. The June issue records the discovery of an 'old cannon ball' of 4.5lbs weight and about 3" in diameter. A note adds that it fits the muzzle of the three old guns which are in place on Clovelly Quay. The find was made in the garden of the cottage rented by Robert's aunt at Burscott. [This find is also mentioned in Sheila Ellis' book 'Down a Cobbled Street' and therefore possibly discloses her source]. A further issue of the Chronicle records that while searching on Burford Farm, Clovelly 'Mr R. Egerton Godwin picked up a good specimen of a flint barbed arrowhead which he identifies as early Bronze Age'. During the last year he has collected a large number of worked flint flakes, including some borers and scrapers from Burford Farm and suggests it could possibly be a 'flint factory'. The last comment of the same year mentions Mr R. Egerton Godwin finding a Charles I half-crown and an old iron pike of 15" in length but no location is given.

We can link these finds to both further entries in the Devonshire Association Transactions and deposits made at the North Devon Athenaeum. The NDA hold around 300 of Godwin's flint finds including a fine set of arrowheads etc. Locations given are Slade Farm, Burford, May's, Baxworthy Corner etc but interestingly no mention of finds at the Dykes themselves.

In the D.A. Transactions of 1935, there are entries on Flints from Burford, Clovelly which states that Mr R.H. Worth had photographed flints found at Burford Farm by Mr R. Egerton Godwin of Clovelly. Worth then goes on to give a description of each flint, Figure 5.

A footnote then adds that since the report Mr Godwin has found further flints and a second photograph is included, Figure 6.

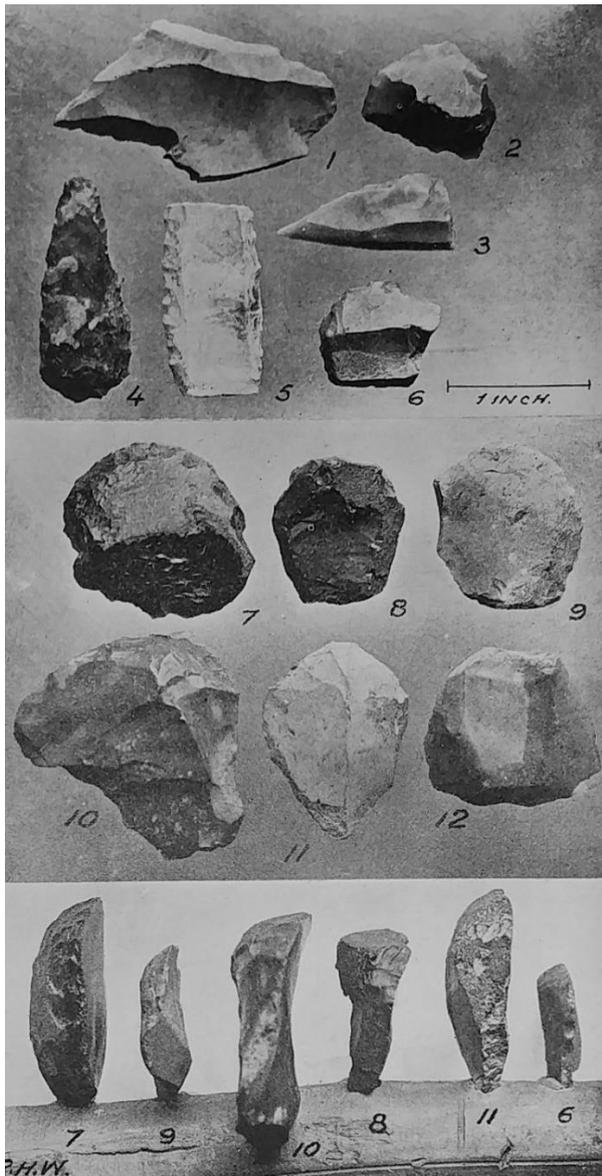


Figure 5 1st selection of flints from Burford Farm 1935

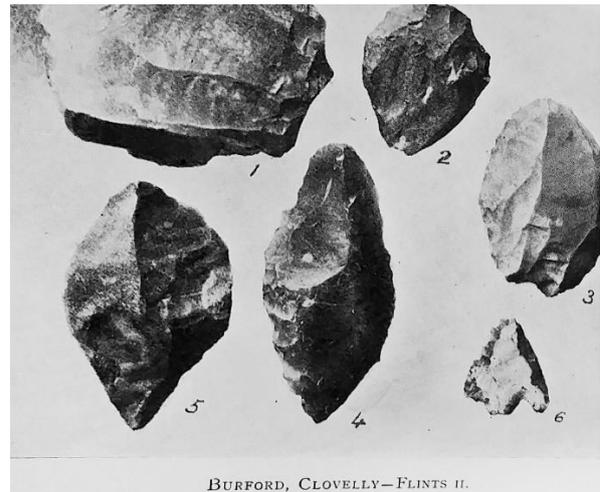
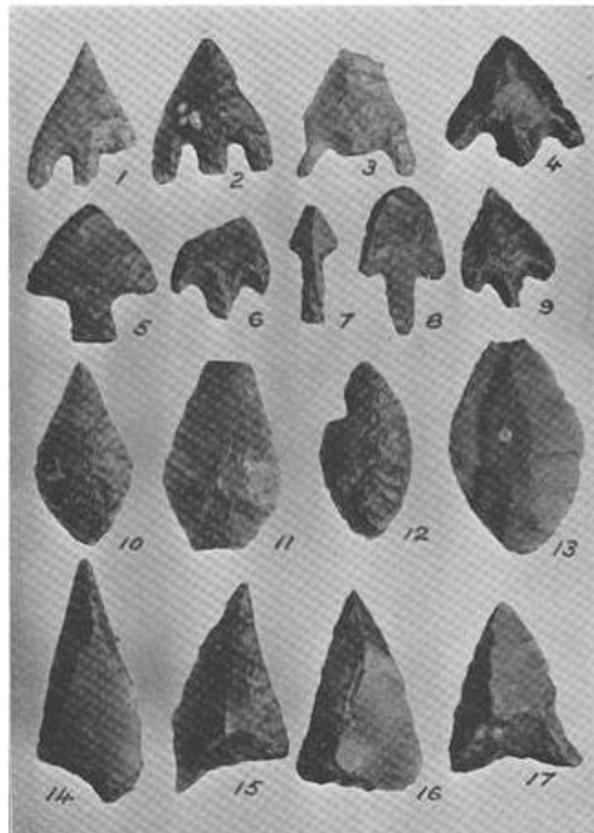
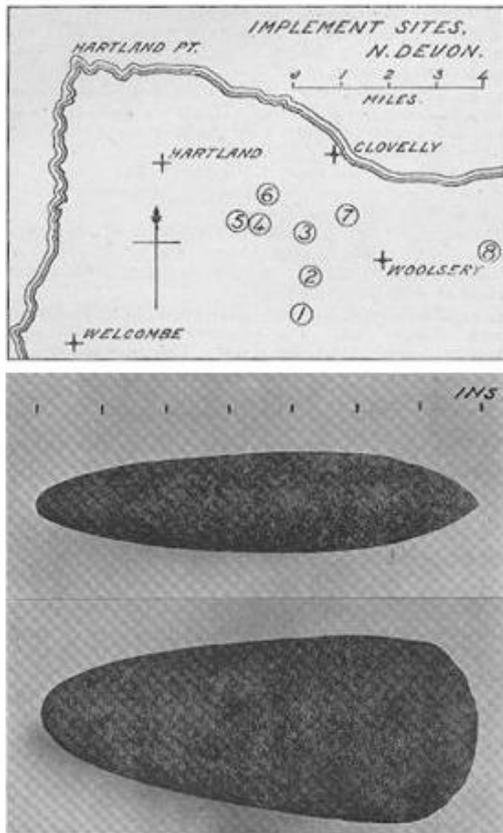


Figure 6 2nd selection of flints from Burford Farm 1935

In the Transactions of 1942 & 1943 Mr R. Hansford Worth writes an article on 'Flints from North Devon': "In previous years Mr R. Egerton Godwin has more than once provided material for notes on

flint implements from North Devon. This year he submitted a quite considerable collection of much interest. The area from which the implements were derived lies between Parkham on the east and Hartland on the west and extends 3.5 miles south of Clovelly" shown on the attached map (Figure 7). "These photographs represent only a selection from the assortment Mr Godwin had collected which were forwarded for this report. In general, the resemblances to Dartmoor types are marked, and the period may be Neolithic or more probably Early Bronze". R.N. Worth. Figures 7 – 9.



Source: Transactions of the Devonshire Association 1942

Figure 7 Collection by Mr R.E. Godwin 1942 Arrowheads & Celts

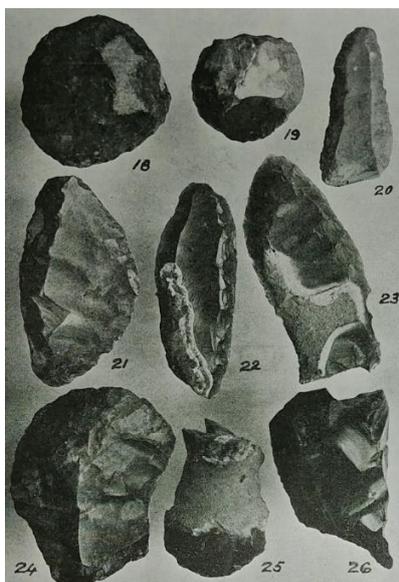


Figure 8 Godwin's flints 1942

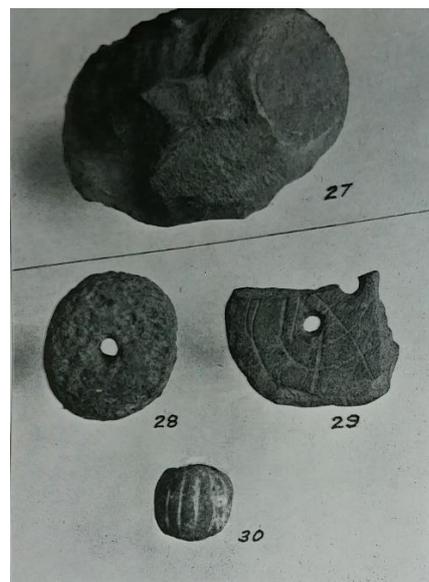


Figure 9 Godwin's Spindle Whorls 1942

The expectation would be that Godwin deposited his collection at the NDA, as described and they have lain there ever since, until recently transferred to the Museum of North Devon (MofND). A news cutting describes Mr E. Egerton Godwin depositing a large collection of artifacts in 1944. The MofND catalogue indicates that the deposits are those photographed by Worth as well as numerous other examples including an 'enamelled' bead from Burford. In 1949 he sold the bulk of his Roman Coin find at auction purchased by the Nicholson Museum, Sydney, Australia. [Somerset H.E.R. IARCH-1AB39C]. For an avid collector to be divesting himself of artifacts in this way, may show a change of interest in his collecting (Figures 10-12 are images by Worth of Godwin's finds)

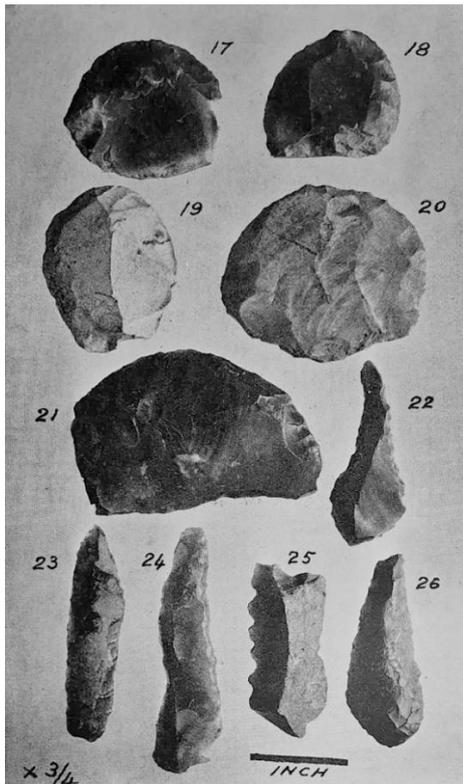


Figure 10 Godwin's flints 1943

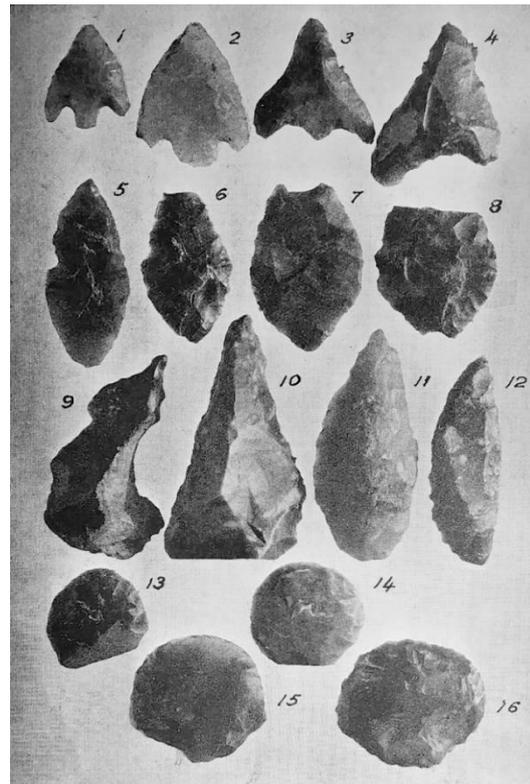


Figure 11 Godwin's flints 1943

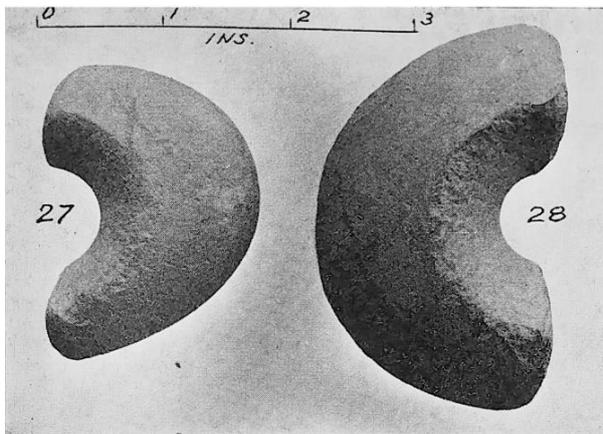


Figure 12 Godwin's Broken Hammer Stones 1943

It could be considered that Godwin did his field walking, in the Clovelly area, looking for lithics over an extended period from 1928 to say 1949, the latter being the date of his sale of artifacts. There is no information that while at Clovelly he undertook any form of excavations or that he had an interest in pottery sherds although he must have seen such sherds as he walked in his searches.

In 1932 Air-Views of Croydon flew the area taking numerous images of points of interest. These were used as postcards and sold as pictorial prints. Mr J.C. Hilton, the tenant at East Dyke Farm, obtained at least two prints which could be suggested were from this company. The only reservation is that the quality is not as good as may be expected but as the only evidence we have is from reproductions in an archaeological paper this may be questioned.



Figure 13 Hilton's air picture 1932 ref A. Fox

At a date prior to 1951 Cyril & Aileen Fox are investigating the hill-forts of South Wales and Devon, this research brings them to Clovelly and the Hiltons. A friendship develops based on what could be seen as a shared interest and a chance for the Hiltons to discover more about the earthworks adjacent to their farm. Eventually a paper is produced and published - Hill-Slope forts and related Earthworks in South-West England and South Wales 1953: 18th Report on archaeology and Early History of Devon - Vol 109.

This research further disclosed that Mr Hilton had a small but important collection of artifacts collected from the surface of the Dykes. The items included some lithics, an axe-head and a blue glass bead. No image is known to exist of this collection nor its present location. It has been suggested that the Hilton collection is contained within Godwin's deposits or that maybe the Foxs obtained it, but this is inconclusive.

On the death of Mrs Hilton all her possessions passed to her children, so it is quite possible that the artifacts may have passed in this way [no attempt has been made to locate any descendants]. Note: James & Dorothy Hilton appear to have had two children, Christopher who lived and worked in Plymouth and Ruth who appears to have moved to Mid/South Devon.

There is a second archive of Hilton family materials which relate to James' sister Daisy. The available content is mainly letters written home from the 'Front' in WW1 and mentions events and family. He asks in one letter that his Military Cross is given to his, then, girlfriend Dorothy Ramwell in the event of his death.

Hilton's collection is reported in a D.A. Transactions article by A. Fox 1997 – A bead of dark blue translucent glass was found on the surface in Clovelly Dykes, hill-fort. It is annular in form 0.3" in diameter with a perforation of 0.1". A similar bead occurs at Glastonbury. Blue beads are also common in the Iron Age through into the 'Dark Ages' in Anglo Saxon pagan graves, but the Clovelly Dykes specimen is more likely to be of an earlier date and a relic of the inhabitants of the hill-fort.

Aileen & Cyril Fox, in their paper on Hill-Slope forts and related Earthworks in South-West England and South Wales, thank Mr & Mrs Hilton for permission to study on several occasions and for the use of the air photographs taken specially for Mr Hilton. Within this paper there is no mention of 'flints' or 'lithics' although in a paper for the Devon Archaeological Society 1951 they include three instances of artifacts at Clovelly. (1) A stone axe was found on the surface in Clovelly Dykes hill-fort. (2) A bead of dark blue translucent glass was found on the surface in Clovelly Dykes hill-fort. (3) Four microlithic points and waste characteristic of a late Mesolithic industry were found on the surface at East Dykes Farm.

Aileen Fox in 1997 published a further work on hill-forts which in essence is a reworking of data from the 1953 research. This effectively was the last research project undertaken regarding Clovelly Dykes or its immediate landscape until the N.D.A.S. investigation.

Conclusion:

Robert Egerton Godwin remains a man of some mystery. Was he a skilled archaeologist or simply a man who had a degree of knowledge and interests which brought him into the collection of lithics? The Portishead find was not initially his discovery but became his investigation and is generally accredited to him. The reverse happens at Clovelly, the finds are his, but the credit is attached more prominently to Mr R.H. Worth who was the photographer of the finds at Godwin's behest. Worth analysed the finds and included a full description of each within the photographic record. To Godwin's credit he took care to deposit his finds in what at that time was regarded as a suitable repository, The North Devon Athenaeum. That they have lain there unrecognised was unfortunate. The NDA transferred the collection to the MofND recently. The Historic Environment Record dataset compounds the lack of credit to Godwin in that its listings, in this regard, are mainly taken from entries in the Transactions of the Devonshire Association and therefore the credit is assigned to R.H. Worth with sometimes a by-line to Godwin [see Appendix chart].

By filtering the entries in the Devon H.E.R. for lithic finds in the three parishes (Clovelly, Hartland & Woolserly) then adding in the Chope & Hilton finds we have thirteen entries relevant to this paper. There are a small number of 'recent' additional entries, mainly at Hartland, Docton, Hartland Quay,

Hartland Point, Elmscott Gully etc. There will be further records of finds at sites within reports from commercial archaeology units documented within grey literature that are not individually listed. The Portable Antiquities Scheme dataset does not significantly expand numerically any recent finds in these parishes.

What is clearly shown is twofold: (1) our local knowledge of lithic finds is mainly based of Godwin's finds and (2) that very few recent finds are being either presented or listed.

In assessing the use of lithics within the area the accumulated finds by Godwin do not necessarily represent field find spots as being 'very active'. It may be considered that it shows the interests of one person in a restricted area of study therefore an over-emphasis of lithic usage in a particular spot. If further intensive field walking was undertaken over a number of agricultural seasons in adjacent areas, an increasing total of lithic finds may well be recorded. Then that would be a more secure basis on which to describe an active landscape. But for what reason it appears 'active' would be difficult to define without further associated finds of pottery, house goods or signs of habitation from the same period.

Overall, this represents a small study by Godwin within what is an area of c.35sq miles, therefore it could be considered that the quantity of lithic finds, although at first sight is considerable (300+), is in fact sparse. This possibly distorts the actual use of the landscape in this period if all research is utilising this H.E.R./P.A.S. data.

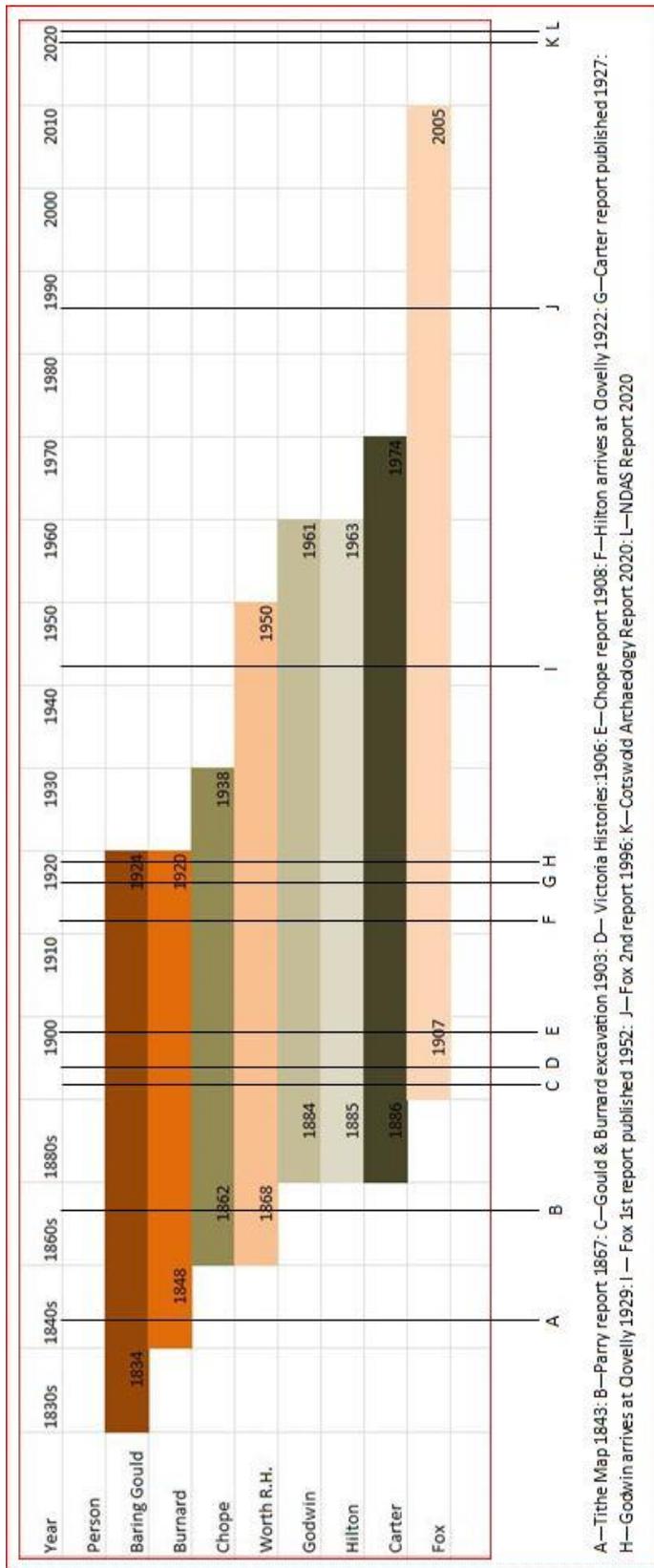
Local knowledge indicates that there are several individuals who have extensive collections of lithic finds, particularly from the coastal strip within the A.O.N.B. area [2021].

The main point as a conclusion is that if these further collections were able to be photographed, listed and entered into the H.E.R and/or P.A.S. the recording of finds would improve the understanding of the landscape. It is an often-heard comment that people think that their finds are kept by the recording authority, this really only happens with items declared as 'treasure' otherwise finds are returned after identification if required.

Therefore, help continue Robert Egerton Godwin's legacy by having finds recorded!

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Timeline



Appendix 2 - Numismatics

Catalogue of the coin finds from Somerset HER.

Period	Ruler	Denomination	Mint	From	To	Quantity
ROMAN	Claudius	As	-	-	-	1
ROMAN	Gallienus (Joint reign)	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	AD 253	AD 260	1
ROMAN	Gallienus (sole reign)	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	AD 260	AD 268	540
ROMAN	Salonina (joint reign)	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	AD 253	AD 260	3
ROMAN	Salonina (sole reign of Gallienus)	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	AD 260	AD 268	34
ROMAN	Valerian II	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	AD 253	AD 260	2
ROMAN	Postumus	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	47
ROMAN	Laelian	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	1
ROMAN	Marius	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	7
ROMAN	Victorinus	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	705
ROMAN	Tetricus I	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	1
ROMAN	Claudius II	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	432
ROMAN	Divus Claudius (Official)	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	60
ROMAN	Quintillus	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	38
ROMAN	Tetricus I	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	1010
ROMAN	-	Radiate (antoninianus)	Gallic mint	AD 271	AD 274	1
ROMAN	Tetricus II	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	408
ROMAN	Uncertain	Radiate (antoninianus)	Gallic mint	-	-	38
ROMAN	Aurelian	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	28
ROMAN	Severina	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	3
ROMAN	Tacitus	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	17
ROMAN	Probus	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	38
ROMAN	Carus	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	1
ROMAN	Carinus	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	1
ROMAN	Numerian	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	1
ROMAN	Diocletian	Radiate (antoninianus)	Ticinum	AD 285	AD 285	3
ROMAN	Maximian I	Radiate (antoninianus)	Lugdunum	AD 285	AD 285	1
ROMAN	Uncertain	Radiate (antoninianus)	-	-	-	16

Appendix 3 - Newspaper Links

4,000 Roman coins in somerset an early mint on still earlier British camp

... near the rectory Clapton-in-Gordano. They were shown to a young local archaeologist. Mr. R. E. Godwin, who, towards the end of July, began digging operations. Mr. Godwin on Tuesday was engaged uncovering cobbled causeway. "I have found 4,000 ...

Published: Wednesday 03 September 1924 **Newspaper:** [Gloucestershire Echo](#) **County:** Gloucestershire, England **Type:** Article | **Words:** 291 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

3,000 Roman Coins

... confident that in the vicinity other specimens of historical interest were to be found. Two years ago Mr. R. E. Godwin, of Portishead, commenced excavations near the site where the other coins were unearthed, and Thursday last he was successful ...

Published: Saturday 16 August 1924 **Newspaper:** [Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette](#) **County:** Somerset, England **Type:** Article | **Words:** 262 | **Page:** 3 | **Tags:** none

Bristol Naturalists' Society

... held Saturday Portbury and Cadbury Camp, the route taken being through Clapton-in-Gordano. The field in which hoard of Roman coins was recently discovered was pointed out. also an excellent example of a quern which has been built into a wall Varied flora ...

Published: Tuesday 13 September 1927 **Newspaper:** [Western Daily Press](#) **County:** Bristol, England **Type:** Article | **Words:** 98 | **Page:** 9 | **Tags:** none

A find of Roman coins at Clapton-in-Gordano, Somerset (1927)

[F. S. Salisbury](#)

Publication Details Date 1927 RCN Z001493666 Note:
reprinted from the Numismatic Chronicle, Fifth Series, vol.7, pp.209-218

Appendix 4 – Museums

Article about the Clapton-In-Gordano coin hoard in the Nicholson Museum collection.

Sydney University Museums (SUM) receive hundreds of requests each year for help or information about their collections. In November 2007, the Nicholson Museum received one that led to the discovery of yet another of its intriguing and bizarre *Unearthed Tales*.

The request came from John Gething of Portishead, in England and read (in part): 'I am developing a website describing a circular walk around Clapton-in-Gordano, a small village in the Gordano Valley near Bristol. The guide has themes on wildlife, history, and mining.'

One significant piece of local history is the discovery of a hoard of Roman coins in 1924 on a hillside overlooking the village. For some reason the bulk of this hoard is now in your museum, arriving there in a biscuit tin in the 1960s, having been purchased from a London saleroom.'

Due to its size and the general poor quality of the coins, the hoard has never been the subject of any major research. Intrigued, however, we set to work, and found on file a newspaper article from the Weston Mercury of 2 March 1984. Headlined 'Clapton Hoard's Overseas Link', it was written by Jane Evans, curator of the Woodspring Museum in Weston, in Somerset. In it, she describes the visit of a friend from Australia, Kate Lawler, who at the time was working at the Nicholson Museum.

Jane writes: 'Whilst we were driving around the district, Kate spotted the name of Walton-in-Gordano on a road sign. "That's an odd name", she said. "Is there a Clapton-in-Gordano?" "Why, yes", I said, "there are several Gordano names". After a pause she said the Nicholson Museum had some Roman coins from Clapton-in-Gordano. "Ah yes, there was a Roman hoard found there", I said, having always supposed the County Museum at Taunton had the coins, but knowing there are often some 'escapees' from a large hoard which are kept by the finder and relatives. "What have you got, a dozen or so?" I asked. "Well, more than that" she replied. "Oh really. What, a few hundred?" I pursued. "No', she said, "more than 3,000".'

'I spluttered some expletive in amazement ... and told her how a hoard of about 3,500 Roman bronze coins was found in 1924 by R. E. Godwin when ploughing a field in Clapton. The coins had evidently been wrapped in skin and buried in an iron-bound wooden box about one foot down.'

The majority of the coins are of the Roman emperors Gallienus, Victorinus, Tetricus I, and Claudius II Gothicus and date from about 253 to 270 AD. The accident of their burial in an English field can only be guessed at, although there was evidence of habitation and iron smelting close to the find.

Apart from 59 coins in the Taunton Museum and any 'escapees', the entire hoard was acquired at auction by the Nicholson Museum in 1949 (not in the 1960s) for the now seemingly incredible sum of £50 (\$120). The 'rediscovery' of the hoard highlights the extraordinary difference a 'context' can make to the appreciation of sometimes very mundane objects of antiquity.

Author: Michael Turner (Senior Curator, Nicholson Museum)

Reference: Turner, M. (2008) SUM, *Unearthed: A Roman Coin Hoard in the Nicholson Museum*, 14, p. 3
Production

Place Rome, Italy

Collection

Name R E Godwin

Place Clapton-in-Gordano, Somerset, England

Date August 1924

Description 3241 coins from the Clapton in Gordano coin hoard, minted during the reigns of Gallienus through to Claudius II.

Notes

Media Metal - bronze; copper alloy

Acquisition Credit Line Purchased 1949

References

Object Category Ancient Greek And Italian World Currency Coin

CCWM Collection Nicholson Collection, Numismatics

Museum Number NM2003.271-3511

Hull Museum

Dear Mr. Hobbs,

Thank you for your enquiry about Mr. Robert E. Godwin. I've checked out the information on the hoard (on the Portable Antiquities website), and yes, it definitely says Hull was given 118 coins from the Clapton in Gordano hoard. From what I can gather, this seems to have been around the late 1920s, with a large number being sold to Australia (!) in the late 1940s.

Unfortunately, the pre-WW2 collections present all sorts of problems – the Municipal Museum (where the coins were probably stored and where any records or correspondence was housed) was bombed in 1943 and almost completely destroyed. Without any accession records or lists the only information about the pre-war collections comes from articles published by the curator at the time, Thomas Sheppard. I'll check these out when I'm next in the office.

I checked our surviving accession registers, which begin in 1945 – but without success – and there's no record of the coins (or indeed lithics) from Godwin on our database. Having said that, there are a large number of coins which are 'unprovenanced', with no record of find-spots now attached, so it's possible they did survive but are now impossible to tie down.

.....
[2nd February 2011]

Paula Gentil
Curator of Archaeology
Hull and East Riding Museum

Appendix 5 - Short Biographies:

George & Priscilla Carter



Figure 14 G.E.L. Carter & Daughter

George Edward Lovelace Carter:

George Edward Lovelace Carter (1886 – 1974) was the son of a local builder who studied Geography and Modern History at Oxford, joined the Indian Civil Service and became interested in Ethnography and Archaeology while posted to Sindh. In 1926 he brought his family home, qualified as a barrister at Gray's Inn but did not practice, instead taking up the reins of the family business in Exmouth.

He became an enthusiastic amateur archaeologist and geologist and from the 1930s until the 1960s he investigated prehistoric lumps and bumps in the region, developing ideas that brought him into conflict with the recognized experts of the day...

Priscilla Carter:

Priscilla Carter helped her father with his excavations in the 1930s and became fascinated by archaeology, appreciating the value of his finds and observations and founding the Fairlynch archaeology collection with his material. In 2008 she made Carter's notes and drawings available to Professor Chris Tilley of UCL and the Pebblebeds Project was born. Carter's excavations were revisited and complementary excavations were undertaken, resulting in exciting new discoveries on Colaton Raleigh and Aylesbeare Commons and recognition of Jacob's Well.

Carter's contribution to the study of Devon's archaeology was often dismissed in his own time, but he is now recognised as one of its pioneers...

Ref Fairlynch Museum, Budleigh Salterton website seen Jan 2021.

Cambridge University hold a paper titled the *History, archaeology and folklore of India, Pakistan and Kashmir*.

NOTE Carter in his Clovelly Dykes report brought in aspects of Indian mysticism as an explanation for a trapezoid platform he identified. SJH]

Document archive held at Devon Records Office: George Carter Collection

Repository	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devon Heritage Centre
Reference number	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CAR – 6 boxes and 1 roll
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research papers, photographs and archaeological drawings of George Edward L. Carter of Budleigh Salterton, concerning his archaeological and folklore studies in East Devon and other localities, mainly from the 1930s to the 1950s. Include manuscripts of unpublished research, site reports, excavation photographs, drawings, maps and plans of sites such as Woodbury Common, Jacobs Well, Aylesbeare Common and East Devon Pebblebeds.

James Curzon Hilton M.C.

Born 23rd January 1895 at Wigan to James & Elizabeth Hilton. Died 1963 and buried at Clovelly.

Married (after 1918) Dorothy Ramwell of Hindley Lancs, born 24th November 1895. Buried at Clovelly 1974. (They may have moved to Windmill Lane, Northam either on his retirement or possibly she did after his death)

Daughter Ruth alive 1932. Christopher Hilton a son in Plymouth area.

Trained as an engineer probably in the mining industry. By 1914 he had enlisted for World War I and joined the Hood Battalion a Royal Navy Division (Enlisted Royal Naval Ordinary Seaman No Z/179) with members not required for service at sea. The battalion served at Antwerp & Gallipoli. In 1916 the battalion became the 63rd (Royal Navy) Division then transferred to the British Army and fought in France for the remainder of the War.



Figure 15 Mr J.C. Hilton M.C.

Hilton has these promotions to Temp. Sub Lieutenant (1915), Temp Lieutenant (1916), Temp. Lieutenant Commander (1916). A series of letters home to his sister Daisy reveals the conditions and the actions he took part in as he rose through the ranks (Pdf). He is awarded the Military Cross & Bar – [7th March 1917. Awarded the Military Cross. (Routine Order No. 1697.) "For conspicuous gallantry in action. He handled his company in the attack with marked ability and maintained his position against several enemy counterattacks. He set a splendid example of courage and determination throughout." (5th Supp. London Gazette, 26.3.17, page 2984.)] & [Awarded Bar to Military Cross. (DRO, 4552) Statement of service for which the Bar to Military Cross was conferred. "On October 8th 1918, at Niergnies, when the front was being driven in by enemy counter-attacks with tanks, he showed exceptional gallantry and initiative, jumping out in front of the line under heavy shell and machine-gun fire and within 200 yards of the nearest tank, which was also firing, he rallied the men and prevented a further withdrawal. When the leading tank was struck he rushed forward with a handful of men, killed the crew who were attempting to escape, and then rushed on the village, where with a few men he had gathered together, he assisted in ejecting and killing those of the enemy who had reoccupied it and then disposed the men in posts beyond. His gallantry and initiative at a most critical phase of the battle were mainly responsible for the regaining of all objectives. (London Gazette 30. 7.19, p. 9696.).

The Hood Battalion had such as Rupert Brook, Bernard Freyburg and Arthur 'OC' Asquith within its command and ranks. And was sometimes known as Winston's Little Army' by Prime Minister Asquith.

On 3rd November 1917 Hilton is wounded in a gas attack and treated in hospitals in France and later at Epsom and then Liverpool. By March 1918 he is deemed fit for service and re-joins the Hood Battalion. By 25th November 1918 he is appointed 2nd in Command to T/Lt. Commander Arblaster.

After the war Hilton is appointed Land Agent for the Clovelly Estate in 1922. The Estate had passed to Betty wife of Arthur Asquith (son of the Prime Minister).

Over the years as Estate Land Agent Mr Hilton is active in numerous rolls from Local Government, Wartime Agricultural Committee, R.N.L.I, R.B.L. Parish Hall, Church etc.

Worth, R. H., 1943, *Flint Implements from North Devon, Second Note, 85-87* (Article in Serial). SDV341374.

Burford farm; a knife with ground edge similar to one found on Exmoor, greatest length 2.563 inches, greatest thickness 0.5 inch. A white and enamelled bead was found, diameter 0.719 inch, length 0.563 inch. A button or dress fastener of slate, roughly engraved radial lines and very irregular concentric circles are on one face; holes are bored from either side and have not been broached to uniform diameter, thickness 0.25inch. Flints found on the surface of ploughed fields belonging to Burford Farm. Consists of borers, scrapers and a knife. A further collection from the same site consists of flakes, scrapers of the circular edged type, a leaf shaped arrowhead and a barbed and tanged arrowhead. All the flint is similar to that obtained from the Orleigh deposit; one piece cherty. Other details: Plates 12-14.

Keith Gardner: Transactions of the Devonshire Association 1957 lists a number of the following entries and others that are not recorded possibly (as are the collection held at North Devon Athenaeum for Godwin/Worth)

Appendix 6 - Devon H.E.R.

Lithic records for Clovelly, Hartland & Woolsery (Partial) seen Feb. 2021.

	ID No.	Content	Ref source	Year	Find Attributed to
1	SDV15558	A dark Blue glass Bead..... (Clovelly Dykes)	18 th Report on archaeology and Early History of Devon (A Fox)	1951	J.C. Hilton
	SDV15558	4 microlithic points & waste, Arrowheads (Clovelly Dykes)	18 th Report on archaeology and Early History of Devon (A Fox) & Gardener A Mesolithic Survey of Devon (K. Gardner)	1951 & 1953	J.C. Hilton
	SDV15558	A Stone Axe..... (Clovelly Dykes)	18 th Report on archaeology and Early History of Devon (A Fox)	1951	J.C. Hilton
2	SDV341374	A number of implements – May's, Bude Rd, Baxworthy (Worth)	Flint Implements from North Devon 2 nd note (Worth)	1943	R.E. Godwin
	SDV341430	A number of implements – May's, Bude Rd, Baxworthy (Worth)	Flint Implements from North Devon 1st note (Worth)	1942	R.E. Godwin
3	SDV16550/MDV102	Arrowheads (2 types) Baxworthy	Untitled source		R.E. Godwin
4	SDV336971	Black Flint (Knife)-Summerwell Farm(Chope)	36 th Report on Scientific memoranda:	1929	R.P. Chope
	SDV336971	Worked flints - Summerwell Farm(Chope)	36 th Report on Scientific memoranda:	1929	R.P. Chope
	SDV336971	Flint (scraper)-Summerwell Farm(Chope)	36 th Report on Scientific memoranda:	1929	R.P. Chope
	SDV336971	Horseshoe scraper (Knife)-Summerwell Farm(Chope)	36 th Report on Scientific memoranda:	1929	R.P. Chope
	SDV336971	Horseshoe scraper (Knife)-Summerwell Farm(Chope)	36 th Report on Scientific memoranda:	1929	R.P. Chope
5	SDV338604	Flint scraper (Slade Farm)	Flint Implements from North Devon (Worth)	1942	R.E. Godwin
6	SDV341394	Cannon Ball (Burscott)	Down a Cobbled Street (Ellis)	1987	R.E. Godwin

7	SDV341394	Worked flints (Burscott)	Down a Cobbled Street (Ellis)	1987	R.E. Godwin
8	SDV338604	Flint arrowhead (Cliff Rd) (Worth)	Flint Implements from North Devon (Worth)	1942	R.E. Godwin
	SDV338604	Flint arrowhead (Cliff Rd) (Worth)	Flint Implements from North Devon (Worth)	1942	R.E. Godwin
9	SDV341374	2 broken Hammer stones (Sowden) (Worth)	Flint Implements from North Devon (Worth)	1943	R.E. Godwin
10	SDV3991	Stone Celt (Sowden) (Worth)	Migrated record		R.E. Godwin
11	SDV341431	1 st Stone Celt (Sowden) (Worth)	A Stone Celt from North Devon (Worth)	1936	R.E. Godwin
12	SDV338604	2 nd Stone Celt + further flint implements (Sowden) (Worth)	Flint Implements from North Devon (Worth)	1942	R.E. Godwin
13	SDV341374	Flint Knife; White and enamelled Bead; [Slate] Button; borers & scrapers (Worth)	<i>Flint Implements from North Devon, Second Note, 85-87 (Worth) see note below</i>	1943	R.E. Godwin
	SDV341381	The bead is a Romano-British melon bead. (quoting A. Fox).	<i>A. Fox</i>	1977	J.C. Hilton
		Flints recovered from Burford Moor; leaf shaped arrowhead, three points, and a scraper.	<i>A. Fox</i>	1977	R.E. Godwin
	SDV273286/SDV341622		<i>Pearce</i>		
	SDV338604		<i>Worth</i>		
	SDV343775	Long Furlong Farm	<i>Horner</i>	1994	
	SDV107799/SDV148	Hartland Point	<i>Unknown</i>	1920s	
	SDV343726		<i>Gist A</i>	1993	
	SDV10085/SDV18024	Elmscott	<i>Purnell</i>	2000	
	SDV340002/SDV7582	Elmscott. Shipload Bay/Docton Cottages	<i>Gardner</i>		